

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 2019 Parish Profile



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Introduction

Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church! As a parish in search of our next rector, we have spent many months in conversation, and this profile represents what we hold dear in our hearts and minds. We are a warm and caring congregation who takes pride in our connection with each other and our community, especially the children of our local area.

A Little History

St. Andrew's, which was first a mission, was founded by the Reverend Harry E. Robbins in a store front on October 2, 1905. A group of lay readers, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's, led the services until a priest was called. This same group, five of whom were later to become priests, had endorsed the concept of St. Andrew's Mission. In 1908, the first permanent building was opened serving 196 communicants and one church school pupil. This building had been planned with sufficient ingenuity so that the low, one-story structure could be converted from a church into a parish house, now known as the "Russell House", named in honor of Richard Russell, one of the first board members and first warden of the parish. The year 1911 brought St. Andrew's first resident minister-in-charge. An upper floor to the parish house was added in 1912 to provide a larger worship area.



The present church building, designed by Charles C. Coveney in traditional English Norman style, was consecrated and opened for services on December 9, 1923. By 1925, St. Andrew's church school boasted an enrollment of over three hundred, one of the largest in the diocese. An 1852 Stevens tracker pipe organ was purchased in 1975 and restored and installed by a small group of lay people who worked tirelessly over several years to give us an instrument of excellent quality. It was dedicated in 1981.

These accomplishments become all the more significant when one realizes that St. Andrew's has always been a "working man's" (and woman's) parish, who, until recent generations, were not afforded the benefit of post high school education or the salaries that often come along with further education.

The early history of St. Andrew's would show that as a result of the high concentration of textiles in the New Bedford area, the vast majority of the membership consisted of first and second generations English who earned their living by working in the mills. The people who

constitute St. Andrew's parish family now, are far more diversified in ethnic heritage and socio-economic background, yet still hold dear our predecessor's values.

Since its founding, St. Andrew's has had a total of twelve rectors leading our parishioners in worship. Our most recent rector, Rebecca Blair, helped us to think "outside the box" and opened our eyes to the very real possibilities right outside our doors. For the last fifteen years we've looked outward, to our community, to fulfill our need to serve. In 2012, our year-long Centennial Celebration, filled with activities for both our congregation and the community, is likely the spark that had the city and even the Diocese taking a second look at this modest church working to reinvent and reinvigorate itself!

Who We Are Today



Our survey results reveal that we are an older congregation with nearly half of our parishioners being sixty-six or older and another, approximately twenty-five percent falling between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five. We have slightly more female parishioners than male. Forty-four percent of our parishioners have been life-long members of the Episcopal Church and an additional twenty-eight percent have been members for at least fifteen years. While our socio-economic backgrounds vary, we are largely composed of working or retired professionals. While St. Andrew's was once a parish filled with textile mill and blue-collar workers who lived in the neighborhood, today our parishioners reside in the many communities surrounding New Bedford, with less than a third living in the City of New Bedford.

Why St. Andrew's?

"I value the ever-present sense of 'family'. Sometimes families have differing wants and goals, but we prevail in our pulling together for the common good."

So, what brings people to St. Andrew's? What keeps us here? Of course, we enjoy the music, meaningful sermons, the convenience of our placement in the city, and the pride we take in our

outreach programs. But, in our survey, three items were clearly very important to us. We enjoy the liturgy and the style of worship we share at St. Andrew's. It has just the right balance of long held tradition and forward-thinking acceptance. We look forward to participating in the many opportunities for fellowship through worship, work and fun. Finally, we love that when you come to St. Andrew's you will quickly make life-long friendships and likely become just one more family who can brag of generations of members.



Our Goals and Our New Spiritual Leader

After sharing our hopes and dreams, our parish family has come to believe that the following themes are at our very core and very important to our spiritual growth. In the coming years we hope to...

Continue to help newcomers feel at home.

Retain the supportive, inclusive, and warm fellowship we hold dear.

Sustain and expand Christian formation for both youth and adults.

Grow our numbers.

Become more financially stable.

We hope our new rector will be a person who brings his or her own ideas for growing our parish but who, at the same time, is committed to continuing the programs, outreach and fellowship that we have come to believe are the foundation of our community of faith. We are looking for someone who...

