



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Great
= IS THY =
Faithfulness

STEWARDSHIP 2022

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FROM THE RECTOR

What does “faithfulness” mean to you?

Faithfulness is a word that pops up ubiquitously throughout our Christian story. There are, it seems, about as many Scripture verses about God's faithfulness to us, as there about our call to be faithful to God.

Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy, reminding him that of the One Whose faithfulness is secure, writing, *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful –for He cannot deny Himself;”* (II Timothy 2:13). That's a good word, don't you think?

TURN TO JESUS

How do you think we are to respond to that? I think a good place to get our answer is to turn to Jesus. Oswald Chambers (d. 1917) wrote, *“Watch where Jesus went. The one dominant note in his life was to do his Father's will. His is not the way of wisdom or success, but the way of faithfulness.”*

When I read that, there is a hunger in me to be “that kind” of Christian. I often fail – often – but I know that the invitation to faithfulness is just that – an invitation.

As Jesus' followers, we respond to that kind of invitation in the way we make our ethical and moral decisions, the way we treat others, the way

we allow spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, meditation, worship, etc.) to shape and form us. These are all ways that we live into the call to be faithful.

GIVING SHOULD COME NATURALLY

But there is another way, an important one; it has to do with stewardship – the way we share with God a portion of the good gifts He has given to us. If you are a longtime member of St. Martin's, or even a new member, you have probably heard one or more of our Clergy team speak of the “biblical principal of tithing.” For many that is an easy thing to do, for others hard, for some, unthinkable. And yet, from ancient times to the present, “tithing” is held as the norm for God's children—giving back to God's work about 10 percent of what has given to us,. (Of course, we are only giving back what is His in the first place, because He has chosen to loan it to us!). Giving, should for Jesus' followers, be as natural as breathing, for it is God's giving that made your life possible.

PRAY ABOUT GIVING BACK

We enter now that time of year when we consider our faithfulness in the way of generosity. As Laura and I will pray, I invite you to pray, to look upon the many gifts given to you and consider how you can sacrificially give back to the work of Jesus in and through St. Martin's.

You can hold back, of course – but let Jesus' words in Luke speak to you; *“For in the same measure you give, it will be given to you;”* (Luke 6:38).

God in Christ Jesus is doing much at St. Martin's – in discipleship, ministry, worship, fellowship, service and mission – the more we support that work, frankly the more your Church can do. That is “the way of faithfulness.” That was Jesus' way – may His way be ours as well.

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. – Rector

GETTING STARTED

Maybe you have never made an annual stewardship pledge, or maybe you didn't take part last year because of circumstances beyond your control. Either way, we ask those who didn't pledge last year to prayerfully **Get Started** or to **Get Started Again**. Your gift will help St. Martin's continue its Christ-centered ministries. Thank you!



YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD THE TITHE

Now is our opportunity to consider how we will respond to God's generosity to each of us. Pause and pray about your giving to further His work. The Bible and our tradition teach that a tithe is the full 10 percent of one's income given specifically for the work of the Church.



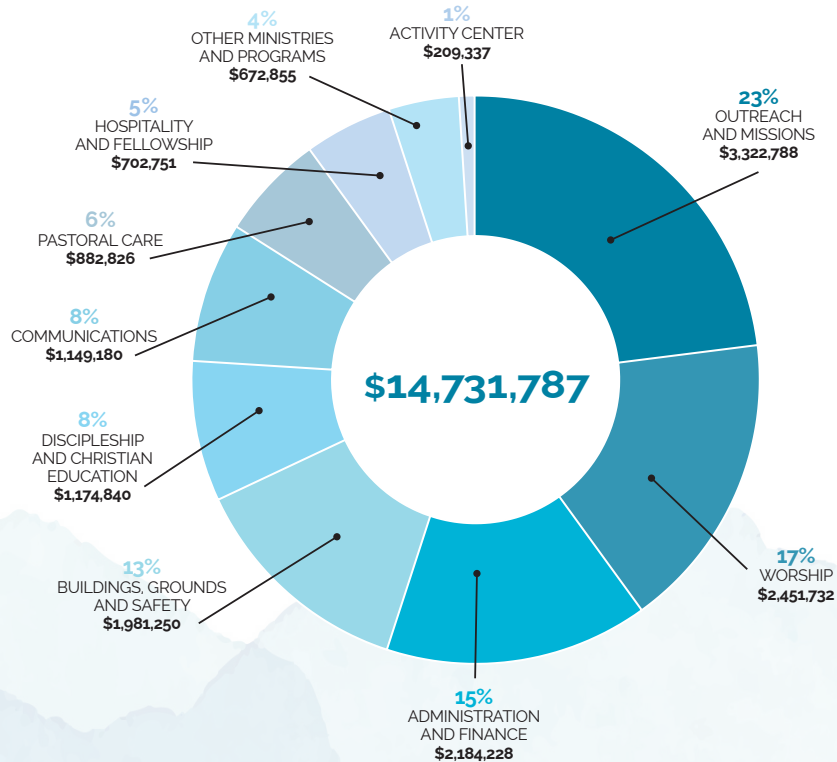
| ANNUAL GROSS INCOME | TITHE | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 10% |
| 25,000 | 250 | 500 | 750 | 1,000 | 1,250 | 1,500 | 1,750 | 2,000 | 2,250 | 2,500 |
| 50,000 | 500 | 1,000 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 3,000 | 3,500 | 4,000 | 4,500 | 5,000 |
| 100,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 9,000 | 10,000 |
| 250,000 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 7,500 | 10,000 | 12,500 | 15,000 | 17,500 | 20,000 | 22,500 | 25,000 |

