

September 24, 2021

Glory to God, who is able,
according to the power that is at work within us,
to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
(Ephesians 3:20)



Dear Parishioner,

It is with a grateful heart for your generosity that I share this year's stewardship theme:

Imagine God within Us.

We could not have imagined that we would be in our second fall of COVID precautions, with reduced in-person activities, and another round of mask-wearing occasions (I broke down and bought another pack). It is draining at best, and yet we continue to minister to God's people, and glorify God, in this place. The essence of who we are, the salt of the earth, is still present, is still grounding, is still alive, in this place.

Your Cathedral continues to worship God in word and song every Sunday, 8:30am outside on the Columbarium, 10:30am inside the Nave (and on line), and 5:00pm in the Chapel. We continue to serve breakfast to our homeless guests every Tuesday morning. Music in the City has not missed a beat despite moving from on line to in person to on line. We continue to care for one another by calling, writing notes, delivering meals, and visiting when possible. Returning favorites include: Celebrating First Responder's Eucharist, Theology and Literature, Pet Blessing, Bible Study (lunch bunch), EYC, Dean's Forum, Dean's List, and Supper Club.

New initiatives include formation for all ages outside on the Columbarium where we have leaned into our identity as the Cathedral in the City with focus on our first responders, homelessness, and other topics. Sunset Chords gathers monthly with musicians playing on the Columbarium Sunday evenings. Bachtobberfest begins with special musical offerings to showcase Bach. October celebrations include a Thanksgiving for Health Care Workers' Eucharist, a blessing of the costumes, and a welcome for the new Head of School for St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Clearly God's power continues to work in us to bring about more than we could imagine, so dream big, dream God-sized dreams, for our Cathedral. What else could we do for mission and ministry? What more can be done for sustaining excellence in ministry by hiring the right team, outfitting our buildings to facilitate our new hybrid ministries, extending our Community Partner grants to meet the ever increasing needs in our city, building on our wonderful music program?

In the coming months you will hear personal accounts of ministry in this place and hear more about the leadership's aspirations. In conjunction with these stories, I ask you to consider your giving story. What can you offer to join St. Andrew's ministry? What do you give in response to God's power working within you? Imagine what God can do with your generosity. Consider giving even more this year as we move into the future of St. Andrew's. We ask that you prayerfully consider these questions and then send or bring us a giving estimate in writing. You may need to increase or decrease this estimate in the future as your financial situation changes and that is welcome. All estimates requested by November 7th. You can bring it the day to place in the basket during the offertory, connect on our website <http://standrews.ms> or mail it to the church at P.O. Box 1366, Jackson, MS 39211.

Join us November 7th following the 10:30am service to celebrate our Cathedral, celebrate all that God can do with God's power working within us, with a Jazz Brunch in the parish hall and courtyard. More information to follow can be found on our website <http://standrews.ms>

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne M. Maxwell', written in a cursive style.

The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell