

# The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

◆ TORONTO ◆

RECONNECT, REFRESH,  
RENEW

Stewardship 2022



## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our stewardship campaign this year has for its theme, the 3 "R"s, not Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic, but rather, *Reconnect, Refresh, and Renew*. This theme clearly speaks to our present situation as we emerge cautiously from the restrictions of the pandemic. As more people feel comfortable in attending church in-person, our services and other activities are beginning to return. This will certainly be a time for Reconnecting as the community rebuilds relationships and bonds that bring us together as a parish. But the reality is that both the world and our parish on the other side of the pandemic will be different. As one example, we know that our parish community has benefited tremendously from our ability to share worship, fellowship, and educational opportunities on digital platforms. I am sure that going forward we will want to continue something of this digital outreach. There will be many other changes also as we are called to refresh and renew our worship, our missional outreach, our sharing of the faith with all ages to reflect this new reality. Only in this way can we truly fulfil our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Because of the ongoing faithful stewardship of so many during this past year, our parish has remained in a strong position. In this stewardship campaign we are asking each of us to think of the future, to respond to the needs of our parish, that we can refresh and renew to ensure that we can continue to build a healthy and vibrant community. God's grace has been with us throughout these past months. Now God is calling us to make the best use possible of all of our resources – time, talent, and treasure – as we embrace the new challenges and opportunities that the upcoming months will bring. May each of us respond as we are able with generosity and love as we give thanks for the amazing generosity of our generous God.

Yours in Christ,

*Father Philips+*



## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a complete lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all. Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, action and offering by eagerly sharing these gifts out of love of God and one another.

Stewardship is about far more than money. It is also about offering our Time and our varied Talents to build our community. St. Martin's simply could not operate, and certainly could not get involved with all the activities that we currently do, or hope to do, without the significant volunteer efforts of so many parishioners.

Each of us has different talents, available time and financial resources to share. You may already be contributing a great deal in one or more of these areas. As we emerge from the pandemic your continued support of St. Martin's both in financial and time and talents is needed now more than ever. And if you haven't shared your time or talent in the past, please consider getting involved in some way. Fill in your Pledge and Time & Talent sheet today.

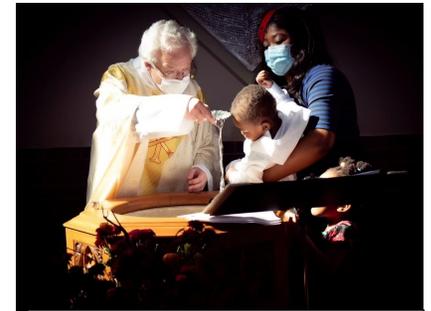


photo: Okechi Okojie

*I have been coming across the city to the garden at St Martin's for a long time. Sometimes I bring a book and never open it - I just sit in the peace and quiet, and I talk to God. The Church has always been part of my life; I was a server and a chorister from a boy in Guyana. During the pandemic, spending time in the garden has been a way to be near the church. Sometimes it was a peaceful place; other times when everything was shut down, I enjoyed that I was with other people. Just being here with the building made me still feel part of the church.*  
Carleton Abraham, Parishioner

## RECONNECT, REFRESH, RENEW

The theme of Stewardship this year reflects our hope that as we come out of the pandemic we can literally reconnect with one another, refresh our bonds, and renew our faith and our church. During the pandemic, our lives have been disrupted in ways we could never have imagined. But the parish has survived and continues to support its important ministries which may, through God's grace, have opened doors for the future as well.

We have been able to use technology to maintain contact and our spiritual activities. This has been made possible through the financial resources provided by you and other parishioners, and because so many of you have contributed your time and talents in many new ways.

- Through Zoom we were able to stay connected virtually for coffee hours, worship and the ongoing life of committees.
- Because of newly invested resources we can now provide high quality live-streaming of our church services on YouTube
- Zoom has allowed us to provide expanded Wednesday evening Christian Ed gatherings with presentations and discussion on a



wide range of topics always ending peacefully with Compline (all from the comfort of home!)

- Zoom has also provided an opportunity for our children to experience monthly online Messy Church activities; and for young people to continue the Youth Group.
- A dedicated team of parishioners has made telephone call-outs to check in with as many as possible on the parish list, and to stay in touch especially with those who do not have

access to Fr Philip's emails or the St. Martin's website

- Thanks to the ongoing effort of volunteers, the church garden continued to be a place of respite and safe gathering for the parish and our wider community
- We were able to hold a physically-distant walkathon on the Toronto Islands in support of FaithWorks

In these times of still unpredictable challenges we have, more than ever, our high calling in Christ Jesus to be a people who strive to support and sustain one another, to foster a sense of community, and to reach out to those around us.

As the parish looks forward to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building, we look forward to not only continuing and growing these efforts, but also to when we can start other new ministries (such as an exercise program for older adults). Your support is needed during these critical times and is greatly appreciated.

