



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# All-In *for* STEWARDSHIP

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TIME ■ TALENT ■ TREASURE

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**"As each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one another, as good stewards  
of God's varied grace." – 1 Peter 4:10**





## FROM THE RECTOR

### Are you All In for Stewardship?

When you hear the words, "All In," what comes to mind? Maybe you think of a time when you were on a sports team and the coach invited every member of the team to circle up, put their hands in the middle and chant "All In!" Maybe it was a project, and your boss wanted all the key players to back it — to be "All In!"

Some 70 years ago, a band of about 250 Tanglewood neighbors came together, and at the invitation of a young priest named Tom Bagby, decided they were "All In" to build a new church at the edge of Houston. There was nothing more than a sage field where our Church is now. But through their hearty and full-throated commitment and sacrifice of time, talent and treasure — a Church was born.

Since that time, St. Martin's has grown in ways our forebears could have never imagined. As you walk our expansive Campus today, worship within our majestic spaces, gather for education and fellowship in classrooms, and receive care and support from our Clergy and others in pastoral support — there can only be one fitting response — *gratitude*. Gratitude for God's gifts and gratitude for those members past and present who have made what we now enjoy possible.

On behalf of the Vestry, our members – and most importantly, on behalf of our Lord — I implore you, to be **"All In"** when it comes to support the work of Jesus Christ in and through our Parish. **I ask you — today — to pray about making a financial pledge to St. Martin's for 2023.**

"All In," means just that. Consider this:

- In 2022, only about 42% of Parish households made a financial pledge to St. Martin's. What about the other 58%? If last year you were part of that 58% who didn't pledge, I ask that you switch sides for 2023. Pray, ask our Lord for guidance; join the other members of your Parish family and be **"All In."**
- We teach the principal of "tithing"— giving about 10% of what God has entrusted to your care back to His work. If you did not make a pledge in 2022, take that first step toward the tithe in 2023. If you made a pledge, but did not reach the tithe, make a decision to increase your pledge over and beyond last year's and grow your giving year-to-year until you reach it, showing in the process that you are **"All In."**
- If you pledged in 2022 and reached that Biblical goal – give thanks to God for your courageous decision – and in 2023, continue your generosity and be **"All In!"**
- If your circumstances have changed, and you find it necessary to decrease your giving, please know that it is not the "size" of one's pledge that matters. A decision born of prayer and thoughtful devotion matters far more than a "line item" in your household budget. When you pray, and when you make a decision as a fruit of that prayer, trust me, you are **"All In!"**
- Lastly, if you have younger children and teens, make a decision as a family and encourage them to make their own pledge too. It is important for every member of the household to support our Lord's work and to say, **"I am All In!"**

Here you have, in your hands, an invitation — to be like those first brave and farsighted missionaries who gathered in 1952 where St. Martin's now stands and said,

**"We are All-In!"**

Will you join them?

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





# All-In *for* STEWARDSHIP

Are you All In for 2023 as we prayerfully make our promises for giving our time, talent and treasure to St. Martin's? No matter if you are just getting started on your stewardship journey or if you eagerly anticipate this special time of prayer and commitment, know your decisions and gifts will support God's work through St. Martin's.

## YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD THE TITHE

Now is our opportunity to consider how we will respond to God's generosity. The Bible and our traditions teach that a tithe is the full 10 percent of one's income given specifically for the work of the Church. Take time as you read this brochure to pause and pray about your giving to further his work.

ANNUAL GROSS INCOME	JOURNEY TOWARD THE 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
75,000	750	1,500	2,250	3,000	3,750	4,500	5,250	6,000	6,750	7,500
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

