



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REVEREND VINCENT G. "CHIP" SEADALE, RECTOR

OUR PEARL OF GREAT VALUE
MY PLEDGE FOR 2024



*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,
who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Mt 15:45-46)*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

September 29, 2023

Year after year, so many new faces come through our little church, as visitors, tourists, guests, seekers, and, of course, our beloved parishioners. And I've received countless remarks about how sweet St Andrew's is—both for her unassuming, yet carefully curated appearance—as well as for the sense she imparts when one enters into her friendly, inviting, holy silence.

And in my nearly fourteen years of being here, day after day, fielding approving comments and answering questions, I've always had the same response: *"Yes, she's a real jewel—I call her our little pearl."* And immediately think of Matthew's image of the pearl of great value.

To me, it is here within these walls I sense the holy and the chance for the Holy Spirit to fill me, whether alone in prayerful silence, or together with you in worship. Nothing else compares.

And yes, in order to have and to keep this pearl, we must give: sacrifice, even, of our own treasures, as God has so richly blessed us with. For this gem also consists of great mission and ministry, and fine liturgy and music.

So I ask you once again to consider just what St Andrew's means to you, and remember that your decision to forego other things in life, perhaps, to have this for yourself, will help so many others who are seeking to connect with and know our God of love, forgiveness, healing and grace.

So please be generous, even perhaps as bold as our merchant of fine pearls, and fill out and return your pledge card for 2024. We are hopeful you might choose to return your card before November 1.

And remember this: I always thank God for you.

The Reverend Vincent G. Seadale+
Rector

PLEASE! TRY TO RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

And in any event, by Sunday, November 12... Our Vestry expects to vote on the 2024 budget at our December Vestry Meeting.

OUR HOPE AND PRAYER FOR 2024

100 Pledges for 2024 (up from 88 in 2023) *(we can do 12 new pledges!)*
\$200,00.00 in pledges (up from \$178,500 in 2023) *(we can do \$21,500.00 more!)*

IMPORTANT FACTS

St Andrew's average 2023 pledge:	\$2,028.00
Diocese of MA average pledge:	\$3,015.00
Episcopal Church USA average pledge:	\$3,658.00

St Andrew's Top Ten Givers:	\$86,300.00 (48% of pledge total)
St Andrew's Top Two Givers:	\$50,500.00 (37% of pledge total)

This from Henri Nouwen's "A Spirituality of Fundraising":

"In fundraising as a ministry, we are inviting people into a new way of relating to their resources. By giving people a spiritual vision, we want them to experience that they will in fact benefit by making their resources available to us. We truly believe that if their gift is good only for us who receive, it is not fundraising in the spiritual sense.

"Fundraising from the point of view of the gospel says to people 'I will take your money and invest it in this vision only if it is good for your spiritual journey, only if it is good for your spiritual health.'

"In other words, we are calling to an experience of conversion: 'You won't become poorer, you will become richer by giving.' We can confidently declare with the apostle Paul: 'You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.' (2 Cor. 9:11).