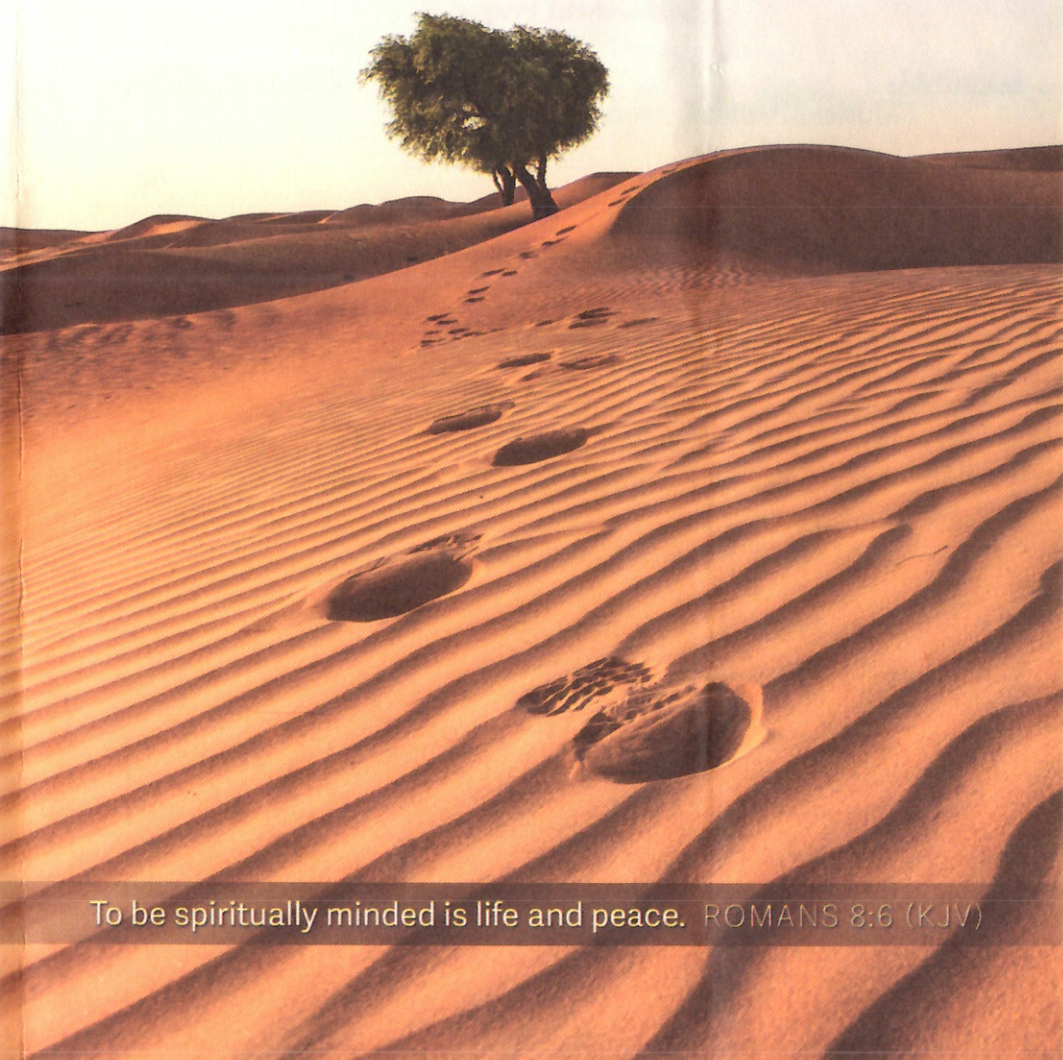


Our heart is restless until it finds
its rest in thee.



To be spiritually minded is life and peace. ROMANS 8:6 (KJV)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana
701 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088
Phone: 334-727-3210 *www.standrewstuskegee.com*

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
(Proper 19)**

September 13, 2026

MORNING PRAYER – RITE 11
Self-Guided Prayer

HYMNAL

PRAYER BOOK

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The Collect of the Day

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The First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

**

Psalm: 103: 1-7, 8-13

**

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Sequence Hymn:

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THE GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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A Prayer of Chrysostom

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Closing Sentence and Scripture

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: See inside of bulletin

Closing Hymn

Dismissal



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Christian Gathering continues after this service with fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft.

PLEASE JOIN US!!!!!!

