



60th
Anniversary

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PREFACE

by Gbola Akinola Esq., Chairman, 60th Anniversary Planning Committee



The Guild of Stewards of the Cathedral Church of Christ is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of its creation this year having been founded in 1946. It is no gainsaying the fact that the

Guild has attained full maturity and indeed come of age.

I give all praise, all honour and adoration to God Almighty for affording me this very rare privilege and honour of not only being the Vice Chairman of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards at the present time, but also the Chairman of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee, having served as a member of the Golden Jubilee Planning Committee in 1996 in addition to being the Secretary (as I then was) of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards.

Great efforts have been made to ensure that we have a most befitting Anniversary Brochure and I am most assured that this 60th Anniversary Brochure will forever remain a veritable reference book in the libraries of all those who will come to possess it.

I am full of thanks to His Grace, the Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos and Bishop of Lagos Diocese, The Most Revd. (Dr.) Ephraim Adebola Ademowo, who not only sent us a Goodwill Message, in his capacity as the Bishop of Lagos, but also delivered a very soul-searching and highly illuminating sermon at our anniversary service held on Sunday the 10th day of December 2006.

We are also grateful to the Bishop of the Lagos Mainland Diocese, The Right Revd. (Prof.) Adebayo Akinde who graciously delivered a heart provoking and very inspiring lecture on Stewardship at our Anniversary Prayer/Breakfast Fellowship held on Saturday the 9th of December 2006.

Our most profound appreciation goes to our Patron, the Provost of the Cathedral Church of Christ, The Very Revd. (Dr.) Yinka Omololu,

for writing the Foreword to the Brochure and for being particularly involved in ensuring that we had a most memorable 60th Anniversary.

The history of the Guild is well documented on several pages of this Brochure and should invoke reminiscences of the many years gone by to the old members and provide enlightening, incisive and useful information cum guidelines for our younger members.

I thank all our members who contributed articles for publication in this epochal Brochure and trust that the various historical excursions as highlighted in the articles, fully blended with current analysis of our performance in service by the present generation *vis-a-vis* the challenges posed for the future of the Guild, will make a most interesting reading.

I must not forget to appreciate the untiring efforts of the members of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee who ensured that we had a most befitting anniversary and a very complementing brochure to go with it, namely Messrs. G.O.M. Agbogidi, C.T. Olaomo, CPA, 'Dotun Makinwa and Damola daCosta.

We have succeeded in improving the quality of the contents of the Anniversary Brochure and have also included some advertisements for which we place our thanks to the various sponsors for their generous support.

Some of our members have crossed over to the great beyond between the time we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 1996 and now. We must, however, continue to give great thanks to the Almighty for their lives and the services they rendered in the Lord's Vineyard while here on earth. May the good Lord bless the souls of all our faithful departed Stewards and preserve the lives of all the serving Stewards and our revered Elders who are not in active service but who still associate with our hopes and aspirations.

I will end this preface by urging our collective resolve to be fully re-dedicated to our service in the Lord's Vineyard by invoking the spirit of the first stanza of the Guild's song:

Rise up, O men of God!

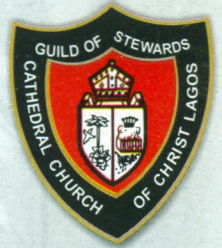
Have done with lesser things:

Give heart and soul and mind and strength

To serve the King of kings.

GOODWILL MESSAGE

TO THE CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY FROM HIS GRACE,
THE MOST REV. DR. EPHRAIM A. ADEMOWO, Ph.D., FNAL
Bishop of Lagos Diocese and Archbishop, Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos



60th
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*“... I would rather be a door keeper
in the house of my God rather than
dwell in the tents of wickedness.”
(Ps. 84:10)*

Dear Brethren,

It is our pleasure and delight to give
you this goodwill message.

On the occasion of this Anniversary
you are celebrating, we express our
sincere and hearty congratulations
and also extend our greetings to all of
you and the leadership.

We note that through many years of
good leadership you have been able
to achieve so many notable successes
in the past and the present. While we appreciate all your noble achievements,
we hope you will not rest on your laurels; rather you will use this Anniversary
to rededicate yourselves to the services of God. Be more committed and be
focused. Use this Anniversary to review your achievements and the failures
(if any) of the past.

Please be assured that we will continue to support you with our fervent
prayers.

Your labour of love in the house of God will never go in vain in Jesus' Name.
Amen.

Yours in His Glorious & Joyful Service,

His Grace,
The Most Rev. Dr. Ephraim A. Ademowo

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST, THE VERY REVD. DR. 'YINKA OMOLOLU



Peace, Grace and Mercy of our Lord and Saviour be with you.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to write this message to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards.

The Cathedral itself is 139 years old. How come that the Guild is just 60 years? The point is that before then the Cathedral used to have Ushers and Sidesmen and Ladies, as they were then called. It was in 1946 that the Sidesmen and Ladies metamorphosed into the Guild of Stewards and was restricted to male members only.

The Guild of Stewards is part of the Ministry of Helps in the Church. You help to bring order into worship at services, giving out books to worshippers and making visitors feel at home and comfortable. I cannot imagine what a worship service will be like without the members of the Guild of Stewards in attendance.

You have been noted particularly for your smart and orderly turn out on all occasions. The discipline you exhibit on Sundays is the same with your performances at occasional services. This is the hallmark of a committed and dedicated organisation. People do recognise these two qualities - commitment and dedication - in you all.

Nearly all the Groups now have a magazine, issued to coincide with days the Group is on duty. The magazines have become a source of spiritual upliftment. They also give news about the welfare of members. This is a very good thing for it binds members together in and out of the Church.

Let me advise that you do not rest on your oars but daily continue to seek ways to improve the quality of your service. This is your own ministry and it must be done to the best of your ability. Congregations can be very difficult, when it comes to being told what to do and what not to do. So you will need tact and patience to be able to handle situations. Above all, you will need love. You must love the members and serve them with smiles at all times, no matter the provocation.

On behalf of the Clergy and the entire members of the Cathedral, I congratulate you and pray that God, who has called you into His service, will make you worthy of the calling.

We thank God for all those who have served in the Guild and have laid a solid foundation for its operation. For those of you still serving, we bless the Lord and pray that your service will remain a sweet aroma unto the LORD.

Happy Anniversary.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

by *Rotimi Odugbesan,*
People's Warden and Chairman, Guild of Stewards.



We are blessed to see another 10 years in the life of our Stewardship. We have added value to our operation in the following areas:

1. Amendment to our Rules and Regulations.

This was approved by the Standing Committee in 2002. Amendments include the removal of the retirement age of 70 years. It now applies to the headship of Groups. A Steward above 70 years of age remains a Steward but is not allowed to head any Group. Also the Group Leaders are allowed two terms of 4 years each in order to give others an opportunity of service as Group Leaders.

2. Continuous training of Members.

Group Leaders continue to train and retrain both old and new members. In 2001 we had the general training of all members. A second general training was carried out in 2004. This was to ensure quality service at all times. We have been able to spread the message to other churches in and beyond the Diocese.

3. Lagos Anglican Diocesan Guild of Stewards (LADGOS).

Our four representatives to the Lagos Anglican Diocesan Guild of Stewards (LADGOS) have contributed to the development of the group. We have, of recent, been hosting the November Council Meeting. As a result of the creation of the Diocese of Lagos Mainland in 2006, a new LADGOS for Lagos Diocese will be created. This will give our Cathedral Guild of Stewards an opportunity for greater involvement.

Our main focus is to ensure proper conduct during services and that all monies collected are accounted for. In carrying out our assignment, prospective members are properly screened by carrying out a background check on their character and status. An interview is conducted by members of the Executive Committee and it is only upon the satisfactory result that they are invited to join the Guild. This exercise is

to ensure that only people of proven character become Stewards. Our duties, especially that of collecting, counting, recording and accounting for the sums collected, are quite sensitive.



The finances of the Guild have improved tremendously. We thank members who have been generous to the Guild by underwriting most of our expenses and also paying their annual dues to their Groups and to the Guild.

In the last ten years, the following members were called by the Almighty to greater service - Omoba F.A. Adewunmi (People's Warden and Chairman of the Guild, 1996 - 1999), Dr. Olu. Asekun (Group "B" Leader), Mr. E.S.O. Banjoko, Mr. V.A. Roberts, Mr. Emman. O. Odina (Group "A" Leader), Mr. F.T. Durand, Mr. S.A.O. Olaomo, Mr. Justice S.O. Okunribido, Engr. S.O. Olaleye (Group "C" Leader), Mr. Akin Thompson (Provost's Warden and Vice Chairman of the Guild, 1986 - 1993), Surveyor Oluremi Dawodu, Chief J.O. Onabajo (Group "C" Leader and first President, LADGOS). May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Let me seize this opportunity to appreciate the contributions of elders in giving us a helping hand when the need arises especially during the mid-week services and on Saturdays. We are especially grateful to those who continue to serve with their Groups on Sundays.

The 60th Anniversary of the Guild is not only for celebration but also a reflection of what the Almighty has done and is doing in our lives. As we serve in His holy place let us put in our best at all times.

No sacrifice is too much.



GUILD'S ANTHEM:

RISE UP O MEN OF GOD - SOP 635

W.P. MERRIL, 1867-1954 (Supplied by Yinka Lijadu, C.P.A.)



The author of the lyrics of this very inspiring hymn is William Pierson Merrill who was born in 1867 and died only 52 years ago in 1954 and, therefore, can be regarded as a contemporary writer of Hymns.

He was trained for the Presbyterian Ministry at Union Seminary, New York, and often working as a Pastor in Philadelphia and Chicago. He was back in New York from 1911 to 1938. He became renowned for his numerous books, which had a wide circulation, and for his great gifts as a preacher.

"Rise Up, O Men Of God" was written for the use of the Brotherhood Movement but the original wording, on several grounds, attracted criticism and the author altered it to the current form except that in some Hymn Books, particularly the Baptist Hymn Book, verse 3 lines 3 and 4 reflect "His strength unequal to His task, Rise Up and make Him great" instead of "Her strength unequal to her task, Rise Up and make her great".

The Biblical references include Psalm 94 verse 16, "WHO WILL RISE UP FOR ME

AGAINST THE EVIL-DOERS?"

The theme of the Hymn is centered around the Christian Life and it alludes to the need for all people of God to serve their maker with all their hearts, souls and strength. It also calls upon all committed Christians to follow in the footsteps of Christ by putting away all wrong doings, by imbibing the spirit of brotherhood and by making His Church great.

The tunes to which the lyrics can be sung include **EGBERTON**, composed by Lewis Renuat West, **DONCASTER**, composed by Samuel Wesley, **CARLISLE**, composed by Charles Lockhart and **FALCON STREET**, composed by Isaac Smith.

The last mentioned, which is the adopted Guild of Stewards tune, was composed in 1770 by Isaac Smith who was born in 1734 and died in Walworth, Surrey, on the 14th of December 1805. It is usually rendered for the best effect in moderate time.

The singing of this revered Hymn for us, members of the Guild of Stewards, is indeed a CLARION CALL to service. We should, therefore, always be prepared to:

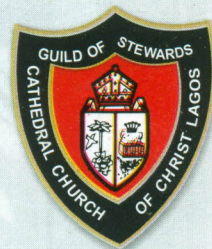
"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS OF CHRIST!
TREAD WHERE HIS FEET HAVE TROD:
AS BROTHERS OF THE SON OF MAN
RISE UP! O MEN OF GOD"



RISE UP! O MEN OF GOD - SOP 635

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|--|---|
| 1. Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things:
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings. | 3. Rise up, O men of God!
The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great! |
| 2. Rise up, O men of God!
His kingdom tarries long
Bring in the day of brotherhood
And end the night of wrong. | 4. Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod:
As brothers of the Son of Man
Rise up, O men of God. |

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STEWARDSHIP

Being text of an Address delivered at the Prayer Breakfast Fellowship,
to mark the 60th Anniversary of the inauguration of Guild of Stewards,
Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos, on Saturday, 9th December, 2006,

by *The Rt. Revd. Prof. Adebayo D. Akinde, Ph.D, Dip. Th.*

Bishop, Diocese of Lagos Mainland



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PREAMBLE

In the name of the eternal Trinity - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank our father in the Lord, the Most Revd. (Dr.) E. Adebola Ademowo, Ph.D., Dip. Th., Archbishop, Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos and Bishop, Diocese of Lagos, for his kind permission for me to give this ADDRESS. Similarly, I thank the Very Revd. (Dr.) 'Yinka Omololu, Provost of the Cathedral, for his invitation to be the Guest Speaker. I extend hearty congratulations to the officers and members of the Guild of Stewards, Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos, on the occasion of your 60th Anniversary. Indeed, from every reckoning, it is a Diamond celebration.

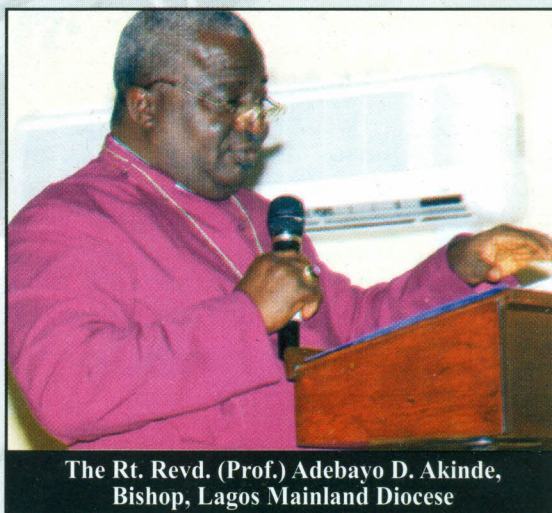
I am delighted to be here, not only because of the distinguished Guests at this Diamond Anniversary Prayer Breakfast, but, more importantly, also because of the topic of the Address "STEWARDSHIP". The topic provides an invaluable opportunity to share my thoughts on a most important Christian doctrine and moreso, with you my eminent brothers and sisters that God has invested much in, to bless not only the Diocese of Lagos (the mother of all Dioceses in Nigeria) but, indeed, the entire Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

In the next few minutes, therefore, I intend to share with you eminent Guests at this Breakfast, my thoughts on a number of issues pertaining to Christian Stewardship.

INTRODUCTION

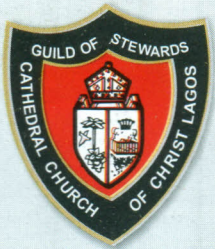
Stewardship, from the Bible perspective, has been defined as "*Responsibility to manage all the resources of life for the glory of God, acknowledging God as provider*"¹. However, in a secular sense,

the word "steward" - that is the person - may be conceived of as meaning a person who is charged with the responsibility of overseeing/attending to the operations/activities of a house/family. The expression incidentally finds mention in both Old and New Testaments with meanings ranging from a person with responsibility for oversight of an estate, through a heir/inheritor, to a prince, head, official/executive, servant, etc. mostly masculine.



The Rt. Revd. (Prof.) Adebayo D. Akinde,
Bishop, Lagos Mainland Diocese

However, the feminine form of the expression has come to be regarded as a synonym to the 'task', that is, stewardship, which literally implies the responsibility conferred on a person. From whatever perspective the expression 'stewardship' may be considered, the Bible is most unambiguous that God ultimately is provider and owner of whatever and all that any one of us possesses (Psalm 24:1). From the foregoing, it is incumbent on us that we use all our possessions for God's glory and purpose. Genesis 1:27-30 may be perceived as God's mandate of collective responsibility to mankind to manage His world for His glory.



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An important and pertinent concept of 'Stewardship' with an overarching significance in the Bible, is accountability, that is, a steward will some day give account of his service/performance to his 'boss', who, in Christian Stewardship, is God.

