

RECONNECT, BUILD YOUR TEAM & ENGAGE

Wednesday, August 17
7:00 – 8:30 pm

PROJECT  *RESOURCE*

The Stewardship Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey

Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:
Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery;
by the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation;
let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Project Resource:

The Stewardship Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey



Fr. Bob Fitzpatrick
Co-Chair
Grace Episcopal Church,
Merchantville



Eva Lesniak
Co-Chair
Church of the Holy Spirit,
Lebanon



Tena Achen
St. David's Church,
Cranbury



Sergio Delgado
Christ Church Cristo Rey,
Trenton



George Funk
Church of the Good
Shepherd, Pitman



Natalie Krauser
All Saints' Church,
Scotch Plains



Fr. Chuck Messer
St. John's Church, Salem



Fr. William Ndishabandi
St. Augustine's Church,
Asbury Park



Mo. Megan Thomas
St. Luke's Church, Ewing



Shirley Thompson
St. Augustine's Church,
Asbury Park



Canon Phyllis Jones
Episcopal Diocese of
New Jersey

Three Sessions

**Session 1:
Reconnect**

**Session 2:
Build Your Team**

**Session 3:
Follow Through**

Wednesday, August 3rd

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Wednesday, August 10th

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Wednesday, August 17th

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Why Stewardship?

- Stewardship is admitting that everything we have is from God
- Stewardship is the commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service. We, as the people of God, are to manage the gifts of God
- What we can do:
 - give thanks
 - tend and build what has been entrusted to us
 - mirror God's generosity with our own



Session 3 – Engage

Overview

- **From Timeline to Team**
- **Clergy and Lay Roles**
- **Care and Feeding of Your Team**
- **Acting on Your Plan**
- **Continue the Engagement through Follow-up**

From Timeline to Teamwork

Turn your timeline into job descriptions and finite tasks

Here's a sample timeline for a Fall campaign

OCT	NOV	DEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announce• Eblasts• Letters• Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homily• Testimonials• Virtual Events• Commitment• Follow up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you• Report results• Celebrate!• Thank you
JAN	FEB	MAR
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you• Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Meeting• Next vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discernment• Budgeting

Acting on your plan

Create detailed timeline - Who is responsible for each task?

Form small working groups or assign individuals:

- Letter writing
- Brochure writing/design
- Communications and outreach: social media, eblasts, video, etc.
- Meeting convenor and minute taker
- Hospitality
- Thank you notes

Who are your participants?

- Clergy
- Wardens and Vestry
- Finance Chair and Treasurer
- Stewardship Team
- Parish Administrator
- Church School Teachers
- Hospitality Committee
- Outreach and Mission Committee

Everyone!

Whiteboard activity

Rector/Vicar/Priest in charge

Deacon

Wardens

Vestry members

Finance chair

Treasurer

Stewardship committee

Youth group

Church school educators

Hospitality committee

Outreach coordinator

Parish administrator

Who are we missing?

Develop case statement

Design brochures, webpage

Schedule speakers

Offer “ministry minutes” or testimonials

Commit to pledging early

Organize kick-off/in-gathering celebrations

Preach

Browse PR and other sites for ideas

Write LYBNTY and SYBNTY letters

Virtual communications (e.g., email)

Creative encouragement (music, drama, art)

Prepare liturgy for kick-off/ingathering/other

Track responses

What are we missing?

Whiteboard activity



Who are we missing???

What are we missing?

Clergy participation



**Rector, vicar or priest-in-charge
deacon and associates/assistants can all play a role**

Clergy engagement is vital to success:

**Pray, Preach, Bless, Communicate (letters, thank
you notes, emails, newsletter articles, etc.)**

Encourage the Saints!

Encouraging lay participation

- For Stewardship Committee and beyond...
- Job Descriptions - Be clear about expectations
- Dates of the campaign
- How much time commitment
 - Whole campaign?
 - Discreet job?



Care and feeding of your team



- Regular check-ins
- Openness to new ways of doing things
- Mesh together differing styles
- Brainstorm stumbling blocks
- Thank You, Thank You, Thank you!

On-line giving

On-line giving has become essential to stewardship

- Meets the needs of younger members
- Increases participation
- Takes various forms

Poll: Are you using online giving?

On-line giving - Poll: Are you using online giving?

August 17th Poll

Poll ended | 1 question | 22 of 24 (91%) participated

1. What forms of electronic giving are you currently using? (Choose all that apply) (Multiple Choice) *

22/22 (100%) answered



19:47:46 From Jack Hobson to Everyone: Faith street
19:47:58 From Mary-Elise Haug to Everyone: breeze
19:48:24 From Rob Williams to Everyone: Realm
19:48:52 From Arian Wharff to Everyone: QR Barcode
19:49:31 From Dorothy Grandjean Smith to Everyone:
I am not sure which platform we are using
but we do have on-line giving.
19:53:20 From Mary-Elise Haug to Everyone: realm is
great but we went with breeze due to costs

Follow up and follow through

Follow up with those who have not pledged – LYBNTY and SYBNTY letters. Phone calls?