September 20 - A Parishioner



16 PENTECOST

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 19



Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK TWO

COLLECT

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Traditional

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

REALIZING THAT THEIR FATHER was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your

little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Refrain

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Psalm 103:[1-7], 8-13 from the Book of Common Prayer

- | | |
|--|---|
| [1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and all that is within me, bless his holy Name. | judgment for all who are oppressed. |
| 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and forget not all his benefits. | 7 He made his ways known to Moses * and his works to the children of Israel.] |
| 3 He forgives all your sins * and heals all your infirmities; | 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness. |
| 4 He redeems your life from the grave * and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; | 9 He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for ever. |
| 5 He satisfies you with good things, * and your youth is renewed like an eagle's. | 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. |
| 6 The LORD executes righteousness * and | 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * |

so is his mercy great
upon those who fear him.

13 As a father cares for his
children, * so does the
LORD care for those who
fear him.

12 As far as the east is from
the west, * so far has he
removed our sins from
us.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

WELCOME THOSE who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

PETER CAME and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, September 14, 2026

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Friday, September 18, 2026

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Sunday, September 20, 2026

11 a.m.

- Morning Prayer in person

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!

September 1 – Barnett Burston

4 - *Quentin E. & Sheila Gaillard*

14 – Linda B. Bulls

15 - Brenda D. Robinson

27 - Carol L. Smith

NEWS FROM AROUND THE EPISCOPAL & ANGLICAN DIOCESES

Friday, September 11, 2026, at 5 pm and September 12, 2026, at 4 pm,
Clergy and Lay Leader of Color Retreat, Camp McDowell. Registration is
available on-line at dioala.org
See www.anglicannews.org for the latest Anglican Communion News

T.U. EVENTS (www.tuskegee.edu)

Classes have resumed

COMMUNITY EVENTS (Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 6-8 pm, "Sometimes I Feel Like I am Almost Home." A film screening & Community Symposium, 1510 Washington Avenue. This event is free; however, registration is required, see: allevents.in/tuskegee

Saturday, September 26, 2026, 9am-9pm, Tuskegee Inaugural Showmanship Rodeo, 1200 W. Montgomery Rd., Tuskegee Inst., AL

2026 Football Schedule – Tuskegee U:

September 24 – T.U. vs Benedict, HOME (Thursday night-6 pm)

October 3 – T.U. vs Morehouse, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

October 17 – T.U. vs Albany State, HOME

November 7 – Homecoming, T.U. vs Miles, HOME

November 26 – Turkey Day Game, T.U. vs Alabama State, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

2026 Football Schedule – Auburn U.

September 12 – Auburn vs Southern Mississippi, HOME

September 19 – Auburn vs Florida, HOME

September 26 – Homecoming, Auburn vs. Vanderbilt, HOME

October 24 – Auburn vs LSU, HOME

November 7 – Auburn vs Arkansas, HOME

PRAYER LIST

CHRISTINA ANDERSON

CAROLYN BLAND*

STEPHANIE BOSWELL

MARIAN GARMON*

THOMASINE BRAYE

THOMAS BRAYE*

JAMES BRAYE

REBECCA LYN CARTER

CURT CARTER, SR*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE*

JAY MCDONALD

CRAIG POWELL

CHARLES M. CRANK, II

PRESTON CRAYTON

JULIUS MYHAND, JR.

CLEMENT SCOTT

DAVID NGAWA**

MARTHA OSGERBY

LUCENIA DUNN*

SHANNON DIXON

TEDDY DOWDY*

ANNA C. OWENS

TUNESHA SMITH

ANGELICA P. SNOWDEN

LIONEL B. RICHIE

YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT

ANITRA FULLER

ROBERT FRAZIER

DARRYL SEAWRIGHT

BRENDA D. ROBINSON*

BRITTANI STETINA

LISA TECZAR

CHARLES THOMPSON**

LLOYD WILLIAMS*

E. DRAKE WHITELAW

DIANE KENNEY*

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES

THERON JONES

*Local Parishioners

** Shut-In Parishioners

THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; Department of Stewardship; For all who suffer from addiction or effects of addiction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

- **ARMED FORCES:** Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Elijah Barber, Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, and Shavon Marbory Hogan.
- **PRAYERS:** Continue to pray for those on the Prayer List, friends, family and all humankind afflicted by disease, war and famine. Pray for peace!
- **REMINDER:** Please continue to furnish our Food Basket with non-perishable food items (located on the ground floor of the Education Building).
- **REMINDER:** The link for the Sunday ZOOM Companion Service can be reached by dialing: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 882 671 9532, Passcode 008810 or click on your email invite. Mark your calendar for the next Holy Eucharist Service – in person on *Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 11 am.*
- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** *St. Andrew's Annual Fall Picnic*, will be *Sunday, October 4, 2026*. Dress will be picnic casual. Holy Eucharist and the picnic will be held in the undercroft. You will receive a phone call for suggested food/beverage donations.
- **NEW:** Community/Church Organizations and Committees will resume monthly meetings in September.
- **NEW:** St. Andrew's Annual Fall Parish Meeting has been moved to the first Sunday in November; Check your mailbox for 2027 Pledge Letters. If you wish to pledge the same amount in 2027 as your 2026 Pledge, please write on the Pledge Form SAME AMT. 2027 Pledge letters will be due in the church office no later than Sunday, November 1, 2026; If you are interested in joining the Vestry, Nominations for new members will be accepted at the Fall Meeting.