...leads from a place of empathy and heartfelt prayer.

...visits and offers support to parishioners who are homebound, ill, or in need.

...is open-minded and inclusive.

...connects with children and youth, and can incorporate them into the life and ministry of the church.

...is passionate about and encourages lay ministry.

...approaches challenges with optimism, creativity, and a sense of humor.

...appreciates and encourages St. Andrew's commitment to outreach.

...preaches with clarity and relates the Gospel to our daily lives.

...encourages and inspires others in the development of a deeper spiritual life.

...has an understanding of our love for our church and property and has a drive to preserve it.

Worship

"I am blessed to have found my spiritual home with God at St. Andrew's."

The people of St. Andrew's believe that Holy Communion feeds and strengthens us to go out into the world to serve God and one another. Thus, the Eucharist is the focus of our worship.

We worship in a beautiful brick church, set in between two major thruways in the city. On Sunday mornings we offer a 9:30 Rite 2 Eucharist with choir, service music, and congregational hymns. On the first Sunday of each month we also have an 8:00 Eucharist with no music. Recently, we have invited a guitarist/soloist to our 9:30 services on both the first and third Sundays of each month.

We have a very faithful congregation, most attending our service each and every week.



Outreach

"I am very proud to be a part of a congregation that knows how to show God's love in our neighborhood and in the world."

Historically, outreach has been viewed as a hallmark of St. Andrew's. For many years, however, our outreach consisted mainly of our parish inviting groups to use our facilities. However, over

the last fifteen years, with the guidance of our former rector, we have learned that true outreach must include our active participation. Most of the following highlight these changes.

Food Pantry: Our Food Pantry is stocked by parishioners, community groups, scouting troops, school groups and friends outside the parish. We provide food staples to between ten and fifty families each month. We tend to see fewer families in the warmer months. With lower utility bills, our clients have a greater ability to devote their household funds to groceries. Two Saturdays each month, pairs of volunteers hand out bags of groceries to these grateful clients.



Thanksgiving Baskets:

The parishioners of St. Andrew's are thankful to have each other and we try to share that thanks at Thanksgiving. Every year we collect foods and monetary donations for weeks prior to the holiday. Then, the week prior to Thanksgiving we fill boxes chock full of everything you could imagine to make the perfect Thanksgiving meal. We even include treats, and it goes without saying, a turkey! Although the number of families we feed varies from year to year, it's always more than thirty. It's like a little reunion, seeing many of the same faces, and how grateful they are!

Laundry Love:

Laundry Love is a quiet, unassuming ministry that runs throughout the year. Simply described, parishioners donate their extra change and sometimes laundry detergent which is brought to our nearest laundromat (on Ashley Blvd.) now and again. Needy customers can have clothes washed/dried. A card with information about St. Andrew's is handed out and the lucky recipient is told that this is one of the ways that we are giving back to our neighborhood.

Shoe Box Project:

For many years now, St. Andrew's has participated in "The Shoe Box Project" sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Children in countries all over the world receive shoeboxes filled with toys, treats, school supplies and more. This year our more than thirty shoeboxes were delivered to children in the Dominican Republic. Our parishioners donate these items, or make monetary

donations, and then fill the boxes and wrap them in holiday paper. We also contribute to the shipping of all these boxes.

Coffeehouse/Rock the Block:

The Coffeehouses at St. Andrew's have been a staple here for many years. Weather permitting, we host coffeehouses from February to November on the second Saturday of each month.

Over the years we have had many music ministries join us. Christian music is played, coffee and refreshments are served. The Word is always a part of the lyrics and those who attend are moved by the Spirit. This is a family friendly event.



Rock-the-Block has been an annual fall event for the last eight years. As always, the neighbors come out to join us. Music is provided by bands from the city and miles around. There is food, activities and musical ministries. Children have fun in the bouncy house, crafting, playing games, having their face painted and more!

In addition, there is always food provided- for free! The smell of hot dogs and burgers on the grill draw people like nothing else can!

Advisory Board:

The St. Andrew's Advisory Board was formed just over two years ago and its members come from our congregation, our community and our children's programs.

