
Thank You for Beautiful Offerings!

**An article from the *Cathedral Times*
by the Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler,
Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip**

Sunday, December 11, 2011, was a beautiful day in the life of the Cathedral of St. Philip; and I thank each of you for your offerings!

The newest member of our clergy staff, The Reverend Wallace Marsh, offered his first sermon at the Cathedral. He answered the same question that was once asked of John the Baptist, "Who are you?" Wallace is from a place near Cumberland Caverns, in Tennessee; but we are proud that he is now "from" the Cathedral of St. Philip!

At our Annual Parish Meeting, I was especially proud of the offerings of two fine members of this congregation. Geoff DeLong has served the Cathedral faithfully for three years as Treasurer, and I am sorry to see him leave that post. But, like all outgoing Chapter members, he will not leave his ministries! In fact, he and all his family have become integral parts of our parish life. Geoff offered his last Treasurer's report with skill and good will.

During his last report as our outgoing Senior Warden, Ward Bondurant gave us a glimpse of his video production skill! He had compiled a slide and music presentation that showed critical behind-the-scenes angles of the Cathedral of St. Philip plus some in-front-of-the-scenes shots! It was marvelous, another sign of Ward's dedication and careful attention to this parish.

Now, accepting my invitations, Bryan Kibler will become next year's Senior Warden, and John McCollum will be next year's Treasurer. I thank each of them for offering themselves to God and to service in the Cathedral of St. Philip.

Surely the finest offerings of this past Sunday occurred during the Ingathering of Pledges! At all our services, parishioners and friends actually formed a procession at the Offertory, and brought forward their completed pledges of financial commitment for the 2012 year at the Cathedral. What beautiful processions they were! Indeed, it was our Altar Call. That physical action, walking forward with our pledges, was a sign of commitment to God and to God's ministry through the Cathedral of St. Philip. (As David Rocchio, our Director of Stewardship, will remind you; If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2012 ... well, you know what to do!)

Thanks, so much thanks, to each of you, for your beautiful offerings. Each of us, and each of you, has something to offer God at the Cathedral altar. You have your own gifts and commitments and resources, and you offer them generously. Your offerings are what generate ministry in this beautiful congregation.

Finally, speaking of a beautiful congregation, please see the special offering of Ann Fowler, our Director of Communications, who has compiled our yearly reports in a splendid booklet. Each year, that Annual Report becomes an historical record of our life and ministry. Find copies throughout the church and read them. Then, give thanks. God has blessed the Cathedral of St. Philip, and the world needs our ministry.

Sam Candler signature



The Very Reverend Sam Candler

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