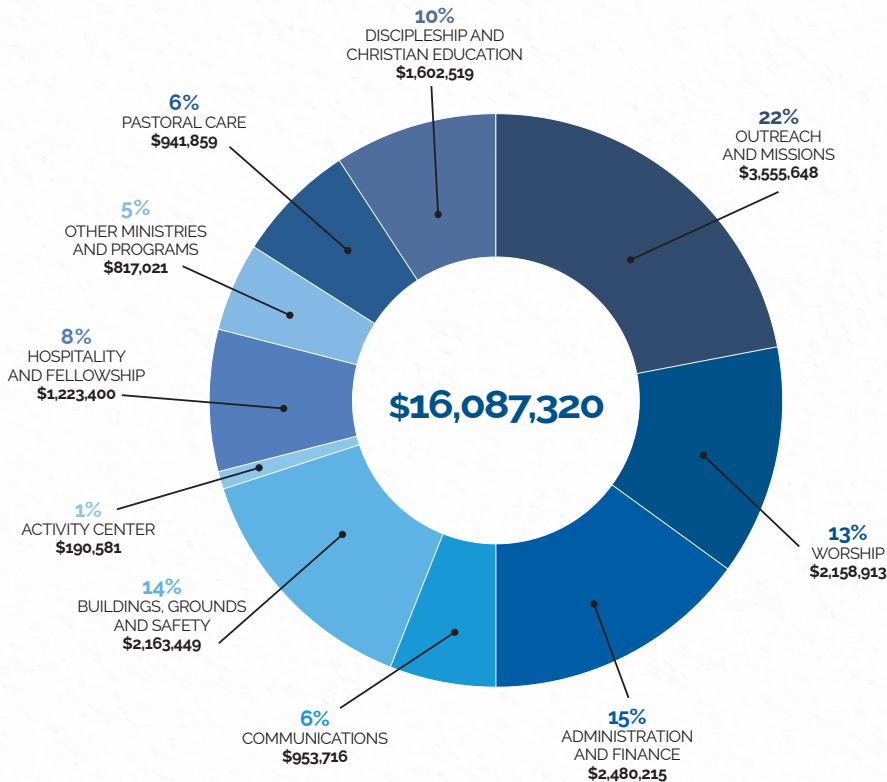
**"Invite God into your heart – so that giving becomes as natural as breathing, for in giving back to Him, to His work – you are doing one of the most godly things you can do." – Luke 6:38**





# 2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES

BECAUSE OF YOUR GIFTS OF **\$16,087,320**



ST. MARTIN'S PRESCHOOL **2021/2022 BUDGET** ..... \$ 3,179,002

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

HOPE AND HEALING CENTER & INSTITUTE **2022 BUDGET** ..... \$ 4,194,630

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





# A PLEDGE IS A PROMISE TO GIVE

As you begin to pray about your 2023 pledge to St. Martin's, know that this promise helps your Vestry guide the Parish as we work together to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ. Early in the Church's history, church leaders made week-to-week decisions based on weekly donations and other gifts. Today the scope, size and complexity of our Parish requires our Vestry to budget skillfully and carefully. **Therefore, your pledge, your promise for giving in the year ahead, is critical.** As you give throughout the year, your gifts to the general fund are deducted from the amount you pledged, and your quarterly statements will help you track your progress. You might wonder, "What happens if my circumstances change after I make my pledge?" If that occurs, simply reach out to the Church and amend your pledge, lowering it or raising it as needed.



## YOUR 2023 PLEDGE: IT ALL BEGINS WITH PRAYER

**PRAY.** As you pray, please consider expressing your gratitude for all your many blessings with a pledge – if possible, a percentage of what God has bestowed on you and your family.

**PLEDGE.** Make your pledge to the Parish by filling out the pledge card included in this packet and return it in the return envelope or fill out the online pledge form at [bit.ly/smec2023stewardship-stmartinsepiscopal.org](https://bit.ly/smec2023stewardship-stmartinsepiscopal.org). The more pledges we receive, the better we can prepare our Church budget for the coming year.

**PRAY AGAIN.** Once you have turned in your pledge, pray again. Pray that you can fulfill that pledge as 2023 unfolds and pray that the leaders of St. Martin's are, as you have been, faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to their leadership.





## SERVING FAITHFULLY AS HE CALLS US

Fueled with the same passion as our forebears who envisioned forming this Church when they saw only a field of sage, your commitment, actions and generosity continue to build God's Kingdom — work that will truly last for eternity. Our gifts of time, talent and treasure reach those in our Parish, in Houston and beyond — even to far remote corners of the world. Thanks to your generosity and faithfulness, we continue to welcome new members and families, expanding our "family" that grows with His spirit. Truly, those who call St. Martin's home understand the sheer power of being "All In."

**WORSHIP** is at the heart of this Christ-led Church, as we offer traditional, family and contemporary options to our rapidly growing congregation of nearly 10,000 members. Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** continues to tell The Story to new generations, with a modern curriculum and the beautiful, new mosaic of Noah's Ark that now graces the entry of our Children's Life Center, an inspiring and playful addition that brings smiles to young and old alike. Through communion instruction classes, baptisms and **FAMILY MINISTRIES'** activities, we connect with more than 1,900 children under the age of 12 in our Parish. **STUDENT MINISTRIES** connects with middle-school and high-school students, giving opportunities for fellowship, growing in faith and leadership through mission trips, retreats and myriad of other activities.