Our main focus is to keep our growing and ever-changing programs alive by planning, fundraising, and spearheading activities for program families. Some of these activities include spaghetti dinners, Family Fun Day and Regatta, Car Washes and more!

We also serve as a sounding board for new programs and we evaluate those already in progress.



Children's Programs:

Fifteen years ago, we had not a single program for children in our community. We were also in what some would call a time of crisis. Many parishioners were afraid we might have to close our doors. It was just when we were at our lowest that the Diocese provided us with a Priest-in-Charge. We also had a visit from Bishop Harris. She suggested that we look "outside our walls" for the answer. Our Priest-in-Charge took her advice. She put on a brave face, put some confidence in her pocket, and off she went, up and down the street, knocking on doors. "Are there young people who would like to play basketball in our church basement after school on Fridays?" Oh yes, there were many!

This small gesture has grown over these fifteen years into more than six programs, some meeting during the summer, others during the school year. We have a program for all age groups in the elementary school and have just received a grant for a new program aimed at middle-school aged children. We even have a program, *Spirit of Grace*, which provides a quiet, prayerful environment for the autistic or others with special needs.



Our programs almost always provide some type of religious lesson or story. Surprisingly, we have the support of the New Bedford School Administration. Although we have formed partnerships with several New Bedford elementary schools, for quite a few years now we have worked with the Lincoln School which is within walking distance of our parish house. We are well-known in the city for our quality programming. This positive working relationship gives credence to the fact that children in our programs grow, in so many ways, and their families and public-school teachers support us wholeheartedly!



Our current programs include but are not limited to...

Play & Learn, a program for kindergarteners that meets on Friday afternoons and is ready to begin its tenth year!

Bright and Happy Days is a program that meets weekly and focuses on first graders.

Project Discovery meets every Tuesday and it serves the needs of the 2nd and 3rd graders.

Discover More is a program for 4th and 5th graders.

We have just received funding for a program for 6th grade children, and let's not forget ***Spirit of Grace***, our program for autistic and other special needs children and young people. Of course, we also offer several summer programs! All of our programs focus on building confidence and independence, creativity, project-based learning, STEM research, and perhaps most important, showing kindness and caring toward others.

Sunday School:

Our Sunday School has a steady but generally small group of children in attendance. Their ages range from three to fourteen years old. At times, children from our After-School Programs will attend. We have a paid Sunday School teacher who is funded through the grants in our Children's Programs.

Lessons include the teaching of Bible stories, parables and the meaning of Holy Days. Lessons are engaging and enjoyed by all of the children. The mixed ages can be somewhat problematic, therefore this year we plan to break the class into two groupings.

Boy Scouts:

St. Andrew's is proud to say that we have sponsored the oldest, continuous Boy Scout Troop in the entire country! Troop 3 is active in both church and community activities and we have seen many of our boys earn *Eagle Scout*. To show their appreciation of St. Andrew's, many of the scouts' projects have made improvements to our church and grounds.



Girl Scouts:

Although our Girl Scout Troops have, at times, varied in number, we have had as many as four different troops meeting at St. Andrew's. Like our Boy Scout Troops, the girls have contributed to our parish theme of outreach by collecting clothes for the homeless, donating food to our Thanksgiving Baskets and more.

Parish Life

Altar Guild:

Our Altar Guild has a very dedicated membership. Their purpose is to prepare the sanctuary for all services in the church and to see that suitable furnishings for the Altar and vestments for the clergy are provided.

Members take pride in making sure that silver and brass is polished, candles are filled with wax, altar linens are washed and ironed, and that general housekeeping duties are performed. We generally have between six and eight members who pair up and are responsible for working one weekend each month.

St. Andrew's Women's Group:

Our Women's Group currently has twelve members who meet at noon at the parish house on the first Monday of each month, with the exception of January and February. In both June and December, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant of our choice.

Members look forward to the fellowship but always try to have a project to focus on to help the church community. Recent projects have centered around the refurbishing of our kitchen- which looks bright and welcoming, and the continued goal of helping to finance our parish wish to make our kitchen "Serv-Safe".



