




LOVE

in action



**FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE
ABIDE, THESE THREE. BUT THE
GREATEST OF THESE IS
LOVE.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



What's So Great About Love?

We've all heard that famous quote about love from St. Paul in First Corinthians – probably at a wedding, maybe at a funeral, too. Paul says love is patient and kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. It doesn't demand its own way; it's not irritable or resentful; it takes no pleasure in mistakes.

So, that's what love *isn't*. But what *is* it? Love is the greatest force on the planet. Love created the universe. Love brought God to live as one of us and give us the chance to live forever. Love spread throughout the world as Jesus' followers practiced what he preached. God's love isn't just a warm feeling or a gold star. God's love is a verb. God's love is action. God's love changes things.

LOVE IN ACTION – ALL AROUND YOU

Sometimes, it's hard to know how to tap into that power of love. Social media and news reports don't exactly give us daily examples of love in action. But Scripture does. And for 50 days this fall, you can take a journey of love with your clergy, who've written a **daily guide for your prayers**. Each week highlights a spiritual practice from our Baptismal Covenant, and each day's reflection lets you know you're not walking this path alone.

You'll also find **opportunities to connect** with other St. Andrew's friends and friends-to-be. We kicked it off with an Oktoberfest parish picnic on Sept. 29. You can also gather with our furry friends at the St. Francis Pet Blessing at 10:15 a.m. Oct. 6 at HJ's. You can enjoy our stunning choir as they offer the John Rutter *Requiem* the afternoon of Nov. 3. You can welcome friends and neighbors for an art-exhibition opening at HJ's on Nov. 8. And you can celebrate with the bagpipes on St. Andrew's Sunday, Nov. 24. Plus, new this fall, you can **join a small fellowship group** to build deeper connections with people you see on Sundays.

And you can put God's love in action yourself, **making a difference** alongside other St. Andrew's members. At the picnic, we collected hygiene items for Welcome House and two food pantries, and you can still bring needed items to church (full-sized shampoo, lotion, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, and foot powder). You can shop for, prepare, and serve an early Thanksgiving community meal Nov. 20 at St. James Church on the Paseo. And on Nov. 23, we'll again team up with St. James to offer holiday meal kits for people in need.



A PREACHING-AND-INTERVIEW SERIES: LOVE IN ACTION

St. Andrew's is full of amazing people putting love in action in so many ways, and it's inspiring to hear their stories of serving, connecting, and giving. This fall, join us for a series of sermons and interviews with people you know who use these spiritual practices to go deeper in relationship with God and others:

- Oct. 6 (St. Francis Sunday): **REST**, featuring Joy Bower
- Oct. 13: **GO**, featuring Craig Lundgren
- Oct. 20: **PRAY**, featuring Linda Brand
- Oct. 27: **WORSHIP**, featuring Johnny Honnold
- Nov. 3 (All Saints' Sunday): **LEARN**, featuring Paul Johnson
- Nov. 10: **BLESS**, featuring Grace Coughlin
- Nov. 17: **TURN**, featuring Ann Rainey

Stewardship Is Love in Action

Embracing community ... living with compassion ... going deeper in faith ... practicing gratitude ... giving generously. These steps of love in action will simply change your life. When we connect with God through reading and prayer, connect with other St. Andrew's members, serve people in our community, and give from our hearts, we get to see just what love can do, for ourselves and for our world. Putting love in action includes empowering the work of St. Andrew's itself—a faith community gathering, equipping, and sending pilgrims on the journey toward heaven on earth.

And your generous gifts to St. Andrew's are what make that work possible.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the church doing financially?

Your gifts reflect the faithful hearts of the St. Andrew's family. As of the end of August, pledged giving is strong, running 8 percent ahead of expectations for this time of year—a tremendous blessing. Overall, budgeted income and expenses are right on target year-to-date. The last quarter is always the time of year when giving comes in strongest, and we're deeply grateful for the ways you remember the church in that season of giving.