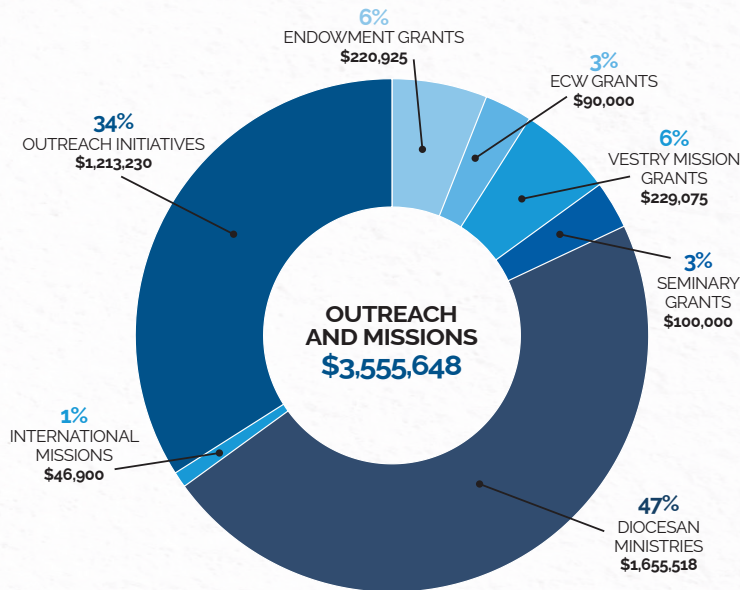
Our **YOUNG ADULT** and **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES** offer a full complement of studies and fellowship opportunities, and our new

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES** promise to build even deeper connections among our members. Old favorites, such as the Wednesday Night Lenten series and the sweet sounds of our **MUSIC MINISTRIES'** choirs and special performances, provide continuity, while new options such as **ST. MARTIN'S COOKING CLASSES** and **STERLING'S MARKET** expand and enrich our member's lives. This year, we are recharging the **ACTIVITY CENTER'S** programs with opportunities for all ages ranging from Senior Strength Training to Watercolor Painting. We are thankful for our **CLERGY** and our **PASTORAL CARE** and **PRAYER MINISTRY TEAMS** that tend to those who seek prayer, guidance, healing and comfort. This may be the year that our **MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY** team welcomes in our 10,000th member — but more importantly, the Parish welcomes and nurtures **EVERY** new member providing a solid foundation for thriving in this community. Our **WOMEN'S, MEN'S and OUTREACH** and **MISSIONS MINISTRIES** make and grow disciples for Jesus Christ daily as they focus on serving where they are called at home and abroad.

Our **ST. MARTIN'S PRESCHOOL** families understand the care and love our teachers provide as they offer outstanding programs, and this year a dedicated Preschool Chaplain will allow St. Martin's to serve an even broader range of needs. **OUR HOPE AND HEALING CENTER & INSTITUTE** continues to expand, offering clinical services and training Clergy, Staff and volunteers to meet the growing needs in our communities. Yes, this is what an **"All-In"** commitment can accomplish as we share God's abundant love.



# ESTIMATED 2022 OUTREACH AND MISSION GIVING



## ALL IN – GIVING YOUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

With your gifts of time, talent and treasure, St. Martin's **OUTREACH AND MISSIONS MINISTRIES** support critical efforts on many fronts. During the past year, the Church has worked to carry God's love, fighting human suffering across Houston and beyond. Through partner agencies and direct efforts,

St. Martin's serves the homeless, the hungry, the lonely and the unemployed. Your gifts help fight human trafficking, support missionaries across the globe and serve senior citizens and give hope to children. Learn more at [stmartinsepiscopal.org/ministries/outreach/serve-in-the-community](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/ministries/outreach/serve-in-the-community).

**"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

## OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ — The Head of This Church

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.  
The Rev. Martin J. Bastian  
The Rev. John D. Sundara  
The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson  
The Rev. Dr. Susannah E. McBay, Ph.D.

The Rev. Alex D. Graham III  
The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson  
The Rev. Sharron L. Cox  
The Rev. R. Wesley Arning  
The Rev. Naomi Sundara

The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.  
The Rev. James Cunningham  
The Rev. Nicolas R. D. Dyke  
The Rev. Richard H. Elwood  
The Rev. Gillian B. Keyworth

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# Yes! I am All In!

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



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