

# A FINANCIAL AND FAITH COMMITMENT FOR 2021

In Support of God's Mission at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## A prayer for discerning your pledge

Oh God, our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, you sustain us through difficult seasons and bless us during challenging times; we ask you to open our eyes so that we may discern your presence even in the midst of adversity, strengthen our faith so that together we may be generous stewards of your bounty, eager to offer our time and talent and treasure to help build your kingdom here at St. Andrew's and throughout the world. *Amen*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide any corrections \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**For 2020, you pledged a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you!**

**In support of God's mission at St. Andrew's and in grateful response to God's blessings, I/we pledge an annual amount in 2021 of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- I/we intend to pledge but prefer not to disclose the pledge amount here.
- I/we want to remain an active member but currently are unable to pledge.

**Signature(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return pledge form to St. Andrew's in the enclosed envelope before Nov. 15.**

Pledges may be fulfilled in many ways such as by: mailing a check, ACH, online bill pay, website PayPal link, IRA withdrawals, or stock transfers.

- \_\_\_ I/we require offering envelopes.
- \_\_\_ I/we plan to use ACH/direct withdrawal from a bank account. Please send me a form.
- \_\_\_ I/we plan to make a qualified charitable contribution from an IRA.
- \_\_\_ I/we plan to make a donation of securities. Please send me instructions.
- \_\_\_ I/we have included St. A's in my/our will or estate plan to benefit the church's future.
- \_\_\_ I/we would like more information about including St. A's in my/our will/estate plan to benefit the church's future.

Many thanks to Katie Wilker for creating our Sharing Strength-Building Faith logo.

**What is the purpose of the “Sharing Faith, Building Strength” annual appeal?**

St. Andrew’s asks its members to make an annual pledge of support for God’s mission at St. Andrew’s in order to enable sound financial planning for the coming year. “Sharing Faith, Building Strength” summarizes the work of our community in these challenging times.

**How do I stay informed as to what is going on at St. Andrew’s?**

St. Andrew’s has developed an active communication team. Sign up for the emails and links to Sunday services. Go to the website [standrewsmadison.org](http://standrewsmadison.org) and at the bottom of the page click on Links>[Join St. Andrew's email list.](#)

**What is going on with the finances of the church during this health/economic crisis?**

This extraordinary year has challenged the revenue of the preschool, summer camps and other church fundraising efforts. While we have seen some minor decreases in expenses due to fewer in person services, we are unable to rely on the profits of the preschool to make up a large portion of our expenses. Fortunately, St. Andrew’s has a generous base of support among its parishioners who are being called now to increase their efforts, if possible.

**What was the Joining Jesus campaign?**

In the first half of 2020, St. Andrew’s launched a fundraising initiative in partnership with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. This capital campaign sought to fund core elements of our life together that were financially bigger than any one budget year. Our goal was to raise \$400,000. By the end of the capital campaign, we had topped \$430,000 in pledges which will be realized over five years. Amazing! But what’s more amazing than the dollar figure we reached is the faithfulness and excitement of the people who pledged their financial resources to God’s work embodied by these particular projects. The Vestry is beginning the work on those initiatives which include programming through enhancing youth and adult faith formation and outreach; and addressing capital needs of repairing our beloved stained glass windows in the Sanctuary, adding air conditioning to the school wing, repaving the parking lot, and developing a capital reserves fund. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will support regional ministries and enhancements to Camp Washington. The capital campaign funding is separate from our annual budget and supports long term projects chosen through St. Andrew’s focus groups and surveys. Such enthusiasm for the capital campaign shows our collective faithfulness to fund God’s mission at St. Andrew’s each and every year.

**How do I determine the amount of my pledge?**

Financial commitment to God’s work at St. Andrew’s is a personal, intentional, spiritual decision that we encourage you make after much thought, prayer, and consultation with a spouse or trusted friend. One way to determine your pledge is through the action of incremental increase; that is, increase your pledge by a percentage over last year. For example, if you pledged \$3,400 for 2020, you might increase by 10% to pledge \$3,740 for 2021. Another method is proportional giving which is explained below. In 2020 the median pledge was \$2,600 and the mean pledge at St. Andrew’s was \$3,090.

**What if I can’t fulfill my pledge?**

Life situations change and sometimes such change involves shifting financial realities. If for some reason, you must amend your pledged amount, please let Rev. Shariya know. Please do not feel uncomfortable making such an adjustment.

**Are there ways besides cash and checks by which to fulfill my pledge?**

Yes. Some may prefer to give from their capital assets. Appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash gift. In addition, qualified charitable distributions from an IRA to St. Andrew’s could satisfy required minimum distributions for those over age 70 ½.

**What about planned giving in my will?**

In addition to current yearly giving, notifying the church that one’s will includes a bequest facilitates long-term financial planning. Check the box on the front side of this sheet for more information about planned giving to the St. Andrew’s Endowment.

**Why is a pledge preferred to a one-time donation?** For most, spreading a pledge over twelve months (or 52 weeks) allows for a more substantial gift than a single donation and turns the act of giving into a frequent spiritual discipline. Making a pledge also helps the Vestry plan next year’s budget.

**What is proportional giving?** The biblical tith (10% of income) is the basis of the idea of proportional giving, though any proportion can be used. Proportional giving allows everyone to give at a level that reflects his or her resources. Here’s a chart with some examples:

Sample Proportional Giving Percentages			
Income	5%	7%	10%
\$20,000	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
\$250,000	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000