



And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8, NRSV

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tacoma
The Rev. Paul J. Lebens-Englund, Priest & Rector

Fall 2026

Dear Beloved of Saint Andrew's,

Every fall, your vestry builds a budget that aims to embody our collective hopes and dreams – a shared 'financial statement of mission.' The **expense** side of the budget gives clear voice to the ways we hope to partner with God in the year ahead, while the **revenue** side of the budget is a measure of our level of commitment to do so. As they say, 'money follows mission,' and what an amazing mission to which we've been called.

Your pledge to Saint Andrew's is different than most investments you make in that it situates what you *get* in the larger context of what God *gives* – church is not a fee-for-service, church is not a quid pro quo. Rather, God *gives* a deep sense of belonging, and we *get* to be a community that makes that belonging real. God *gives* us tools for understanding and engaging a complex and changing world, and we *get* to be a community that develops that understanding and organizes that engagement to make a real difference. And God *gives* us spiritual practices to sustain us in the wilderness of our lives, and we *get* to be a community that practices those things together. All this is not for our own sake only, but for the sake of the world. What an incredible privilege to share this life. And what a wonderful responsibility.

Here at Saint Andrew's, the signs of God's presence and activity are everywhere to be found. One set of lenses captures our shared commitment to **prayer**, to **study**, and to **service** – each of us learning how to nurture our intimacy with God, each of us learning how to cultivate the mind of God, and each of us learning how to reach out effectively as the loving hands of God. Another set of lenses captures our shared commitment to **gather**, to **transform**, and to **send** – all of us making sure it's easy to connect here, all of us making sure lives are changed here, and all of us making sure we return to our places and people as witnesses and agents of the Love we have found here. It's fair to say that Saint Andrew's both recognizes the privilege of this life-with-God AND exercises that responsibility faithfully and fruitfully, giving generously to assure our mission and ministry are properly planned and resourced.

Our financial giving for the sake of mission and ministry generally comes in three different forms – annual giving (pledges), capital giving (special projects), and planned giving (endowment gifts). **Capital giving** is generally in response to a special appeal, like a future roof or lighting project, or the seasonal fundraising projects at Christmas and Easter. **Planned giving** is generally in response to prayerful conversation about remembering Saint Andrew's in your estate planning. And **annual giving**, or '**pledging**,' is generally in response to a year-round, community-wide stewardship conversation about funding the mission to which we've been called. **Pledging to support the mission of Saint Andrew's is the responsibility of all members, old and new alike.**

Pledging takes many forms, but it's all based on your commitment to support the work we do here at Saint Andrew's to form people of prayer for the transformation of the world. **A pledge is your promise to fund the operating budget**, which your Vestry develops every fall for the next year. When you **pledge** in a timely and generous manner, you give your Vestry the gift of **real numbers** with which to *dream*, to *plan*, and to *prepare* for the year ahead. This is what's called a 'missional budget,' versus a 'maintenance budget,' which simply funds things as they've been, and often at the level they've been, which is a sure recipe for disrepair and decline. What we want, instead, is a budget that gives us the resources necessary to be the Church God needs us to be today, here and now.

Therefore, what I'm asking you to do this fall is to **make a generous pledge to Saint Andrew's 2027 operating budget**. If you've gotten yourself into a 'giving rut' with regard to Saint Andrew's, I want you to boldly stretch yourself, within all reasonable means, to **put Saint Andrew's at or near the top of all your charitable giving** – and I want you to do so at a proportional percentage that you're proud of – a level that helps you say with confidence that you're doing all you can to support God's good work in us, among us, and through us. We know you'll give prayerfully and generously, starting at 3-5% of annual income, while stretching toward the biblical tithe of 10%. You can count on my pledge and the pledges of all your identified leadership. Together, we can co-invest in the exciting work of re-imagination and redevelopment to which you've called me to serve in partnership with you.

There is so much good work already happening here and so much more within reach. Please pledge today – and **not later than Sunday, October 11th** – to help turn what's possible into what's real.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about your 2027 pledge, please don't hesitate to call me directly at 253.970.7252.

I am yours, in Christ,

Paul+

Preferences for pledge payment

- Set up automatic giving through your bank (0% service fee)*
- Set up automatic giving through Vanco – see QR code (3% service fee)*
- Pay monthly by personal check or cash. Either return a pledge card to church on Sunday or pledge electronically below.



* = ensures maximum cash flow consistency for the business office