We continue to renew and augment our Children's and Youth Ministry. It is instructive to observe how much we rely on the talents of parishioners for important ministries such as Youth Education.

We hope to re-establish our Outreach ministries as we emerge from the pandemic and there is a lot of time and effort that volunteer parishioners will put in. Your support here is also needed and we welcome new team members.

2022 will be an important and pivotal year and we all must focus our efforts and provide as much financial and volunteer support to St. Martin's as possible.

**SOON BEGINS A NEW YEAR IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR. MAY THE WORDS WE WILL HEAR IN THE ADVENT BLESSING INSPIRE OUR ACTIONS AND COMMITMENT: "BE STEADFAST IN FAITH, JOYFUL IN HOPE, AND UNTIRING IN LOVE ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE."**

*I'm very glad to be able to share my technical skills with livestreaming at St. Martin's. Producing live video content is no easy task, and it's wonderful to see the people at St. Martin's embrace the technology and, most importantly, commit to organizing a team to share the operation duties each Sunday. It's very fulfilling to pass on my professional experience to others and see what they can create with that knowledge.*

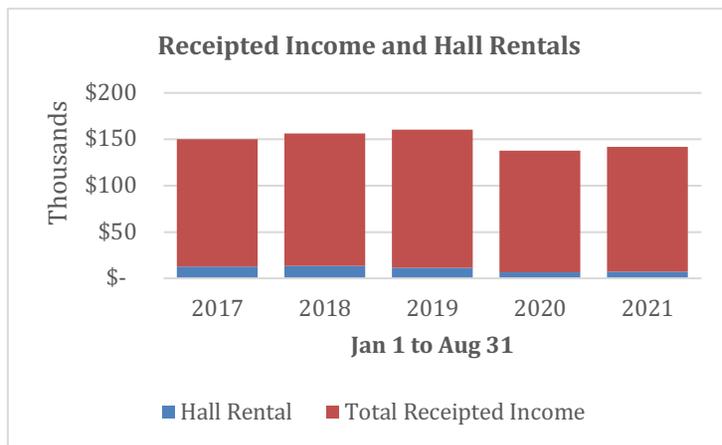
*Robert Snow, Member Management Board and Livestream Team*

## OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

St. Martin's depends on free will givings from our Parishioners. The health of our programs, services and the state of our Church and Rectory all rely on your financial contributions.

As we continue to experience the effects of the pandemic on our church life St. Martin's has been challenged to maintain connection with Parishioners, provide outreach, faith and spirituality. In 2020 we experienced a decline in financial givings compared to pre-COVID times, and in 2021 so far, givings remain depressed. Also due to COVID other sources of revenue from fund raising and hall rentals remain down significantly.

As seen in the chart below, both received income and hall rentals dropped in 2020 and recovery is not guaranteed. We are now more than ever dependent on your donations.



*When we were invited to join St. Martin's online coffee hours during the height of the pandemic, we couldn't say no. What a joy it would be to see friends from afar and reconnect, especially when it was hard to get together with anyone at that time! And when Fr. Philip started adding morning prayer to the time, it was like entering back in and being part of a community we loved and missed, praying and hearing the scriptures together. They even wrangled Matthew into helping run tech a few times from three time zones away. St Martin's became church and home for us all over again, even if it was 4,000km farther than our local parish.*  
Matthew & Monica Green, Parishioners

At the same time, the reduction of live services and activities due to COVID, has meant that our expenditures have also been reduced. This is about to change as we emerge from pandemic restrictions. Expenditures will soon return to pre-pandemic levels. We also have several important initiatives that we will need to fund going forward. They include a Children and Youth Ministry Leader and a new Office Administrator to relieve the burden on Fr Philip who has taken on many tasks that should properly be taken on by others. We look forward to receiving a new curate. We hope to introduce a Seniors Program as soon as practical. All of this will increase our financial commitments significantly.

We are extremely grateful for the contributions made by Parishioners so far this year, especially since many may be continuing to experience financial difficulties. We ask you to remember St. Martins in your charitable givings both for the remainder of 2021 and as you plan for 2022. If you are in a position to do so, please consider increasing your commitment to St. Martin's. We also need your pledge card as it is crucial for our planning for next year.