- Reporting – to the Congregation, to the Vestry
- Saying thank you – who is going to write the thank yous – the rector, the stewardship committee? Use the opportunity to thank for gifts of time and talent as well – Thank everyone!
- Celebrate! – involve others beyond the Stewardship committee
- Lessons Learned – debrief with Stewardship team shortly following Commitment Sunday

Reporting the results

Thank you letters

Celebration of commitments

Follow-up

For 2019, the Stewardship Committee planned and carried out the annual campaign which began on Sunday, September 29 and formally concluded on Sunday, November 24 which we designated "Thanksgiving Sunday" in recognition of the many pledges we received from our faithful parishioners. Members of the Stewardship Committee include Dawn Carter, Florence Ellen Cowden, Jane Martin, Watson Barnes, and Bill Bivins. Assisting the committee were Cookie Cantwell and Chris Hamby. The committee chose the stewardship campaign theme, "Forward in Faith: A Time of Transition, A Time for Recommitment". This theme was chosen to emphasize the importance of stewardship in providing commitments of time, talent, and financial resources so that the parish can continue its mission and ministry during this time of transition. But the theme also emphasizes stewardship as an important part of our personal faith journey.

Our goal this year was to secure pledges from every parishioner or family, no matter the amount, so that we could have 100% participation in this important effort in support of the parish. At Sunday services during the month of October, stewardship homilies were delivered by our clergy and by guest clergy Jim Hanisian, and by Reid Murchison who presented three very thoughtful and inspiring sermons. We were also blessed to have stewardship messages in *The Grapevine* on the Sundays from September 29 to November 17 from parishioners Brenda Wolff, Coleman Burgess, Betsy McDonald, John Murchison, Jane Rippey, Sheila Osann, and Florence Ellen Cowden. Their stories and their inspirational words were very meaningful and much appreciated. Follow-up activities will include sending thank-you notes to those who have sent in their pledges, and further reminders to those parishioners who have not yet sent in their pledges.

If you have not yet sent in your pledge, it is not too late—we need everyone's participation. The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the clergy, staff, and parishioners who helped us with this campaign, with special thanks to the parishioners who have so generously contributed this year to the mission and ministry of this great parish.

Reporting the Results

Reporting the results

Thank you letters

Celebration of commitments

Follow-up

Pledge Thank You Letter

Dear <personalize>,

Thank you so much for your commitment to (Parish) for 2021. This has been a trying year for (Parish) and our parish families, and the response we have seen to our fall appeal the past few weeks has been truly inspiring.

Our goal for this year's fall stewardship campaign was to receive commitments from #% of (Parish) families, and I am pleased to share that we are now at #%. As we head into the New Year, it is comforting to know that we will be able to invest in mission, ministry and programing with the faithful backing of so many great stewards.

Thank you once again for your commitment to (Parish) and for helping us enter 2021 with the resources necessary to furthering God's Work in (Town) and beyond.

Reporting the results

Thank you letters

Celebration of commitments

Follow-up

Pledge Confirmation Letter

Dear <Personalize>,

Thank you for your financial commitment to (Parish) for the coming year. Our fall stewardship campaign was a success, and the results are being tabulated. A full report will be available after the first of the year.

According to your commitment form, your total financial pledge for the coming year is \$___, payable at (\$___per week), (\$___per month), (\$___per year). If this is not correct, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Offering envelopes will be available beginning Sunday, (date). If you have not already done so, please consider using our online giving program or your bank's bill pay system to set up an automatic contribution.

We are delighted to know that you are actively supporting (Parish's) mission and ministry.

Reporting the results

Thank you letters

Celebration of commitments

Follow-up

SYBUNT / LYBUNT Letter Example

Christ Church

*"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 3:11*

December __, 2021

Dear JANE and JOHN,

I am writing to you because we have not yet received your pledge of financial support for the coming year.

In 2020 you pledged \$3,000 during our stewardship campaign. Your past contributions to Christ Church have allowed our congregation to carry on the mission God has entrusted to us, serving our members and our community. For example, last year Christ Church partnered with other congregations to create a mobile food pantry. We also purchased a video camera and improved our Wi-Fi so that we now reach our members who cannot worship with us in person.

Every financial pledge is a spiritual commitment. We know that sometimes circumstances change, and sometimes our members have questions about how Christ Church uses their contributions. If you have concerns about making a pledge for this year, would you be willing to have a confidential conversation with me or with the Rector? We certainly want to hear from you.

If this letter reminds you that you wish to make a pledge, you may do that using the enclosed commitment form and return envelope.

We remain grateful for your membership and all the ways in which you have supported Christ Church in the past.

Warmly and with gratitude,

Mary Jane Schoh
Stewardship chair

123 Main Street, Our Town, ID 09876

Reporting the
results

Thank you
letters

Celebration of
commitments

Follow-up

Non-Participant Letter

Dear <Personalize>,

Thank you for your financial commitment to (Parish) in 2020.

Our fall stewardship campaign was a success, and the results are being tabulated. A full report will be available after the first of the year.

We do not find a financial pledge recorded for you for the coming year. While we wish to assure you that whatever financial support you offer is appreciated, we also hope that you will consider making a pledge.