GUILD OF STEWARDS IN CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, MARINA

- Thank God for the inspiration, vision, courage and labours of the founding fathers of the Cathedral Church of Christ, about some 139 years ago (1867). Clearly their labour is not in vain.
- Thank God for the vision and labours of the founding fathers of the Guild of Stewards in this Cathedral, about some 60 years past now. We are still relishing in their foresight even today, and it will continue for a long, long time to come.
- From enquiries and references, the Guild of Stewards of this Cathedral for all these decades, have made invaluable contributions to the highly commendable reputation of the Cathedral, its equally highly cherished



Some Members of the Guild of Stewards at the lecture

Cathedral heritage and tradition, and have more importantly replicated itself virtually all through our country: this is not limited to only the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

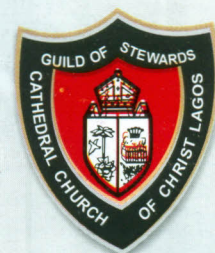
- The functions of the Guild of Stewards include:



Messrs. Jide Aleshinloye-Williams & Mr. Okikiade in close consultation during the lecture

- Welcoming worshippers to services
- Ensuring worshippers' comfort as much as possible during services
- Handling collection of monies, etc. during services
- Assisting with orderliness in worship, etc.
- The thrust of my CHARGE in this 'Talk' is predicated on 1 Corinthians 4:2, "*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful*"².

My good people of God and my brothers and sisters in the Guild of Stewards, we rejoice with you that you have offered (or do I say positioned?) yourselves to serve God in the capacity of Stewards in the foremost Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina. I congratulate you and I am happy for you. Clearly, it can be said of each of you, "*the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance*" (Psalm 16:6). From the foregoing and other divine endowments in every Steward in the Cathedral, much has been given to you. I only need to draw your attention to Luke 12:48, "*But he that knew not, and did not commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more*". God expects much from you in the way you perform as a Cathedral Church of Christ Steward, in particular.



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SOME COUNSELS

- Please know ye TODAY, that YOU are called to the office of a Cathedral Steward by God, because the Church is God's.

Psalm 93:5, "Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns your house, O Lord, forever". The import of Psalm 93:5 is that necessity is placed on everyone, who serves in God's house, to be holy. This fact is established in 1 Peter 1:15,16, "... but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'be holy, for I am holy'". You must strive to take on God's qualities in your lives.

- Be a GOOD Steward: in terms of your INTENTION - Please let it be noble; in terms of your comportment, let it glory God; in terms of your performance, let it be exemplary and with that you will preach volumes of sermons thereby winning souls into God's Kingdom. My prayer is that your testimony as a Steward and even everywhere, will never go sour.
- Be a faithful Steward: let everything you do be done God's way and not your own way.
 - Be punctual at your duty post
 - Perform cheerfully and not grudgingly/grumbling since you are serving God - the King of kings (1 Cor. 10:10).
- Be selfless: that is, serve as a Steward without looking for a reward, save that of knowing that you are in God's perfect will for your life.
- Serve in the expectation that you will give an account some day to God.

CONCLUSION

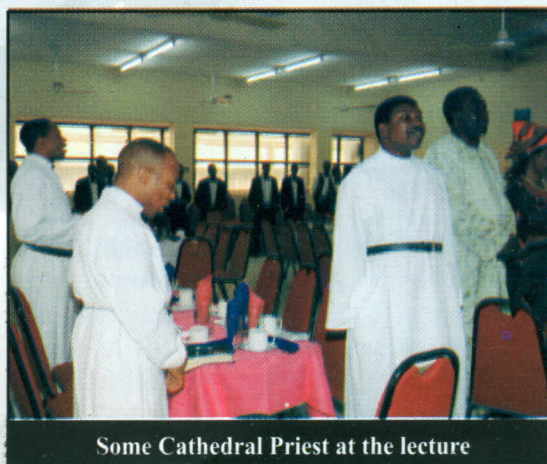
Stewardship is simply the act of taking care of or managing something for another person. Luke 16:1-8, posits that a Steward is a house agent, managing the house and servants, assigning tasks, being responsible for the goods of his Master and the training of the heir (Gen. 15:2).

In the New Testament usage, a Steward depicts every minister of Christ and every

Christian for that matter. 1 Cor. 4:1-2; every Christian is a Steward or administrator of the gospel (mysteries) of God. Consequently, as Stewards:

- We must be faithful and just. Preferment is based on this before God. (Luke 16:13)
- We must be single-minded for no one can serve God and mammon. (Luke 16:13)
- We must be prepared to give account. (Luke 16:2)
- Our reward is sure. (Matthew 20:8; 1 Cor. 15:48)
- Be steadfast. (1 Cor. 15:48)
- Be holy. (1 Peter 1:16)

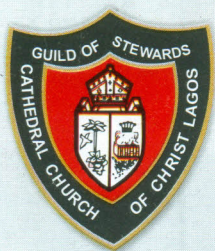
Thank you and God bless you all.



Some Cathedral Priest at the lecture

REFERENCES

1. Illustrated Bible Dictionary. Eds. Chad Brand, Charles Draper, Archie England Holman Reference, Nashville, Tennessee
2. The Study Bible. NIV



A TRIBUTE TO A VETERAN MEMBER OF THE CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS - MR. VICTOR BABASHOLA SANGOYELE

by Mr. Ayo Sanyaolu

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The brochure of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards to mark its 40th Anniversary in 1986, listed names of members in each of the four Groups (A, B, C, D) that have served the Guild for 30 years and above. In Group B the names of eight members were listed out of which six members have gone to the Great Beyond. One of the two surviving members is Mr. V.B. Sangoyele.



In the 40th and 50th Anniversary Brochures of the Guild, the name Sangoyele kept on reverberating. For many years, he was the Social Secretary of the Guild and also of Group "B", which endeared his heart. He was the Group Best Steward for three consecutive years when the competition was very stiff. With his sense of magnanimity, he initiated the introduction of light refreshments for

From records available Mr. Sangoyele became a member of the Guild before the first decade of its existence. In other words, Mr. Sangoyele has witnessed over fifty years of the foundation of the Guild in his lifetime.

In Nigeria where life expectancy for males, by W.H.O. statistics is about 55 years, it is a miracle of providence to live to be 85. Mr. Sangoyele was born on 11th of August 1921. Achieving this "ripe" age many Nigerians would roll out the drums to raise Hallelujah Chorus to the name of God. Mr. Sangoyele is not disposed to an ostentatious life-style. He is a dedicated family man. He is known for his forthrightness and his abiding commitment to the progress and prosperity of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards and any other Church Society he belonged to.

During his younger years, he showed passion for church activities. Recounting his role during his active years in the church will be quantum. He was always around. A man with a friendly approach and a great sense of humour. He "insured" everything.

Stewards on duty - a tradition that is still being maintained by all Groups. He was a member of various Sub-committees in the church especially the Harvest Sub-Committee.

Mr. Sangoyele became Deputy Leader of Group "B" in the latter part of the 90s when the late Dr. Olu. Asekun was the Group Leader. He later became the Group Leader when Dr. Asekun retired due to ill-health. As a leader, he earned the devotion of members of the Group with his friendliness and good humour. He spoke with decorum and carried himself with dignity.

We pray that the Almighty, who has sustained him this far, will continue to imbue him with the necessary strength, good health and vitality.

John's father has five children named Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono and

What is the name of the fifth child?•

CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS GROUP "B"

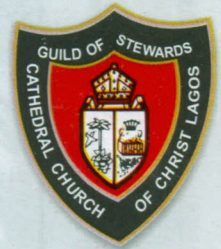
by Mr. Ayo. Sanyaolu, Group Leader

This Anniversary presents a perfect opportunity to wish all involved the happiness we desire and to thank the Almighty God for sparing our lives to witness this occasion.

We are grateful to our Maker that we are able to scale through another decade in the history of our noble service group, the Cathedral Guild of Stewards. As we toast our 60th sojourn, it is time for sober reflection, stock-taking and rededication. The past ten years had witnessed some tremendous changes in the composition of membership of Group

for the very high standard of dedication and commitment in serving the Church as members of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards - a legacy they have bequeathed to the present serving members of Group "B". We shall continue in this noble tradition to discharge our duties with utmost commitment, diligence and humility.

A decade ago, the rostrum of leadership of this Group was mounted by late Dr. Olu. Asekun. As a leader, he was known for his forthrightness and his abiding commitment to the ideals of stewardship. Within the



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Sitting: Prince Adefuyi Ademola, Mr. Yinka Lijadu, CPA, Mr Ayo Sanyaolu, Chief G.R.A. Edegware, Engr. Seun Phillips, Prince Goke Ademiluyi, Std. 1st Row: Chief Femi Adeniyi-Williams, Mr. Niyi Thorpe, Chief B.I.D. Ezeogu, Mr. Philip Abumere, Mr. O. Okikiade, Mr. L. Ofoegbu, Mr. S.O. Sodeinde, Dr. Bode Oyewole, Mr. Kola Ramos

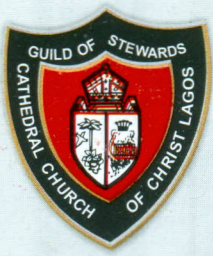
Std. 2nd Row: Mr. Abiodun Ejemai, Mr. Jolayemi Olatunji, Mr. Akintola Oyolola, Mr. Muyiwa Adefope, Mr. Kayode Sowande, Mr. Tunde Aromasodun, Engr. S.C. Apakama

"B" of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards. Notwithstanding, the inputs of individual members remain remarkable, especially for the team-spirit and support exhibited as a Group.

A call to duty as a Steward is a divine summons to self-devotion, sincerity of purpose and, above all, selfless service.

Anniversaries are yearly events but the 60th is an important landmark for any organisation or individual. We thank God for the efforts of the past members of Group "B"

church circle late Dr. Olu. Asekun played a diversified role. He was Provost's Warden for many years and a member of many Societies in the Cathedral. He was versed in the developmental history of the Cathedral. Late Dr. Olu. Asekun, as Leader of the Group, was ably assisted by our indefatigable Mr. V.B. Sangoyele as Deputy Group Leader. Mr. Sangoyele was for many years the Social Secretary of the Guild, a post he held with distinction and dedication. He was a fatherly figure to younger members of Group "B". The tenure of late Dr. Olu. Asekun was short due to ill-health.



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Mr. V.B. Sangoyele took over the mantle of leadership of Group "B" from late Dr. Asekun. He was assisted by Engr. Seun Phillips as Deputy Group Leader. The tenure of the duo of Mr. Sangoyele and Engr. Phillips was inspiring and the Group grew stronger.

After being well groomed for leadership role, Engr. Seun Phillips took over from Mr. Sangoyele as Group Leader in 1997. Engr. Phillips had a personal quest to attain superior achievements and to master perfection on top of his passion for the progress of the Group. His brash manner ruffled the feathers of friends and foes (if any) alike. He was, as Group Leader, extremely tough on people when it was necessary to get them to do things, and yet the next minute he would throw his arms around their shoulders and tell them what a great job they had done! Engr. Phillips was assisted by our affable elder, Mr. Yinka Lijadu, CPA, as Deputy Group Leader. The partnership of Engr. Seun Phillips and Mr. Yinka Lijadu, CPA was a blessing to the Group. They exhibited a sense of devotion and commitment.

The baton of leadership of the Group changed severally in quick succession in the last decade. Mr. Yinka Lijadu took over from Engr. Seun Phillips in 2002. As Group Leader, Mr. Lijadu endeared the minds and enthusiasm of members of the Group. He portrayed the picture of respectability in his dark-grey suit. He is a well-known figure in the Cathedral and has an eclectic taste for Church music. He was assisted by Prince Adefuyi Ademola as Deputy Group Leader. The Leader and his Deputy represented an epitome of respectability with their simplicity and warmth with members of Group "B". They exhibited genuine compassion for all members of the Group. Their long serving years as members of the Guild of Stewards placed them in a vantage position to steer the ship of Group "B" in stormy waters. Prince Ademola displayed a cloying loyalty to his leader.

The Constitution of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards stipulates a mandatory retiring age of 70 years for serving members. This clause in our Constitution affected a handful of members of Group "B". But we are grateful

to the Almighty God for sparing their lives to become Septuagenarians. Mr. Yinka Lijadu handed over the leadership of Group "B" to his Deputy, Prince Adefuyi Ademola with unanimous acclamation by members. I was privileged to assist him as Deputy Group Leader. Prince 'Fuyi Ademola is a man of genial personality with royal traits in his composure. During his tenure as Group Leader, though brief, he was able to effect some noticeable changes in the performance of the Group.

In the last decade Group "B" has benefited immensely with the infusion of some vibrant young members into its fold. These are Messrs. Jolayemi Olatunji, Olamide Ogidiolu, Lambert Ofoegbu and Olumuyiwa Adefope. With their agile spirits and youthfulness, they have added glamour and alertness to the functions of the Group. Mr. Adefope is very active within the Group and is also one of the representatives of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards to the Lagos Anglican Diocesan Guild of Stewards (LADGOS). We also have millennium new members in the persons of Olusola Okikiade, Olukayode Sowande, Adebola Thomas, Kehinde Durojaiye and Olufunso Martins. Mr. Martins served as Provost's Verger before relocating overseas.

These young men are very dutiful and diligent. They serve with a cheerful countenance and without fuss.

It may not be possible to profile and chronicle the performances or attributes of all members of the Group, but it will be worthwhile to spotlight some individuals. One of the longest serving members of the Group is Mr. Abayomi Bailey. He is still soldiering on and continues to pull his weight within the Group. Chief Femi Adeniyi-Williams is another veteran member of the Guild of Stewards and who has contributed immensely to the sustainability of Group "B" in particular. He is a second generation member of the Guild of Stewards.

We thank God for giving some members of our Group the grace and zeal to serve Him through the various positions they have held or are still holding in the past decade and for blessing their humble efforts with appreciable amount of success, thus

reflecting a positive image of the Group. Prince Adegoke Ademiluyi was for three years the People's Warden, a position in which he served admirably and contributed to his earning the Cathedral Parish Award in 2005. He is now back with the Group with his wealth of experience. Mr. E.O. Moore, at the beginning of the last decade, served as the Provost's Warden. He is also back with the Group. The Group welcomes back Mr. Bukola Meadows who, for many years, served first as Priest's Verger and later as Provost's Verger. Their journeys back to their roots (Group "B") are very much appreciated. Following the footsteps of our members aforementioned, Phillip Kola Abumere, an amiable energetic member of the Group, was elected at the 2006 Vestry Meeting to serve on the Standing Committee.

Engr. S.C. Apakama, having attained 70 years continues to be a valuable asset to the Group. He is always ready and available to render services and obligations at a beckon call. It is gratifying to note that the Group is blessed with second generation members of the Guild who are following the footsteps of their late fathers. Among such are Mr. Niyi Thorpe, Dr. Bode Oyewole, Mr. E.A. Banmeke (based in Abuja). Mr. Akintola Oyolola's father is still an active member of the Guild. These members have been making their marks in the progress of the Group. Dr. Akindele is also a member of the Group who has been contributing his quota to the progress of the Group.

The Group Leader is assisted by our ebullient Chief G.R.A. Edegware as Deputy Group Leader - a dependable lieutenant with an unflinching support and remarkable loyalty. A member of the Executive team of the Group is Mr. Abiodun Ejemai. He is the Treasurer of the Group and our reliable recorder. He is a chip of the old block and a second generation member of the Guild of Stewards. A member of the Group, Rev. G.O. Otubanjo, took Holy Orders and we are very proud of this. He followed the footsteps of Rev. J.P. Adeyemi-Cole who retired recently after celebrating his 70th birthday.

The clause in our Constitution, which pegs the age limit of active membership of the Guild to 70 years, has affected the numerical

strength of our Group. This is perceived as glorious and not a setback. We all wish to attain that three score and ten in our lifetime. Some of our members, who were affected, agitated that they could still be active in the service of the Guild. One of the members in the forefront of this agitation was Mr. Dola Shodeinde. It is heart-warming to note that Mr. Shodeinde, at 76 years, has a penchant for punctuality. Whenever our Group is on duty, he is always the first on duty. He is still a pillar to the Group. It is also worth mentioning the roles of other septuagenarians in the Group who are still functioning. Engr. Tunde Aromasodu, a one-time Secretary of the Group for many years, is always present whenever we are serving and always ready to give brotherly advice on vital issues affecting the Group. Mr. Kola Ramos is still very much around at services when our Group is on duty and always ready to smoothen our accounts at the end of the day. Other members of the octogenarians' club, who are still active in the Group, are Mr. Olu. Senbanjo, Chief B.I.D. Ezeogu and our former Leader and Deputy Leader, Mr. Yinka Lijadu and Prince Fuyi Ademola. The input of these elders to the Group are immeasurable. We pray that they will maintain their energy and enthusiasm to serve the Lord in His Vineyard.

