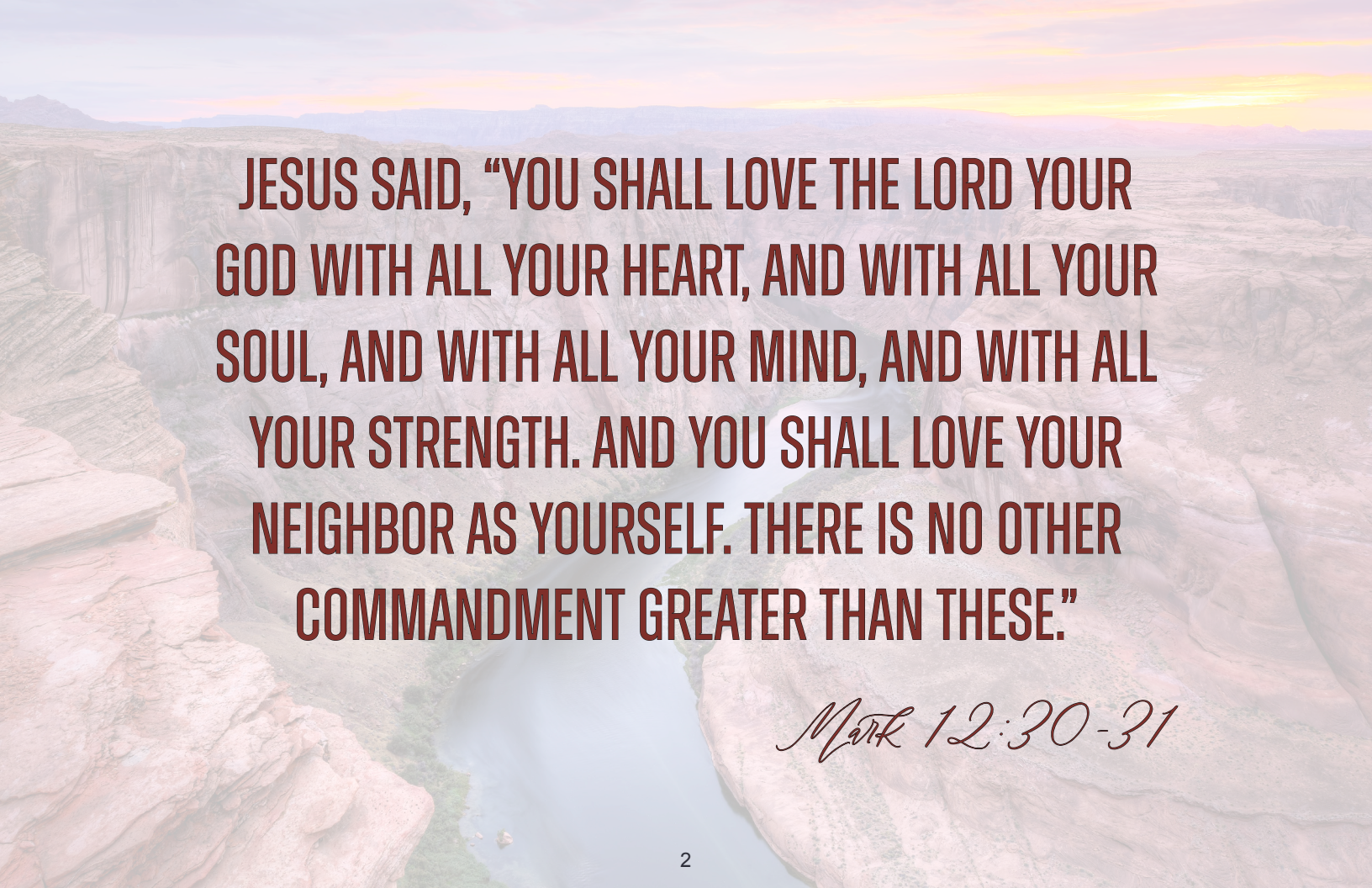




GO DEEP *and*
go wide

The background of the image is a wide-angle photograph of a deep, rugged canyon. A river flows through the bottom of the canyon, surrounded by green vegetation. The canyon walls are made of layered, reddish-brown rock. In the distance, more mountain ranges are visible under a soft, hazy sky with a warm, golden glow from the setting or rising sun.

JESUS SAID, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR
GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL
YOUR STRENGTH. AND YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. THERE IS NO OTHER
COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.”

Mark 12:30-31



What do you need most in your life?

