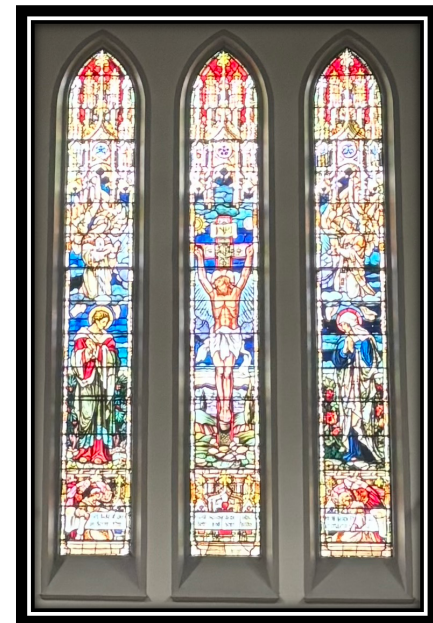


The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

♦ TORONTO ♦

MOVING FORWARD WITH
FAITH

Stewardship 2024



MESSAGE FROM FR. CAREFOOTE

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

"We are marching in the light of God!" I have fond affection for this rousing South African hymn which I sang for the first time here at St Martin-in-the-Fields back in the 1990s. Generally speaking, my taste in music is pretty staid, but even I couldn't resist the spell of this rhythmic song, with its steady, driving pulse. If we hadn't been in our choir stalls, I would have been compelled to break free and start walking ahead in time to the music. I think that's an apt image for this year's Stewardship Campaign theme, "Moving forward with Faith". We are indeed marching in the light of God. As a faith community, it is important to remember that fact, especially in a time of transition such as the parish is currently experiencing. Our pastors are, of course, crucial to the health and well-being of our community, feeding us, as they do, with God's holy word and sacraments. In time, however, even the most beloved of pastors moves on, but the church itself keeps on going. It presses forward because that is God's will. Its mission grows and expands because of you, the people of God, who are the beating heart of St Martin's. Once again this autumn, we are being asked to consider how we might best share our time, talent, and treasure within this faith community to keep the momentum going while we await a new priest-in-charge. The Book of Proverbs encourages us in this endeavour saying "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you" (Prov. 4:25). That doesn't mean forgetting the past. The long legacy of dignified worship and loving care for each other and the less fortunate among us is something of which we should rightly be proud. But with your help, and by God's grace, let us continue to move this parish forward in faith.

Yours in Christ,



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 continue to emerge from the pandemic your ongoing support of St. Martin's both financially and through your 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.



"For me, when I come to St Martin's, I know that I am joining in a part of God's family, and that feels good. Like any family there are all types, and we are not perfect, but at the heart of this family is love, love that is reflected in the beauty of the worship, in the teaching and the warmth people show to one another. I feel that God's love is well reflected here."

Zoe Theissen

MOVING FORWARD WITH FAITH

The theme for Stewardship this year acknowledges that this is a pivotal time for St. Martin-in-the-Fields. We have been moving out of the restrictions that Covid brought and life is now returning to normal; or perhaps more accurately to a new “normal”. Some of the changes brought by Covid will no doubt remain: the Live-Streaming of services, the manner in which we exchange the Peace, and having some parish meetings conducted through Zoom.

We are in a period of transition following the retirement back in April of Fr. Philip after 26 years of faithful service as our Incumbent. The Parish Selection Committee is now moving ahead with the task of hiring a new Incumbent.



As a parish, we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, both in terms of coming out of a global pandemic and, for many, the prospect of having a different pastoral leader for the first time. We will indeed witness a new chapter in the

life of St. Martin's.

At the same time, St. Martin's continues to move forward as the strong and vibrant church we have enjoyed for decades. We have a wonderful Interim Priest in Fr. Carefoote. We are helping to support a refugee family newly-arrived from Afghanistan, and our space is being used to support recently-arrived Ukrainian children with special needs as they adapt to their new life in Canada; Pickleball continues to attract participants from the community; we have a new and enthusiastic Children and Youth ministry leader in Finn Keesmaat-Walsh; the popular Christian Education series are continuing on Wednesday evenings, along with many other activities in the parish.

We are indeed moving forward with faith in the future of our parish. There will undoubtedly be some challenges ahead, including the financing of an expensive new furnace; but with God's help, and your personal support in the coming year, both through your volunteer efforts and in your financial support, there will be much to celebrate as we embark on a new era at St. Martin's.

"St Martin's has been part of my life for many years, in many capacities. Working with the Altar Guild has taught me a great deal about the history of both the Anglican Church in general and St Martin's itself. Flower arrangements add beauty to the liturgy and are a form of ministry to individuals in the parish."
Roberta Laking Kananaj