Pentecost 16 (A) – Proper 19

[RCL]: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

How Many Times?

Peter asks Jesus about the number of times we must forgive. We know from our Gospel stories that Peter was very human and made lots of mistakes. He had a tendency to blurt things out and wear his heart on his sleeve. In fact, some Episcopalians might shy away today from this rough, gritty fisherman who became the head of the church. He was childlike in his honesty and was always direct with Jesus. It's likely there was someone that Peter was peeved with, for him to ask this seemingly simple question.

The answer he gets is profound and troubling to us all. Jesus answers him seventy-seven times, (or seventy times seven in some translations). If we are truly honest with ourselves and one another, none of us really want to be told to forgive those who have hurt us terribly.

The number seven, which Peter suggests, is considered completeness or enough in ancient biblical traditions. Jesus answers him that forgiving count-less times is never enough and goes on to share a story about the kingdom of heaven. I imagine Peter wanted to be done with forgiveness more quickly; maybe he even was disappointed by the answer he got. True forgiveness, like true faithfulness, is a huge amount of work—but not impossible.

Jesus gives us a sense of what this forgiveness looks like by teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Readers may think that Jesus is speaking of a time in heaven to come: the afterlife and the great reward. But when Jesus refers to the kingdom of heaven, Jesus is talking about the here and now. The kingdom of heaven—Jesus's way, the way of love—is a realm of compassion and kindness, a reign of love and forgiveness. It is breaking out at all times and in all places in our world. Yet, if we are honest, we might only rarely experience love, forgiveness, compassion, and kindness in this world of ours. It is our work as disciples of

Jesus to bring the kingdom of heaven forth as we love and forgive. And loving and forgiving is a tough job, a heavy responsibility.

We are now deeply in the long season after Pentecost, the time of simple life lessons that become more and more complex, as we move towards Advent. We are also deep in football season, whether you follow high school, college or professional sports, or no football at all. Football teams have rivalries, teams that are their most vile enemies and their fans are reviled along with the players. Even in a realm as remote as football, we can recognize the universal truth that we have a hard time liking, let alone forgiving, people who we see as rivals. When we see people as the other—different from us—they might impossible to understand and even less worthy of forgiveness when a breach comes. Whether it's football or politics, we have so much that divides us. The kingdom of heaven can seem very distant in our present lives.

Let's look at another teaching. Jesus us tells us a story about a man who owed a ridiculous amount of money and couldn't pay it. He begged for mercy, and was forgiven that huge, impossible debt. He might have been grateful; he might have been humbled. Instead, forgiven of his own debt, he turned and tormented those who owed him a mere pittance. He may have received mercy, but he destroyed the lives of his debtors with his own lack of mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven, here among us, is ushered in by forgiveness and gratitude. Without gratitude we can become petty and selfish, thinking we have created our own mercy and forgiveness. The mercy of God invites us to be moved by compassion for one another, to see the ache in another's eyes, to forgive them—as we are forgiven—for their human failings.

You may have seen on social media the viral trend of “the get along shirt.” When children are fighting, parents put them in one enormous shirt, effectively forcing proximity: tying them together until they can resolve their differences. Other parents might take more modest strategy: make the kids hold hands or stay in the same room until they apologize to one another and forgive each other. Forced apologies and shallow forgiveness, of course, do not take us very far. We can hold onto resentment and pain across a lifetime. Real forgiveness asks that we dig down deep and release the anger, revenge, and violence we hold in our hearts. The prophet Micah reminds us that the kingdom of heaven here of earth requires us to “do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Here then is an answer to how we participate in the kingdom of heaven here on earth. Mercy, love, justice, kindness, and forgiveness are all gifts from God. These are the signs and symbols of God's living presence with us. God is calling us today to live a life of forgiveness.

At the end of the beatitudes, Jesus reminds us of a first step. He instructs his listeners: “leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:24) Imagine if we took this direction seriously—would people be dashing out of church all the time, returning reconciled? Would there be a stampede to forgive and reconcile? Instead, most of us sit in the pews, heavy with unresolved, unforgiven strife in our hearts. God is calling us *today* to live a life of forgiveness.

The good news of our gospel today is that the love of God is the beginning and end of our lives. Over and over, we are forgiven by God. Not seven times seventy, but endlessly. God’s love precedes us, is beside us, surrounds us, and leads us home. Our call, our response, is to live as forgiven people, forgiving others and ourselves. We usher in a taste of God’s reign, the kingdom of heaven, as we let go of the resentments and anger we have been carrying. We are called today to be those beacons of hope and mercy, so others may find their way in our violent and divided society. Paul reminds us, “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s (Romans 14:8). Such forgiveness is not something we do alone, but in community. As we model forgiveness, we receive abundant forgiveness and help others see God’s mercy working in their lives.