If we listen to the voices of our culture, we might think the answer is beauty, or power, or financial security. If we listen to the voices of our egos, we might think the answer is the next promotion, or a nicer house, or the vacation of a lifetime. But if we listen to our hearts, we find an answer from a different source.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,” Jesus says (Matthew 11:28).

“Peace I leave with you; my own peace I give to you,” Jesus says. “I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

If you had one wish, wouldn't it be that – the peace that the world cannot give?

Peace doesn't come through demanding it, no matter how loudly we yell, “Serenity now!” Peace doesn't come through buying it, no matter how much we pack into our closets or garages. Peace doesn't come through searching for it, no matter how grand the experience may be.

Peace like a river, deep and wide, comes when we ourselves go deep and wide. Love God and love neighbor, Jesus says. And when we do, we find our peace.

WHERE AND HOW DO YOU FIND PEACE?

We've got some ideas for you, but we hope you'll share your ideas, too.

Your clergy have put together a guide for your prayers in this fall stewardship season. For each day, you'll find a verse or two of scripture and a brief reflection to help you navigate the uncertainties that weigh heavily on us all and point you back toward Christ, who is our peace (Ephesians 2:14).

We also want to hear where you find peace in the life of this church family and in your own experience. Maybe the celestial voices of our singers lift your heart heavenward. Maybe you see the faces of saints in the smiling faces in the Jewell Room after worship. Maybe you see the face of Jesus when you feed hungry people, or get to know a family at Banneker Elementary, or greet neighbors at the Farmer's Market. What's it like when God touches your life as you love God and neighbor? Share an anecdote or image of peace to tell your story.

- Send it to Deacon Adam James by email – adam@standrewkc.org.
- Share it on Facebook (tagged with @StAndrewsKC) or Instagram (tagged with #StAndrewsKC).
- Send it through our website – standrewkc.org/stewardship.
- Send a text saying STORY to 816-312-5152. You'll get a text back, and a conversation will begin to help you share your anecdote or image.



A SERMON SERIES: "IS IT WELL WITH MY SOUL?"

What stands in the way of finding peace? Maybe it's the questions that keep us up at night. During our five-week stewardship season at St. Andrew's, we'll ask some of the toughest questions:

Oct. 22: Do I have worth?

Oct. 29: Where is my community?

Nov. 5: Am I on my own?

Nov. 12: Will the kids be all right?

Nov. 19: Do I have purpose?

And What Does All This Have to Do With Stewardship?

Through the summer, we shared stories of parishioners who go deep and wide in their own journeys with God, stewards using their time and talent to bless the church and the world through their service. In our fall stewardship season, we're focusing on how we manage the treasure God entrusts to us, specifically our investment in this church family – a community where love flows deep and wide. **Your financial support of St. Andrew's empowers a hundred ways we love God and love neighbor ... a hundred ways to find the peace the world cannot give.**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the church doing financially?

Although inflation is lower than this time last year, prices remain high, and the sense of economic uncertainty lingers for everyone. Not surprisingly, giving to St. Andrew's reflects those realities: As of September, we're about 9 percent below revenue projections. On the bright side, expenses are right on budget. The last quarter is always the time when giving comes in strong, and we have faith that our members will give generously once again.

How are attendance and participation?

Among the long-lasting changes from the pandemic is this reality: Hybrid church life is here to stay. Offering worship, meetings, and classes both in-person and online may have been spurred by something we'd rather forget, but God uses even our hardest times to bring forth new life. Our worship attendance remains above our pre-pandemic level, with an average Sunday of 378 worshipers as of the end of August. This includes both people "in the room" and devices online, and the patterns are interesting: Overall, 62 percent of worshipers are in-person, and 38 percent are online. But that varies by service, with the majority of 8 a.m. worshipers online and the majority of 10:15 a.m. worshipers in person.

In terms of ministry participation, we're seeing increases in children's ministry, youth ministry, and adult learning opportunities. In fact, adult-learning participation is up by 19 percent from this time last year because of our Trailside Thursday worship, dinner, and classes. Young-adult ministry is down from last year, and that's the next focus area for Veronica Wiebold, our new coordinator of children's, youth, and young-adult ministry.

How is the church connecting with our neighbors?

To strengthen our ministries of welcome on both sides of Wornall Road, we've combined the efforts of parishioners building relationships with community members and parishioners engaging with newcomers. This new Community Engagement Commission brings together ministries like Sunday-morning greeters and ushers, our new youth shepherds who welcome families at worship, the baristas at HJ's, our St. Andrew's volunteers at the Farmer's Market, art-exhibition volunteers, and staff and parishioners offering the Discovery class. We also continue to host many community organizations, such as the Waldo Business Association, as well as several recovery groups. And HJ's serves as an exhibition space for local artists, welcoming community members not just to enjoy the art but to get to know people and programming at St. Andrew's.