Music:

St. Andrew's has been fortunate to be able to employ a qualified Music Director even in tight financial times.

We have a small but dedicated choir who work hard to prepare music for each Sunday service and who go above and beyond to make the special services, "extra special".

We also have enjoyed a guitarist/soloist two Sundays each month. This gift of music has been funded this year through special donations of our parishioners and not through the General Operating Budget.

On special occasions we have a "fluid" handbell choir, trained by our choir director, with volunteers practicing several weeks prior to the event or holiday.



Of course, we have parishioners and friends of our church family who volunteer to share their musical talents, whether it be accompanying our organ music, solos, or small holiday concerts.

Vestry:

Our Vestry has eleven members, a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, and six additional members. We pride ourselves on our patience, openness, understanding, and willingness to hear, to understand and to compromise.

Buildings and Grounds

Let's begin with the building most important to us- our church. Our church is what we believe is a beautiful, slate-roofed, brick building lovingly built by the parishioners of St. Andrew's back in 1923. Inside, we have rich, mahogany finished pews, white walls, exposed timbers and leaded stained-glass windows donated by parishioners as the church was being built. As many congregations are finding, we love our church dearly but the upkeep has put a constant strain on our finances.

Also, on the property, sits our parish house. This building actually served as our original place of worship while the church was being built! The parish house has two floors, the second floor boasts a stage and the lower floor is where we have our restrooms, offices and conference room and a newly renovated kitchen that we are trying to make, "Serv-Safe". This building is filled with children many afternoons during the school year and with our Summer Programs during the month of July.

We have, thanks to our previous rector, and grant money, designed a community garden on one side of the property and this area provides a space for planting in our raised beds but also an inner gravel-filled space with picnic tables where lessons can be taught or meals enjoyed. The entire space sits between Ashley Boulevard and Acushnet Avenue which we find to be both a blessing and a hindrance. How nice it is to find a little piece of the country in the middle of so much tar and concrete! But, sitting off the main roads has kept us hidden, and therefore invisible to the people passing by who might stop in on a Sunday morning to get to know us.

In addition to our property at 169 Belleville Road, we also have a rectory at 27 Caswell Street, also in New Bedford. The rectory is a two/three-bedroom Cape-Cod style home with a one car garage and fenced back yard. We are currently putting the finishing touches on a total renovation of this handsome home in a very desirable area of New Bedford. It is our expectation that our new rector will be living in our rectory.





It should be mentioned that all of the work done on our rectory, and also our Community Garden has been completed by parishioners. Yes, to save on our budget, but also because we love our properties and always put a little heart into keeping them in “tip-top shape”!