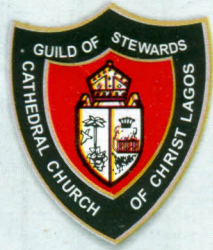
The elderly members of the Group that are no more regular at Church services due to one form of infirmity or the other are Messrs. A.A. Aderugbo and V.B. Sangoyele. In the last decade two members of the Group, Dr. Olu. Asekun and Mr. E.S.O. Banjoko, were called to the great beyond.

Finally, we thank the Almighty for sparing our lives to witness the 60th Anniversary of the Guild as we look forward to the years ahead. May He number us to be amongst those who will continue to be worthy of this calling to serve in His Vineyard. Amen.

"But for me and members of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards, Group "B", we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24 vs. 15).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

**Mr. A. A. Aderugbo is now late.
He died at the age of 83
and was buried on Friday, May 4, 2007.**





THE STEWARD - WHAT IT MEANS

by Prince E.A. Oyolola

60th

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I write to congratulate the Guild of Stewards of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos on its 60th Anniversary. It is indeed a long journey, longer than the Biblical Israelites' journey of 40 years. It is no joke!

Who is a Steward? And who is an Usher? The two words appear to be interchangeable or synonymous as viewed from their usage in various churches. Some churches call those servants in God's vineyard "Stewards" while other churches call them "Ushers".

To me the appropriate word is "Steward". To buttress this view, I like to define the word "Usher" as a person who shows people to their seats in a cinema, Church, Public Hall or into somebody's presence, the door-keeper in a law court, etc.

The duties of a Steward are more than merely ushering people to their seats in our Cathedral. The Steward also helps and ensures that each member of the congregation or visitor gets a copy of the Weekly Bulletin, he supplies him/her with a hymn book, book of canticles, the Bible and other notices and ensures that the member or visitor is comfortable and happy. The Steward ensures orderliness in the church, barring the doors during prayers to enable concentration. This prevents distractions from people trying to enter the Cathedral during prayers. He removes the cords to let people in after prayers, during singing, reading of lessons and sermons. In addition, the Steward assists in the collection of various offerings, takes the attendance at the service and, after the service, counts the takings, records and hands them over to the church officials for safe-keeping.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that the duties of a Steward are more than merely ushering people to their seats in the church. The Guild of Stewards is, therefore, a service organisation and not a society by the nature of its service and duties.

Recently, I was in England and the United States of America on holidays and worshipped on Sundays. While in Tampa, Florida State,



I followed my daughter and her family to worship at their church - St. Mary's Episcopal Church (Anglican). After the service, in the coffee hall, I became attracted to the shelves containing pamphlets and tracts. I got there and picked up some for reading. The one which caught my attention was titled "Disciple Way" by Gilbert P. Synons. Below the title was written, "Turn, Follow, Learn, Pray, Share, Service, Worship". Reading through the tract, I came to the section to "Serve" and was completely captivated.

I quote part of the paragraph which reads, "A Disciple Serves". Well, we know the word "serve". It conjures up power plants, telephones, buses, airplanes, farms, mills, restaurants, mines, mails, all trades, all professions. Without these servants we should choke, freeze, starve, die. Somewhere you have your part. Keep it up. Make it finer, gladder, more honest - a thing done to friends and God. Beyond the payroll you can serve. God is calling you to work for Him in the home, in the community, in the church. You are to be Christ's agent, Christ's servant..." and ends as follows:

Pray: O working Father, add me to your labour force

Affirm: My work is in front of men, I will find it and do it.

Do this: Tackle duty first no matter how ordinary or simple. Watch for a chance to serve. Have the pluck to do it. Serve through the church. If you see no opening, ask your rector (that is, your Provost or Vicar).

I feel proud to say that a Nigerian Guild of Stewards towers higher than the English and American Guild of Stewards and in other European countries. Stewards in those countries dress casually to the church to serve. They wear just a pair of trousers and shirt, that is all. And sometimes, they add coat without a tie - still casual. The congregation is not left out. Members dress casually to the church, some half nude, especially in America. Their youths have carried their freedom of dressing to the extreme, beyond limitations. But if those who dress casually were invited by the Queen, the President or the State Governor (earthly beings), they would dress properly, in a dignified manner to go before her or him. Yet God is above all. He made those beings. I am glad that our Cathedral is opposed to partial or total nudity in the service. I am made to believe that God is holy and that those who worship Him must do so in the beauty of holiness. Sunday is a special day set aside for worshipping and thanking God, the Creator of heaven and earth and all therein, including us, for His care over us in the week just ended and to pray to Him to guard and guide us through the new week. Therefore, Christians must keep their souls and bodies clean, wear good and clean dresses, dress properly and simply and joyfully to the house of God.

Our Stewards have their code of dressing: dark or grey suit and tie. They are indeed cute. For this I congratulate them. I urge them to strive always to maintain a high and enviable standard. Let the advanced countries copy from us. We have something to offer.

We must be careful not to neglect our privilege of service. A Disciple serves.

I am proud to be a Steward.

Happy Anniversary.

THE CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS – 20 YEARS AFTER

by *Chief Olabode Peters*
(Provost's Warden, 1976 - 1981)

It is with a thankful heart to God that I am privileged to be invited to contribute to the 60th Anniversary Brochure of the Guild of Stewards of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos.



Twenty years ago, I was appointed the Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Brochure Committee and I know for certain the onerous task that must have faced the 60th Anniversary Committee in the production of this brochure.

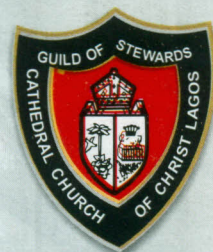
I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the deceased founding fathers of the Guild of Stewards of a Cathedral Church of Christ and, in doing so, make special mention of late Akin. Thompson who was a Cathedral Historian, a past Provost's Warden and also a committed member of the Guild of Stewards.

Having said all this, it is pertinent to remind every member of the Guild of Stewards that although anniversaries are joyous occasions for thanksgiving and celebrations, they are also times for sober reflections, for stock-taking and for rededication.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary in thankful and pleasant memories of those before us and our own humble efforts and contributions these past years, let us all resolve to put behind us those lapses and inadequacies which are becoming evident these days, particularly our care-free attitude towards visitors to the Cathedral. All these detract from the quality of our stewardship. We should try, as much as possible, to 'let everything be done decently and in order' (which is our motto).

Once again, I thank the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and members of the Guild for this opportunity of celebrating our Anniversary.

Wishing the Guild many happy returns and everlasting fulfillment in the service of God.



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SERVING IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

by Mr. Adekunle Adelowoye (Group "A"), 2006 Best Steward of the Year

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Good and committed Christians know that it is always good to serve the Lord. Christians can serve the Lord in different ways in His Vineyard and my own case was not an exception when I decided to join the Cathedral Guild of Stewards at the time I did.



My parents were good, strict and committed Christians. I was born into this our Cathedral and I grew up under the strict surveillance of my parents imbibing in me the virtues of a good Christian. Having grown up under a strict atmosphere, I have therefore got the foundation on which I would lean upon as I was growing up which was discipline.

My adherent faith in Christianity was further enhanced when I was given admission into Ijebu-Ode Grammar School, a good Christian Institution, for my Secondary School education.

Our Principal, at that time, was Revd. N.E. Ade Osisanya of blessed memory, who always made the students to know and believe that Ijebu-Ode Grammar School was a Christian School. Towards this end, therefore, Sunday was a day which we, the students, used to observe with reverence. This was because on Sundays, it had been incorporated in the Boarding House programmes of the School that there must be no single sporting activity apart from going to Our Saviour's Church, now Our Saviour's Cathedral, Itaolowajoda, Ijebu-Ode, or Christ Church, Porogun, also in Ijebu-Ode, during the morning period and, in the evening, we would all go to the School Chapel in the compound. In all, during my seven years at Ijebu-Ode Grammar School, that is from Form One to Upper Six, I was attending church services two times every Sunday. From this period onwards I became used to devoting all Sundays to attending church services from morning till evening and praying fervently.

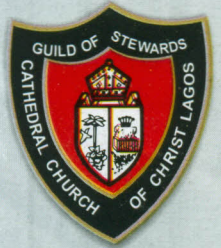
Now, when I was about to get married, I was fortunate to have a lady who was brought up along the Christian faith as I was, that is Anglican Denomination. She was a member of St. Jude's Church, now the Cathedral Church of St. Jude, Ebute-Metta. Her parents, too, were strict, good and committed Christians. With the background which my wife had, it was possible for us to march on along the line of Christianity.

When I started coming to the Cathedral regularly, the Spirit inside me was telling me to join the Guild of Stewards as I have got this idea of being a Steward in the Cathedral since I was a young boy. During this period also, my wife was urging me not to forget to join the Guild of Stewards. If the Provost's Warden, Mr. Gbola Akinola, has not forgotten, he was the Secretary to the Guild of Stewards at that time. My wife was always reminding him every time on Sundays within the Church premises not to forget to give me the membership application form. She was the person that eventually collected the form on my behalf.

On my being admitted into the Guild of Stewards, Group "A", the thought that constantly came to my mind was, "You must always be at your best whenever you are on duty". I noticed that I got a sense of fulfillment generally. I was always happy and full of life. This made me to have a feeling that as I discharge my duties diligently as a Steward, God would compensate me and I have discovered that God's favour and blessings on me and my family are on the increase. As I have been made to understand that all Sundays should be treated as Holy right from my Secondary School days, I had made it a policy that I should be nearer God at all times and services on Sundays could not be treated differently. Any other assignments that fell on the Sundays my Group is on duty would not be entertained by me if I would not have the opportunity to be present for the Evening Service. This policy I have adhered to religiously and my wife has been very supportive. She would stay with me all day. It was therefore not a surprise to me that I was adjudged the Best Steward in the Cathedral for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

LAGOS ANGLICAN DIOCESAN GUILD OF STEWARDS (LADGOS): MY EXPERIENCE

by Muyiwa Adefope



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I was nominated to represent the interests of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards in the Lagos Anglican Diocesan Guild of Stewards (LADGOS) in December 2002.

The experience was new to me as I did not know what to expect or what to do. Eventually, after attending my first meeting, which was an Executive Committee Meeting of LADGOS held at St. Jude's Anglican Church, Odi-Olowo, I discovered that the expectation and requirements were not different from what you would expect from a Guild of Stewards member at the Cathedral.

Over time, my experience with attending the meetings of the group has been most enjoyable. It has afforded me the opportunity of making new friends, visiting Churches and places that I had never been to such as St. Jude's Anglican Church, Odi-Olowo, St. Stephen's, Igbobi, All Saints' Anglican Church, Ijeshatedo, amongst many others. In the course of our visits to the various churches, I have also been able to get acquainted with different priests of the various churches. Most significant in this case was our meeting with the Bishop of Lagos Mainland Diocese, Rt. Revd. (Prof.)

Akinde on Sunday, 10th December 2006 at the Cathedral Church of St. Jude Church, Ebute-Metta, Lagos.



It will be totally incomplete for me to put down a few lines of my experience without recalling a very significant event. This event was the 1st Seminar organised by LADGOS for all members of the Guild of Stewards in the then Lagos Diocese. The event was held on Saturday, 10th September, 2005, at St. Stephen's Church, Igbobi and was very well attended by LADGOS members. Holy Communion Service was first held before we proceeded to the Seminar itself. The highlight of the day was a presentation by Dr. P.S. Nmadu on STRESS and below are some of the highlights of the Lecture, which I would like to share with you.

STRESS

(Being a presentation at the Seminar of the Lagos Diocesan Anglican Guild of Stewards on 10th September 2005 by Dr. P.S. Nmadu)

Dr. Nmadu noted that Selye 1974 defined STRESS as the non-specific response of the body to any demand made upon it. Stress is a particular relationship between the person and the environment that is appraised by the person as taxing or exceeding his or her resources and endangering his or her being

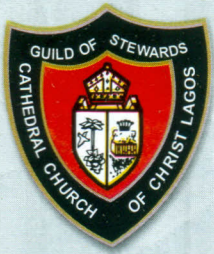
1. CAUSES OF STRESS

Dr. Nmadu noted that Stress is always with us. We are all under some form of

Stress and, depending on situations, it varies in intensity. Pressures, he continued, can derive from personal life as well as from work and our environment. Stress, Dr. Nmadu stated, could be caused in the following situations:

a. Environment

Lack of security, poor public utilities (power, water, sanitation), fuel scarcity, high cost of housing, political tensions, lack of job security.



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b. At Work

Work load (too much or too little), relationships (with bosses, subordinates, colleagues, customers/clients), recognition, management role, lack of leisure time, office policies, sexual harassment, ethnic discrimination, travelling, etc.

c. Personal/Family

Family finance, illness, financial problems, poor time management, marital discords, role conflicts, performing unsatisfactorily, impatience, poor concentration, fidgeting/restlessness, warped judgement, rigid judgement, spouse and child abuse.

d. Other medical conditions associated with chronic stress include allergies, asthma, colitis, headaches, low sex urge.

e. Difficulties in women caused by Stress include depression, diabetes, hypertension, migraine, peptic ulcers, etc.

f. Life Events

Death of a spouse, divorce.

2. CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Nmadu stated the following as part of the varied conditions Stress has been cited as causing or aggravating. These, he said, may be physical, psychological and behavioral. He noted, however, that though they may be induced by Stress, they could also occur in other circumstances.

a. Altered sleep pattern, difficulty in getting to sleep, early waking, chronic tiredness, lethargy, panic attacks, nausea, bowel symptoms, headaches, muscle tension, nervous twitches.

b. Psychological

Irritability and aggression, anxiety and depression, poor decision making, pre-occupation with trivialities, inability to prioritise, mood changes and swings, difficulty in concentrating, deterioration in recent memory, feelings of failure and lack of self worth.

c. Behavioral

Lack of concern for appearance, altered eating habits, drinking more, smoking more, absenteeism, increased accidents, presenteeism, that is, being physically present at work but not performing.

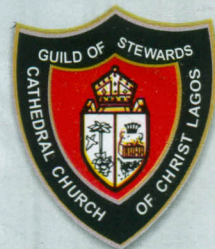
3. THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF MANAGING STRESS

Dr. Nmadu clearly stated that looking after your physical health is important in managing stress. It has the effect, he noted, of not only prolonging your life, but will also improve its quality and make life less stressful. In summary he established that *Not smoking, drinking moderately or not at all, exercising regularly, eating breakfast, maintaining a normal weight, regular meals and adequate sleep have profound effects on the physical health of individuals.*

4. SPIRITUALITY

Dr. Nmadu concluded his speech to LADGOS spiritually by stating that we should trust in the Lord with our whole heart and lean not on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:6). He further cited Philipians 4:6, Psalm 91:1-2, 1 Peter 5:7.

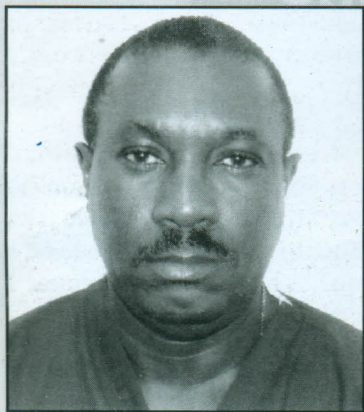
He concluded by saying that God wants to take care of us. Why don't we let Him? With all the pace, competing needs and limited time, with all the hassles and all the problems, may the Lord grant all the serenity, presence of mind at all times to always carry everything to Him in prayer.



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COMMENTARY FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dr. V.A. daCosta - Secretary, Cathedral Guild of Stewards



"I will rather be a door keeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

It is a great honour and rare privilege for anyone at anytime to

have this opportunity to be able to write comments in the brochure celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Guild of Stewards of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos.