How are attendance and participation?

In the new normal of hybrid church life, the St. Andrew's family enjoys gathering to worship and learn both in person and online. Our worship attendance is up by 9 percent from this time last year, with an average Sunday of 410 as of the end of August. This includes both people "in the room" and devices online, and the patterns continue to be interesting: Overall, 60 percent of worshipers are in-person, and 40 percent are online, even four years after the start of the pandemic. But those numbers vary by service, with a majority of 8 a.m. worshipers online and a majority of 10:15 a.m. worshipers in person.

In terms of ministry participation, we're seeing slightly decreased numbers for children's ministry compared with last year, increased participation in youth and young-adult ministry, and increased attendance at adult learning opportunities.

How is the church connecting with our neighbors?

On both sides of Wornall Road, we're working hard not just to welcome people but to draw them into a journey of relationship with God. That happens through love in action on Sunday mornings, with greeters, ushers, and youth shepherds welcoming people to worship. It happens through love in action at HJ's, as baristas and Farmer's Market volunteers strike up a conversations over lattes. And it happens through love in action as clergy follow up with guests to find out what they need to help them find their way here.

We also continue to host many community organizations, exercise classes, wellness groups, recovery groups, and the Community/Police Action Cooperative. And HJ's continues to serve as an exhibition space for local artists, welcoming community members not just to enjoy the art but to get to know our people and programming.

How is the church helping people in the community?

Nothing says "love in action" quite like serving people and building relationships along the way. We support and work alongside these Outreach partners: the Banneker Schoolyard Garden, 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 Church—our Connecting Community events that provide food, school supplies, clothing, diapers, and "loads of love" (laundry). Also going strong are ministries with families at Benjamin Banneker Elementary: Andie's Pantry, which encourages parishioners to get to know families there and help provide groceries, and the Banneker Families Fund, which offers emergency support. Other St. Andrew's Outreach efforts include 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.

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

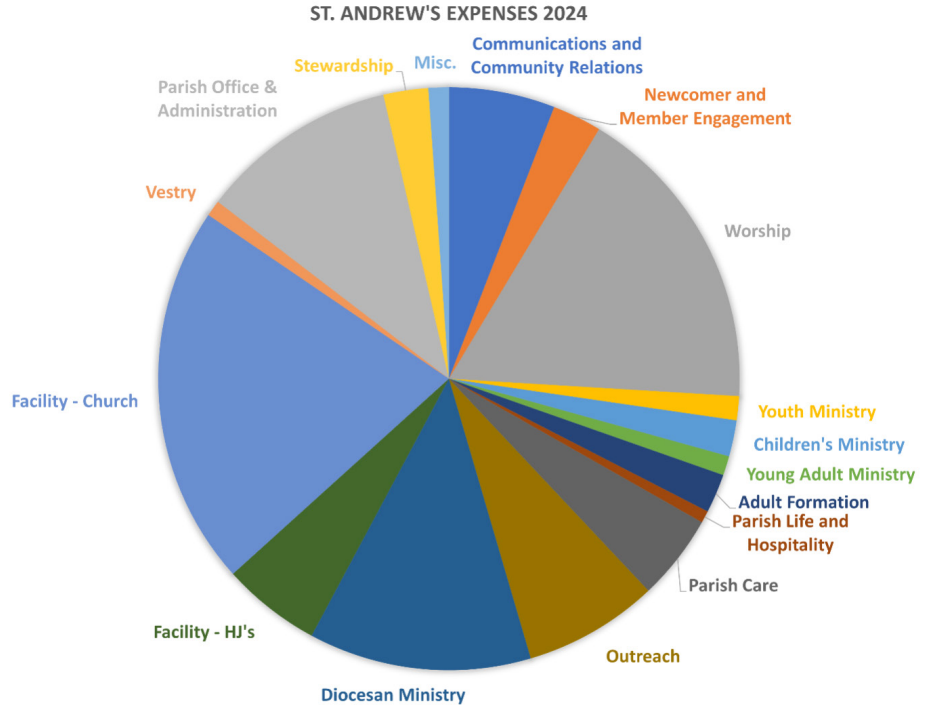
Our objective this year is "10-10-10":