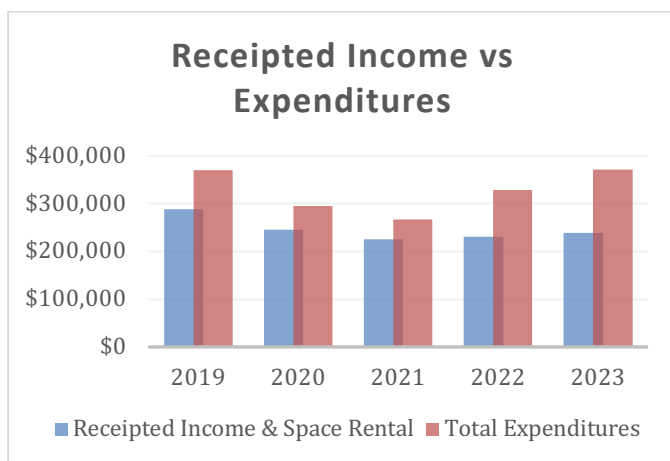


"Moving forward with faith requires listening to and reflecting on the word of God. I have always found this easy to do at St Martin's where we have a beautiful and peaceful space to be still and know He is God. St Martin's is also a place where we have been blessed with great teachers that lead us in exploring the Word of God."
Jonathan Gentry

OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

St. Martin's depends primarily on free will givings from our parishioners for the day-to-day running of the church and for long term programs and expenditures. The health of our programs, services and the state of our church and Rectory all rely on your financial contributions.

While the level of financial givings from parishioners has stabilized in the last two years, we have not seen the return of donations back to pre-Covid levels. However, as we return to normal activities, our expenses are increasing. And inflation has had a negative effect on expenses as well.



As can be seen on the above chart, our expenses are now pretty much back to pre-Covid levels but our donations are not.



Not shown here is the additional cost of the furnace replacement we had planned for in 2023. That plan has been delayed as the cost was significantly higher than anticipated.

Other important initiatives including a Children and Youth Ministry Leader and Office Administrator have moved forward and are now part of our ongoing operating costs. We will undoubtedly welcome a new Incumbent to St. Martin's in 2024 and we believe that additional clergy support will be desirable.

We are extremely grateful for the contributions made by parishioners so far this year. We ask that you remember St. Martin's in your charitable givings both for the remainder of 2023 and as you plan for 2024. If you are in a position to do so, please consider increasing your commitment to St. Martin's. We also ask that you complete and submit your Offering Intention for 2024 as it is crucial for our planning for the coming year.

"I love St. Martin's because the community is so kind and welcoming; everyone is approachable and friendly."
Ella Kennedy



As always receipted givings enjoy the benefit of income tax credits. Tax receipts for the 2024 tax year will be issued in February, 2025.



"We have attended St. Martin-in-the-Fields all our married life. While all religious services are enriching, St. Martin's provides a uniquely spiritual feast. The music, inspired by Jack Hattey and the choir, is unsurpassed; while the Anglo-Catholic expression of the liturgy speaks of a tradition steeped in history and holiness. We are an active congregation. Coming from so many different backgrounds, cultures, experiences and locations, together we make St. Martin's a beacon of diversity and a truly remarkable Christian community."
Dale and Bill Keel



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, Piers Hemmingsen, at piers.hemmingsen@gmail.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 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.

LEGACY GIVING

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ST. MARTIN'S IN YOUR WILL?

YOU CAN HELP CONTINUE THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE PARISH YOU CHERISH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME BY PROVIDING A BEQUEST TO ST. MARTIN'S IN YOUR WILL.

TICK OFF THE BOX IN THE PLEDGE FORM TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEGACY GIVING.

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."

My/Our Offering Intention for 2024

Please note: You can also complete this form on-line at <https://stmartininthefields.ca/time-talent-form-2023-24/>

God willing, it is my/our intention to respond to the needs of the parish and its ministries in 2024 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 – 2024

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/Text: _____

Email: _____

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT ST. MARTIN'S. REVIEW A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES ON OUR WEBSITE.

Altar Guild	<i>Prepare Vestments, silver and flowers</i>
Choir & Music	<i>11 a.m. Sundays & Special Services throughout the year</i>
Christian Education	<i>Speakers, study and discussion groups</i>
Children's Ministry	<i>Sunday activities and education, Nativity pageant</i>
Christmas Market	<i>Help with our annual market fund raiser</i>
Coffee Cohorts	<i>Prepare & serve coffee on Sundays</i>
Greeters	<i>Welcoming people to services</i>
Garden Group	<i>Design and maintain our gardens</i>
Health & Safety	<i>Ensure a safe church environment</i>
Heritage & Archives	<i>Maintain archives and special displays</i>
Hospitality	<i>Organize/schedule social events</i>
Library	<i>Manage our book collection</i>
Management Board	<i>Manage the property & finances</i>
Martin's Basement	<i>Activities for youth 12-17</i>
Missional	<i>Connecting with our neighbourhood, including Pickleball</i>
Newcomers	<i>Introducing newcomers to the parish</i>
Newsletter	<i>Write for The Lychgate published quarterly</i>
Outreach/Faithworks	<i>Service & justice to broader community</i>
Parish Council	<i>Coordinate committees, programs & events</i>
Property Management	<i>Participate in property up-keep</i>
Quiet Garden	<i>Retreats for spiritual growth</i>
Readers	<i>Proclaim the scripture at services</i>
Servers Guild	<i>Serve at the altar – from Acolytes to MC</i>
Sidespeople	<i>Assist parishioners at worship</i>
Social Media	<i>Website & Facebook Coordination</i>
Stewardship	<i>Develop steady supporting stewards</i>
Technology	<i>Livestream Team, IT support</i>

***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, 26 November 2023 - Commitment
Sunday. You can also complete this form on-line at
www.stmartininthefields.ca***

All pledge submissions are completely confidential



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