Stewardship/Financials

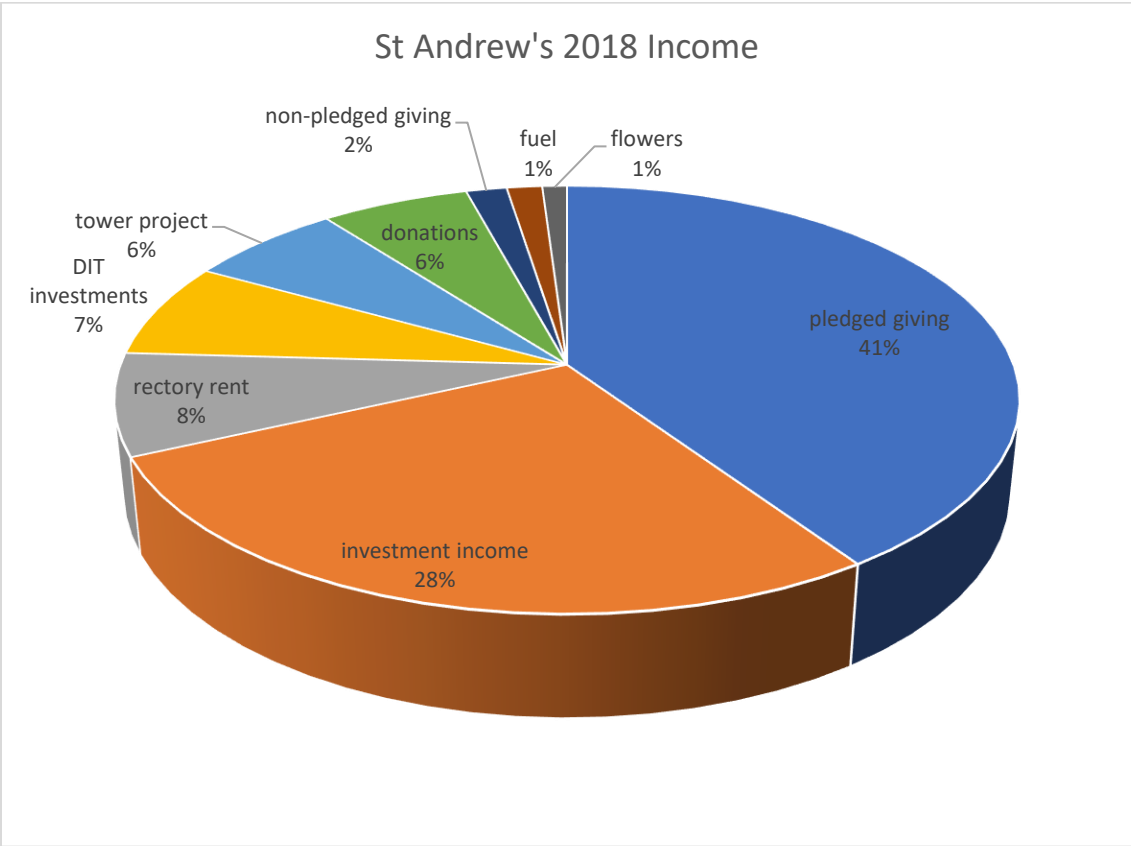
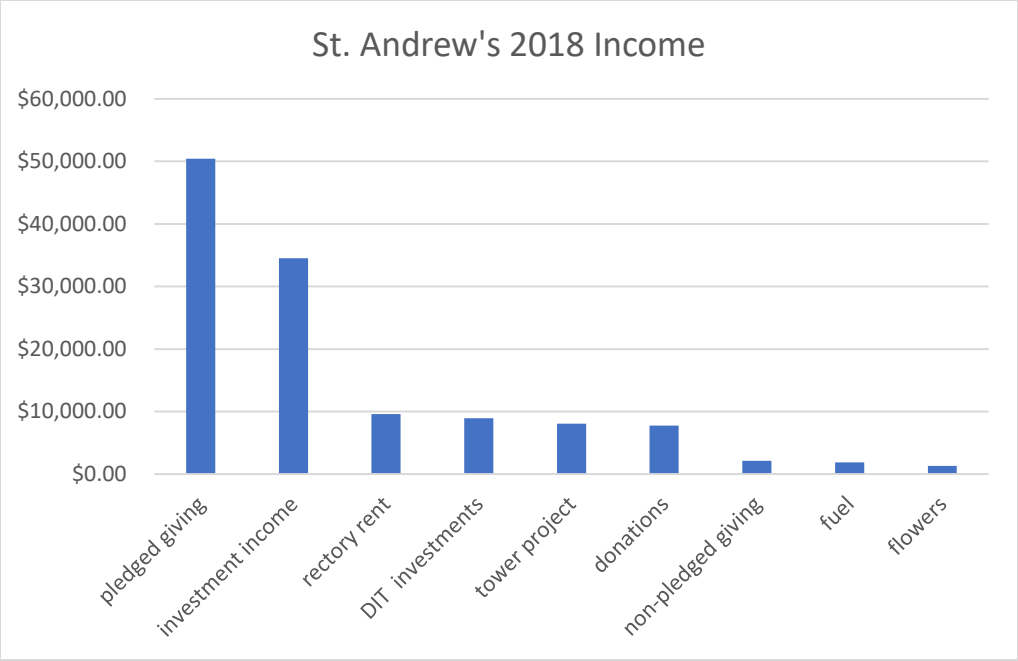
St. Andrew’s is not a stranger to financial struggles. However, we tackle our finances as we tackle everything- we dig in, and together, we work through it.

