

RECONNECT, BUILD YOUR TEAM & FOLLOW THROUGH

Wednesdays, August 2, 9 & 16, 2023
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,
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Tena Achen
St. David's Church,
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Sergio Delgado
Christ Church Cristo Rey,
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Christy McGuire
St. Francis,
Dunellen



Natalie Krauser
All Saints' Church,
Scotch Plains



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 2nd
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Wednesday, August 9th
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Wednesday, August 16th
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Session 1 – Reconnect

Overview

- I. Where has God been at work reconnecting your congregation in the last 12 months? (chat)**
- II. Evolving ministries (discussion)**
- III. What's Working? (breakout)**
- IV. Taking it home – your next step (chat)**

I. “Chat” Exercise

“Where has God been at work reconnecting your congregation in the last 12 months?”

II. Evolving Ministries

	MUSIC & WORSHIP	CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES	SENIORS	FELLOWSHIP	FORMATION	SERVICE TO OTHERS
NEW						
PIVOTED						
ON HOLD						

- **What new activities and ministries are happening?**
- **Which ones have “pivoted” (changed, been reshaped)?**
- **Which activities or ministries are still on hold?**

	MUSIC & WORSHIP	CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES	SENIORS
NEW	<p>Using Alternative Liturgies in Lent 2022; Morning Prayer Podcast 6 days/wk; Began Hispanic Service & Ministry 2021 sharedprayers.net online liturgies to share on smartphones; Livestreaming Services; Psalm 119 read aloud by members; Ashes to Go to 2 local shopping centers</p>	<p>Began a Coaching Ministry for families with young children;</p> <p>Online Sunday School improved attendance & consistency;</p> <p>"Cooking with Fr Phil+" on Zoom;</p>	<p>Ashes to 2 local nursing homes this Lent 2022</p>
PIVOTED	<p>Less seasonal liturgical variety; Moved to Service Music without Choir; No lay altar parties; Exclusively full text bulletins; Sundays Outdoors for over a year; Hybrid Services (will continue indefinitely) – those who moved or vacationing still attend; Online Readers & Intercessors; All Services Online; World Day of Prayer held as Hybrid (4-Mar-22)</p>	<p>Kept some favorite "big events" as special in-person things to do; Saturday Church School on Zoom (really kept young families engaged; parents loved it!); Resumed Youth Breakfast Run to NYC Homeless; Continue to "Bio-Blast"</p>	<p>Tuesday Bridge Club moved online;</p> <p>Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon, who use our parish hall, never closed; they continued to deliver hot noontime meals to homebound seniors, but pivoted to contactless pickup and contactless delivery into coolers</p>
ON HOLD	<p>Didn't sing at all for months;</p> <p>Chime Choir (not enough have returned to resume); Healing Services now resumed;</p> <p>Choir, Acolytes, & Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs);</p>	<p>Teens took time off;</p> <p>Sunday School;</p> <p>In-person Sunday School</p>	<p>Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) because Country Arch not allowing visitors or even clergy</p>

	FELLOWSHIP	FORMATION	SERVICE TO OTHERS
NEW		Started Men's Bible Study In-Person	Created a Helping Hands Ministry; "Church in the Woods" on-campus; Pizza & Compline (sung, outdoors); Continuing to experiment with campus outreach to Rowan University;
PIVOTED	Online Vestry Meetings; Hybrid Vestry meetings (members with young families can participate); "Picnic Paloozas" in the Parking Lot; Online, Mid-Week Coffee Hours; Virtual Service Auction; Drive-By Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper; Social Distance Coffee Hour with Pre-Packaged items & one server (masked/gloved)	Started Daily Office on Zoom 7 days/week in 2020 / changed to 3 days/week in 2022; Moved Wednesday Night Bible Studies to Zoom; All-Online Adult Formation;	Food Pantry Distribution moved Outdoors; Supplied Family Promise meals
ON HOLD	Coffee Hour (coming back with Easter); Re-starting Coffee Hour March 2022; Dollar Auction (held in Fall 2021); Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner (resumed in March 2022); Blessing of the Bikes (resuming in May 2022); English Teas & other fundraisers (working on their return. Our church needs to raise funds...)		IHN changed models; Family Promise Lodging; AA, Boy Scouts, Whiting Garden Club, OSL, and Thyroid Support Grp resumed as soon as had permission.

St Thomas Glassboro St David's Cranbury St Andrew's New Providence Holy Trinity South River Holy Spirit Lebanon St Stephen's Whiting

III.A. What's Working?

(Breakout Groups)

Some questions to consider

- Which strategies have been successful? Which have not?
- Who is still in touch and who seems to have fallen off the face of the earth?
- Who needs to hear that God still loves them and their Church misses them?
- What media are working for you?
- How do you track participation?

III.B. Report Back

Can you name

- **One Success**
- **One Struggle**
- **One Lingering Question**

IV. Reconnecting – Taking It Home

**“What is your
one next
step?”**



NEXT TIME – Building Your Team

Wednesday, August 10 @ 7:00 pm

- *Building in Faith - Obstacles and Solutions*
- *Building in Practice – Tools You Can Use*

Closing Prayer

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](#)
- TENS Website – <https://www.tens.org/> (password available [here](#))
- [Reimagined Consecration Sunday](#)