

Stewardship Committee  
Diocesan Convention Report  
October 24, 2020

Submitted by the Rev. Robert Beazley, Chair

Throughout Jesus's teachings, nearly forty percent of his parables center around money and possessions. They are teachings that go against most of society's expectations about money and other tangible goods. The work of the Stewardship Committee is to equip the clergy and laity of our diocese with a deeper understanding of stewardship. We seek to open the giving hearts of all Episcopalians to see Christian Stewardship as joyful giving back to God in gratefulness for all that God has given to us.

Our membership is made up of Mr. Jason Akers, St. Paul's, New Orleans; the Rev. Robert Beazley, St. Michael's, Mandeville; The Rev. Tommy Dillon, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge and Church of the Nativity, Rosedale; the Rev. AJ Heine, St. Augustine's, Metairie; and Ms. Dotty Suthon, St. Augustine's, Metairie.

Two stewardship workshops were held this year. The first was on Saturday, February 1 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Metairie. Nearly fifty attendees gathered to hear keynote speaker, Kristine Miller, Sr. Vice-President of Horizons Stewardship. She gave two talks, *Journey to Joyful Generosity* and *Achieving Next Level Giving Year Round*.

About six weeks after this workshop, our country and state went on lock-down due to COVID-19. The Church was still open but the ways in ministry happened changed completely. The second stewardship workshop occurred virtually over Zoom on September 16. Committee members discussed resources in detail and shared the creative ideas they are utilizing for their fall financial stewardship programs.

Through diocesan membership with TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship), all parishes have access to: invitations to regional workshops, online webinars, annual giving campaign materials, and capital campaign materials. The Executive Director of TENS, Davey Gerhard, made a presentation to the clergy of the diocese during their bi-monthly Zoom meeting on September 22. We are increasing the direct connections between our parishes with the TENS organization.

The Stewardship Committee is available to meet directly with individual parishes, deaneries, and will continue to engage the diocese with the knowledge and resources it needs to live into Christian Stewardship.