

2021 intention of giving giving with uncertainty

Please prayerfully consider making this important commitment to the Lord and to St. Andrew's and then bring your completed pledge card to church on or before Sunday, November 8.

MY/OUR TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING ESTIMATE IS

\$

First Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/WE PLAN TO GIVE \$ _____

Weekly | Bi-Weekly | Monthly | Yearly

(please circle one)

here
for such a time as this

2021 will not be 2020, so at least it's got that going for it! Beyond that, it is difficult to have much clarity about 2021. Looking ahead to next year, we feel acutely the uncertainty of the future. And this impacts the way we feel as we plan our giving.

It is important to recall the Biblical truth that we give not in response to what we think is coming, but in response to what God has already given us in the past and present. Christian stewardship is forward looking, but not because we're guessing at the stock market. **Christian stewardship is forward looking because, as we respond to God's love with our generosity, we help bring about the future God sees for our lives, our parish, and our community.**

our goal for 2021

Our goal for 2021 is to match our 2020 pledge total of \$534,000. This represents a substantial leap of faith. Economic uncertainty, job loss, people moving away, difficulty in adding new members during the pandemic — all this has impacted St. Andrew's. Not everyone is in a place to give 100% of their previous pledge.

This will require those who are able to give more, those who can maintain to do that, and those whose situation has become more challenging to continue to respond to God with faithfulness and hope. **As we share in generosity and sacrifice, together we will make St. Andrew's here for such a time as this.**



ST. ANDREW'S

6400 McKinney Ranch Pkwy. | McKinney, TX 75070

972-548-7990



here
for such a time as this

God has called St. Andrew's to be here "for such a time as this." (see Esther 4:14)

That phrase, "for such a time as this," is taken from the book of Esther: When the Jewish people are in a time of crisis, Mordecai reminds Esther that the greatest blessings in her life are given "for such a time as this." As our world is living through a time of great crisis, we too shall live into our faith at such a time as this.

This brochure is an overview of how, through the faithful generosity of our members, we plan to be here for such a time as this. Also, it is an invitation and request to join us by completing a pledge card indicating your intention of giving for 2021 so that we can plan how to be here for you, for one another, and for Christ.

being **here** in 2021

here: for one another

The pandemic has helped us be intentional in caring for one another. Our St. Andrew's Neighborhoods, calling circles, note writing groups, and countless Zoom calls have helped us stay connected even when we are physically apart. Building community and relationships will remain vital.

To be **here for one another** will require us to fund our pastoral care and connection ministries, as well as develop improved ways to welcome newcomers to St. Andrew's.

here: for growth

Not having our Sunday morning routine has exposed how important the daily habits of our hearts are in living lives of faith, so our plan for 2021 is to support the development of these habits. We'll have introductory courses for those new to the faith or new to St. Andrew's; offer deep-dive classes on theological topics and spiritual practices; and we'll grow small group membership to prioritize discovery and encouragement on our walks of faith.

For our children and youth, 2020 has served as a reminder that the hub of faith development is always the family, and so we plan focus on helping parents and grandparents nurture the faith of the young.

To be **here for growth** will require completing our search for an Associate Rector to oversee family and student ministry as well as maintaining our program budget for adults, youth, and children.

here: for our community

Our Hands and Feet outreach ministry has been all over our community during this pandemic, and we are going to continue to build on this work in 2021. We look forward to increased hands-on volunteer opportunities in 2021, and we also need funds to support our community partners and individual neighbors, as well as fund a part-time position to coordinate the dozen community connections and hundreds of volunteers.

To be **here for our community**, we intend to spend 6% of our operating budget on outreach (working toward a goal of a 10% tithe). We will also budget for community engagement, advertising, and evangelism so that those searching for a Christian community after lockdown will be able to find what St. Andrew's has to offer.

here: for whatever is next

"Unprecedented times"... "let's see what works"... "we'll throw spaghetti at the wall"... we've never lived through days like these, so we have to try new things. Through it all, our faith is unwavering — God was, is, and God will be. One of the gifts of God's constancy is that it allows us the freedom to experiment, change things, and try to adapt to the world we're in.

To be **here for whatever is next** means having the financial resources and budgetary flexibility to try new things, to sometimes fail, and to ultimately find new, exciting, and energetic ways forward.

here: for worship and fellowship

In 2021, God willing, we will be able to be here (at St. Andrew's) rather than there (online) for worship and fellowship. We'll return with a renewed appreciation for our beautiful space and for the blessings that come with being in it like the choir, children's church, coffee, donut holes, and a hug in the Narthex.

To be **here for worship and fellowship** means to continue to pay our utilities, maintenance, insurance, landscaping and mortgage. We also need to plan for the programmatic costs of returning, including music, fellowship, and Sunday morning programming.

here: for the digital age

One of the gifts of the pandemic has been learning how to do digital media, and the Vestry had the vision to commit the resources to support our digital efforts. Our staff role of "Digital Media Minister" is not just church-speak; this is actually a ministry of the gospel. Even once the pews are full again, this ministry will be a powerful part of how we engage the world with the message about Christ, how we share St. Andrew's story, and how we enable our own members to worship, pray, and learn together.

To be **here for the digital age** will require maintaining the Digital Media Minister role, upgrading to true high-speed Internet, and redoing the website in 2021.

