

## Environmental Stewardship as Part of Christian Stewardship

by Nancy Hanson, Chair, Trinity Environmental Stewardship Team

*Caring for earth's natural environment is an essential, though often underemphasized, aspect of our Christian stewardship, of obeying God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

### Caring for the environment – It's a Christian thing to do!

Why? Because we are part of the natural environment that, by God's design, sustains the lives of us humans and of all God's beloved species on this planet. By God's design, we humans rely for our existence on the balance of nature that includes the interaction and interdependence of all life forms and natural elements of earth's all-encompassing ecosphere. In fact, we humans are to participate in this community of life forms as its caretakers and preservers.

According to Genesis 2:15, the Lord put humans on the earth "to till... and keep" the place where he put them, and to have "dominion" over the other creatures here. "Till" in Hebrew is *abad*, meaning *work, serve, be a servant to, keep, be bonded to*. "Keep" in Hebrew is *shamar*, meaning *guard, protect, watch over, attend, observe, save*. And we know that having "dominion" over something means one is in charge of it, to be its stewards.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and the fact is that caring for the natural environment is an essential part of that love: what we do to the natural environment, we do to ourselves, our neighbors, our children and all generations who follow us on earth. Earth's air and water – and the elements they carry – have no boundaries. By their continual circulation since the beginning of our planet, we are connected with one another and with every life form that has ever existed in earth's ecosystem throughout history.

As Episcopalians, we acknowledge our responsibility to defend creation. We pledge at baptism to "renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God" (BCP, p. 302).



Unfortunately, we humans haven't been doing a very good job of serving, guarding and protecting God's creation! We have allowed ourselves to become very careless and unwise about both our taking from earth's God-provided bounty and our giving (mostly dumping!) back. We over-fish the oceans and pollute rivers and seas with eroded soil, sewage, toxic run-off and trash. We destroy biodiversity with our deforestation, mono-crop farming, city sprawl and wanton "harvesting" of earth's bounty. And we further upset the balance of all the earth's ecosystems by dumping into the air billions of tons per year of carbon-containing, planet-warming, greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas.) It took billions of years for earth's natural processes to capture the poisonous carbon out of the atmosphere and sequester it in earth's crust. It has taken us humans less than two hundred years to extract so much carbon out of the earth and spew it back into the atmosphere that we are endangering the very balance of nature that sustains us!

## Now

**what can we do to be better stewards of God's creation?**

### Lots! Here are some basics:

**Reduce our carbon footprint**, i.e., our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Do anything – at home, in our work, at our place of worship, in recreation, in travel, etc. – that reduces consumption of energy from fossil-based fuels. Find suggestions here: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/minimisecfp.html>.

**Use water with respect and care.** The amount of water on earth does not increase, but the number of people on earth using water continues to multiply, from around 200 million in

# Is Your Church Financially Healthy?

by Mike Strathdee

It's not just about whether your congregation meets its annual budget. A church's financial health speaks to its vision, whether it recognizes and acts on the spiritual importance of being intentional around money, and if it helps you wrestle with practical financial issues in your life.

Barbara Fullerton, a stewardship educator for the United Church of Canada, investigated congregational financial best practices in her doctor of ministry dissertation at Wesley Theological Seminary. Fullerton studied giving trends in thousands of United Church congregations over a six year period, from 1998 through 2003.

She found a connection between increased giving levels and a number of intentional stewardship development habits.

"If the congregation is clear about who they are as a community of faith and their reason for being and explains this well, people will be excited about that mission and will more likely commit to it their gifts of time, talent and financial support, if explicitly invited to do so," Fullerton wrote. She found strong "links between increased generosity and lifting up stewardship in worship on a regular basis, preferably every Sunday."

Other research suggests that what Fullerton, whose background is Lutheran, discovered in her United Church study is applicable in other churches, be they mainline or evangelical. A Lilly Endowment study found that denominational differences in individual giving are generated "almost entirely by the giving of the most committed members within each denomination." Annual financial response (pledge) campaigns are an important tool that most churches avoid, Fullerton's research shows.



Mike Strathdee is a certified financial planner and stewardship consultant who works with Mennonite Foundation of Canada in Kitchener, Ontario. Reach him by e-mail to [mstrathdee@mennofoundation.ca](mailto:mstrathdee@mennofoundation.ca).

