



st. andrew's church

POST OFFICE BOX 1287
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02539

ON THE ISLAND OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

November 11, 2025

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Care to guess how many bricks it took to build St. Andrew's Episcopal Church?

Here's a couple of clues: The cornerstone was laid September 7, 1899, but times were hard and it took eleven years to raise the money, buy the land and build the church. Yet the year-round parish faithful and the ranks of our new summer visitors dug deep, and Bishop William Lawrence, leading a procession singing Psalm 24, dedicated the new church on August 22, 1910.

A review of the history of St. Andrew's reveals a striking fact: that whenever the church has needed resources to do something important for the Vineyard or for itself, its congregation has always come through. For example, building a parish house where it began the winter shelter program now known as Harbor Homes in 2015. Or ordering stained glass windows in 1927, with Christ blessing a child personally supervised by Louis C. Tiffany (his last project).

Today at St. Andrew's we have something they didn't have in those early years – a pledging program funded by devoted congregants whose annual gifts ensure that we can carry on the mission of a church whose doors first opened on that August morning 115 years ago. “We have started the work with the determination not to run in debt, nor to resort to fairs or entertainments,” the church leadership said of the undertaking in 1899. Yes, times were hard, but they ordered the bricks while facing a shortfall of \$4,000 – about \$152,000 now – and started building.

We are engaged in a time of great change at St. Andrew's, and we're responding with rising involvement, confidence in our calling and joy as we worship together. Our committees are searching for a new rector, planning new ways to serve our parish and making sure that we're ready to meet any need, wherever it comes from and however great or sudden the challenge. (Just ask the 49 Venezuelan migrants who arrived at the airport unexpectedly on September 14, 2022, and found a St. Andrew's welcome on an Island few of them had ever heard of.)

So: the number of bricks they ordered in 1899, at the start of an uncertain fundraising and construction odyssey that would last eleven years?

Well, the figure might impress you all the more if we give you additional historic context. You'll find that history and the number of bricks in the pamphlet we've enclosed with this letter. Thank you in advance for your 2025-2026 pledge. It's especially meaningful as we conduct that search for our new rector, inspired and guided by Jesus Christ. We draw confidently from the far-sighted faith and determination of those who dared to place that enormous order for bricks more than a century ago. In our own way, we are now doing the same.

The Stewardship Committee of St. Andrew's Church
Alex Senchak, chair; Chris White; Tom Dunlop; Betsy Young Buck

2025 Stewardship Ways of Giving

Dear Church Family,

As we reflect on God's abundant blessings in our lives and community, we're reminded that stewardship is more than a financial commitment—it's a spiritual practice of gratitude and faithfulness. Your generous support enables our church to fulfill its mission of worship, service, and outreach, touching lives both within our walls and throughout our community.

We want to make giving as convenient and meaningful as possible for everyone. Whether you prefer traditional methods or modern technology, there are several ways you can contribute to God's work through our church:

Pledging: Make a pledge to be fulfilled through the year (ending in June 30th). Informing the church know your intentions helps let the leadership plan for the future understanding what contributions can be expected. Pledge Cards can be found at the back of the church and in parish hall or online at www.standrewsmv.org

Mail a check – checks can be mailed to PO Box 1287 Edgartown, MA 02539. Please make checks payable to *St. Andrews Church Edgartown*.

Bring your check to church – Whether placing a check in the weekly offering or to our office (open typically 9-1pm on weekdays) you can fulfill a pledge or make outright donations in-person at North 39 Summer Street in Edgartown.

Giving Online – Use a credit card via PayPal on our website. This can easily set for automatic monthly recurring contribution.

Wire instructions for cash and stock - Contact our church office to arrange gifts of appreciated assets

Tithing is the biblical practice of giving ten percent of your income to God through the church, rooted in Scripture as an act of worship and obedience. It acknowledges that everything we have comes from God and cultivates a generous, grateful heart. Tithing helps us prioritize our faith, trust God's provision, and break free from materialism's grip. Beyond supporting the church's ministry and mission, it's a spiritual discipline that deepens our relationship with God and reminds us that we are stewards, not owners, of our resources. The typical calculation for a tithing gift is **10% of your gross income**—the total amount you earn before taxes and other deductions are taken out.

Planned Giving Options: St. Andrews has benefited from many generous gifts made to the church through estate plans and other planned giving options. The office has many resources and contacts to help guide putting St. Andrew's Church Edgartown into a will and other documents like life insurance policies.

Stewardship at St. Andrew Church is a year-round effort to share the value and impact of joining our support of the church and we especially ask your consideration in **November** of each year. The stewardship committee welcomes your questions and ideas at any time.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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