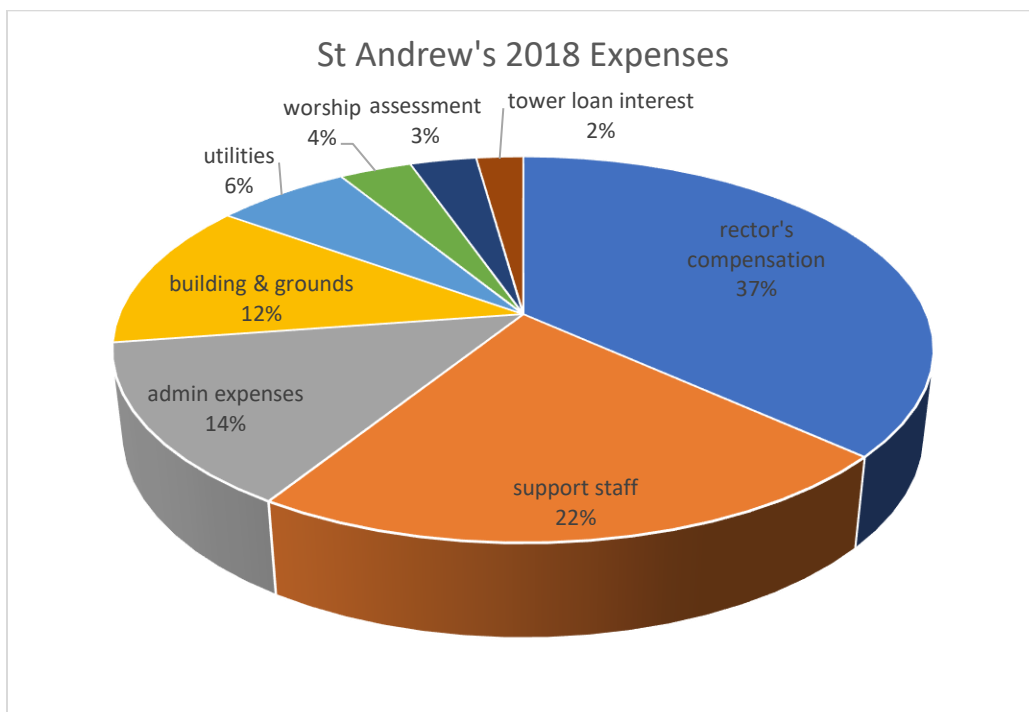
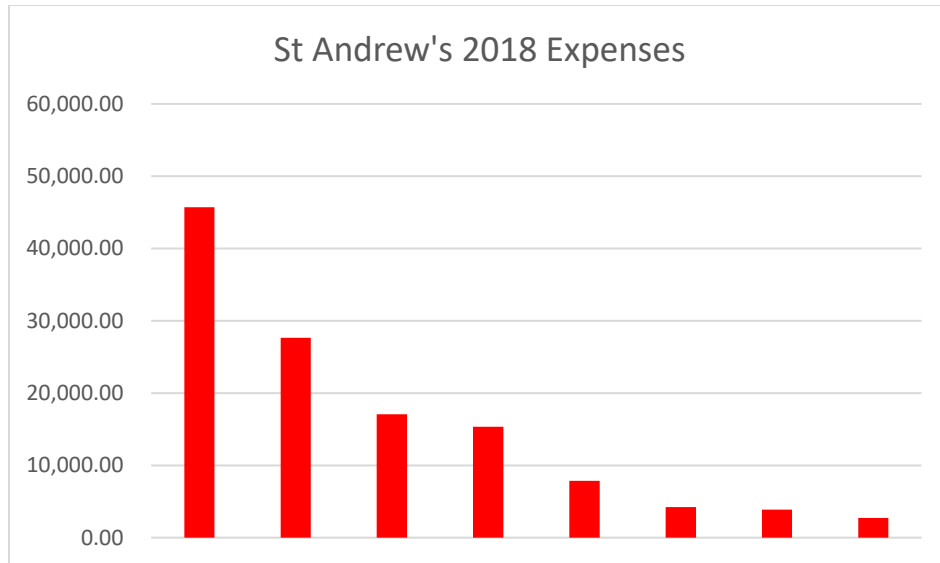
We have each year, between 42 and 50 pledging units, representing approximately 70 individuals. Our pledge income has stabilized at \$50,000 over the last three years. The average pledge is \$1,149.45 per year. However, worth noting is the fact that five pledging units give over \$3,000 per year, six pledging units give over \$2,000 per year, and ten more pledging units give above our parish average.