Healthy churches were twice as likely to have annual campaigns as average congregations. Other research suggests that people who pledge give twice as much as those who don't make a commitment.

Sadly, some churches try these methods and abandon them after a year or two, missing out on positive change that could occur if the effort continued a few years longer.

Thanking donors is an important strategy used by healthy churches. Something as simple as including thank-you notes with year-end tax receipts can make a big difference, Fullerton writes.

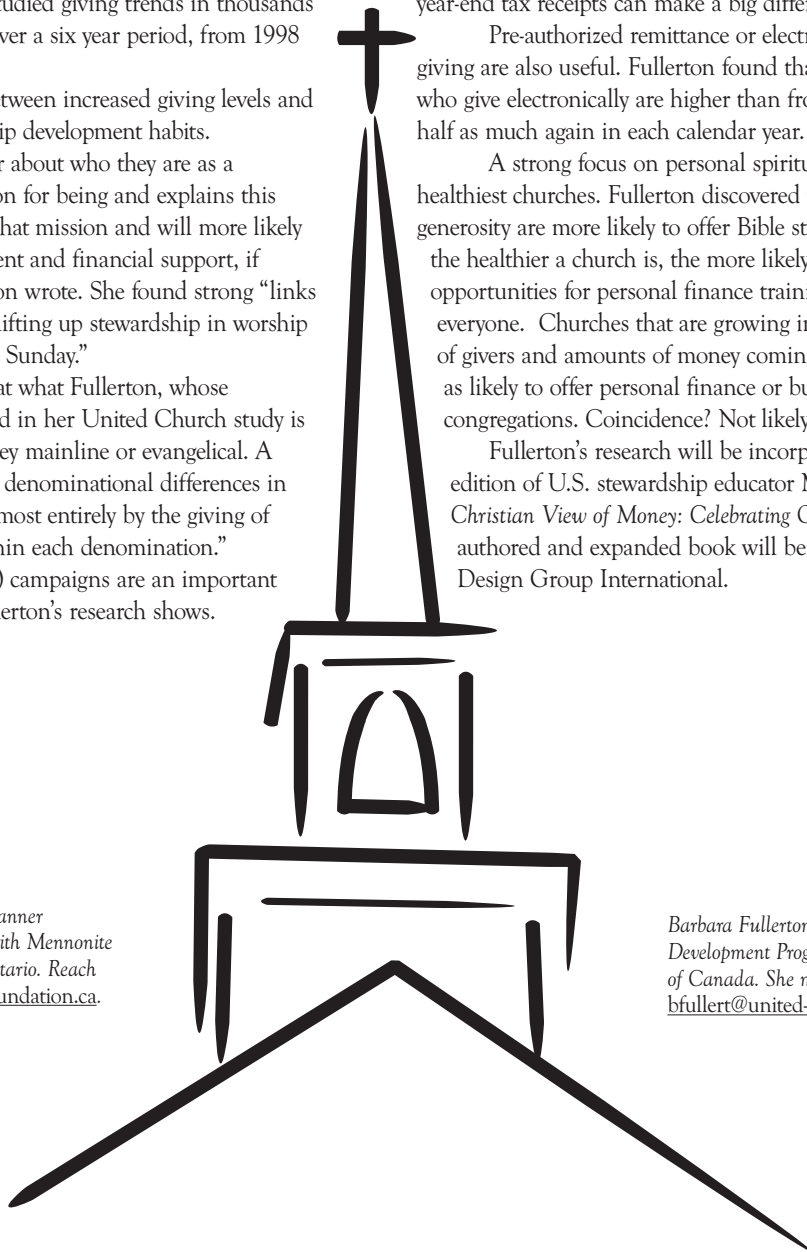
Pre-authorized remittance or electronic transfer programs for giving are also useful. Fullerton found that donations from people who give electronically are higher than from average givers, often half as much again in each calendar year.

A strong focus on personal spirituality is common to the healthiest churches. Fullerton discovered that churches with growing generosity are more likely to offer Bible study opportunities. And the healthier a church is, the more likely it will provide opportunities for personal finance training that can benefit everyone. Churches that are growing in attendance, number of givers and amounts of money coming in are more than twice as likely to offer personal finance or budgeting training as other congregations. Coincidence? Not likely.

Fullerton's research will be incorporated in a revised edition of U.S. stewardship educator Mark Vincent's book *A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God's Generosity*. The co-authored and expanded book will be released in late 2011 by Design Group International.