I joined the Guild about 20 years ago. I attended the 50th Anniversary in 1996 as an Assistant Secretary, watching and hearing the do's and don'ts, memories from older Stewards and new Stewards, pomp and pageantry. Ten years have passed since then and we are now celebrating the 60th Anniversary.

Have we, as Stewards, learnt from the challenges and posers thrown at us in 1996?

1. What has been our heritage?
2. Have we sustained the standards of our forefathers or have we allowed decay to set in?

3. What efforts are we making to ensure that the Golden Torch passed onto the future generation is in a much brighter state than it was passed on to us?

In my opinion, I think we have, since the last 10 years, taken these issues seriously and addressed them. For example:

1. Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders shall hold office for 4 years and shall be eligible for another term of 4 years in each capacity subject to the attainment of 70 years of age, whichever comes first.
2. Training programmes to update members on new rules of Mode of Worship and fine tuning old methods.
3. Name tags for identification of Stewards when on duty.
4. Improving the security of Stewards by barring non-Stewards from the place where Stewards retire to for the counting of collections after services.

As we continue serving God as Partners with Him, I pray that God Himself will give us eyes to see the glory of service.

I wish the Cathedral Guild of Stewards more blessed years of faithful service in God's Vineyard.

A CONFESSION?

A young woman goes to church to confess her sins to the priest.

"Forgive me Father, for I have sinned."

"Tell me all of your sins, my daughter."

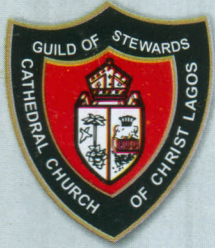
"Oh, Father, last night my boyfriend made hot, passionate

love to me seven times," she says.

The priest thinks about this long and hard, and says, "Take seven lemons and squeeze the juice into a tall glass, and drink it."

"Will this cleanse my soul of my sins?"

"No," the priest says, "but it'll wipe that smile off your face!"



OVERVIEW OF A STEWARD IN THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

by G. Olu. Aboaba, CPA

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To be a very good Steward in the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos, means you are truly called to give selfless service. When I became a Steward, I saw it as a voluntary work to help to see to the orderliness and spirit-filled forms of worship. One of the qualifications was that you were regular and punctual at church services. You were also appointed if you were always neatly dressed and your shoes were clean and well polished.

On Sundays you were expected to arrive at least ten clear minutes before service started. Then you got posted to one of the entrances to man it so as to assist worshippers with books and the order of services. You had to put the cord across the door to stop entry during the reading of lessons and whilst prayers are being said. Generally, it is to control the entry or exit from the Cathedral at such times.

During the singing of hymns or chants, opportunity is taken to distribute mails to members. A few Stewards have become very good "postmasters" because they can identify many members. Unfortunately some Stewards distract worshippers by walking around at awkward times.

Some Stewards have special roles on Sundays. The Vergers are expected to open and flag the passages of the Bible to be read at services. They invite and lead visitors to the Lectern to read on special occasions. They also lead preachers to and from the Pulpit.

One of the most important duties of Stewards on duty is to collect, count and record the offerings given at various times. This is a very delicate job, as we had found over the years, and vigilance is our watchword. No one that might tarnish the image of the Guild is allowed to man the doors.

All Stewards are expected to serve at all services – weddings, funerals, birthday



celebrations, State services or whatever – during their week's duty.

To work as a good Steward demands absolute devotion to duty. I recall one year when, as a Leader of Group "C", I rode on a motor cycle from Surulere, as I had no fuel in my car and I could not find any other means of getting to the Cathedral. Chief

S.A. Makinwa exclaimed when he saw me alighting from the motorbike.

As a Steward, I was very particular that services ran smoothly and I was found mostly within the Cathedral during services to the extent that on two occasions, when I was elected Deputy Leader of Group "C", I was not even present at the elections in the Chapter House! I was busy, as usual, at the services inside the Cathedral, seeing that all was well. When news got to me that I had been elected, I confessed that the paramount thing was to give service.

Eventually, reward came years later when I was given the Cathedral Parish Award for various services to the Cathedral and humanity. After I reached the age of 70 years, I had to retire from the leadership of Group "C" but have since continued to give some assistance to any Group that is short of hands any day I wear a suit to the Cathedral. I am also involved by talking privately to Stewards who are deficient.

All in all, I take it that the life of a Steward is a life of service to the Lord and humanity. I have found it very rewarding and I will continue to do what I can to help.

The happiest people in the world are not those who have no problems, but those who learn to live with things that are less than perfect.

STEWARDSHIP : MY EXPERIENCE



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During the 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion Service on the 23rd of June 2002, the People's Warden, Mr. Rotimi Odugbesan, approached me and asked me to join him at the rear of the Church. When we got there he asked me to sit between three gentlemen who were already seated. I did and then he asked me what similarities I could notice between myself and the gentlemen I was seated between. Considering I was seated between people I had always looked at as "elders" in the Church I really could not fathom where he was heading. So I replied, "We are all sitting down".

They all laughed and then he replied we were all wearing dark suits. He then asked if I would like to join the Cathedral Guild of Stewards where I could be of service to the Church. He said he had noticed that I just came for the 7.15 a.m. service on Sundays and take off immediately afterwards.

This really surprised me because I had not really been a long time worshipper at the Cathedral. My late father had been worshipping there with my mother and younger sister and it was after my father passed on in February 2000 that I decided to join my mother in worshipping there. The Cathedral had always been fascinating to me with the solemn mode of worship that I saw the first time I was there, in April 1997, when my older brother got married at the Cathedral.

Unfortunately, I was out of the country for a few months, after my encounter with the People's Warden, and so I was away from the Cathedral. When I returned Mr. Odugbesan asked if I was avoiding taking up the responsibility. I replied in the negative. He then took my contact address indicating they would be in touch. A few days later I received a letter from the Cathedral Guild of Stewards requesting me to attend an interview. The interview was held on the 1st of June 2003 with a few other prospective Stewards. Later I received a letter dated 30th of July 2003 informing me that I had been admitted as a member of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards and that I had been assigned to Group "C"

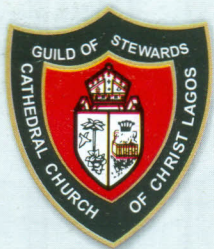
under the leadership of Chief Olu. Falomo (who happened to be a friend to my late father).

I remember going to church the next Sunday morning in my traditional attire (which I did rarely) and then reporting to Chief Falomo, when I saw him, that I had been posted to his Group. Little did I know that we were serving that Sunday. So he told me we were and that I should have come dressed in suit. I explained that I did not know and thought there would be some sort of induction classes or something before I would be allowed to serve. He told me no and not to worry but that I should be prepared for the next duty day for Group "C", which would be four Sundays from then.

Not to be caught out twice, I was back in my suits every Sunday and, on the 17th of August 2003 during the 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion Service, the Group Leader of Group "A" came up to me during the Service and affirmed that I was a Steward. He then asked me to join them in taking the collection since they were a bit thin that morning. I gladly joined them but quickly mentioned that I hadn't done it before and really didn't know the procedure. I was given a quick tutorial, the collection bowl and off I went with the others. This marked my first 'duty' as a Steward in the Cathedral.

Two Sundays later, Group "C" was on duty and I was there with them. After the 7.15 a.m. Service, we went upstairs to count the collection and prepare for the next Service. One of the other Stewards put me through the ropes quickly and I did as I was told. We then proceeded downstairs for the next Service. The 3rd Service over, we were upstairs again. The Group Leader, at this point, introduced me and the other new Stewards to the rest of the Group and welcomed us. I noticed that the other new Stewards were well known to the other Stewards, I was already familiar with two old members who were quite delighted to have me in their Group. The others welcomed us warmly too with pleasantries all round. And so began the monthly routine of service with the Cathedral Guild of Stewards.

Cont'd on page 27



CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS : LOOKING BACK TEN YEARS

by Engr. O.A. Phillips - Group Leader, Group "A"



On this auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards, it is traditional that we give adoration, glory and praise to the Almighty for making us witness this landmark event in our lifetime.

The distinguished qualities of commitment and dedicated service of Group "A" as highlighted in the 40th Anniversary Brochure of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards published in 1986 is still a hallmark of the Group in today's evaluation of performance. In the days of the late Bishops A.W. Howells and F.O. Segun as Provosts of the Cathedral, Group "A" was the preferred Group for special services and assignments.

The Group still parades dedicated and distinguished gentlemen who have served the Group, the Church, and indeed the country, in various capacities in all areas of human endeavour. Messrs. E.A. Pearce, J.R. Curtis, F.O. Campbell, Engineer F.A.O. Phillips, MBE, CPA, E.O. Ekisola, V.A. Roberts, A.A. Adeseye and E.O. Odina, all served and made significant contributions to the enhancement of Group "A" for which they are still regarded as role models.

Today the Group, under the leadership of Engr. Lanre Phillips, with Prince M.A. Ogun as Deputy Group Leader, parades a dedicated

crop of gentlemen Stewards namely, T.O.P. Adeduro, A. Adeosun, Dr. K.O. Ajayi, Dr. O.B. Ajose, O. Aleshinloye-Williams, J.O. Coker, V.A. DaCosta, G.O.A. Ekisola, I.O. Maclean, E.M. Nwizu, R. Odugbesan, T. Odugbesan, O. Okunribido, Jide Oki, Bimbo Peters, F.O. Phillips, E.O. Sanyaolu, P.O. Santos, W. Nzekwe, K. Sorinwa, C.A. Authe, A. Ore-Dawodu and I. Shonekan, our latest member.

We must also place on record our appreciation of some of our members who are currently regarded as distant members but who willingly take on their duties as Stewards whenever they are in town - Messrs. S. Lawrence, I.N. Nwokomah, and Tom. Duncan who is now permanently domiciled in the United States of America. We must also give special tribute to two distinguished members who have become traditional rulers - Oba Adebayo Onadeko, the *Odemo* of Ishara, and Obong Dr. T.P. Enodien.

Some of the members of Group "A" give service to the Guild as Principal Officers, namely, Mr. Rotimi Odugbesan - People's Warden and Chairman of the Guild; Dr. V.A. Dacosta - General Secretary of the Guild; Mr. Adekunle Adeluwoye - Treasurer of the Guild and Best Steward of the Year for three years running (2004, 2005 and 2006); Engr. O.A. Phillips - Group Leader and Chairman,

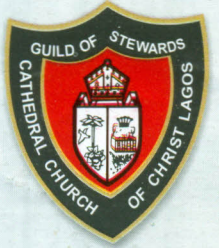
Technical Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee; Mr. O. Aleshinloye-Williams - Chairman, Family Harvest Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee; Prince Adeyimika Ademiluyi - Synod Delegate and Chairman, Membership Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee; Mr.

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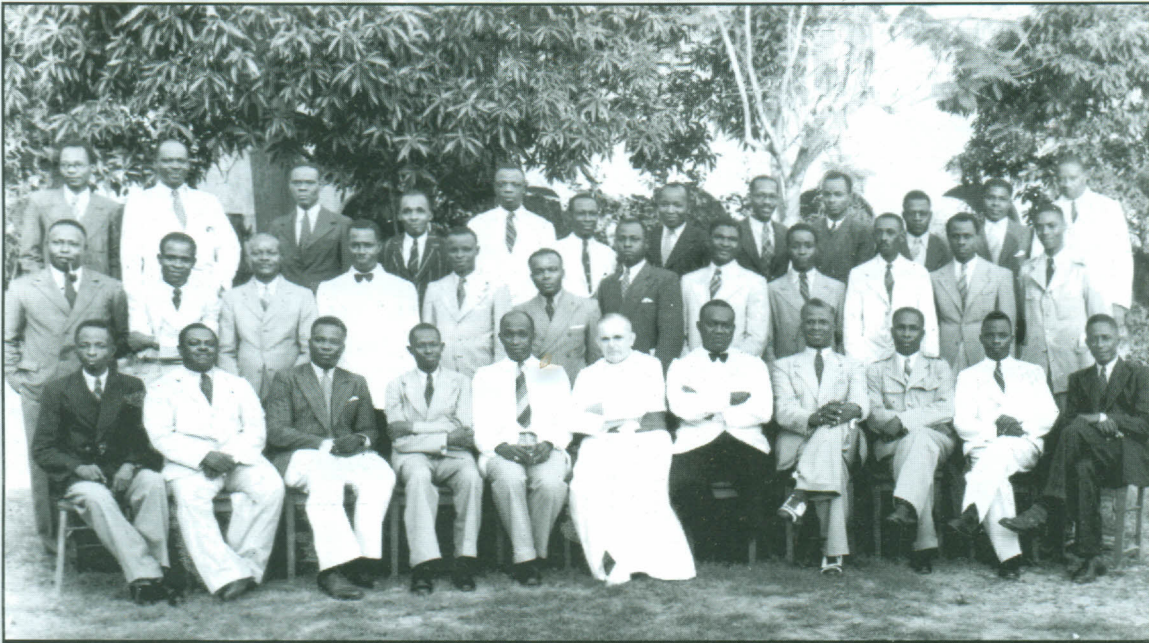
Sitting: Mr. Jide Aleshinloye-Williams, Mr. J.O. Coker, Engr. Lanre Phillips, Prince M.A. Ogun, Mr. A.A. Adeosun
Std. 1st Row: Mr. A.B. Adeluwoye, Mr. W.O. Nzekwe, Mr. F.O. Phillips, Mr. Dayo Sobowale,
Std. 2nd Row: Prince A. Ademiluyi, Mr. T.O.P. Adeduro, Mr. C.A. Authe, Dr. O.B. Ajose

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The Cathedral Guild of Stewards in its Early Years



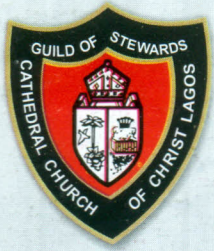
The Cathedral Guild of Stewards Today



The Provost & Members of the Executive Committee



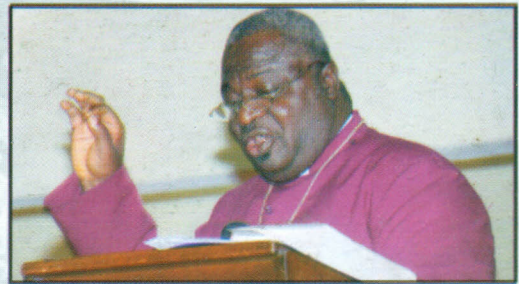
The Provost & Members of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee (Mr. Dotun Makinwa not in picture)



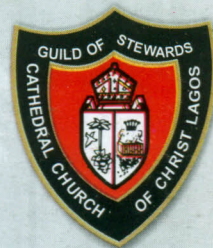
60TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER / BREAKFAST

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60TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



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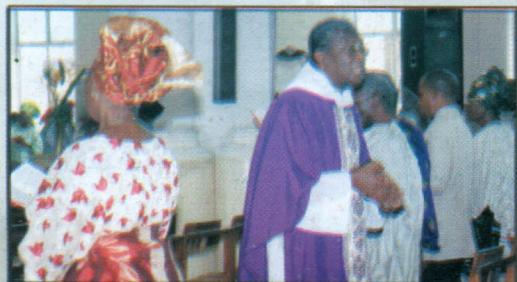
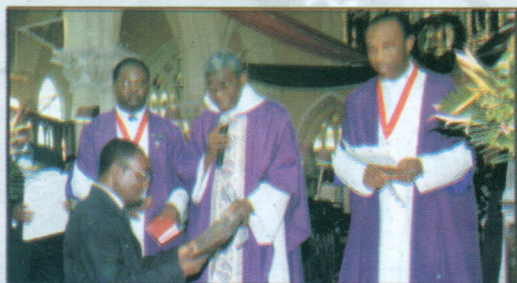
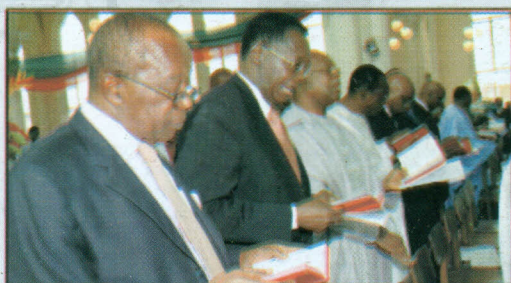
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60TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

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CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS : LOOKING BACK TEN YEARS

Cont'd from page 22

Folusho Phillips - Bishop's Nominee to the Standing Committee and Sir 'Jide Oki - Legal Secretary of the Diocese of Lagos.