In addition, fifteen to twenty pledging units also contribute generously to our Building Fund, a fund that stems from a Capital Campaign designed to repair our church steeple.

We have discovered that our pledge totals are able to sustain a half-time rector. It is our hope that our new rector will have gifts that enable him or her to play a large role in the planning of our programs and in the grant-writing to sustain those programs,

On the following pages you will find graphs which, we hope, will provide a clear picture of our income and expenses for 2018. More detailed reports are available upon request.





As already mentioned, our financial situation has not been able to sustain a rector more than one quarter to one third time. However, our rectory is an added benefit for a single person, a couple, or a small family. Also previously mentioned, additional cash stipends are available if our new rector is gifted in grant writing, planning children's programs, or even teaching.

Our programs are very important to us and the Diocese of Massachusetts has been very generous providing support to sustain these programs. Not only have our successes been highlighted with other parishes, the Diocese has also provided financial backing through grants. As you will see in the next spreadsheet, we have been able to grow from one small kindergarten afterschool program to the MANY we now have. (And we're still growing!)

Quarter 2 Special Programs Financial Statement
April 01, 2019 - June 30, 2019

Account Name/Program Name	Beginning Balance 04/01/2019	Deposit	Expense	Ending Balance 06/30/2019
Case Trust/Bristol -Fridays Program-Summer	\$ 2,246.10	\$ -	\$ 453.96	\$ 1,792.14
Case Bristol - PL & BHD-Additional Funds-Friday	\$ 9,350.25	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 3,178.37	\$ 22,371.88
Sears Grant-P.Discovery & Discover More	\$ 12,682.85	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 3,925.98	\$ 23,756.87
Church of Holy Sprit -HUB	\$ 3,122.50	\$ -	\$ 2,197.50	\$ 925.00
HUB Money from Closing	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 15,750.00
House of Mercy-(Additional Funds for P.D. & D.M.)	\$ 3,390.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,390.77
Advisory Board-(Car Wash/Regatta)	\$ 6,707.89	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 133.13	\$ 7,774.76
Spirit of Grace	\$ (117.78)	\$ 8,430.00	\$ 24.08	\$ 8,288.14
Sunday School	\$ (1,962.14)	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00	\$ (3,312.14)
Home Society	\$ 11,044.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,044.24
Rectory	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 588.76	\$ 4,411.24
St. Gabriel's Gift	\$ 2,565.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,565.00
Garden	\$ 2,056.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,056.84
Food Pantry	\$ 698.18	\$ 10.00		\$ 708.18
Math Camp	\$ 556.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 556.25
Deaf Ministry	\$ 638.76	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,638.76
Total Special Programs Account Balance (As of 06/30/2019)	\$ 74,979.71	\$ 46,840.00	\$ 18,101.78	\$ 103,717.93
Furnace Payment - Reimbursement to Grants Pending				\$ 5,225.00
			\$	108,942.93

And to Sum it Up...

So, this is who we are! Caring. Warm. Welcoming. Small in number but big in heart. Willing to roll up our sleeves and work hard. Open to new and creative ideas. Looking for just the right person who will take us forward, with Christ, to find our future.

We are offering a position of a total of twenty hours, ten of which would be used to perform regular duties of the rector and another ten hours to be spent performing the duties of a program planner. It is expected that our new rector will be making use of our rectory.

Might you be the "right person"? If you think you could be, please contact our Search Committee Chair, Lynn Eddleston. (leddleston@comcast.net). We ask that you submit a resume or CV to start. If you would like to send links to sermons that would also be beneficial.

We will be accepting resumes from September 30th through November 15th.

Thank you for prayerfully considering St. Andrew's!

**Search Committee Members: Lynn Eddleston, Bob Gregory, Olivia LeGrow, Paula Sullivan,
and Mali Lim**