Barbara Fullerton currently serves as Stewardship Development Program Minister of The United Church of Canada. She may be reached via e-mail to [bfullert@united-church.ca](mailto:bfullert@united-church.ca).



"Is Your Church Financially Healthy?" originally appeared in the September 2010 issue of *Christian Week Ontario*.

# BARBARA FULLERTON'S SIX BEST PRACTICES STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY ASSESSMENT

Identify (mark) what your church is already doing in the following list.

Briefly share with your group 1-2 things in the list that you are doing best and how.

## 1. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT – Sound Fundraising Methodology

- Mission clarity.** Review and renew the congregation's mission every three years.
- Narrative budget.** Develop a narrative "case statement" (vision for mission) that tells the church's story and connects dollar amounts with the congregation's ministries.
- Annual giving program.** Ask members and adherents to estimate their annual giving based on a proportion of income.
- Multiple opportunities for financial giving.** Ensure people can give in many ways through the year (e.g., regular offering, systematic electronic payment, special offerings, credit/debit card, fundraising events, planned giving).
- Donor appreciation.** Phone, visit, or send givers personalized thank-you letters with quarterly and annual reports and tax receipts. Statements include ministry stories of how gifts are being used to make a difference.

## 2. STEWARDSHIP INTEGRATION IN WORSHIP – "Stewardship Every Sunday"

- Plan worship with stewardship worship resources.** *Minutes for Mission*, stewardship bulletin inserts, online stewardship worship resources such as [www.united-church.ca/planning/theme#stewardship](http://www.united-church.ca/planning/theme#stewardship), Stewardship Seconds in bulletins.
- Preach stewardship almost every week.** Use lectionary-based stewardship Sermon Starters. ([www.united-church.ca/planning/theme#stewardship](http://www.united-church.ca/planning/theme#stewardship)) includes Sermon Starters that coordinate thematically with Offering Invitations and with the bulletin Stewardship Seconds.
- Nurture young stewards.** Provide children's messages or theme time.
- Celebrate the offering as an act of worship.** Use an Offering Invitation that connects people's lives with God's mission. Dedicate offerings (including those given through electronic funds transfer) with an Offering Prayer. (One source for Offering Invitations and prayers linked to lectionary texts for each week is online at [www.united-church.ca/planning/theme/invitededicate](http://www.united-church.ca/planning/theme/invitededicate).)

## 3. STEWARDSHIP FORMATION – Create a Culture of Gratitude and Generosity

The primary purpose of stewardship formation is to nurture individual and congregational identity as stewards and disciples, rather than as consumers. A secondary (and welcome!) outcome of good stewardship formation is greater generosity.

- Stewardship formation opportunities for young people.** Youth confirmation training, youth group activities, Sunday school, children's time in worship.
- Adult stewardship discussions.** Seekers or new members classes, Bible study or other small groups for discussion/study, legacy giving education (how to arrange major and end-of-life gifts), personal-finance training and budget counseling for individuals and families.

## 4. STEWARDSHIP LEADERSHIP – Leadership Development and Support

- Clergy and lay members active in wider church roles.** Convocation, diocese, province, General Convention, ecumenical.
- Opportunities provided/encouraged for leaders.** Assist attendance at stewardship training events if possible.

## 5. SPIRITUAL-NURTURE OPORUNITIES

Understanding one's identity as a steward goes hand-in-hand with spiritual growth. People growing in discipleship are generous with their lives, including their money.

- Bible study.**
- Small group ministries.**

## 6. ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

- All types** Parish (or area-wide), diocesan, and/or Episcopal Relief & Development-based promotion and support.
- Social justice learning and advocacy opportunities.**
- Active involvement by the congregation in community social outreach.** More than giving money, people volunteer time and skills.

Note potential growth areas. Choose 1-2 practices that you did not mark. Brainstorm together how you might go about implementing them.

To develop an integrated year-round congregational stewardship strategy, add an additional item every six months.

Adapted from a resource created by Barbara Fullerton, Stewardship Development, United Church of Canada.

To contact Barbara, e-mail [bfullert@united-church.ca](mailto:bfullert@united-church.ca) or phone 416-231-7680 x 4161. • To contact TENS, e-mail [tens@tens.org](mailto:tens@tens.org) or phone 800-699-2669 x 2.

