

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November 5, 2023



Dear Friends,

In our ever-changing world, where uncertainty seems to be the only constant, the enduring presence of St. Andrew's on Boca Grande has stood as a beacon of stability and hope for well over a century. As I reflect on the past year, my heart overflows with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication that each one of you has shown towards our beloved church community.

Amid the tumultuous challenges of the past few years, from navigating a global pandemic to weathering the devastating impact of a Category 5 hurricane, St. Andrew's has remained a steadfast sanctuary—a place where faith, love, and support converge. In a time when so much has become uncertain, our church stands firm, a testament to God's presence and a cornerstone of strength in our lives. For this, I am truly grateful.

As we step into this new season, it's an opportune moment to consider how we express our gratitude through our stewardship. St. Andrew's is not just a physical structure but a symbol of love, a source of peace, a refuge for spiritual growth, and a launching pad for God's work in the world. However, to continue to fulfill these invaluable roles, the financial health of our church is crucial.

Annual giving opens the doors to our spiritual home by funding 88% of our annual operating budget. It is the cornerstone through which we can secure the financial stability of our parish and ensure that St. Andrew's can continue to be a guiding light in your life and in the life of the wider community. Yet, these past three years have taken a toll on our membership and our financial resources and we are facing financially insecure times. I ask that you review the brochure Included in this packet. It provides an overview of the financial picture here at St. Andrew's.

Upon reviewing the materials, I hope you will take time in the next few days to reflect and pray for God's guidance on how you can best support your church family in the coming year. Your commitment to the annual stewardship campaign ensures that our church remains robust and capable of continuing Christ's work in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your past support, and may your ongoing generosity be a testament to the love and grace that binds us together as a community.

With heartfelt appreciation and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Michelle" followed by a small cross symbol.

Reverend Michelle Robertshaw
Rector