To God be the glory and may Group "A" continue to serve bountifully in the Lord's Vineyard.

Mention must also be made of some distinguished elderly Stewards who have clocked seventy years and above and are still showing tremendous interest in the affairs of Group "A" - Mr. A.A. Adeseye, Chief 'Bode Peters, Chief Dr. E.A.O. Shonekan, *GCFR, KBE, CPA*, Oloye A.B. Solanke, *CPA* and Mr. Fola Sasegbon - and support the Group

whenever the need arises.

Finally, we must pay tribute to our distinguished deceased members who have joined the heavenly congregation and are giving service in the heavenly sanctuary - Messrs. E.A. Pearce, R.G. Curtis, F.O. Campbell, E.O. Ekiola, V.A. Roberts, E.O. Odina, F.T. Durand, V. Akin. Thompson, S.O. Okunribido. May the souls of these faithful departed, through the mercies of God, continue to rest in peace. Amen.

May Group "A" continue to grow from strength to strength in the service of God. Amen!



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STEWARDSHIP - MY EXPERIENCE

Cont'd from page 21

Our induction was done on the 7th of March after a successful probationary period and it was with great pride that I received my brooch along with the other new Stewards from the various Groups.

The experience, so far, I must say, has been very interesting with a few challenges that make it even more interesting. I remember having to cope with much older Stewards (not on duty) putting in a word or two and, at times, gesticulating orders. At times one would be tempted to throw in the towel but, as our Group Leader would always tell me and any other member that reported such to him, our service was to the Church and anyone that felt he knew much more should be tolerated while we focus on the task at hand. With that in my mind, I continue to forge on but I must confess it could be at times frustrating, especially when one considers that when there is a training for Stewards, this crop of older Stewards who do the correcting are not usually available.

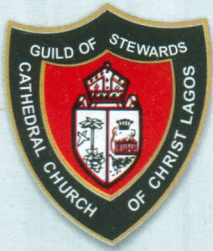
My thoughts are that the Guild is trying to bring in younger people to serve but, obviously some people think otherwise. Nonetheless, I think honouring Stewards for long service is a fantastic idea and really encouraging to the younger ones. Being a young Steward I have

been the butt of quite a few jokes and even a friend of mine that attended a wedding at the Cathedral had to call me up on the phone and confirm that I was indeed a Steward at the Cathedral because he could not visualise how I would fit in with the people he saw.

On the whole, it has been a pleasant experience for me in the Guild. I had initially avoided joining any groups or Societies (as has been my norm) so as not to be drawn into any controversies but this has not been the case. It has rather been an avenue to interact and rub minds with very interesting people. I always look forward to the Sundays when we serve and seek ways to improve on previous outings. The infusion of younger people into the Guild will certainly bring continuity to the Guild and in tune with the recent norm in other churches where more responsibility is given to the younger generation. The idea may certainly bring back some younger parishioners who have left in droves for other churches where they feel more utilised.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This piece was sent in by the youngest member of the Guild but who chose to remain anonymous



THE SUCCESS STORY OF GROUP "D", CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS

by Engr. E.A. Babaniji - Group Leader, Group "D"

60th
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INTRODUCTION

The Cathedral Church of Christ Guild of Stewards, founded in AD 1946, has been performing up to expectation. We thank Almighty God for the achievement of this Institution. The Guild's Hymn, "*Rise Up O Men Of God*" (SOP 635), has been a great inspiration to members who shall continue to "Give heart and soul and mind and strength, To serve the King of kings". In the course of enhancing effectiveness and discipline, the main body is divided into four dynamic groups controlled by a Group Leader and assisted by a Deputy Group Leader.

MEMBERSHIP

Group "D" presently has a total of 22 active members and 16 retired/out-of-station members. The members are drawn from distinguished professionals in Medicine, Engineering, Law, Administration, etc. Many of these members have served the Cathedral in different capacities and have been duly rewarded.

The recipients of the Cathedral Parish Award (CPA) include Mr. I. O. Aina (1990), Mr. C.T. Olaomo (1991) (Immediate Past Group Leader), Pa Ayo. Otuyalo (1998) (retired), Pa O.T. Fawole (2003) (retired), Prof. G.O.A. Sowemimo

(2004), Engr. G.O.M. Agbogidi (2005). Mr. Dotun Makinwa and Mr. Tunde Sowande received the Cathedral Parish Merit Award in 2001.

Mr. M.A.O. Kehinde (current Deputy Group Leader) and Mr. Dotun Makinwa had served as Vergers in the past.

Navy Captain A.A. Da-Costa, one of our out-of-station members and currently posted to Abuja, has recently been elected the People's Warden of St. James' Anglican Church, Asokoro, Abuja. This goes to show that wherever a Group "D" member is, he distinguishes himself in his service to the Lord.

It is, therefore, not surprising to expect high standard of devotion to duty from members of Group "D". It is our joy to report that the performance of Group "D" in recent years made it possible to win the "**Best Group Of The Year**" Award for four years in succession - 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. Our member, Mr. Lewis Oladipupo Olowoselu also won the "Second Best Steward of the Year" Award for the years 2005 and 2006.



1st Row: Mr. L.O. Olowoselu, Mr. Dotun Makinwa, Mr. M.A.O. Kehinde, Engr. E.A. Babaniji, Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA, Mr. T.O.S. Farri, Dr. S.O. Ajomo
2nd Row: Engr. G.O.M. Agbogidi, CPA, Mr. Akin Martins, Mr. Oyin Fetuga, Mr. S.G. Abimbola, Chief Gbolahan Ayodele, Mr. C.O. Onabanjo, Dr. Jerry Agbaiké
3rd Row: Mr. Kayode Oyebo, Mr. Olumide Sofowora, Mr. O. Dawodu, Mr. B. Jackson, Mr. Tunde Sowande, PMA

RETIRED MEMBERS

It is worth mentioning that our retired members still show great interest in our activities. At 98 years of age, Pa Akin. Oshodi still requests that our Group "D" Newsletter be read to him. He also considered it necessary to send financial contribution of ten thousand Naira towards the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Guild of Stewards and two thousand Naira towards Group "D" end-of-year party. This buttresses the biblical saying that we shall still flourish in old age.

Even at age 77 years, Pa Otuyalo, CPA is always at the Stewards' seat before the 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion Service on the Sundays that Group "D" is serving to advise and give a helping hand. He makes it a point of interest to be physically present at the End-of-the-year Party of the Group.

Prof. A.O. Ogunmekan comes regularly to serve except when he is overseas.

Prof. O. Akinla, at 83 years, has always been a support to the Group by his interest and financial contributions to the activities of the Group.

Pa. C.O. Onabanjo, at 75 years, still creates the time to serve with us on some Sundays and livens up the members with his cheerful jokes.

We also pay tribute to Pa O.T. Fawole, CPA, (85 years) and Pa. D.O. Ogun (80 years), who had at some time served the Group meritoriously.

WELFARE

The "We Care" programme for the members is handled by the Executive Committee comprising the Group Leader, Deputy Group Leader, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Social Secretary. Other members are required to assist from time to time. All members have the Directory showing the residential and mailing addresses and telephone numbers of members for ease of communication and contact.

Members are paired up and each member of a pair is to show interest in one another's welfare and report matters worthy of note.

NEWSLETTER

This is a regular monthly journal produced by the Group to boost members' spiritual development. It was first published in 1998 by Mr. C.T. Olaomo, then Deputy Group Leader of the Group, when Mr. Ayo Otuyalo was the Group Leader. It highlights major activities of the church that require the attention of members. Rosters of individual duties, such as taking the Offering to the Altar and Sunday catering for members are featured. Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries of members are also celebrated in the Newsletter.

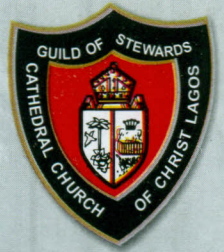
END-OF-YEAR GET-TOGETHER

The End-of-year Get-together is an opportunity for members to thank Almighty God for the protection and blessings received in the year. Attendance at this event generally includes Group Leaders of other Groups, members' wives, children, grand children, as well as retired members and friends.

CONCLUSION

The achievement of Groups in the Cathedral Church of Christ Guild of Stewards has been remarkable. It is hoped that greater things are in the offing. It is however recommended that frequency of General Training Programme for Stewards should be stepped up to maintain standards. The retired Stewards need more frequent visitations from the active and serving Stewards.

Finally, Galatians 5:13 says, "... *but by love serve one another*". It is my prayer that as we serve in the Lord's Vineyard, He will take care of all our needs and we shall lack nothing, in Jesus' Name. Amen.



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BEST GROUP OF THE YEAR

by Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA

60th
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One of our teachers in the Secondary School used to drum it into us, his students, the age-old saying, "There is no stand still in nature". He would then add

his own, "You either buck up or you buck down". Later in life, a friend of mine captured this second saying in the following words, "You either ship in or you ship out".

So it is in any human enterprise. Marketing strategies are designed and changed from time to time in order to attract new customers while retaining the existing ones.

This strategy holds good in the commercial or business world as it does in social or religious organisations. That explains why, between 1981 and 1987, Chief Stephen Akinjisola Makinwa, CPA, who was then the People's Warden and Chairman of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards, introduced innovations designed to, among others,

- promote fellowship among fellow Stewards,
- promote better performance by Stewards in their services,
- promote a competitive spirit among the various Groups in order to raise the standard of Stewardship in the Cathedral.

In order to achieve (c) above, "The Best Group of the Year Award" was introduced. Criteria established for this Award centered mainly on "Attendance" and "Financial Support".

Attendance was considered a priority because if the services held in the Cathedral were to be orderly, if the congregation was to worship in an atmosphere of peace and orderliness, if the congregation was to be able to follow the service as conducted by the priests, it became essential that Stewards must be present in good numbers in order to provide Hymn Books, Prayer Books, The Psalter, the Programme for the service and/or the Weekly Bulletin in addition to distribution of mails to worshippers.

The financial criterion derives from the responsibility of every Steward to support, in financial terms, the work of the Guild. This annual contribution has been a nominal amount over the years in order to make it possible for every Steward to subscribe. However, unlike regular Societies, non payment of the annual subscription has never been used as a reason to determine the membership of any Steward.

At the inception of the Award, so keen and healthy was the competition that the scores of the winning Group and the runner-up Group were very close. In one of the years, it was so close that it nearly required a "photo finish" to determine the winner.

Group "B" had the distinction then of being the "Best Group of the Year" more than all the other Groups put together. It is on record that Group "B", which was then led by the late Mr. A.P. Olaomo, won it consecutively for three years (1984 to 1986). By the rules in existence then, Group "B" won the first shield for keeps. From that year on, the annual competition ceased to be.

The competition was resuscitated by the incumbent People's Warden, Mr. Rotimi

Cont'd on page 32

50TH ANNIVERSARY, GOLDEN JUBILEE TO 60TH ANNIVERSARY, DIAMOND JUBILEE - HOW TIME FLIES!

by Prince Adegoke Ademiluyi, CPA, Immediate Past People's Warden

When, in 1996, I was requested to lead the Organising Committee of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of our Guild, I was petrified because of the enormity of the responsibility. I believed as Chairman of the Committee, along with the members, that we had to deliver within a very tight schedule. God, in His infinite mercy, assisted us all along. The Golden Jubilee Anniversary was a huge success.

The incumbent People's Warden then was Sir John Balogun, who was very supportive of my Committee and appreciated all our efforts. As the Chairman of the Guild then, he took the torch of success in his hand.

Between then and now, ten years, a lot has happened in both the Cathedral and in the Guild of Stewards. Sir John Balogun passed on the baton of leadership to the late Omoba Adewunmi. The Guild continued to grow in leaps and bounds until 1999 when the mantle of leadership of the Guild fell on my shoulders.

The Almighty Father, who chose me to be Chairman of the 50th Anniversary, had great plans, which were unknown to me then. That responsibility was indeed a preparation assignment to give me a deeper insight into the organisation of the Guild. I had been an active Steward and had been nominated to represent my Group on the Executive Committee, but little did I know that I was later going to be called to take on the higher responsibility of the People's Warden and Chairman of the Guild of Stewards. This is a sensible combination of responsibilities as it is done in the Anglican Communion especially in the Lagos Diocese. It is only mischievous to conceive or contemplate a separation of the positions.

The activities of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary included lectures, visits to charitable organisations, with presentations made to them,



a spiritually-filled Anniversary Service with an inspiring sermon. The Anniversary was ended with a delightful luncheon.

These activities were actually launched with the Brochure to commemorate the Anniversary. The gold-gilded brochure was compiled, published and presented at an impressive ceremony. A variety of articles were written by members of the Guild reflecting the life of the Guild from its inception to the present times. Some companies advertised their products in the brochure. These brought in extra colour to it with reasonable payments for them. The four Groups in the Guild, Groups "A", "B", "C" and "D" wrote stories of the performances of their Groups. There has always been a healthy rivalry amongst the Groups to outshine each other in the quality of their performances at the Cathedral. This is how it ought to be. No one should look down on the other. Every Steward should be encouraged to give of his best in the service of the Lord.

During my tenure as the People's Warden of the Cathedral, I introduced measures to improve the service delivery of the Stewards in the Cathedral. This I did by organising training sessions for all the Stewards. Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA, was the



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Training Manager. I also improved the quality of performance of the Administrative staff of the Cathedral by introducing the slogan, **“Get it right first time”** to save the period of time spent on their jobs and minimise the waste of paper through destruction of many incorrect manuscripts and improperly typed jobs. I believe that history will always give due regard to the performance of every individual.

Now, 10 years on, it is my wish and prayer that the organisers of the 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary will put in their utmost to improve on what we did at the Golden Jubilee Anniversary. The future should always be better than the past. May the good Lord, whom we all strive to serve,

continue to bless us in a variety of ways to the glory of His name. Amen.

I will end this my piece of history by challenging all of us, who are Stewards of this Cathedral, in the words of the third stanza of our Guild’s hymn:

“Rise up, O men of God!
The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great!”

The Mother Cathedral of this nation is beckoning on us to make her greater than it used to be. The Anglican Communion of Nigeria looks up to us to set standards worthy of emulation. We should not fail them in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

BEST GROUP OF THE YEAR *Cont’d from page 30*

Odugbesan, in 2003. The re-introduction of the competition spurred all Groups into a healthy rivalry. Each Group struggled to get all its members to every service and also to ensure that everyone paid his annual dues. While it was possible for many Groups to get maximum or near maximum response to payment of annual dues, the greater problem was in getting Stewards to attend every service.

It is in this area mostly that Group “D” excelled. The leadership of the Group devised various strategies to motivate and encourage total (or almost total) attendance at all services. Group “D” is a family and this has enabled everyone to **pray** together, **stay** together and **work** together. The Group’s Monthly Newsletter is a “must read” because it contains up to date news about members and about all Elderly Stewards who have retired or are still active. The Group carries out an evaluation of its performance at the end of each Sunday Services. Such sessions provide the opportunity to revise salient portions of

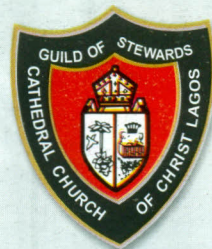
the Cathedral Guild of Stewards Training Manual, which was published when Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA, was commissioned by the then People’s Warden, Prince Adegoke Ademiluyi, in 2001 to conduct the training programme for Cathedral Stewards.