How is the church helping others in the community?

Nothing says "loving neighbor" quite like serving people and building relationships along the way. We support and work alongside these Outreach partners: Banneker Schoolyard Garden, Clement Waters, Pawsperity (formerly the Grooming Project), Gordon Parks Elementary, the Kansas City Community Garden, Nourish KC, the Rose Brooks Center, St. Augustin's Episcopal School in Haiti, St. Paul's Pantry, and Welcome House. We also serve people through St. Andrew's own efforts, including a strong partnership with St. James United Methodist Church – our Connecting Community events that provide food, school supplies, clothing, diapers, and "loads of love" (laundry). Also going strong is Andie's Pantry, our ministry with families at Benjamin Banneker Elementary that encourages parishioners to get to know families there and help provide groceries. Other St. Andrew's Outreach efforts include the Banneker Family Fund (emergency support for families at the school), Fabric of Life (a quilting group literally bringing the warmth of God's love to people in distress), the annual Free Store (food and clothing for unhoused and working-poor people in Kansas City), Sister Berta's Friendship Circles (supportive relationships with moms at Operation Breakthrough), and the Pet Ministry. In all, we'll give away

\$90,000 (6 percent of pledged income) from the operating budget in 2023. So, your pledge increase means we can do even more to support these partners as they share God's healing love in the world.

What are the financial goals for this year's stewardship season?

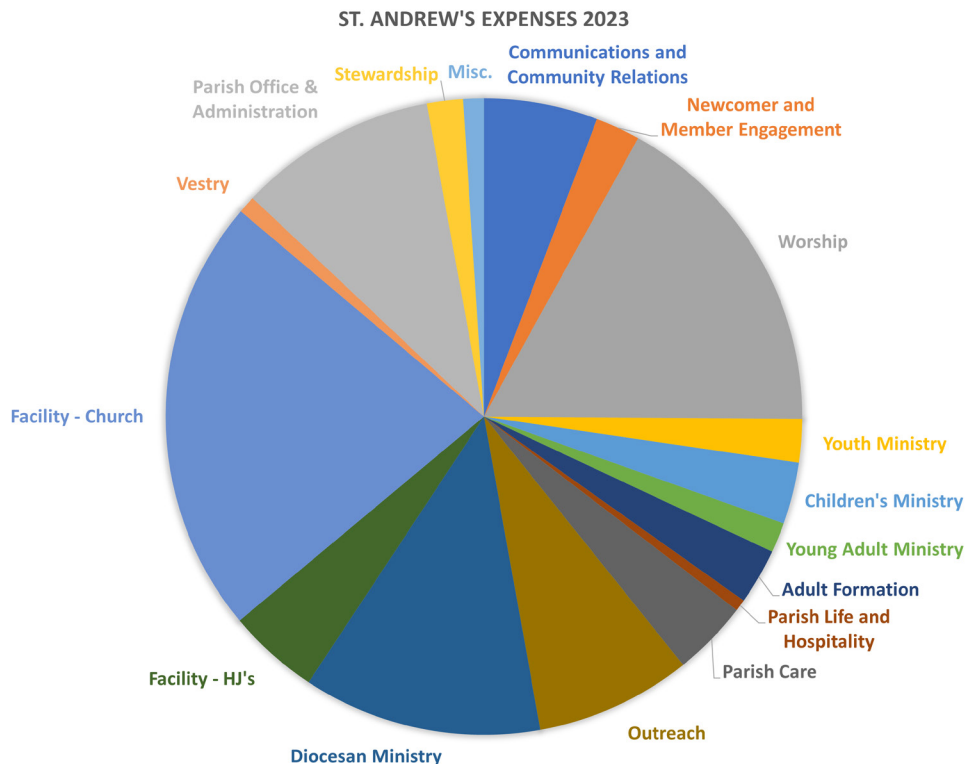
Here are three answers, all equally important.

- 1. 100 percent participation** among church members. A holy pledge can be \$5 a year; it's the act of making a pledge that makes it holy. It's an outward and visible sign of commitment to God and this parish family.
- 2. A 5 percent increase** in support for our ministries and operations in 2023. To hold on to our amazing staff, our compensation must remain competitive. And, of course, inflation affects the cost of ministry and facility repairs just as it affects our household budgets. As you consider that 5 percent increase, you might also think about "rounding up." For example, if you're now pledging \$1,200 a year, a 5 percent increase would bring the pledge to \$1,260 for 2024. So, consider tacking on an extra \$40 to round it up to \$1,300! Every little bit helps.
- 3. Proportionate, loving giving.** Sometimes, when we think about giving, we get stuck on percentages and definitions. Do I have to give a true tithe, 10 percent? And, if so, 10 percent of what – net or gross, income or wealth? It's easier to think of holy giving as being proportionate and loving. If I'm struggling to make ends meet, my pledge probably will be a relatively small percentage of what I earn; but that gift may be a deeply loving and sacrificial commitment. If I'm blessed with resources, I can probably give a higher percentage; and that might be a percentage not just of income but of wealth. Regardless of our resource levels, life sometimes gets in the way and blocks our best efforts to give faithfully – so know that the love reflected in your estimate of giving for the year is still there, even if your giving ends up falling short of what you planned. In any case, the goal is to increase our giving each year to express our increasing gratitude for the life and hope God gives us.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Combining program funding with staff and clergy salaries that catalyze ministry, St. Andrew's spends 39 percent of its \$2.2 million budget on God's work within the parish and our neighboring community. This includes the heart of our parish's life, worshiping God; our outstanding music program; engaging with newcomers and members to build their participation; ministries to lead children, youth, young adults, and adults deeper in their life in Christ; communications and community relations, including ministry in Brookside and Waldo; hospitality and parish gatherings; and pastoral care.

We make a difference serving people in need in Kansas City and in Haiti,



allocating 8 percent of our budget (direct giving plus staff time) to support our local outreach partners and our partner school in Haiti.

St. Andrew's also gives 12 percent of the budget to support ministries of our Diocese of West Missouri. This includes programming to help smaller congregations form the faith of children, youth, and adults; anti-hunger ministries in Kansas City and Springfield; leadership training at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry; and bringing worship to rural areas of the diocese.

We also commit money and staff time to stewarding our beautiful facilities – both our church with its stunning worship space and HJ's Youth & Community Center. Twenty-seven percent of our budget supports our facilities so they can support us in seeking and sharing God's healing love.

Finally, 14 percent of the annual budget goes toward leadership, generosity development, administration, and miscellaneous costs – the work of the Vestry, the work of our administrative staff, our stewardship efforts, and office expenses.

Although this is “where the money goes,” it's more accurate – and closer to God's heart – to say this is where your generosity goes. Every pledge and every gift to St. Andrew's, regardless of size, empowers the work we do here to seek God's healing love and share that love with all.

STANDREWKC.ORG/GIVE

As you reflect on your gratitude for the peace God brings you, please consider making a pledge of your estimated giving for 2024 so you can help empower St. Andrew's to bring peace to our parishioners and neighbors. Please also consider making a pledge of service. How will you go love God and neighbor in 2024? Serving in worship? Praying for others? Inviting someone to an activity at church? Listening to someone who disagrees with you? Together, we *can* bring God's love to our world.

WAYS TO GIVE



Cash/Check



Scan to
give online



Scan to give
via Venmo

Gently detach the pledge card and return it in the envelope provided, or bring it to church with you anytime during the stewardship season and place it in the collection plate. We'll bless all pledges at our St. Andrew's Sunday services on November 26.

We're so grateful to have you, and your heart,
in our St. Andrew's family!

▼ PLEASE TEAR AT THE DOTTED LINE ▼

MY PLEDGE

I/WE COMMIT TO GIVE...

\$



Weekly



Monthly



One-time

A 1 YEAR TOTAL OF...

\$

Please fill out the below information **ONLY** if you want the finance office to initiate the giving process using your credit or debit card, or through automatic withdrawal.

CARD HOLDER NAME

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD #

SIGNATURE

EXP.

BANK ACCOUNT #

ROUTING #

I/WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S HEALING LOVE BY:

NAME *please print legibly*

ADDRESS

CITY	STATE	ZIP
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PHONE

EMAIL

☐

Update my information in the church database.

☐

I/We do not wish to be thanked in the annual report.

☐

I am interested in donating my time or talent to St. Andrew's.

▼ PLEASE TEAR AT THE DOTTED LINE ▼



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

For prayer requests, clergy visits, everyday needs, or help with meals, please visit standrewkc.org/need-care to submit your request.

Or text **PRAYER** to 816-312-5152, and our clergy and Parish Care team will lift up your concerns.

Or just call us at 816-523-1602.

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance and be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 827



St. Andrew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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