*Messy Church is a great balance. There is something for everyone. You can do the craft, listen to the Bible story and share your own stories. We also always have the craft tied in with the story that they tell, allowing us to learn and have the freedom to create using our own ideas. We also get yummy snacks.*

Angelika Simpson, Messy Church

*Messy church is a place where everyone is welcome no matter what.*

Leonora Simpson, Messy Church

As always, received givings enjoy the benefit of income tax credits. Tax receipts for the 2022 tax year will be issued in February, 2023

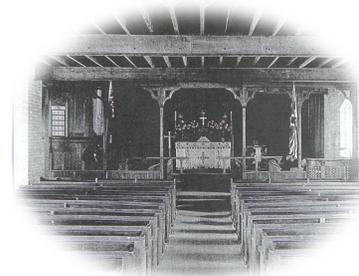
## WAYS TO GIVE

There are several ways you can donate money to St. Martin's:

**Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** is our preferred method for giving to the church - automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account (direct debit) or your credit card. To sign up for PAR, or to change your existing PAR instructions, please reach out to the Envelope Secretary, Nicholas Bell, at [nicholaswdbell@outlook.com](mailto:nicholaswdbell@outlook.com).

**Online giving** is now available by making an **eTransfer** from your bank account or through **Canada Helps**. Go to our website [www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca) and click on the "Donate" button at the top for more information

If you prefer, you may use the collection box when you attend church or mail a cheque to 151 Glenlake Avenue Toronto, ON, M6P 1E8.



*I was overjoyed that our parishioners' generosity meant that FaithWorks donations have actually increased during Covid. What has been more difficult is that we were not able to connect parishioners more closely to the work of the agencies which we support - the Out of the Cold program was suspended and casual parishioner contact with agencies such as Romero House has not been possible. It will be good to return to building those bonds as we emerge from the pandemic.*  
*Judith Kidd, Faithworks Coordinator and Member Christian Ed Committee*

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT ST. MARTIN'S. NATURALLY SOME GROUPS ARE NOT AS ACTIVE AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID.

<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Prepare Vestments, silver and flowers</i>
<b>Choir &amp; Music</b>	<i>11 a.m. Sunday service &amp; Advent Service</i>
<b>Christian Education</b>	<i>Study programs, Discussion groups</i>
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	<i>Children's ministry</i>
<b>Coffee Cohorts</b>	<i>Prepare &amp; serve coffee on Sundays</i>
<b>COVID Response Team</b>	<i>Greeters, Registrars, Cleaners</i>
<b>Garden Group</b>	<i>Maintain our gardens</i>
<b>Green Initiatives</b>	<i>Help us be a more eco-friendly Church</i>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<i>Ensure a safe Church environment</i>
<b>Heritage &amp; Archives</b>	<i>Maintain archives and special displays</i>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<i>Organizing Social Events</i>
<b>Library</b>	<i>Manage our book collection</i>
<b>Lychgate Limos</b>	<i>Provide transport to fellow church-goers</i>
<b>Management Board</b>	<i>Manage the property &amp; finances</i>
<b>Martin's Basement</b>	<i>Activities for youth 12-17</i>
<b>Martin's Table</b>	<i>Fellowship events for newcomers</i>
<b>Mission</b>	<i>Connecting with our neighbourhood</i>
<b>Newcomers</b>	<i>Programs to welcome newcomers</i>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<i>"Lychgate" published quarterly</i>
<b>Virtual Christmas Market</b>	<i>Our vibrant virtual COVID fair</i>
<b>Outreach</b>	<i>Serve the broader community</i>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<i>Coordinate programs &amp; events</i>
<b>Prayer Ministry</b>	<i>Supporting Parish life through prayer</i>
<b>Property Management</b>	<i>Participate in property up-keep</i>
<b>Quiet Garden</b>	<i>Retreats for spiritual growth</i>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Proclaim the scripture at services</i>
<b>Seniors Ministry</b>	<i>Programming for Seniors</i>
<b>Servers Guild</b>	<i>Serve at the altar; Acolytes to MC</i>
<b>Sidespeople</b>	<i>Welcome &amp; assist parishioners at worship</i>
<b>Social Media</b>	<i>Website &amp; Facebook Coordination</i>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<i>Growing Healthy Stewards</i>
<b>Technology</b>	<i>Livestream Team, IT support</i>

## My/Our Offering Intention for 2022

Please note: You can also complete this form on-line at <https://stmartininthefields.ca/time-talent-form-2021-22/>

God willing, it is my/our intention to respond to the needs of the parish and its ministries in 2022 as follows. I understand that my commitment may change should my circumstances also change.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred method of giving (please select one):

- Post-dated cheques
- Monthly envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Remittance
- e-Transfer
- Online through Canada Helps
- I will contribute as I am able
- I would like more information about planned giving / legacies

### Time and Talents – 2022

I would like to volunteer my time, energy, and talents to the following (ideas for new groups & activities are always welcome):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

A list of current groups and activities which require help are listed on the previous page.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tear off the Offering Intention sheet on the back page, complete and return in envelope provided on or before the Feast of the Reign of Christ, November 21<sup>st</sup> - Commitment Sunday. You can also complete this form on-line at [www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)*

*All pledge submissions are completely confidential*



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Facebook: [stmartininthefieldsTO](https://www.facebook.com/stmartininthefieldsTO)

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[www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)

