

# ♥ A GENEROUS HEART ♥ 2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign

Fall 2023

Dear friends,

The 2024 annual renewal program is titled A Generous Heart. In 2023 we demonstrated this generosity by channeling a great deal of energy and excitement towards our varied outreach programs. Accordingly, the leadership team agreed that Chris Dennis, the Co-convenor of the Philanthropy and Outreach Vestry subcommittee, and I would write this year's letter.

As a community, we can make greater progress together than any one of us can do alone. Your generous support in 2023, building on the generosity of the 2020-23 Capital Campaign's creation of a \$250,000 Philanthropy and Outreach endowment, made it possible for us to distribute \$19,500 this year to worthy causes in the wider community – thus ensuring that we at St. Martin's continue to support those in need--at a level beyond what our numbers might suggest. Making a difference for good is a key aspect of our mission. Our hope is that you might keep this in mind as you consider your estimate of financial giving for 2024. (Please record your planned pledge using the enclosed card by Sunday, November 12.)

You will see from the pie chart of expenditures that we devote a large part of our income to the support of our essential operations. This ensures that there is someone on the end of a phone to receive the increasing number of requests for emergency financial help from those struggling to find rent, to pay utilities, and to put food on the table. By funding regular maintenance, we can also continue to open our facilities to the many groups meeting under our roof on a regular basis.

As you can see – we are able to make each dollar you pledge stretch a very long way. In an increasingly busy world, as we each may find we have less time and energy for volunteering our gifts of time and talent, we invite your consideration of sharing the third "T" accompanying the gifts of time and talent - namely treasure.

There's a story about a bishop who asked an elderly woman the secret of her longevity. She paused and then looking at him replied - it is to never resist a generous impulse for too long! As you prayerfully reflect on the level of your giving within the context of your overall circumstances, it's important to remember that for us to continue to make a meaningful impact for good in the world, we need to ensure that we have strong administration and a well-maintained facility from which to do so.

On behalf of the parish leadership, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your heartfelt generosity. Your prayerful giving in this season will enable the St. Martin's community to extend its work to support people in need and the vital community institutions that support them.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Sutherland  
Rector



Chris Dennis  
Philanthropy and Outreach

**Saint Martin's Episcopal Church**

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## **St. Martin's Narrative Budget Story**

### **What is a narrative budget?**

A narrative budget is a visual way of presenting a budget that shows how our money is allocated to better equip us for God's purpose of healing the world. Salaries, building costs, and utilities are expenses that are necessary to our sacramental life and mission. When we make a promise to St. Martin's, we are not only helping to pay the bills, but we are also funding our journey together in living out our faith; loving one another and serving the wider community.

### **How do we spend our treasure?**

At St. Martin's we allocate money in five broad areas:

- Worship Life: 43% of our budget
- Formation & Education: 8%
- Outreach & Service: 25%
- Fellowship: 15%
- Communication: 9%

### **Where does our income come from?**

- 70% of our income comes from our pledges
- 6% comes from regular non-pledge donations, holiday gifts, Sunday offering
- 4% comes from community groups and small businesses regularly using the building
- 10% comes from our Thrift Shop
- 10% comes from endowment earnings

### **What do we do with your financial commitment?**

Your commitment to St. Martin's supports our worship life by paying the salaries of our clergy, musicians and staff as well as robes, vestments and altar supplies. It keeps our building open, and the lights and heat on, so that we can worship together, hold church events, and open our doors to local performers. Maintaining St. Martin's as a beautiful and safe facility requires continuous upkeep.

Your commitment to St. Martin's supports Christian formation and education for our youth and adults. We have beautiful spaces to gather together for classes, meditation, prayer, and discussion. Your promise also pays for needed materials.

Your commitment to St. Martin's also supports outreach and service to the broader community. We open our doors to many community organizations, such as AA, offering them an affordable space to meet. We sponsor thriving clothing ministries and additional monies go directly into the community in the form of grants, food pantry support and school supplies. A portion goes to support the Diocese and its programs to benefit all the parishes.

Your commitment to St. Martin's supports fellowship activities for all ages: men's and women's groups, coffee hour, 20's/30's, Knitting, St. Martin's Feast, Easter festivities.

Communications keep us informed about our community's activities and fosters our open and affirming community.

## How do we Spend our Treasure?