Okay, so how do we do it? How do we become the people of forgiveness and mercy in the fractured world? We start by forgiving ourselves. God forgives you, so forgive yourself. And when you accept our own flawed humanity, you will notice that others around you are also human—as prone to failing as you are—and compassion grows.

In the eighteenth century, the Atlantic slave trader, John Newton, was caught in a terrible storm at sea. This storm brought him to his knees, praying to survive the storm. He found Jesus, tasted forgiveness, and later wrote the immortal words to “Amazing Grace” that we still sing today. The Cherokee people, walking across the country from the southeast to Oklahoma Indian territory along what is called the Trail of Tears, sang these words as they were herded along: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!” (Hymnal 1982)

Today, we are invited to start living a life of forgiveness and gratitude. We can take small steps, one at a time, letting anger go and accepting forgiveness. We might need to make some apologies of our own. May we find ourselves in the days to come, singing with honesty and gusto Newton’s wonderful hymn, and living lives of forgiveness that usher in a taste of the kingdom of heaven. *Amen.*

The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher, PhD is the first Indigenous female Bishop in the Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. She has committed her life, her teaching and ministry to the service

of those who have been unseen in the church. Raising up and forming Indigenous and other marginalized church leaders has been her great joy and her deepest honor.



Sermons that Work and Bible Studies that Work are a joint offering of Forward Movement and The Office of Communication at The Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bible-study/>



*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
701 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088*

Church: 334-727-3210

Email: www.standrewstuskegee.com

Dear St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Member,

"Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him or her came and brought an offering to the LORD." (Exodus 35:21)

Here at St. Andrew's Episcopal, we're big supporters of the spirit of giving. Over the last year, we have taken the funds you have generously donated to: fund our Outreach Ministry by Sponsoring a child for summer camp at Alabama Rural Ministry Program (Auburn), Furnished food for parishioners for Fellowship Hour following Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer Sunday's, Scholarship to a Tuskegee University Senior Chemistry/Biology Student (Ludwick Scholarship), Financial Support for East Alabama Food Bank (Opelika), Food Basket Donation to Tuskegee D.H.R., Fall Welcome Back Picnic – gifts to Sick n Shut-ins, Celebrated High School and College Graduates (monetary gifts), Donated gathering space for Community Meetings (AARP, AKA, Social Receptions...etc.), Donated to Celebration of Life Repass, and Maintenance and Upkeep of Church Building and Rectory. You made this possible! Thank you!

It is our desire to continue growing and serving our community. With your support and generosity, we can continue to grow and spread the Word of God. We understand that donating money isn't always possible during these challenging economic times. If you cannot support St. Andrew's financially, there are other ways you can support the church, with your time and talents.

As a reminder, we accept Credit and Debit cards and PayPal Donations, online via the church website: www.standrewstuskegee.com/contributions

Sincerely,

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Mission of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tuskegee, is to put into action God's Love, drawing our Parish together in fellowship, worship, and the breaking of bread; to proclaim the Word of God, to live by Christian principles, to respond to the concerns of our Parishioners, to reach out to others in the world around us, and to be unified with God and each other through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church needs your Gifts, Talents, and Skills. Where are you willing to serve in helping us meet our mission? Please fill out the information given below and check the activities in which you are interested. A member of the Vestry will contact you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

e-mail address _____

Activities Related to Sunday Services

Acolyte _____

Altar Guild _____

Choirs: Senior _____

Fellowship/Coffee Hour _____

Greeters _____

Lectors/Liturgics _____

Ushers _____

Church Operations

Building/Grounds Maintenance _____

Committees for New Sanctuary _____

Finance Committee _____

Clerk of the Vestry _____

Treasurer _____

Outreach

Evangelism _____

Bible Study _____

Sunday/Church School _____

Youth Ministry _____

University Outreach _____

Reading/Mentoring _____

Program _____

Newsletter _____

Organizations

St. Catherine's Guild _____

St. Martha's Guild _____

Brotherhood of St. _____

Andrew _____

Daughters of the King _____

Episcopal Church Women _____

Others _____

For the calendar year _____

As a faithful steward of God's bounty, I (We) pledge the following amounts for the work of my (our) Church in the Parish, the Nation and the World.

(CHOOSE ONE METHOD OF PAYMENT)

	Per Week	Per Month	Per Quarter	Per Year
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>				
Endowment Fund	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Signed _____
Address _____
Date _____

This pledge may be changed or cancelled
upon notice to the Treasurer