Giving thanks to God is at the heart of who we all are as the Church. Reflecting God's generosity supports God's mission in the Church and transforms us as givers. The Vestry prepares the budget for the coming year based on knowing the financial resources available from the people of the Church. Our pledges provide the vestry with this information in time for this annual process. If every member of the parish makes a pledge, the Vestry will be able to prepare a budget that represents the most accurate estimate of what our parish financial resources will be. With those estimates in hand, we will be able to plan for (Parish's) mission and ministry next year with confidence.

We hope you will prayerfully consider making a pledge.

I am glad that you are a part of (Parish's) mission and ministry. And do know that we are always here for you.

It's all about
nurturing
relationships and
maintaining
communication



Year-Round Stewardship

As Stewards of God's gifts, we give thanks, tend and build on what has been entrusted to us, and mirror God's generosity with our own –
in every season.

- Testimonials, ministry minutes
- Recognize donors during year
- Legacy society (planned giving)
- Educate with Bible study, Sunday school, Youth service
- Encourage through prayer and preaching

Rejoice always, pray
continually, give
thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Resources

- Project Resource email – ProjectResource@dioceseofnj.org
- DONJ Project Resource library - <https://dioceseofnj.org/project-resource/>
- Our contact info - ProjectResource@DioceseofNJ.org
- Vanco online giving - [Online Giving Donation Software for Churches | Vanco \(vancopayments.com\)](https://www.vancopayments.com)
- Episcopal Church Foundation - [Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices \(ecfvp.org\)](https://www.ecfvp.org)
- TENS - <https://www.tens.org/> (password available [here](#))

More resources

- [Summer Stewardship Email Series](#)
- [Summer Email Series Resources](#)
- [“Use Summer Well for your Fall Pledges and More” Recording & Slides](#)
- [“Keeping In Touch With Parishioners During Covid & Beyond” Recording & Slides](#)
- [Online Project Resource Library](#)
- [Reimagined Consecration Sunday](#)

Chat Log

19:04:17 From Daphne Roberts to Everyone: Good evening

19:25:50 From Christy McGuire to Everyone: The list of “who” is great, but at St. Francis we have so many of the same people wearing the different hats

19:25:52 From Megan Thomas to Everyone: Add the whole congregation - commit to pledging early

19:27:33 From Megan Thomas to Everyone: For preaching - let the Deacon preach, too. And also members of youth group, Sunday School teachers, etc. if they are up to it.

19:28:37 From Megan Thomas to Everyone: Add Music Director - what particular gifts? Prepare liturgy?

19:38:37 From Peter De Franco to Everyone: Just a question on the priest sending Thank you note.....as Rector I do not know what everyone pledges so the Treasurer sends information about money. That distinction is part of this church's history.

19:39:41 From Megan Thomas to Everyone: A thank you note need not include the amount given. It expresses gratitude for the pledger's commitment. The treasurer can provide the letter with the amount of the commitment.

19:40:03 From Peter De Franco to Everyone: Thanks

19:47:46 From Jack Hobson to Everyone: Faith street

19:47:58 From Mary-Elise Haug to Everyone: breeze

19:48:24 From Rob Williams to Everyone: Realm

19:48:52 From Arian Wharff to Everyone: QR Barcode

19:49:31 From Dorothy Grandjean Smith to Everyone: I am not sure which platform we are using but we do have on-line giving.

19:53:20 From Mary-Elise Haug to Everyone: realm is great but we went with breeze due to costs

20:06:31 From Joe Sirak to Everyone: Any suggestions for reaching out to our unknown online community?

20:07:16 From Arian Wharff to Everyone: Sorry, I have to leave. Thank you for this great time.

20:07:30 From Phyllis Jones to Everyone: Thanks for being with us, Fr. Arian!

20:09:53 From Peter De Franco to Everyone: Shirley, The Lectionary is another resource.....the lectionary provides occasions for preaching on stewardship.

20:11:47 From Bob Fitzpatrick to Everyone: I had a professor in seminary, Terry Parson. She was Stewardship Officer for the national church. She had us do an exercise to look through the Lectionary and then list passages that year that would support preaching on stewardship. It was a trick question. They all do!

Project Resource:

The Stewardship Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey



Fr. Bob Fitzpatrick
Co-Chair
Grace Episcopal Church,
Merchantville



Eva Lesniak
Co-Chair
Church of the Holy Spirit,
Lebanon



Tena Achen
St. David's Church,
Cranbury



Sergio Delgado
Christ Church Cristo Rey,
Trenton



George Funk
Church of the Good
Shepherd, Pitman



Natalie Krauser
All Saints' Church,
Scotch Plains



Fr. Chuck Messer
St. John's Church, Salem



Fr. William Ndishabandi
St. Augustine's Church,
Asbury Park



Mo. Megan Thomas
St. Luke's Church, Ewing



Shirley Thompson
St. Augustine's Church,
Asbury Park



Canon Phyllis Jones
Episcopal Diocese of
New Jersey

ProjectResource@dioceseofnj.org