

## Report of the Stewardship Commission to the 221st Diocesan Convention

This year we assisted many parishes. Sometimes we refer parishes to other resources. Sometimes we are able to provide at-parish consultations and homilies. You may request introductory diocesan stewardship brochures titled "Stewardship Assistance for Your Parish or Mission" and "Rewarding Stewardship". We teach year round stewardship as part of the spiritual fabric of a parish. It isn't 'fund raising'. People need to give of their time and treasure resources for many of the same reasons that they should pray and attend Eucharist. Of course, the funds raised byproduct is undeniably important!

We also facilitate conferences. This year we facilitated a magnificent one, a daylong stewardship festival themed, "Stewardship for New Generation". It costarred the legendary and captivating Hugh Magers and the entertaining Chief Kubicek. About 160 attended. This is regarded as a fantastic response for a diocesan affair, but it should have been more. Rejoice! Another chance is coming, but not until May of 2006. (Interest in annual events tends to wear out without a break.) Then, in 2006, we will bring retired Bishop Bill Burrill, who is as spellbinding as Hugh himself, plus another acclaimed stewardship celebrity. Keep posted.

We're easy to find. I am at Saint Paul's, Westfield ([wthiele@stpaulswestfield.org](mailto:wthiele@stpaulswestfield.org)). Bob Fox ([bobfox926@msn.com](mailto:bobfox926@msn.com)) handles inquiries from the northern half of the Diocese. Mike Redpath ([mredpath@acreativeworld.com](mailto:mredpath@acreativeworld.com)) handles inquiries from the southern half of the Diocese. They and other very qualified members of the Stewardship Commission welcome assisting you. It is an all-volunteer effort.

The Diocese of New Jersey is a member of TENS, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. Try logging onto <http://www.TENS.org>, which will gateway a massive amount of useful stewardship resources.

Submitted by,

The Rev. William Thiele, Chair