# PROMISES, PROMISES

by The Rev. Patrick Sanders

Most of our lives as Christian beings revolve around promises. There's the promise of the presence of God, the promise of forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life. Even our financial life in the church is wrapped up in promises we make at the end of one year for the next. We call these promises *pledges*.

As a youth minister, and later, as a seminarian, I dreaded the idea of a pledging system. To be honest, it just did not seem reliable. I feared deeply the idea that funding for ministry, not to mention my own salary, would be contingent on the fulfillment of promises. I guess I didn't trust enough in the people of God. I guess I didn't trust enough in God.

I am no longer afraid.

When I arrived as the new Rector at St. Timothy's in Southaven, Mississippi, the EYC group was strong. They were deeply involved in the ongoing life of the parish. Well, except for one thing: they hadn't made that promise we call a pledge. It didn't seem like enough to ask them to individually fill out pledge cards. It made more sense for them to experience the promise system as a community.

Then it hit me! Let's do something huge, I thought. A big trip. An expensive journey. At first, they'll think they can't do it. Not enough time. Not enough resources.



Source Unknown

Sound familiar?

As a jump start I asked the Vestry to give them a ten thousand dollar budget. Where would that revenue come from? How could we justify that line item? The same way we justify every section of our budget. Promises. I had the EYC sign a pledge card for \$10,000 and it went into the same stack of pledge cards as mine had. And just like my promise, their promise was included in our projected revenue. All of a sudden we could justify their budget. It was not a loan. It was a pledge.

Between January and June our youth, whether they were going to England with us or not, raised \$13,000. Under the direction of Claire White, our youth minister, and with the help and generosity of countless parents and parishioners, they did it!

Well, almost. The trip ended up costing \$23,000. The difference? Their promise. Ten thousand dollars. In other words, upon their return from England, the EYC had not yet fulfilled their promise.

You can imagine, I'm sure, the stress involved in raising funds for a trip already taken. To be sure, they were tired of washing cars, babysitting, and hauling limbs. But they persevered. They kept working, and by December they were only \$5,000 away from paying their pledge.

They had one month.

It could be done. I had no doubt. Well, I had a little but I couldn't show it!



Patrick Sanders and Claire White with Bridgette and John, members of the fundraising team from St. Elizabeth's, a center for the disabled that St. Timothy's EYC worked with while in England.



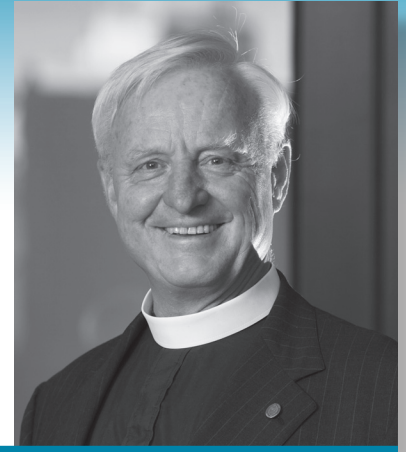
St. Timothy's EYC outside a youth hostel in England.

Then it happened. A phone call. A man whose grandfather had sat in the first pew of St. Tim's for years wanted to give back to the church that had been so good to someone he loved

please see page 5

# A Christian Will

by The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP



Few family members will read or know what is in our will until the time of our death. Imagine if, at that time, the document were to begin with a statement such as:

*I believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. I am secure in God's love for me and am confident of everlasting life procured for me through the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and am now with my Lord in eternal glory.*

What a special moment to be able to offer our survivors this assurance and love and affirmation of faith!

This same faith may also be reflected in the instructions regarding how the will or trust provides for “the distribution of your temporal goods” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 445). For instance, the opening profession of faith may continue:

*As a final act of faith and thanksgiving for all the blessings of my life, I direct that \_\_\_ percent [10%, for example] of my estate be divided equally among my parish and the following ministries....*

The will or living trust of a person of faith reflects the stewardship of the person who creates it. Our family is most important to us. What else matters to us? How can this be reflected in the distribution of all that God has given us – as give it all away we must at the end of our life on earth? Some planned gifts can increase retirement income, reduce taxes, or enhance family inheritance.

Thoughtful planned giving can turn what would otherwise be tax dollars into gift dollars. Planned giving is a way to leave a meaningful legacy of our values. For example, a planned gift can create an endowment fund that will go on giving in perpetuity. You may endow your yearly stewardship pledge by multiplying the annual amount x 20 and putting that total as a bequest to your church in your will or trust. This way your pledge will continue, even after you are gone.