Group “D” won the shield for the “Best Group of the Year” in 2003 when the competition was resuscitated that year. The following year 2004 saw Group “D” emerging as winner of the competition again. This victory was taken seriously and the Group doubled its efforts for the following year 2005. Not surprisingly, Group “D” won the competition. In the year 2006, Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA, voluntarily retired as Group Leader and, in his place, came Engr. Tunji Babaniji. The Group “D” family went to work again and for the fourth year in succession, Group “D” won the “Best Group of the Year” Award in 2006, making it four years in a row.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him in His temple.

SERMON PREACHED DURING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF THE CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARDS ON SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2006,

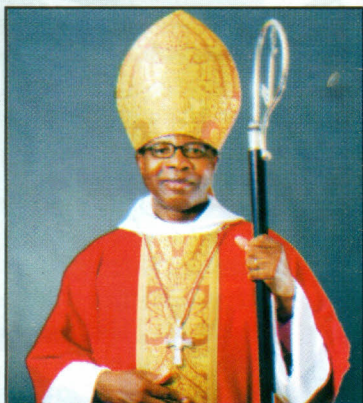
*By The Most Rev. Dr. E. A. Ademowo, Ph.D, FNAL,
Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos and Bishop of the Diocese of Lagos*



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PRAYER

Father God, we thank you for your love and favour lavished on us at all times and in all places. May we never, never disappoint you. May we continue to serve you and lift you up more than anything else in all creation. To be in your presence to serve is our desire.



Thank you for the life, work and witness of the past and present members of the Guild of Stewards. May their joy, blessings and favour overflow.

Open your Word to our hearts and our hearts to your Word and give us grace to receive it, to understand it and to obey it. And I speak your Word in faith as your oracle in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'let us go into the house of the Lord'".

I know that the joy to be in the presence of the Lord is our desire. With that consuming desire we are here today to worship God in the beauty of holiness and to rejoice and to thank God for the life, work and witness of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards on this 60th Anniversary Celebrations. We exclaim *Laus Deo* and *Raise up our Ebenezer* "for hitherto the Lord has helped us."

The Cathedral Guild of Stewards is a leveller. Whatever may be your status, you fit in very well in the service of the Lord among the Cathedral Guild of Stewards.

We thank God for the efforts of the past and

present members of the Guild of Stewards. All of us in this Cathedral appreciate your high level of commitment in serving the Lord in His Holy Sanctuary. I personally admire you as you serve. I cherish your suits, either from *Marks & Spencers, Harrods, British Home Stores*, etc. I thank you for ably enhancing orderliness during worship. It is therefore congratulatory felicitations on this auspicious occasion and on this very important milestone reached at 60. As I always say, ours is an exclamation of delight and special thanksgiving to God.

As you serve and honour God, God will honour you. Amen. Many many years more in the land of the living, your joyful and glorious service will be blessed and be a blessing to others and yourselves in the name of Jesus.

ANTECEDENTS

You have been on as a Guild for many years. In 1939, ladies ceased to be Sides women. In 1956 election by secret ballot was declared unconstitutional and it ceased. It was then thrown open. In 1946 the Guild of Stewards was inaugurated to replace Sides men. Thus Sides men metamorphosed into the Guild of Stewards.

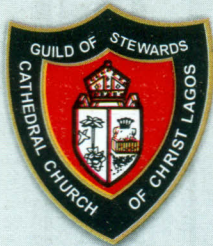
You have been a blessing to this Cathedral and you will continue to be, in Jesus' Name.

EXEGESIS

"But, I am amongst you as He that serveth." - Luke 22:27b.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said these words to His disciples. He made them to know that their calling is a high calling, a joyful and a glorious calling and service with a high level of absolute commitment.

Christ our Lord and Saviour came to this world to serve. The Son of Man did not come to be served (deaconed unto) but to be a servant. In John 13, He demonstrated this by washing His disciples' feet. Christ demonstrated to us that service and humility go *parri-passu*. They are embedded, interwoven, intertwined and



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inseparable. We need to know that man's standard of greatness is to be served but God's standard of greatness is to serve. Man's standard is to receive but God's standard is to give without counting the cost.

We are called to serve. We are servants in the Lord's glorious and joyful service.

I am a servant of the Lord, in the house of the Lord in God's world. So you are. The word 'servant', in Hebrew, 'Ebed' occurs nearly 800 times in the Old Testament. It simply means 'worker'. Christ has given us the privilege to hold positions of trust and responsibility.

The servant of the Lord is a title of distinction and honour, given to individuals who have shown special devotion or rendered distinguished service to Jehovah. Examples abound in the Scriptures - Abraham (Genesis 26:24), Moses (Exodus 14:31), David (2 Samuel 3:18), Joshua, Deborah, Barak, Gideon. Barnabas, Paul, Priscilla and Aquilla, etc. were disciples of Christ.

In the Old Testament, Servant means *doulos*, *Pais*, in Greek. In French it means *garcon*. "*Behold my Servant (Pais) whom I have chosen*" (Acts 3:13). "*Jesus took upon Himself the form of a servant*" (Phil. 2:7).

Servant, Minister or Worker in Acts 13:5, is very explicit. Hebrews 3:5, *Therapon* and *Diakonos* in Greek both mean the one who renders service unassumingly and thoroughly. Mark 9:35, and Phil. 1:1, refer to officials of the Christian Church meaning Deacon.

Henry Suso (1295-1365), a German, said, "God has not called His Servants to an ordinary, mediocre sort of life, but to the perfection of a sublime holiness, as he said to His disciples, 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.'"

Matthew Henry (1662-1714), an English, said, "A life spent in the service of God and Communion with Him, is the most comfortable and pleasant life that anyone can live in this world."

Pachomius (290-346), an Egyptian founder of Christian Monastic life once said, "Strive, my brothers, to attain that to which you have been called. Meditate on the Psalms and the lessons

from the rest of the Bible, especially from the Gospel. And I myself find rest in serving God and you according to God's Commandments."

APPLICATION

We are servants called to serve our generation. The terminology is 'a Leveller'. What will you be remembered for? What will I be remembered for? Generations yet unborn should appreciate our humble service, rise up and call us blessed.

As you serve Him, rededicate your life to Christ today (Rev. 3:20, II Cor. 5:17). As you serve Him, there is the need to rededicate your life to Christ TODAY. The words of this hymn readily come to mind:

Ye servants of the Lord
Each in his office wait
Observant of His heavenly word
And watchful at His gate

(A & M Revised 229 Verse 1)

Be a sincere Servant and not a pretentious Servant.

CONCLUSION

Take Christianity to the minutest detail in your life. Faithfulness in the Service of the Lord has a reward. Diligence has a reward. Bible, prayer and the Sacraments must be taken on board. We need to know that Service is a continuum. In other words, there is a continuation of our Service hereafter.

"For a day in your Court is more than a thousand years, I would rather be a door keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." - Psalm 84:10

CLOSING PRAYER

May God reward you as you serve Him in humble loyalty beyond your imagination. Amen. May "Well done, good and faithful Servant" be your portion at the end of your earthly life. Enter into the joy of the Lord. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR GROUP

by Mr. O.O. Ladeinde, Group "C" Leader

A simple definition describes a Steward as an overseer, a superintendent who looks after the arrangements in an organisation to ensure that everything is done decently and orderly. In essence, this means that a Steward must first and foremost be decent, observant and orderly to be able to carry out his duties effectively.

Stewards in the House of God, the Church, is well documented in the Bible. The first book of Chronicles, Chapter 23 verses 2 to 5, states that king David took a census of the male Levites aged 30 years and above, and assigned them in different groups to handle different duties in the temple, which he was building then. Each Group of Stewards was to man each gate of the Temple such as the East Gate, North Gate, South Gate and West Gate. It could be seen that this arrangement, established during the period of King David, was the fore-runner of the present arrangement that we have, not only in the Cathedral Church of Christ, but also in other churches worldwide.

Temple Stewards, in the days of king David, were initially low in status in the Jewish hierarchical structure in the synagogue, but they fought for upliftment and eventually rose in status and prestige until they became well established as a sacred official class practically equivalent to the Levites and sharing with them the privileges of immunity from taxation.

The Cathedral Guild of Stewards was formally inaugurated in December 1946. In the early days,

Sidesmen, as they were called, were elected by secret ballot. There were also ladies serving as Sidesladies. However, the Cathedral Church of Christ abandoned the practice of appointing ladies as sidesladies in June 1939.

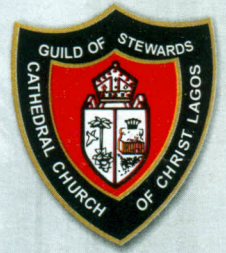
Stewards, serving in the Cathedral Church of Christ, are currently structured into four groups - A, B, C and D. Each Group is headed by a Group Leader. There is also a Deputy Group Leader who invariably takes over in the absence of the Group Leader. Both are elected by the members of the Group for four years subject to renewal for a second and final term. Each Group consists of 30 to 35 members.

Available records show that appointment of Stewards to maintain orderliness during Church service in the Cathedral was first made in the year 1929. The qualities required of a Steward are wisdom, full of spirit, faith, dedication and humility.

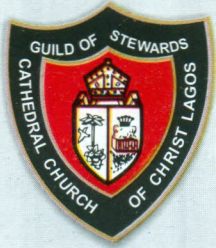
At the beginning, Sidesmen were selected by the Vicar, but by 1931, the position of Sidesmen became elective and elections were keenly contested at Vestry Meetings. This method was however abandoned by 1942 when it became the responsibility of the People's Warden to select Sidesmen.



Sitting: Chief S.O. Olujuvige, Mr. Gbenga Otuyalo, Mr. Sola Ladeinde, Prince E.A. Oyolola, Mr. E.O. Ogunbayo
 Standing 1st Row: Chief F.B. Osibo, Mr. A.O. Adebo, Mr. S.O. Ajayi, Mr. Jide Ladeinde, Mr. Lanre Ladipo
 Standing 2nd Row: Mr. Henry Ajibade, Mr. B. Ojo-Osagie, Mr. Dapo Opeave, Mr. L. Nylander, Mr. Femi Ajana, Mr. Tade Adeyeye, Mr. Seyi Dugan, Mr. Tolu Pieace-Dawodu



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By 1946, the Cathedral Guild of Stewards was formally inaugurated and the word Sidesmen ceased to be used.

Group "C" is very unique amongst the Groups in the Cathedral. The Group, right from inception, has always been endowed with good and innovative leadership. No wonder Group "C" has always been known for initiating and introducing novelties and innovations to make the work of Stewards interesting and attractive. Dr. Arthur Nylander, a member of Group "C", initiated the serving of refreshments during service by donating a handsome fund towards the provision of refreshments. He also donated a refrigerator to the Guild for use by all the Groups.

Later, other Groups started to adopt the idea of serving refreshments. It is relevant to place on record that Chief Olu. Falomo, the Immediate Past Group Leader of Group "C", took it upon himself to single-handedly provide snacks whenever Group "C" was on duty. This he did for several years until his new traditional responsibilities, which placed him in a position of leadership amongst his community.

The first recorded leader of Group "C" was the late Chief S.G. Abimbola, who took over the leadership of the Group in 1964, with the late Chief J.O. Onabajo as his Deputy Group Leader. When Chief Abimbola died, Chief Onabajo took over as the Group Leader on the nomination of Otunba D.B.O. Ogutuga, the then People's Warden and also a member of Group "C".

Recent past leaders of Group "C" are:

- Mr. J.A. Oyebode, who handed over to Mr. G. Olu. Aboaba;
- Mr. G. Olu. Aboaba, who had Chief E.O. Omoyele as his deputy;
- Otunba H.O. Afolabi-Alu, who had the late Engr. S.O. Olaleye as his deputy;
- Chief Olu. Falomo, who had Mr. O.O. Ladeinde as his deputy.

The current Group Leader is Mr. O.O. Ladeinde with Mr. 'Gbenga Otuyalo as his deputy.

Group "C" has regular publication and circulation of a Newsletter on Sundays when the Group serves. The Newsletter is titled "The Xcellent Newsletter".

Members of Group "C", who have served as People's Warden in the Cathedral are:

- Otunba D.B.O. Ogutuga (1970 - 1981)
- Chief S.A. Makinwa (1981 - 1987)
- Chief S.A. Durojaiye (1987 - 1989)
- Sir John Balogun (1989 - 1996)

MEN NEVER LISTEN

On a flight to Chicago, a gentleman had made several attempts to get into the men's restroom, but it had always been occupied. The flight attendant noticed his predicament. Sir, she said, "You may use the ladies room if you promise not to touch any of the buttons on the wall."

He did what he needed to, and as he sat there he noticed the buttons he had promised not to touch. Each button was identified by letters: WW, WA, PP, and a red one labeled ATR. Who would know if he touched them? He couldn't resist he pushed WW. Warm water was sprayed gently upon his bottom. What a nice feeling, he thought. Men's restrooms don't have nice things like this.

Anticipating greater pleasure, he pushed the WA button. Warm air replaced the warm water, gently drying his underside. When this stopped, he pushed the PP button. A large powder puff caressed his bottom adding a fragile scent of spring flowers to this unbelievable pleasure. The ladies restroom was more than a restroom, it is tender loving pleasure. When the powder puff completed its pleasure, he couldn't wait to push the ATR button which he knew would be supreme ecstasy.

Next thing he knew he was in a hospital. As soon as he opened his eyes a nurse was staring down at him with a smirk on her face.

"What happened?" he exclaimed.

"You pushed one button too many," replied the nurse. The last button marked ATR was an Automatic Tampon Remover. Your is under your pillow."

Men Never Listen ... especially to women!

ALL IN A STEWARD'S DAY

by Mr. C.T. Olaomo, CPA



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It is Saturday night at 11.00 p.m. Local news are just over and I have just positioned myself before the television set to watch a late night movie when madam called out, "Isn't tomorrow Sunday and your Group is on duty?" Like students in a boarding house, it was "Lights out" as everyone at home made for their respective rooms and beds.

An overnight heavy rain did not make things easy the following morning. It was still drizzling by the time everyone was ready to leave home. Under normal circumstances half an hour was more than enough time to catch a taxi and still have five or seven minutes to spare before the first service begins.

Not so today because, although by sheer luck a taxi came by, the wet road had created a traffic build up. Traffic on the flooded roads were compounded by a trailer that had skidded and overturned, blocking two of the three lanes on the highway. I was five minutes late today but other Stewards, who came by another route did not experience any problem and had arrived in good time and number ahead of me.

Today was a busy day, distributing hymn and prayer books, the bulletin for the day and a Newsletter from the Primate. There were more elderly people at the early morning service. This class of people has disciplined themselves to attend the 7.15 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. services and it was therefore a privilege for us Stewards to attend to their extra needs. Many of them had to use the rest rooms and we were at hand to take them there as needed. Luckily for the elderly females, there were female volunteers from the Elderly Helpline around to offer their helping hands.

I almost forgot to mention that, because of the rain, we had a large number of umbrellas to handle. Keeping umbrellas safe is not an easy affair. Many of them are similar in size and colour and care has to be taken to ensure that the right umbrella is handed to its owner at the end of the service.



Collection of offerings may appear an easy affair to the ordinary worshipper. It takes adequate preparation by the Group Leader or his Deputy to guarantee or even get close to completing the exercise before or by the last stanza of the appointed hymn. Allocation of Stewards to adequate number of collection points is one way to ensure a smooth job. A major hindrance usually is the unpreparedness of some worshippers for this exercise. There are regular cases that it is when the Steward gets to the parishioner that he goes into his coat pocket or his *agbada* to look for his collection. If the parishioner is a female, the Steward encounters a person rumbling through her handbag for the money, which should have been gotten ready as soon as she sees the Stewards marching up. This problem, more often than not, accounts for why the collection arrives late at the chancel steps.

A good number of parishioners embarrass Stewards by ignoring the cords on the doors during the reading of the Gospel, the Creed and Prayers. They forget that it is in reverence to God that doors are barred and that worshippers are restrained from entering the Church and disturbing those concentrating on their worship. Encounters close to physical exchanges



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have occurred in this connection and it has taken matured handling by Stewards, Group Leaders and their Deputies to prevent brawls with worshippers who disdainfully treat Stewards on duty. Thank God, we did not experience this today.

