St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Madison, WI 53726
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October 15, 2026

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

There is plenty of room at the table!

During stewardship season at St. Andrew's, we speak of giving our time, talent, and treasure. When we donate to the parish, our pledges fund the operating budget, which makes it possible for us to worship as a community, to meet and hug and laugh and commiserate, to pay a rector and music director and other staff, to offer church school and other formation opportunities. Our pledges help make sure the roof doesn't leak and the bathrooms get cleaned.

And when we come together in this beautiful space, something greater than the number of bodies in pews happens. Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20). And it's true. The Holy Spirit comes among us, bringing ineffably more than words, bricks, and mortar into our lives. Our rector and musicians and vestry and community inspire us, from within this sacred place, to go out into our world and fulfill our Baptismal covenant.

As we gather during this stewardship season, we begin on our knees. How does the Holy Spirit guide our hearts to visualize what we can give? What is right for one of us may not be the same for another. If there's plenty of room at the table, there will be plenty of space for all our gifts.

Perhaps I have accrued plenty of savings and resources. The spirit might lead me to donate those funds to this congregation. In another situation, I may not have money left over after I provide for the needs of my family. But I need and love the support I receive at St. Andrew's. I might volunteer my time to the governance of the church. I might work on a project or committee, sing in the choir, or serve at coffee hour. I might give rides to parishioners who can't drive. Or make phone calls to those who need to hear a friendly voice.

Perhaps I have a talent useful to the church. I might serve as treasurer. I might share in the work of the vestry. I might write justice reflections or work on other social justice projects. I might create art and share it with the community, lifting spirits and pointing the way to deeper truths.

It's clear that without supporting the life of the parish at St. Andrew's, the church can't serve the spiritual needs of the parishioners. Nor can we be sent to seek and serve Christ in every person, to love and serve the community as God intends for us.

God modeled generosity for us through the Creation. As we continue to participate in the co-Creation of God's beloved kingdom here on earth, we bring our gifts to bear. We are inspired by God's abundance to share with our neighbors. But this may not be the year for you to devote time,

talent, or treasure to St. Andrew's. If this is your situation, don't worry; someday it will be your turn to pitch in. And keep coming! There is room at the table because all are beloved of God (and us).

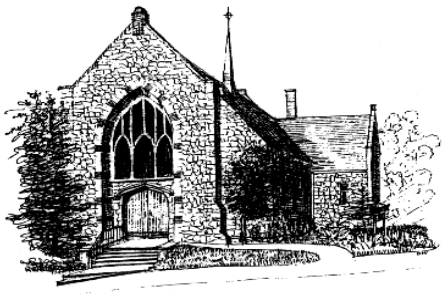
As we enter this period of reflection about our time, talents, and treasure, let us help each other find a generous way forward within the church and leading out into the neighborhood and community around us.

If this *is* the right time for you to devote financial resources to St. Andrew's, we invite you to consider pledging to support the 2027 operating budget, either by returning the enclosed form or by completing one online at standrews-madison.org/give. A pledge commitment to St. Andrew's is **not** a legal obligation; it may be amended or discontinued at any time. Pledges do help our vestry to plan and ensure support for our shared mission and goals.

Pledge forms for 2027 may be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate during Sunday worship, or submitted online. On the first Sunday of Advent (November 29th), we'll have an official "gathering in" and blessing of pledge commitments.

Thank you for being at this table with us, where there is room for everyone and every kind of gift.

With love and gratitude,

Anne Keller, Eileen Hocker, Leanne Puglielli, Tim O'Shea, and JoAnne Lehman
St. Andrew's Stewardship Team for 2027

In God's Kingdom, there is no need that cannot be met. The barriers we have placed between met and unmet needs are ours, not God's. These obstacles can be overcome through a creative use of our gifts: If there is not enough money to address something, perhaps there is an in-kind donation we can make. Perhaps more volunteer hours or employing our networks to expand the circle of help will be useful. And maybe the only thing we can give is a smile or a prayer. We have every good thing inside of us to offer a place for others; all we need to do is to recall that truth. — J. Davey Gerhard, Director, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)