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

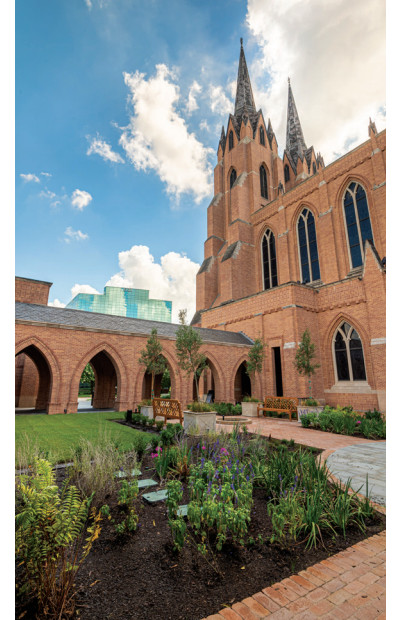
– Psalm 33:4 NIV

2021 BUDGETED EXPENSES

BECAUSE OF YOUR GIFTS OF **\$14,731,787**



For in the same measure
you give, it will be given to you.
– Luke 6:38



ST. MARTIN'S PRESCHOOL **2020/2021 BUDGET** **\$ 3,143,758**

The Preschool budget is based on the school-year calendar.

HOPE AND HEALING CENTER & INSTITUTE **2021 BUDGET** **\$ 3,360,000**

*St. Martin's currently supports the overhead of St. Martin's Episcopal Preschool
and the Hope and Healing Center & Institute.*

UNDERSTANDING PLEDGING AND GIVING

Pledging and giving go hand-in-hand and both help our Vestry guide the Parish. They work together as we grow and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Early in the church's history, church leaders made week-to-week decisions using the offerings to support the church. **Today the scope, size and complexity of our Parish life requires our Vestry to budget skillfully and carefully for the year ahead. This is why, we ask you, if possible, to make an annual commitment to St. Martin's in the form of a pledge.** Throughout the year, your gifts count toward fulfilling that pledge. This helps us predict the resources that will be available over the course of a year.



You can also link directly to the online pledge card at stmartinsepiscopal.org/stewardship-form

YOUR 2022 PLEDGE

PRAY. As you pray, please consider expressing your gratitude for all your many blessings through a pledge (if possible, a proportional percentage pledge) to St. Martin's.

PLEDGE. Make your pledge to the Parish by filling out the pledge card and returning it to the address listed on the back of the envelope provided or by filling out the online pledge form at stmartinsepiscopal.org/stewardship-form. The more pledges we receive in the days ahead, the better we can prepare your church budget for the coming year.

PRAY. Once you have turned in your pledge, pray yet again. Pray that you can fulfill that pledge as the coming year unfolds and pray that the leaders of St. Martin's are, as you have been, faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to their leadership.



ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FAITHFUL MINISTRIES

Through our gifts of time, talent and treasure, St. Martin's members have built robust ministries that reach those in our Parish and beyond. As we welcome new members and families into the Church and our work for Christ, your generous expressions of faithfulness help build God's kingdom and make a difference for eternity.