Perhaps the best part of a Steward's duty is attending to visitors. They are the people who most appreciate Stewards. A smile at the entrance door to welcome them, a prompt handing over of books, programmes and bulletin assures them of a warm welcome. A glowing smile in return and a bow of respect from the Stewards as they are ushered to their seats completes the process of welcome to the visitors. If the process is well done, it is not unusual for some visitors to look out for the particular Steward at the end of the service to say, "Thank you". It is the Steward's greatest reward from any parishioner.

The service is over; the worshippers troop out and Stewards are at the doors collecting the hymn and prayer books from those who graciously return them. A small team of Stewards is immediately raised to retrieve the remaining books from the seats. These are speedily arranged in readiness for the next service. Oh! I almost forgot the umbrellas! No problem. They were readily sorted out.

While a number of Stewards is retained to handle the worshippers arriving for the next service, the others move up to the what is probably the hardest or most arduous task of the day. Counting the offerings and ensuring that they are properly classified is not a mean task. It is imperative that Sunday Collections are not mixed up with the Offertory or with collections for Lagos Anglican Schools, Redecoration, Thanksgiving, Tithes, Sustentation (Duplex), etc.

Ask any Steward and he will tell you that the most difficult and time-consuming aspect of the counting exercise is the Sustentation. While Bankers or those who

work in Financial Institutions are at grips with the task, those in other professions usually try to shy away from touching duplex envelopes. Those who do so never know what they are missing. It is hard, time-consuming and all that but it is equally entertaining. Just read on.

A parishioner had forgotten to write the name or number on the envelope and has inserted quite a substantial amount in it. Another person has both name and number but 'forgot' to insert the amount of money shown on the envelope. Yet still some envelopes show amounts **less** than what is inside the envelopes. The converse of this is that some envelopes contain **more** than what is shown on it by the parishioner. Once there was an envelope without a name and without a number. Inside was a full shopping list! Incredible, but true. There was even one containing a note probably from a young lover to the partner. It was a reminder that they were to meet 'somewhere' after the service. The most entertaining envelope so far was obviously from a youngster. A small piece of tissue was found alongside a piece of paper containing the drawing of a boat and fishermen. There were two fishes by the boat. "Where are the loaves?" I asked, when I saw it.

Stewards and their Group Leaders have devised ingenious ways of handling 'troublesome envelopes'. Solutions are not usually found immediately but it is heart-warming to know that the Wardens would come back, perhaps months after, to inform that the subscriber(s) has/have been located.

Getting back home at the end of a busy Sunday (I mean after all Services and so many Altar Calls and Thanksgiving) a Steward is usually exhausted and then easily drops to sleep. This evening my wife jokingly called out, "Arsenal is playing tonight and it is against Manchester United at Old Trafford. Won't you watch it?" No answer. For this Steward it is lights out. Thankfully, he'd had his dinner.

REMINISCENCES / RANDOM JOTTINGS OF A RETIRED STEWARD

by Otunba H.O. Afolabi-Alu, FCA, FCIS



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The story of my service in this Cathedral cannot be complete without starting from the very beginning, that is, from my days as a member of the Cathedral Youth Fellowship, when I



was privileged to meet the likes of Messrs. Stephen Kinji Makinwa, D.B.O. Ogotuga, Bode Peters, S.B. Peters (aka *Apero*), Onatade Onabolu, Sunday Utomakili, Graham-Douglas, A. Kemmer, Ogunbayo, Akinyemi, Wilson Odiawa, Miss Bunmi Noah and Miss Ore Williams, just to mention a few. Some of these have unfortunately passed on.

I actually got inspired to serve through my contact with these men and women. So, in early 1957, I decided to register as a Steward but could not actually start effective stewardship until I acquired a beautiful "*Tusor Suit*" (laugh!) much later in the year. The other reason was that I had just been employed by **Socony Vaccum Oil Company (SVOC)** now **Mobil Oil Nigeria Unlimited**, and the then General Accounting Manager, Mr. Desmond Curtis (DFC), husband to my old Chemistry teacher in the CMS Grammar School, took keen interest in me and ensured I was sent for training in Depot work in the Western, Eastern and Northern parts of Nigeria.

In those days, which I recall with a sweet sense of nostalgia, I was highly impressed by the calibre of the Leaders and members of the Guild of Stewards, particularly their dressing - neat suits and ties. When I joined the Guild the Leader of Group "C" was our respected and revered Mr. S.G. Abimbola. He was a charismatic and charming Senior Federal Civil Servant who talked always in measured tones.

The Deputy Leader was Mr. E.N. Howells but his period of service was short-lived. His inability to truly conform led to his being advised by his brother, the then Rev. A.W. Howells, to withdraw from service. Both of them are now of blessed memory. This was the time when Mr. (later Chief) J.O. Onabajo, now late, was elected Deputy Leader, Group "C". In those days, the position of Leader or Deputy Leader was almost a life time affair until such persons attained the age of 70 years when they had to retire.

Succession was strictly on seniority basis unless the next senior Steward declined. This was exactly our predicament in Group "C" when, in 1970, Mr. S.G. Abimbola suddenly died in service. It was not difficult to find a successor in Chief J.O. Onabajo who was the Deputy Leader up to that stage. The next senior person to fill the vacant position of Deputy Leader was Dr. Arthur Nylander, SAN, who was actually elected *in absentia*, while he was away on one of his numerous trips overseas. However, when he was told of his election as Deputy Leader, he declined.

Hence the emergence of Mr. J.A. Oyeboode who was the next senior person as Deputy Leader. Mr. Oyeboode, also, was a Senior Civil Servant, who enjoyed the respect and cooperation of the entire members of the Group as well as members of the congregation and Sports Circles in Nigeria.

When Chief Onabajo attained the Biblical age of three score years and ten, that is, 70 years, he retired and Mr. J.A. Oyeboode took over from him as Leader. Just about this time, the Lagos Anglican Diocesan Guild of Stewards was founded and our own Chief J.O. Onabajo became its founding President, a position he held until he retired to Agbowa Ikosi to become the Regent of Agbowa following the demise of the king of Agbowa. For well over ten years, Mr. J.A. Oyeboode was Group Leader, ably assisted by Mr. G. Olu. Aboaba as Deputy Group Leader. Upon the attainment of the age of 70 years, Mr. Oyeboode retired and the mantle of leadership



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fell on Mr. Olu. Aboaba as he was duly elected. I recall that the next Senior Steward was Chief E.O. Omoyele, also a retired Permanent Secretary. He was unanimously elected Deputy Group Leader but his tenure was very short, as he attained the age of 70 within a few months. The next Senior Steward, Mr. E. Olubunmi Ogunbayo, declined election and, himself, nominated me as I was the next senior person on the list.

Hence I became Deputy Leader under Mr. G. Olu. Aboaba, in 1998 by unanimous election. Mr. Aboaba retired on attainment of 70 years so I was elevated to the position of Leader of Group "C". The position of Deputy Leader under me was filled by the election of the late Engr. S.O. Olaleye, who was next in line by seniority. Unfortunately, he was gruesomely murdered by armed bandits not too long after. The next person in line was Chief M. Olu. Falomo on whose shoulders the mantle of Deputy Group Leader fell eventually.

About this time the Guild of Stewards had waxed stronger, become better focused and there had been, for some time, agitation particularly from the progressive younger Stewards for re-organisation of the Guild in all its ramifications. Questions of female Stewards had been mooted but rejected. The long tenure of Leadership also came up, standardised mode of dressing also was to be looked into. A Constitution Review Committee under my Chairmanship was empanelled with Prince Evans A. Oyolola and Mr. Rotimi Odugbesan (both Lawyers) as members. Our mandate/terms of reference were specifically to comprehensively review the Guild's Constitution and update it taking into account the above concerns of members of the Guild.

The Committee went into action and submitted its report to the General Body of the Guild, which accepted most of our recommendations. Chief amongst our recommendations were:

- a) The reduction of the tenure of Group Leaders to a maximum of two terms of four years each, whether or not such a leader had attained the age of 70 years;
- b) Standardisation of Stewards' mode of dressing to dark suits as opposed to

what used to happen in the past where Stewards wore all sorts of suits of varying colours.

Under the new dispensation, the first ever election was in Group "C" and Chief M. Olu. Falomo was elected Group Leader. The next person in line was Mr. Shola Ladeinde, who was elected Deputy Group Leader. Before the expiration of his tenure, Chief Olu. Falomo was elevated in his home-town as an Oba and, therefore, had to resign. Mr. Shola Ladeinde, the erstwhile Deputy Group Leader took over as Group Leader. The position of Deputy Group Leader has now been filled by one of the youths, Mr. Gbenga Otuyalo. The Youth Shall Grow!

As I have attained the age of 70 years on the 16th of October, 2006 I have now retired voluntarily having put in well over four decades as a Steward in the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos.

Praise God!

OLNY SRMAT POELPE CAN RAED TIHS.

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MEMOIRS OF A STEWARD

by Joseph Tom Duncan, Group "A" Steward



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My recollection goes back to my childhood days when my mother would give me the governess look warning me to be of good behaviour in church. I first worshipped at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos on April 29, 1943, when my first cousin, Tom R. Brien, got married to Adekunbi Dalley. From then on, both as a day boy and as a boarder at the C.M.S. Grammar School, Lagos, the Cathedral was my church.

In the 1940's, the Sunday Bulletin comprised a broad sheet of paper. On the right bottom corner appeared the inscription:

"Let all things be done decently and in order." – **1 Corinthians 14:40**

In 1947, I was among two boys and two girls selected to be Stewards/Stewardesses at the Cathedral's Children's Service held every Sunday at the then C.M.S. Girls' School Chapel. After leaving school in December, 1951, I joined my compatriots to conduct the Children's Service at the Chapel of the C.M.S. Girl's School. Among my compatriots were Gbolahan Abisogun-Alo (nee Abisogun), late Deji Ogutuga (nee Curtis), late Justice Atinuke Ige (nee Oloko), Dele Ogutuga, the late Napoleon Cookey and Clara Manga, etc.

Later, I had a burning desire to serve the Cathedral on a higher pedestal. I approached Wilson Odiawa of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation as to how to go about becoming a member of the Guild of Stewards. It was he who sponsored my application, which was approved. I was posted to Group "A" under the admirable leadership of my super boss at the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Mr. Folusheke A.O. Phillips, *M.B.E.* Other members I met in the Group, or who met me were late Chief E.O. Ekiola (Deputy Leader) – *I was his son and he was my father* – late Mr. V.A. Roberts, Mr. N.O. Williams, Mr. Adedokun Adeseye, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Bode Peters, late Mr. A. Kwamina Sagoe, late Justice Okunribido, Mr. Fola



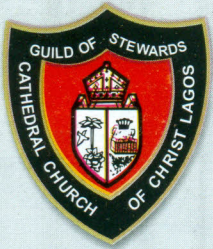
Sasegbon, late Mr. Emmanuel Odina, Dr. T. P. Enodien, late Mr. Tokunbo Durand, Mr. Lanre Phillips, Mr. Maclean, Mr. M.A. Ogun and Mr. Adeola Okubajo. I remember that when we younger elements of Group "A" cracked jokes at the Vestry, they evoked the comment, *"you boys of nowadays"*, from our leader Mr. Phillips. Tokunbo Durand was the most vocal of us.

I REMEMBER how seriously Stewards took their duties in the Cathedral. Their enthusiasm was super. All of us shared the same Christian background. If I missed church service on any Sunday, I felt sick. There was a day I felt unwell and came to church because my Group was serving. Mr. Olu. Aboaba looked at me and said *"you don't look well."* When I confirmed it, his question was, *"why did you come to church?"*

I REMEMBER an incident at Mattins on one Sunday. A man, who apparently had a bee in his bonnet, sat by the pillar on the north aisle, almost opposite the Odunlami entrance. He stood up during the sermon and shouted at the top of his voice, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his most beloved son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* I was among the Stewards on duty who rushed to the scene. I grabbed and held his two hands by the wrist and shoved him out of the church. I was surprised when I learnt a lady worshipper told my wife that it was I who really took the bull by the horns. Others were just pushing him. I commented that it was a co-operative effort.

I REMEMBER that at an Ordination Service, Chief Ekiola laid down a well thought-out plan for ushering worshippers to the altar for communion. I was assigned to usher from the front right of the middle aisle. Clergy wives, who occupied the first few pews, were to be ushered first, followed by those in the following pews, in that order. In

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the middle of my ushering of the clergy wives, Mr. Onabanjo, younger brother of Chief Bisi Onabanjo (former Governor of Ogun State) approached me, pointed to Chief Obafemi Awolowo, sitting two pews behind the clergy wives with the request that I usher him forward out of turn. Instinctively, the 40th verse of First Corinthians Chapter 14 resonated in me and I resisted his entreaty in order to avoid causing confusion and upsetting the smooth execution of the plan and orders of the Group Leader. I told him I was following the directives of our Leader. Any deviation at that point in time would only cause confusion. Either Chief Awolowo was given advance notice of this request or he beheld the dialogue between Mr. Onabanjo and me. When I eventually got to him and motioned him to go forward, he asked me, "Are you sure it is okay for me to go now?" to which I responded, "Yes sir!"

I REMEMBER that an elderly member of the church instructed me to approach a visitor to the Cathedral during a special service one Saturday afternoon and ask him to remove his cap. I obeyed him and the man concerned protested vehemently. I left him alone. When I later consulted a senior member of my Group, he told me that the man was right. He explained that the shining 'Alhaji's Cap' he had on his head was comparable to the 'Bishop's Mitre'.

I REMEMBER that the two UAC Accountants among us made a great impact when it came to balancing the amounts written on Duplex Envelopes and the cash found therein. Mr. Dokun Adeseye and Mr. A. K. Sagoe added long lists of figures like nobody's business. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Sagoe joined the Group, he introduced a method which simplified the balancing of total envelope figures with actual total cash/cheques. We called that method "THE SAGOE SYSTEM" in relation to Sunny Ade's 'SYNCHRO SYSTEM'.

I REMEMBER that Mr. Maclean was a constant winner of the annual prize for attendance at services when on duty, that is, in terms of attendance and punctuality at Early Morning Communion, Mattins, Mid-morning Communion and Evensong.

I REMEMBER all Stewards neatly dressed in Savile Row suits, sartorial outfits, and Mr.

F.A.O. Phillips insisting that our coats be buttoned up in the middle always. Whenever it was Group "A"'s turn to serve on New Year's Eve Watch-night Service, we were all expected to dress tip top in Dinner Suit with snow white shirt and black bow tie.

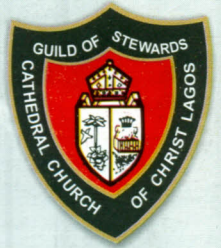
I REMEMBER the Yoruba saying to wit, "Bi ina baku afi eru b'aju; Bi ogede baku, afi omore ropo." The vogue whereby members of the Guild of Stewards encouraged their sons to step into their shoes is admirable. Examples that readily spring to mind are Mr. F.A.O. Phillips (father) and Mr. Lanre Phillips & Mr. Folusho Phillips (sons), Chief E.O. Ekisola (father) and Mr. G.O.A. Ekisola (son), Chief S.A. Makinwa (father) and Mr. Dotun Makinwa (son), Mr. Alabi Oyebo (father) and Mr. Kayode Oyebo (son and who became Assistant Secretary to the Guild).

I did look forward to my son, Dr. Thomas K. Duncan, stepping into my shoes in the Guild but that was not to be as he was abroad. However, either by accident or design my son-in-law's younger brother Arc. Tade Adeyeye is an active member of the Guild.

I understand Mr. Agbogidi is still going on strong as Secretary to the Guild of Stewards. **I REMEMBER HIM** as a tower of strength for the Guild. He devoted his time and energy to serving the Guild. More grease to his elbows.
(Editor's note: Mr. Agbogidi has since ceased to be the Secretary of the Guild).

I REMEMBER one fine Sunday Group "A" was on duty. At the end of the Early Morning Communion, a tall debonair gentleman came to exchange courtesies with me. Either I did not recognise him or I did not see his face because of my low vision. He asked me if I attended the C.M.S. Grammar School. Having confirmed this, he told me he left that school in 1949 to which I commented that I left in 1951. It appeared I had a total thought block for even after he mentioned his name, it did not ring a bell. I was blank.