To find an appropriate planned giving strategy for your situation, contact your diocesan or parish Gift Planning Officer and/or the Episcopal Church Foundation for a confidential consultation. Your family and your church may be glad that you did.

*The Rev. Richard Schaper, CFP®, is a “financial theologian” who has served as Gift Planning Officer for the Diocese of California since 2000. As a priest and former parish pastor, he understands the deeper pastoral and theological issues of families and stewardship; as a Certified Financial Planner, he has been able to provide comprehensive financial planning, asset management and consultation to individuals and families. His extensive knowledge and experience has enabled him to assist a wide variety of persons and organizations inside and outside of the Church. Contact Richard at [richards@diocal.org](mailto:richards@diocal.org).*

*continued from page 4*

so dearly. He wanted that gift to ensure that the children of our congregation would grow old in our church. He wanted it to go to the EYC.

The amount he desired to give? You guessed it. \$5,000. Pledge paid.

The question I've answered a hundred times is, Did they do it? Did they pay the pledge? Did they make good on their promise?

They sure did, if by they you mean the kids, their parents, their youth minister, their priest, their community and their God. In fact, we did it.

I promise!

*Rev. Patrick Sanders was a youth minister for ten years before attending The Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. While there he served St. James' Episcopal Church under the supervision of The (then)Rev. Greg Rickel, now Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and a TENS Board member. It was there that Patrick developed a hunger for healthy stewardship and honesty about church and money, faith and finance. E-mail him at [Patrick@saint-timothys.net](mailto:Patrick@saint-timothys.net).*

Jesus' day to more than 6.8 billion today, and growing! Be environmentally focused consumers. Buy less stuff, i.e., only what is needed. Choose locally produced products, energy-efficient appliances and vehicles, stuff with the least packaging, non-toxic household/lawn/garden-care products and fair trade items. Always bring your own shopping bags. Refuse disposable plastics (including Styrofoam and single-use water bottles) and products that endanger species. Buy American-made products, because the U.S. has environmental laws other countries don't. Buy cruelty-free (no testing on animals) products, too.

**Don't pollute air, water, soil or our homes.** Dispose of toxic products at local household hazardous waste sites. Check for Waste Recycling and Disposal Services in your location by going to the internet and your telephone directory. There may even be a Household Hazardous Waste Information heading in your local city government listings.

**Recycle everything we possibly can.** Give away stuff you don't use to someone who needs it. Repair and re-use when possible instead of buying new. Look up Recycling Centers and Services in your local telephone directory and on the internet.

**Join and support an environmental protection organization.** Our voices are strengthened by joining with others. Good orgs include Audubon Society, Environmental Defense, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife and Parks, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund and many others.

**Eat less meat.** Become a "Monday vegetarian" and gradually increase the days. Investigate <http://www.meatoutmondays.org/index.php>. Avoid unnecessary leather and other animal products.

**Be environmentally focused citizens and voters.** Support and vote for public office candidates with proven pro-environment records. Two information sources are League of Conservation Voters, [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org), and Republicans for Environmental Protection, <http://www.repamerica.org/>. Speak up for strong laws and their enforcement to protect healthy air, clean water, natural habitats, endangered species, and to prevent cruelty to animals. Remind our government leaders that a healthy natural environment is required in order to sustain our nation's food production, financial structure, commerce, public health and safety, home security, transportation and communication systems, civil order and peaceful international relations.

**Support wise family planning and empowerment of women.** Among the poor and underprivileged, limiting family size and empowering women are conducive to better family health and education and wiser use of earth's resources. Among the wealthy and privileged, limiting family size reduces adverse impact

on the environment: the wealthier the individual, the greater that person's use of earth's resources and his/her output of pollution during a lifetime are likely to be. Engender Health, [www.engenderhealth.org](http://www.engenderhealth.org), promotes wise family planning across the globe. Freedom from Hunger, [www.freedomfromhunger.org](http://www.freedomfromhunger.org), empowers women by providing them with education and small business loans. Episcopal Relief and Development <https://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php> also sponsors such a Women's Development Program.

**Learn more.** Treat yourself to a constant, humble openness of our senses, mind, and spirit to the grand and whimsical wonders of the natural world around us. Understand our intimate connection, through circulating water, air and earth's elements, with the multitude of earth's life forms: ancient, present and future. Find our connection, as followers of Christ, to the creative forces of our incomparable water planet Earth. Let Christ's Spirit flow in our veins, and act as the Spirit leads us.