Our worship options continue to grow with our new **RIVERWAY** service. Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** is open again in its beautiful Children's Life Center where youngsters enjoy Sunday School, choir and interactive activities. Communion Instruction Classes begin in October and we continue to baptize and minister to more than 1,900 children age 12 and under in our Parish. Our **STUDENT MINISTRIES'** leaders are creating strong bonds with our middle school and high school youth and their families, with new Family Dinners, mission trips, retreats and activities that are designed for gathering and growing in Christ – whether in person or virtually. Our **YOUNG ADULTS** and **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES** have nearly exploded with six Sunday School offerings along with social opportunities and new date-night options including **ST. MARTIN'S COOKING CLASSES**.

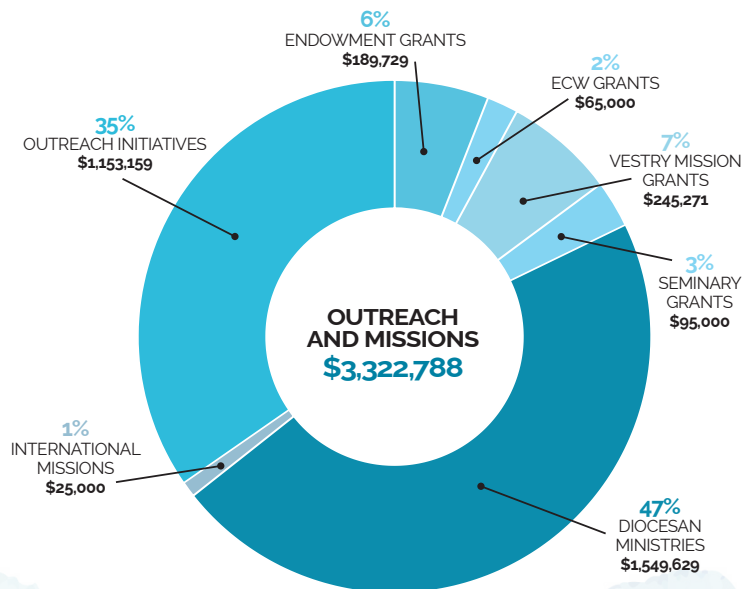
Our **MUSIC MINISTRIES** fill The Church, Christ Chapel and The Parish Life Center with traditional and contemporary song. While most of the Parish is back in person, our **PASTORAL CARE** and **PRAYER MINISTRIES** offer in-person and online options, keeping the Parish connected while offering prayers and serving all who are in need. **MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY** continues to welcome and nurture new members.

Our **WOMEN'S, MEN'S** and **OUTREACH MINISTRIES** continue to make a positive difference reflecting both God's faithfulness to His people and our faithfulness to making and growing His disciples. This year **STERLING'S MARKET** will bring a new opportunity for us to reach our neighbors and to bring the St. Martin's family together.

The **ST. MARTIN'S PRESCHOOL** continues to serve families and children with superb programs under great leadership.

In addition, our **HOPE AND HEALING CENTER & INSTITUTE** continues to expand clinical services while training clergy, staff and volunteers across Greater Houston and beyond. Your faithful pledges and gifts make these opportunities in and through St. Martin's possible.

ESTIMATED 2021 OUTREACH AND MISSION GIVING



POWERED BY FAITH

With your gifts of time, talent and treasure, St. Martin's **OUTREACH and MISSIONS MINISTRIES** support efforts on many fronts. During the past year, we have worked to fight human suffering across Houston and beyond. Through partner agencies and direct efforts, we serve the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed and victims of human trafficking. And we support missionaries working across the globe.

Visit our website for a complete list of our partner agencies and 2021 grant recipients.

OUR CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Rev. Martin J. Bastian | The Rev. Sharron L. Cox |
| The Rev. Dr. Chad T. Martin | The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr. |
| The Rev. Dr. Susannah E. McBay, Ph.D. | The Rev. James E. Cunningham |
| The Rev. Alex D. Graham III | The Rev. Nicolas R. D. Dyke |
| The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson | The Rev. Richard Elwood |
| The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson | The Rev. Gill Keyworth |
| The Rev. R. Wesley Arning | The Rev. Robert E. Wareing |

**Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope
we profess, for He who promised is faithful.**

– Hebrews 10:23



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**For more information about pledging at
St. Martin's or questions about any information
in this brochure, please contact:**



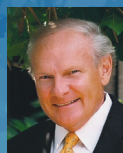
The Rev. Martin J. Bastian, Vice-Rector
lgallien@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3831



Ashley Pratka, Director of Parish Stewardship
apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 346-335-8658



Jim Hibbert, Vestry Senior Warden
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Robert Heston, Jr., Parish Stewardship Chair
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Debbie Hutchison, Accounting Supervisor
dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3803



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