It was a few days later that it suddenly dawned on me that the Old Boy of C.M.S. Grammar School, was Professor Daniel, former Vice Chancellor of University of Sokoto. I made up my mind to go to his house



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**MR. JACOB
AKINTOYE
(GROUP "D")
WRITES IN FROM THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

and apologise to him, and to ask why he was not emphatic as to our knowing each other very well especially in company of fellow schoolmates Dr. Gbajumo, Mr. Kehinde (Kokoro) Lawson, and Professor Ladipo Wusu of Igbobi College fame. To my utter dismay, I opened the Daily Times one day to see Professor Daniel's obituary. He had died five days after we met that Sunday. I attended his wake-keeping at which the negative reaction of his wife to me was understandable.

I **REMEMBER** that in the 1990's, when I was afflicted with health issues, my performance as a Steward suffered '*declining productivity*'. Sometimes, when doing addition of monies in Duplex Envelopes, my two plus two could not get four. My Leader, Mr. Adedokun Adeseye, observed the retrogression. Glory be to God that with adequate medical treatment in Chicago, I became what Chief Kinji Makinwa would call "*Much improved Tom Duncan*" and bounced back into action in my church as an Usher, Lector and a member of the Liturgy Committee.

The experience gained at the Cathedral has been used to great advantage at my church in Chicago. Furthermore, I successfully completed a four-year program of Theological Education by Extension (Education for Ministry) as provided and administered by the School of Theology, the University of the South.

I wish to conclude these memoirs in the spirit of the Guild's Hymn, to wit:

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings.

Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great.

*Mr. Tom Duncan wrote in from
the United States of America*

I am a retired U.S citizen of America and hold dual citizenship of Nigeria. I am a Steward of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos and Otun Baba Egbe of St. Thomas Anglican Church, Ikare, Ondo State of Nigeria.

I was a member of the Guild of Stewards at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos, Group "D", March 1955 - May 1987. We are regarded as the gentlemen of the Cathedral, always punctual at all services held during the week and that congregation and visitors were properly cared for.

I went to the U.S. in May 1987 on a special immigrant visa. Since I could not find an Anglican Church near by, I had to go to "Liberty Baptist Church", which was nearby. I became a member of the church and, after six months, became an "Usher", meaning Steward. I attended this church for ten years. I relocated to a new county where I built my house, 1576 King Mill Rd., McDonough, Ga 30252. This time I went to a Philadelphia United Methodist Church where I became an "Usher" after two months. My duty included counting and recording all collections in the church, and thereafter hand same over to the CPA for banking.

I was elected "Lay Member" representative to the United Methodist Church, North Georgia Conference held yearly at its classic center at Athens, Georgia, which is always held for 4 days in June. I have been a member of this Conference for the past seven years now.

In short, there is no where in the world that a Cathedral Church of Christ Steward cannot serve.

We are the finest in the world!



WHAT KIND OF A GUILD IS THIS SEF?

by Dapo Opeaye, Group "C"

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The Guild of Stewards of the Cathedral Church of Christ was inaugurated in 1946 by the then Provost, later Bishop, A. W. Howells; *so what?* Members were formerly called sidesmen; *ee hen?* It was an all-male affair; *whose idea (discrimination?)*. Its watchwords had been and still are "orderliness and discipline" in the house of the Lord; *what a guide!* I am still saying, what kind of a Guild is this *sef* whose membership cuts across all shades and professions in this world? Are you looking for Engineers of all discipline, Lawyers, Doctors, Accountants, Dentists, Pharmacists, Teachers, Judicial officers, Farmers, Prison attendees, Educationists, Social workers, Retirees, Pensioners, Businessmen, University dons, Police Officers, to mention but a few? This Guild is being tutored or directed towards these goals: industry, discipline, team spirit, order, organisation, devotion to duty, sincerity of purpose and above all, selfless service. A Guild that prides itself in a motto titled "Let everything be done decently and in order".

Having joined the Cathedral Guild of Stewards in June 2002, sworn-in and admitted formally in December same year after a probationary period of six months, I consider myself as not really on a "*terra firma*" to comment on the successes and shortcomings of the Guild when we have an array of men with gray hair who would easily do justice to that! However, I wish the editor would permit me to say a few words regarding my experience (or inexperience) so far in *this kind of a Guild*. I discovered that we usually have poorly attended general meetings, carefree attitude especially from the 'old brigades', persistent late coming to services and absenteeism from both old and young. However, in spite of these, we have recorded successes in training young Stewards who have distinguished themselves in various services to the

church, introduction of name tags (first of its kind in Anglican Communion (Nigeria), screening of diligent and purposeful individuals



as members, monitoring and investing the finances of the church in noble projects, e.t.c.

Please permit me to reiterate, "what kind of a Guild is this *sef*?" that laid so much emphasis on the kind of dress you wear? We were told, and still see the 'old brigade' and the 'young shall grow' as they dress impeccably in well-tailored suits, mostly designers' suits from U.K., Germany, U.S.A. etc. to serve the most High God in His Vineyard in beauty and in holiness.

Hitherto, one could only find men in their fifties and sixties in the Guild, but today a young man like me in late thirties, suddenly finds himself mingling in the arena of highly placed and influential people of God. I must salute the sagacity of the present Chairman of the Guild, Mr. Rotimi Odugbesan, during whose tenure of office we begin to have tremendous reversal of the old order and giving people in my category the opportunity to serve as members of the Cathedral Guild of Stewards. Of course, it is only in a *Guild like this* that this could happen and now I know *the kind of Guild that we have - distinguished service point for distinguished and well-mannered sons of the Almighty*.

Happy 60th Anniversary!!!

MEMBERS OF GROUP

“A”

ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. ENGR. O.A. PHILLIPS
2. PRINCE M.A. OGUN
3. MR. J.O. COKER
4. MR. A.A. ADEOSUN
5. DR. O.B. AJOSE
6. MR. G.O.A. EKISOLA
7. MR. O. ALESHINLOYE-WILLIAMS
8. MR. E.M. NWIZU
9. DR. V.A. DACOSTA
10. MR. JUSTICE E.O. SANYAOLU
11. DR. K.O. AJAYI
12. SIR JIDE OKI
13. MR. F.O. PHILLIPS
14. MR. BUNMI SANTOS
15. MR. TOYIN ODUGBESAN
16. MR. A.B. ADELUWOYE
17. PRINCE A. ADEMILUYI
18. MR. A.O. ORE-DAWODU
19. MR. O. SOBOWALE
20. MR. C.A. AUTHE
21. MR. W.O. NZEKWE
22. MR. S.O. SORINWA
23. MR. O. SONEKAN

RETIRED MEMBERS (OVER 70 YEARS)

1. MR. T.O.P. ADEDURO
2. MR. I.O. MACLEAN

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. MR. ROTIMI ODUGBESAN
(PROVOST'S WARDEN)

MEMBERS OF GROUP

“B”

ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. MR. KOLA ABUMERE
2. MR. OLUMUYIWA ADEFOPE
3. CHIEF FEMI ADENIYI-WILLIAMS
4. MR. OLUMUYIWA
AJOSE-ALATISHE
5. CHIEF G.R.A. EDEGWARE
6. MR. ABIODUN EJEMAI
7. MR. BUKOLA MEADOWS
8. MR. JOLAYEMI OLATUNJI
9. MR. AKINTOLA OYOLOLA
10. ENGR. SEUN. PHILLIPS
11. MR. AYO SANYAOLU
12. MR. OLUKAYODE SOWANDE
13. MR. ADENIYI THORPE
14. PRINCE ADEGOKE ADEMILUYI
15. DR. O. A. AKINDELE
16. ENGR. S.C. APAKAMA
17. MR. ABAYOMI BAILEY
18. MR. KEHINDE DUROJAIYE
19. MR. E.O. MOORE
20. MR. LAMBERT OFOEGBU
21. DR. BODE OYEWOLE
22. MR. ADEBOLA THOMAS
23. MR. E.O. UTOMAKILI
24. MR. O. OKIKIADE

RETIRED MEMBERS (OVER 70 YEARS)

1. MR. YINKA LIJADU
2. MR. KOLA RAMOS
3. PRINCE ADEFUYI ADEMOLA
4. MR. OLU. SENBANJO
5. MR. S. O. SODEINDE
6. CHIEF B. I. D. EZEUGU
7. CHIEF S. A. DUROJAIYE



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**MEMBERS OF GROUP
"C"**

ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. MR. SOLA LADEINDE
2. MR. GBEMIGA OTUYALO
3. CHIEF M.O. FALOMO
4. CHIEF F.B. OSIBO
5. CHIEF S.O. OLUJUYIGBE
6. MR. TOLU. PEARCE-DAWODU
7. MR. WOLE. AMURE
8. MR. GBOLAGA AJAYI
9. CHIEF LANRE. LADIPO
10. MR. JIDE. LADEINDE
11. MR. A.O. ADEBO
12. MR. BAMIDELE OJO-OSAGIE
13. MR. KEHINDE PHILLIPS
14. MR. DAPO. OPEAYE
15. MR. TADE ADEYEYE
16. MR. SEYI. DUGGAN
17. MR. SEGUN ELUFIOYE-JOHNSON
18. MR. HENRY AJIBADE
19. MR. OLUFEMI AJANA
20. CPT. DAPO. OLUMIDE
21. MR. L. NYLANDER

**RETIRED MEMBERS
(OVER 70 YEARS)**

1. PA. J.A. OYEBODE
2. MR. G. OLU. ABOABA
3. CHIEF E.O. OMOYELE
4. DR. ARTHUR NYLANDER
5. CHIEF (DR.) E.O. AKINSETE
6. PROF. JIBAYO AKINKUGBE
7. MR. E.O. OGUNBAYO
8. PRINCE E.A. OYOLOLA
9. SIR J.B. IGHOMEREHO
10. ENGR. (CHIEF) J.F. OBEMBE
11. MR. N.O. WILLIAMS
12. OTUNBA D.B.O. OGUTUGA
13. CHIEF S.A. MAKINWA
14. SIR J.A. BALOGUN
15. OTUNBA H.O. AFOLABI-ALU

DISTANT MEMBERS

1. DR. O.B. ORIJA (U.K.)
2. MR. LADIPO OKUNRIBIDO (P.H.)
3. MR. F.A. OBAFEMI-AJAYI (U.S.A.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. MR. GBOLA AKINOLA
(PROVOST'S WARDEN)

**MEMBERS OF GROUP
"D"**

ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. MR. C.T. OLAOMO (1973)
2. MR. M.A.O. KEHINDE (1974)
3. MR. I.O.AINA (1975)
4. MR. S.G. ABIMBOLA (1976)
5. ENGR. G.O.M. AGBOGIDI (1981)
6. MR. O.O. OYEBODE (1981)
7. MR. B.O. SOWANDE (1982)
8. DR. S.O. AJOMO (1985)
9. ENGR. E.A. BABANJI (1986)
10. MR. T.O.S. FARRI (1991)
11. CHIEF J.J. ADOLLO (1992)
12. MR. DOTUN ABOABA (1995)
13. CHIEF A.G. AYODELE (1995)
14. MR. DOTUN MAKINWA (1997)
15. MR. O. SOFOWORA (2000)
16. MR. L.O. OLOWOSELU (2001)
17. MR. B. JACKSON (2001)
18. DR. J.A. AGBAIKE (2002)
19. MR. AKIN. MARTINS (2003)
20. MR. O. DAWODU (2003)
21. MR. OYIN. FETUGA (2003)

**RETIRED MEMBERS
(OVER 70 YEARS)**

1. MR. A.A. OTUYALO
2. MR. C.O. ONABANJO
3. PROF. A.O. OGUNMEKAN
4. MR. O.T. FAWOLE
5. PROF. G.O.A. SOWEMIMO

DISTANT MEMBERS

1. MR. YOMI. AKINADE (1990)
(ABROAD)
2. MR. A.A. DA-COSTA (2002) (ABUJA)
3. MR. S.E. MARTINS (1985) (ABUJA)
4. REV. MUYIWA OYEWOLE (1994)

**PROVOST'S WARDENS
AND VICE CHAIRMEN,
CATHEDRAL GUILD
OF STEWARDS**

1. MR. R.A.O. MARTINS (1946-1950)
2. MR. G.O. LAJA(1951-1955)
3. MR. ALPHEUS MARTINS (1956-1961)
4. MR. (VEN.) E.V. BADEJO (1962-1970)
5. DR. D.O. ASEKUN (1970-1975)
6. CHIEF BODE PETERS (1975-1980)
7. MR. AYO OTUYALO (1980-1985)
8. MR. V. AKIN THOMPSON (1985-1990)
9. MR. KOLA RAMOS (1990-1993)
10. MR. F.T. DURAND (1993-1995)
11. MR. E.O.G. MOORE (1995-1999)
12. MR. MUYIWA OYEWOLE (1999-2003)
13. MR. GBOLA AKINOLA (2003 TO DATE)

**PEOPLE'S WARDENS
AND CHAIRMEN,
CATHEDRAL GUILD
OF STEWARDS**

1. MR. E.M.E AGBEBI (1907-1909)
2. MR. C.B. OLUMUYIWA(1919-1923)
3. MR. D.T. SASEGBON (1923-1935)
4. MR. A.A. BAJULAIYE (1936-1941)
5. MR. E.A. PEARCE (1946-1947)
6. MR. J.A. CURTIS (1948-1952)
7. MR. ADENIYI-WILLIAMS (1953)
8. MR. J.A. ADENIJI (1954)
9. MR. F.O. CAMPBELL (1955-1967)
10. MR. J.G. AYODELE (1967-1970)
11. MR. D.B.O. OGUTUGA (1970-1981)
12. CHIEF S.A. MAKINWA (1981-1987)
13. CHIEF S.A. DUROJAIYE (1987-1989)
14. SIR JOHN A. BALOGUN (1989-1996)
15. OMOBA F.A. ADEWUNMI (1996-1999)
16. PRINCE GOKE ADEMILUYI (1999-2002)
17. MR. ROTIMI ODUGBESAN (2002 TO DATE)



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CATHEDRAL GUILD OF STEWARD

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|-----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | MR. ROTIMI ODUGBESAN | – | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. | MR. GBOLA AKINOLA | – | VICE CHAIRMAN |
| 3. | DR. V. A. DACOSTA | – | SECRETARY |
| 4. | MR. MUYIWA ADEFOPE | – | ASSISTANT SECRETARY |
| 5. | MR. ADEKUNLE ADELUWOYE | – | TREASURER |
| 6. | MR. DOTUN MAKINWA | – | FINANCIAL SECRETARY |
| 7. | MR. TOLU PEARCE-DAWODU | – | SOCIAL SECRETARY |
| 8. | ENGR. LANRE PILLIPS | – | LEADER, GROUP “A” |
| 9. | MR. AYO SANYAOLU | – | LEADER, GROUP “B” |
| 10. | MR. SOLA LADEINDE | – | LEADER, GROUP “C” |
| 11. | ENGR. TUNJI BABANJI | – | LEADER, GROUP “D” |
| 12. | MR. TOYIN ODUGBESAN | – | EX-OFFICIO, GROUP “A” |
| 13. | MR. ABIODUN EJEMAI | – | EX-OFFICIO, GROUP “B” |
| 14. | MR. BAMIDELE OJO-OSAGIE | – | EX-OFFICIO, GROUP “C” |
| 15. | PROF. G.O.A. SOWEMIMO | – | EX-OFFICIO, GROUP “D” |
| 16. | MR. MUYIWA ADEFOPE | – | EX-OFFICIO, VICE
PRESIDENT (LADGOS) |

60TH ANNIVERSARY / BROCHURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | MR. GBOLA AKINOLA | – | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. | DR. V. A. DACOSTA | – | SECRETARY |
| 3. | ENGR. G. O. M. AGBOGIDI | – | MEMBER |
| 4. | MR. DOTUN MAKINWA | – | MEMBER |
| 5. | MR. C.T. OLAOMO | – | MEMBER |