



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The year has seemed to fly by. It is already November yet it seems much earlier. I had wanted to do so many things and yet they didn't happen. The children have grown up and have children of their own. I feel the need to share with my family that we need to set aside time for the family to get together in a growing way that will bring us closer. What could be better than to get everyone together and attend church. This is a part of every week we can spend with our family and we can all grow in our spiritual life. This is growing in a way that can help all the family members, from young to old. Perhaps going to lunch afterwards and talking about the sermon and how it applies to members from old to young.

As I wrote about last year, when Covid hit, it changed the way our country did things. This virus has taken the lives of many loved ones, including ones that were part of our church. This year we have noticed that the restrictions that were in place, due to Covid, are starting to lessen. Many people are attending social get-togethers. We still need to be careful, but we can get together with loved ones and friends.

Churches are able to teach us about the Bible and help us along our journey. You will see friends, new and old, and learn new things. Churches have many bills, just like you and I. There are electric bills, water bills, insurance, and staff. Tithing and donations allow the Church to make all these payments and continue to help us along the journey we are on. Giving is also an act of worship, a grateful response to all God has done for us. November will be the month to pledge your giving for 2023. Let us start November by focusing on how important the Church is to your spiritual journey and your family's spiritual journey.

The past years have been hard but they have made us stronger. We did get through and we will keep pushing to be stronger. Our faith got us here and we will continue.

Please go to <https://sapcd.org/2023-stewardship-pledge> to fill out your pledge before the end of November. Remember that giving is not something we do just to meet the church's budget. It is one of the ways we lift up our hearts in gratitude for God's blessings. Giving and pledging to the church is not simply a financial transaction; it is an act of worship in which we encourage all the members of St. Andrews to participate.

Mike Bowman, Session Member





Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrews,

I am writing to ask you not to tithe to your church!

You are thinking that this is an odd way to begin a stewardship campaign letter, especially from the pastor. But your eyes do not deceive. Please do not tithe!

Reading the scriptures of the Hebrews, I hear another call by God.

*<sup>4</sup> The first fruits of your grain, your wine, and your oil, as well as the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him. Deuteronomy 18:4.*

For Israel, the idea of “First fruits” meant putting the Lord first in every part of your life. While tithing means giving 10 percent to the church, this scripture tells us that God wants your absolute best. The best we have to offer God is ourselves, our time, our talents, and our treasures. That is more than a mere ten percent.

St. Andrews is going through a huge transition and the Session has brought me on board to lead us through rough waters. It will take us all giving our very best to the Lord to see us safely on the other shore. That means stepping up and volunteering to help. Lead worship, sing in the choir, join the praise band, serve on boards and committees. It means working in the gardens, painting the buildings, and other ministries. The church also needs folks dedicated to praying for our congregation, and for the world. God wants your very best time, talents, and prayer.

It also means supporting the budget of the church with your treasures. The Session-approved budget comes with this mailing. You see it takes quite a bit of funding to support the ministry of proclaiming Christ to the world.

Although the Presbyterian process is slow, I am pleased to report that there is progress toward calling an installed pastor. The congregation has elected a Pastor Nominating Committee and they are beginning their work. For now, we can rejoice in God’s constant love. So, please do not tithe. Give your best to our God who gave all, His Son Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace.

Your Pastor.

Rev, Dr. Jeff Guild