## A Special Challenge

Are you a creative thinker who is looking for interesting work?

Can you create or provide a service, action or product that saves energy? Conserves water? Reduces pollution? Preserves healthy soil? Contributes to justice in sharing the world's goods? Encourages habitat protection or kindness to animals? Affects public policy toward preserving a healthy natural environment?

Could this become your occupation?

## What more can YOU add to this list?

*Trinity Environmental Stewardship Team (TEST) has been active at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence, Kansas, since 1989. Their work and mission is centered around educating individuals to become conscientious stewards of the natural environment and includes projects to institute energy efficiency measures in the parish facilities. On a diocesan level and beyond, TEST encourages the activation of "green teams" in more parishes, participates in Kansas Interfaith Power and Light and is involved in community events promoting earth care, such as an "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium co-hosted with a local Congregational church. More information about TEST's vision, mission, Millennium Development Goals, and what you can do to help, can be found in their brochure posted on TENS' website at [http://www.tens.org/docs/teaching-resources/TEST\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.tens.org/docs/teaching-resources/TEST_Flyer.pdf).*

*For assistance and support in starting your own environmental stewardship team, contact TEST Chair Nancy Hanson at [ninxks@sunflower.com](mailto:ninxks@sunflower.com). Nancy and the committed individuals who comprise TEST will be happy to assist you with resources and materials.*



*You* MAKE IT HAPPEN

Because of you, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship exists.

**YOU** make it happen with your gifts.

**YOU** make it happen with your grants.

**YOU** make it happen with your membership.

**YOU** make it happen because you believe that our success will help the Church fulfill its potential.

Join The Episcopal Network for Stewardship.

Consider including TENS in your will. Send us a gift.

Then, because of **YOU**, we will succeed.

# How to contact TENS

**Call:** 800.699.2669 (US & CAN)  
316.686.0470

**E-mail:** [tens@tens.org](mailto:tens@tens.org)

**Fax:** 316.686.9102

**Visit:** <http://tens.org>

**Write:** 345 South Hydraulic  
Wichita, KS 67211

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COUNCIL OF ADVICE & STAFF

### Board of Directors

**The Rev. E. Angela Emerson, President**  
Minister of Stewardship Development  
Diocese of Vermont  
[aemerson@dioceseofvermont.org](mailto:aemerson@dioceseofvermont.org)

**Dr. Jane R. Burruss, Vice President**  
Stewardship Consultant and Trainer  
Plano, Texas  
[janeburruss@juno.com](mailto:janeburruss@juno.com)

**The Rev. Patrick Lance Ousley, Secretary**  
Stewardship Officer, Diocese of Texas  
Rector, St. Thomas - Wharton, TX  
[dotstewards@hotmail.com](mailto:dotstewards@hotmail.com)

**Toni Marie Sutliff, Treasurer**  
Diocese of Utah Stewardship Committee  
Salt Lake City, UT  
[tmsutliff@comcast.net](mailto:tmsutliff@comcast.net)

**Amy S. Amason**  
Vice President for University Advancement  
Georgia College and State University  
Milledgeville, GA  
[amynitsche@charter.net](mailto:amynitsche@charter.net)

**The Rev. Michael E. (Corky) Carlisle**  
Director - Generosity Incorporated  
Sewanee, TN  
[corkycarlisle@bellsouth.net](mailto:corkycarlisle@bellsouth.net)

**The Rev. Can. Timothy Dombek**  
Canon to the Ordinary and  
Canon for Congregational Development  
Diocese of Arizona  
[timothy@azdiocese.org](mailto:timothy@azdiocese.org)

**The Rev. Laurel Johnston**  
Program Officer for Stewardship  
The Episcopal Church Center - Los Angeles, CA  
[ljohnston@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:ljohnston@episcopalchurch.org)

**The Rev. J. R. Lander**  
Vicar, St. Columba's - Kent, WA  
[jameslander@gmail.com](mailto:jameslander@gmail.com)

**John Vernon Oaks**  
Stewardship Officer, Diocese of Indianapolis  
[oaks@indydio.org](mailto:oaks@indydio.org)

**The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, D. Min.**  
Bishop, Diocese of Olympia  
[grickel@ecww.org](mailto:grickel@ecww.org)

