



# ST. AUGUSTINE of CANTERBURY

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Dear Parishioners,

When Father Wes asked me to be the Senior Warden, I thought, "Oh, no, I can't do that." Then I thought back on all his sermons about giving. Not just money, but time and skills and sharing. How we all need to step up and out of our comfort zone when called. So, I said okay.

Recently, he asked me to create a letter for the Stewardship package. I thought, "Oh, no, I can't do that." Here it is.

Stewardship is many things, but the annual drive has a lot to do about money because that is what makes the modern world go around. Not many of us have bushels of grain anymore.

How much money?

Our 2023 church budget is \$632,626.00, \$12,165 per week. Do you know that weekly attendance is counted and sent to the Diocese? As an usher, I count attendance at the 10:00am service and it averages about 115 parishioners, maybe 200 for all weekly services! Dividing \$632,626.00 by 200 is \$3,163 per person. "Wow."

How about if I bought God something? We could both golf at Meadowbrook Golf Course and have a drink for about \$140.00 or \$7,280 per year. Tickets for two at Riverside Theater for about \$200.00 or \$2,400 for 12 shows. Maybe enjoy a cheese pizza and drink weekly at Vittorio's for about \$32.00 or \$1,664 per year. Maybe Dunkin Donuts coffee and two donuts each, every morning, for about \$15.00 or \$5,475. Maybe coffee, milk, eggs and bacon at Publix and God can cook breakfast for about \$29.00 weekly or \$1,508 per year.

Normal things in our times are expensive, and I want to encourage you to commit your time, your talents, and your financial resources to the work of God's kingdom in and through St. Augustine. Your financial support will continue to help our ministries flourish.

We are the body of Christ, we are the church. Come and worship, come and serve, commit to being the church.

Whatever amount you can give, it is never too big or too small, you will find God's work can be done. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Blessings,

Karen McIntyre