

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN MAKING YOUR PLEDGE:

We are looking to provide new (or greater) funding for the following ministries:

Music

We are delighted to have the incredible talents of our new Parish Musician, Charles Rus, working with our choir and would like to augment our music budget to help us transform our Sunday worship music and be able to provide fine music on other occasions by hiring other professionals (both vocal and instrumental).

Sunday School

We believe we have found the perfect curriculum to re-generate a fine Sunday School to offer island families, Love First, and would love to be able to offer meaningful pay to the right person to lead our effort. (This would be just so wonderful for them, and for our congregation!)

Parish JOY!

We'd love to be able to pay the right person to head up our Parish JOY Team! This small group of fun-loving faithful would be in charge of many things: overseeing our Sunday Breakfasts-In-Between ("BIBs") and helping to make sure our special events (such as concerts, our annual picnic at the Rectory, and our annual Christmas-in-Edgartown hospitality, for example), have enough ministers and everything we need.

*(...and these are just some examples of how we might use your gifts in our ministries!)*

PLEASE ALSO THINK ABOUT THIS:

The recent decline in the stock market will impact our income, since we rely a good deal on income from our invested endowment funds. Inflation for goods and services will also be a factor on our expenses.

We continue to rely substantially on our five or ten biggest givers, and a good number of such larger givers (annual gifts in the \$15—25k range) have moved or have died in recent years—and have not been replaced! WE WOULD LOVE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE AMONG US WHO HAVE BEEN RICHLY BLESSED to consider becoming one of these cherished and important givers among us!

Congregations in the Episcopal Church are 'on their own' for making their own way with funding to keep things going—and growing. (Not only do we need to fund our own bottom line, and receive nothing from The Episcopal Church or the Diocese of Massachusetts, we

actually pay the Diocese to keep all that it does up and running well—to the tune of \$44,000.00 in 2021!)

So here's what's been happening in The Episcopal Church in the way of pledging information (2020, pledges per unit/household):

National (Episcopal Church) Average Pledge:		\$3,226
Diocese of Massachusetts Average Pledge:		\$2,407
Other notable dioceses:	NY	\$3,055
	VA	\$3,467
	AL	\$4,385
	W. TN	\$5,037
	TX (largest)	\$5,194
St Andrew's Church Average Pledge:		\$1,966

#### ONE BIG FINAL THANK YOU—AND A CHALLENGE:

We are quite simply blessed here at St Andrew's Church—because of your willingness to be a part of us. It's all about relationship and community, and the Spirit of God is with us in a big way.

This, of course, goes for every one of you—and for all the ways you give to us, in ways big and small. **And we are just so thankful for you.**

**One thing I think about more often than I like to remember, is this:** like it or not, our ministries, and our effectiveness in reaching out and serving our community, our nation, and our world, is definitely linked, in no small measure, by the resources YOU give to us (and what you choose NOT to give to us!). And that includes how much you are willing to give us of your own treasure, in addition to your talents and ministries so many of you give so generously to make our community so caring and vital.

**What we can do, together, is limitless. With God's help...and yours.**

So I challenge each and every one of you to consider where St Andrew's Church fits into your life's list of valued institutions and communities, and give from your heart. *Dream and go big!*

As our hearts grow, according to God's will, our little church will grow more closely together, and we will be able to help God continue to heal this wonderful world of ours, as we find God calls us to do. And there will be joy, and learning, and growing...and peace.