

FINANCIAL CHATTER



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A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We started the year with a challenging outlook: a deficit of \$93,000 from 2023, a proposed budget for 2024 that with a realistic view of income yielded a deficit of \$171,000, as well as some major building repairs to our boiler and sewer systems with a cash outlay of \$36,500.

But please, don't stop reading.

With a lot of prayers and work from your leaders, a new budget for 2024 was proposed that reflects our current reality with room for God's blessings. To bring spending in line with expected income, some tough decisions were made such as eliminating the Children's Minister position, reducing all staff and clergy salaries, and making reduction in all other categories. We also received our first payment from the Alliance Center for Education as they continue working through their punch list in preparation for classes to begin (yes, they are moving forward).

As we continue through 2024, we believe there are 3 avenues that will move us towards financial well-being: Continue to find ways to grow our facility usage income, continue to manage well our facility and program expenses, and continue to encourage participation by members and friends (that's you) in the giving of tithes and offerings.

How Can You Help?

To meet our budget for the year, congregational giving needs to average \$7,500 per week. We are off to a good start; congregational giving for the first quarter averaged \$7,577. Thank you to those who have given generously to the church to make this happen. No gift is too small. We all can make a difference together.

If you can give over and above your regular giving to help offset the unexpected major repairs, thank you. Please mark your gift for "Major Repairs" so we can correctly "match" the funds.

Consider making your gift through electronic fund transfer (<https://secure.myvanco.com/jYPJ6/home>). Gifts can also be made through cash, check, or text (833-718-0142). We can also accept stock and other asset transfers.

Again, we thank those who have given generously and consistently, and for them a giving statement is enclosed. If you have not had an opportunity to give, we encourage you to take the next step and partner with us in mission and ministry. As the Apostle Paul offers "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down,

shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap." Luke 6:38

Your Finance committee is committed to being good stewards of the gifts given by you to support the mission and ministry of SAUMC. If you have questions or comments, please send a note or call our Finance Chair Tom Patton, any member of the Finance Committee, or Alice Glefke our financial secretary.

~Tom Patton



At the end of the Easter Sunday service, we passed out crosses to take home.

I took a blue one and hung it from my rearview mirror. It's been interesting what I've noticed when I look at things through the cross. Through

the cross, I'm seeing new life all around - leaves on trees, flowers blooming, and I'm reminded of the intentionality of those who planted the seeds long before spring and of our God who designed a time for everything. Through the cross, I see people that God loves just as much as He loves me (because we're all God's favorite!) and I'm reminded that I need to reflect that love to others. Through the cross, I see my dashboard clock and I'm reminded to make my moments count to leave a lasting legacy. I can say that I see all these things when I look at St. Andrew's too. New life - whether it's tulips popping up, new small groups forming, new families visiting with us. People God loves - and God's love being reflected back to me through their words and actions. A lasting legacy - through gifts given to us, people doing kingdom work together, being a light in our community. All of these things are possible through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, and the greatest gift of the cross.

Thank you for giving.

What do you see when you look through the cross?

~Lisa Pool

Chair of Church Council (2022-2023)



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LET'S COUNT THE FRUIT WE'VE SEEN IN THIS 1ST QUARTER!

Columbarium Communion.



Youth - Hinton Center.



Palm Sunday.



Park South Athletic Association.



Celebration of Sherry Jackson as our new preschool director.



Preschool celebrates Diwali.



Leadership Lunch.



Spring Festival.



Easter Sunrise Service.



Galentines Day Luncheon.



Easter Season.



Churchwide Work Day.



Arts+ and Carolina Suzuki Strings.



Our list continues to grow. - It is your stewardship that helps these things happen - your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. There's always a way that YOU can be involved.



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

We met our challenge and collected 20 "squirrel" containers of food for Loaves & Fishes/Nourish Up.