**David Rushton**  
Consultant, Financial Development  
Anglican Church of Canada  
[drushton@dccnet.com](mailto:drushton@dccnet.com)

**The Rev. Susan B. Snook**  
Priest Missioner, The Episcopal Church  
of the Nativity  
[nativitychurchaz@yahoo.com](mailto:nativitychurchaz@yahoo.com)

### Council of Advice

**The Rt. Rev. William G. Burrill**  
Assisting Bishop, Diocese of Arizona  
[kburrill@earthlink.net](mailto:kburrill@earthlink.net)

**The Ven. Charles E. Gearing, PhD**  
Planned Giving Advisor, Diocese of Atlanta  
[chag@parkspringscommunities.com](mailto:chag@parkspringscommunities.com)

**The Rt. Rev. John H. MacNaughton**  
Bishop (retired), Diocese of West Texas

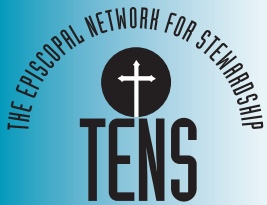
**The Rev. Canon J. Hugh Magers**  
College Station, TX  
[joanmagers@verizon.net](mailto:joanmagers@verizon.net)

### Staff

**Thomas R. (Tom) Gossen**  
Executive Director  
[tom@tens.org](mailto:tom@tens.org)

**Ann Elizabeth Bishop**  
Administrative Assistant  
[ae@tens.org](mailto:ae@tens.org)

**Jan Nattier**  
Administrative Assistant  
[jan@tens.org](mailto:jan@tens.org)



TRAINING ✦ ENCOURAGING  
NURTURING ✦ SUPPORTING

345 South Hydraulic  
Wichita, Kansas 67211  
USA

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wichita, KS  
Permit 662

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Inspiring Generations in Generosity – 2011 TENS Annual Leadership Conference, June 3-4, 2011, at Camp Allen, Navasota, TX.**

Premier stewardship conference provides opportunities for everyone concerned with inspiring generosity to equip us to do God's work in the world. Is your congregation made up of a variety of generations, so that "one message doesn't necessarily resonate with all"? Then don't miss the Rev. Karl Travis' plenary or his two-session workshop on leadership formation using generation theory. A designated track of workshops is offered for new stewardship leaders and a special track is available for aspiring mentor/consultants. Experienced stewardship leaders can choose from among fifteen additional workshops for expanding your knowledge and perfecting your practices. More details on the TENS Conference and the Pre-Conference (June 1-3) for diocesan staff can be found at <http://www.tens.org/2011IGG/index.html>.

**Faith and Money Network** offers workshops and retreats that equip people to explore the many aspects of their relationship with money within the grounding of their faith. Workshops can be programmed to fit evening and weekend time periods. At the core

of Faith and Money Network events is the space and freedom to ask questions and find one's own answers. The atmosphere of trust and confidentiality that is created empowers people to get in touch with their beliefs, attitudes and actions regarding money. People at a Faith and Money Network event can engage with experienced, faithful leaders and other thoughtful participants around the deep issues of money and faith. See our eight-week *Faith and Money Study Guide* for small groups. For more information visit [www.faithandmoneynetwork.org](http://www.faithandmoneynetwork.org).

**TENS will publicize your events in this space.** Please contact Tom Gossen or Ann Elizabeth Bishop by calling the TENS office or sending e-mail to [tens@tens.org](mailto:tens@tens.org). *Networking* is a bimonthly publication, so send your information as early as possible.

**Sponsorship/Hosting Opportunities for future TENS events are available.** If interested in participation in sponsoring and planning a national or regional event, please contact Tom Gossen at [tom@tens.org](mailto:tom@tens.org).

*Networking*, the official newsletter of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, Inc., is published six times annually. Requests for membership information are welcomed. For information you may: Visit our home page on the Internet at: <http://TENS.org> • Telephone 800-699-2669 (toll-free in US and Canada) or 316-686-0470 • Write to 345 S. Hydraulic, Wichita, KS 67211 • Fax: 316-686-9102 • E-mail: [TENS@TENS.org](mailto:TENS@TENS.org) • © 2011 The Episcopal Network for Stewardship • We know you're going to copy material from this publication. Please acknowledge this newsletter as the source document so that others may find their way to become members of TENS. And if you yourself are not a member, please join TENS today. TENS is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation. ♻️ Printed in the USA