



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Boca Grande

Bringing God and People Together Through the Love of Jesus Christ

November 13, 2024

When I leave church stimulated to act rather
than just ponder, one feels fortunate and
motivated. Thank You.
A St. Andrew's Parishioner

Dear Members and Friends,

As we reflect on the year behind us, we're filled with gratitude for the resilience and generosity that have defined our parish community in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. This season has been challenging for many of us, yet amid the storms, we have witnessed the power of a united and compassionate spirit.

For more than 100 years, St. Andrew's has been more than simply a place of worship; it has been a beacon of hope and a source of comfort and sanctuary for those who pass through her red doors. In these past months, as businesses and homes were impacted, we have opened our doors to our neighbors - providing a space for Our Lady of Mercy's AA group, GIWA and the Historic Preservation Board to meet, for the Baptist church to hold their services, and for the Community Center to host its lecture series. These small but meaningful gestures have allowed our church to embody Christ's love in action, offering solace, stability, and a sense of community in a time of uncertainty.

Accompanying this letter is a brochure highlighting the vibrant life of St. Andrew's. That's right! Our traditional ministries will continue uninterrupted. In the coming season there will be opportunities to grow in your faith, engage in meaningful Christian fellowship, hear inspiring concerts and lectures...and all while continuing to help others in need.

As we enter this stewardship season, we recognize that many of you are still recovering, both financially and emotionally, from the storms – this, coupled with the fact, many of you will be away from the island the first part of the year while your homes are being repaired – has led the Finance Committee and Vestry to anticipate this will be a tight financial year for St. Andrew's. In acknowledgement of these factors, they have trimmed the budget wherever possible, while at the same time, maintaining a “mission” driven budget. To do this, we will be drawing on reserves to fund some of the ministries in 2025.

This year, as you prayerfully reflect upon your response to the Annual Appeal, know that your generosity is more than a financial gift. It is a testament to your faith, your love for this community, and your desire to see St. Andrew's continue to serve as a place of hope and renewal for all.

Thank you for your love of God, your care for one another, and your unwavering support of our beloved church.

With deep gratitude for your faithfulness,

Faithfully,

Michelle Robertshaw
The Reverend Michelle Robertshaw
Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

David Smith
Mr. David Smith
Sr. Warden and Chair of Stewardship

Strengthening
our community
Sharing
our blessings