1. **A 10 percent increase in the number of pledges.** Of course, the ultimate goal is 100 percent participation—that every household in the parish would offer an estimate of giving for the year ahead. But just as the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, so we want to take an attainable step toward 100 percent participation. We have 352 pledging units for 2024. So, our goal for 2025 is a 10 percent increase, taking us to 387. Remember, a pledge doesn't need to be large to be holy. Even a \$5 annual estimate of giving is a great start because 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 10 percent increase in pledged income.** About 75 percent of our ministry and operational funding comes from members fulfilling their annual estimates of giving. So, because this funding source is so central to God’s work here, our stewardship goals include a 10 percent increase in pledged income. To hold on to our amazing staff, our compensation must remain competitive; and inflation affects the cost of ministry and operations just as it affects our household budgets. Plus, our beautiful facility always needs ongoing care. What does that 10 percent goal mean for you? It depends on your current level of commitment. If your annual estimate of giving is \$1,000, we hope you’ll consider giving 10 percent more, increasing your monthly gift by a little more than \$8. If your current giving is considerably higher, a 10 percent increase may not be reasonable. It’s all about giving in a way that’s proportionate and loving. If I’m struggling to make ends meet, my gift (and its increase) may be relatively small but deeply sacrificial. If I’m blessed with resources, I can probably give at higher percentage, and that might be a percentage of not just of income but of wealth. In whatever way makes sense for each of us, the goal is to grow our giving annually to express our increasing gratitude for the life and love God gives us.
3. **A 10 percent increase in Outreach giving from pledged income.** Putting love in action in the world around us—that’s a big part of who we are at St. Andrew’s. In 2024, we’ll give away \$95,000 from the operating budget (6.3 percent of 2024 pledges). If we’re aiming for a 10 percent increase in pledged giving, we want to share that abundance with the neighbors God gives us to serve. So, with a 10 percent pledge increase, we’ll also boost our Outreach giving from the operating budget by 10 percent.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Combining program funding with staff and clergy salaries that catalyze ministry, St. Andrew's spends 38 percent of its \$2.4 million budget on God's work within the parish and our neighboring community. This includes the heart of our parish's life, worshipping 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 relationship with God; communications and community relations, including ministry in Brookside and Waldo; hospitality and parish gatherings; and pastoral care.





We also make a difference serving people in need in Kansas City and in Haiti, allocating 7 percent of our budget (direct giving plus staff time) to support our local Outreach partners and our partner school in Haiti.

St. Andrew's gives 12 percent of our 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; leadership training at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry; and bringing clergy leadership 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 God's love and putting it in action.

Finally, 16 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 follow God's way of love and put that love in action.

STANDREWKC.ORG/GIVE

As you reflect on your gratitude for God's blessings of life and relationships, please consider making a pledge of your estimated giving for 2025 so you can help empower St. Andrew's to put love in action for our parishioners and neighbors. Please also consider making a pledge of service. How will you put love in action in 2025? Serving in worship? Praying for others? Inviting someone to a church activity? Reading to a child? Feeding someone who's hungry? Listening to someone who disagrees with you? As you connect with God and people at St. Andrew's, let your giving say "thank you" for the blessings you've received.

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 offering plate. We'll bless all pledges at our St. Andrew's Sunday services on November 24.

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 PLAN TO GIVE...

\$

Weekly

Monthly

One-time

FOR 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 PLAN TO PUT GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION BY:

[Empty white box for action plan]

NAME *please print legibly*

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

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/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

6401 WORNALL TERRACE
Kansas City, MO 64113 • 816-523-1602 • standrewkc.org