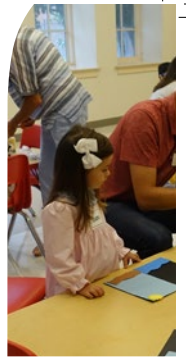




*Everything*  
IS WAITING  
*for you.*

ST. LUKE'S ATLANTA









**The Rev.  
Winnie Varghese**

RECTOR

## *Letter from the Rector*

Dear Friends,

Everything is waiting for you.

David Whyte's poem has been on my desk this summer, as we have been planning and preparing for the upcoming program year. It puts a smile on my face every time I see it and makes me wonder if my water bottle is pleading with me to try a taste and the bottle of holy oil praying for our baptism candidates and maybe the old desktop phone is grieving its loss of place in the world. God's creation and the work of our hands is animated and inviting us to life even more abundant, and we are here for it.

The wonderful stewardship committee led by Mignon Crawford has invited us to be both bold and intimate. We are working to build and strengthen relationships and connections across our parish—both new and old. We are re-establishing the ties that bind us, supporting belonging and courage in our community and in a world that would have us isolated and fearful.

We are combining that closeness to a bold goal that speaks to our future. We will be working on raising our stewardship pledges by 10% each year, for the next three years. That will get us to \$3 million a year in pledge income, before endowment draw and other income. That is what it would take for us to stop doing small capital campaigns every few years. It is what we need to expand service and justice ministries, grow our Children, Youth, and Families ministries and formation and discernment programming. It is what we need to have a healthy reserve to care for our magnificent campus, and to develop the vitality that reflects our call to love and serve our neighbors.

We are not asking you to stretch beyond your healthy capacity. We are inviting those who do not pledge, to consider it seriously. For those of you for whom a modest gift to the church has been your practice, we are inviting you to make St. Luke's a central part of your giving. For those of you who are new, join us. Your commitment enables us to plan for and build our ministries together. We are ambitious to reflect God's love for this broken world from Peachtree Street.

I could not be more excited about what will be revealed among us through your spirit-led insights. St. Luke's is a warm, thriving community with a future beyond any of our capacity to imagine. How exciting to continue stepping into that future together.

I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help St. Luke's reach its 2024 pledge goal of \$2.5 million, so we may continue to imagine and grow our work together.

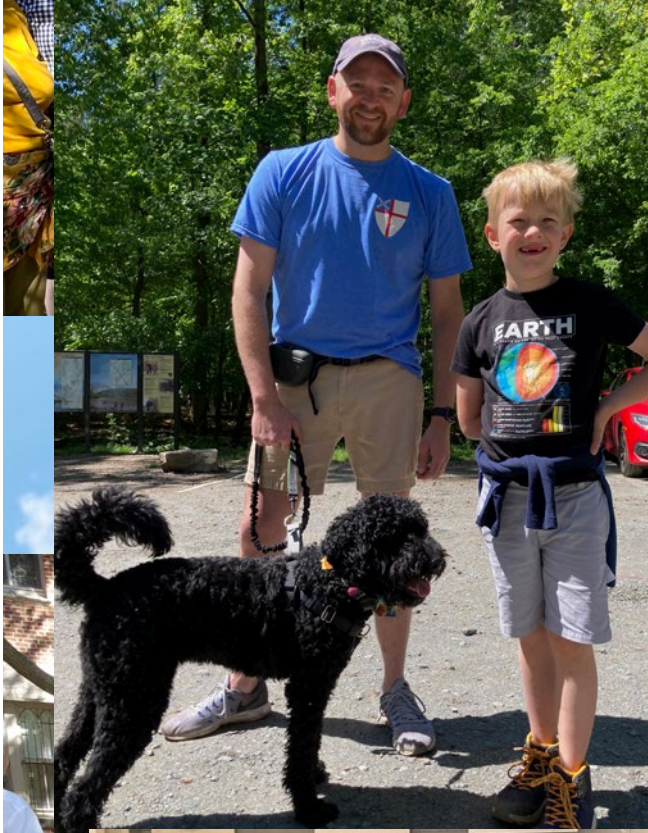
The next time you are at church, I invite you to pray about what you are called to in this time. I hope you will ask for a glimpse of what is coming and your part in it. Then, I hope you will hear God say, "Everything Is Waiting For You."

May deep peace and joy be close to you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Winnie".

The Rev. Winnie Varghese





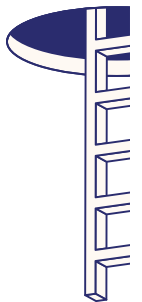
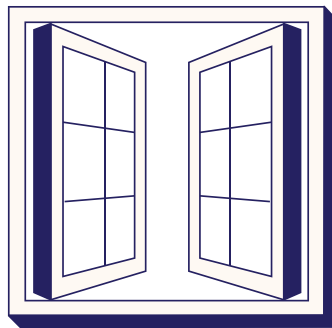
## *Our 2024 Priorities*

**CONNECTING** new members, growing families, and members returning after pandemic separations.

**GROWING** our capacity for new ministries that meet the needs of our community.

**FOSTERING** a welcoming, inclusive environment for learning, healing, and spiritual growth.

**ENGAGING** innovative technologies and systems to connect and activate church members.



# *Belong*

**“YOUR GREAT  
MISTAKE IS TO ACT  
THE DRAMA AS IF YOU  
WERE ALONE.”**

We are called to community, yet often, we struggle to truly belong with our whole selves. How we foster belonging for others and how we find welcome for ourselves are important steps in our faith journey. As a community, we are focused on growing our understanding of what it means to truly belong and how we can live out our mission to be an inclusive Christian community—praying, singing, and working together to love God and our neighbor.









A photograph of four people walking along a city sidewalk on a sunny day. From left to right: a man with dark hair and glasses wearing a dark green jacket and black pants; a woman with short grey hair wearing a bright pink dress and pink shoes; a man with a beard wearing a black suit and a clerical collar; and a woman with long dark hair wearing a colorful floral dress. They are walking on a concrete sidewalk. To their left is a chain-link fence and a large, dense green tree. To their right is a street with a white pickup truck and a white van. In the background, a tall, modern grey building with many windows stands against a clear blue sky. The word "liberate" is written in white lowercase letters at the bottom of the image.

liberate

# *Liberate*

**“PUT DOWN THE  
WEIGHT OF YOUR  
ALONENESS AND  
EASE INTO THE  
CONVERSATION.”**

Jesus came so that we might be free. Yet in our world, so many are in need of liberation from oppression. In the year ahead, we will draw from the Bible and current events as we continue to explore what it means to be a justice-creating sanctuary.





## *Yearn*

**“TO FEEL ABANDONED  
IS TO DENY THE  
INTIMACY OF YOUR  
SURROUNDINGS.”**

We are hungry. We are thirsty. Yet, we often don't know how to fill the void. St. Luke's invites you to explore the intersection of the voids in our life and our faith and the yearning of our souls to be truly filled. As a parish, we will learn from the wisdom of sacred texts, both new and old, experts in our community, and each other to discern how we can fully live out our vision to be a courageous, diverse, healing, and justice-creating sanctuary for the heart of Atlanta.





yearn





grow



## *Grow*

**“EVERYTHING IS  
WAITING FOR YOU.”**

We are committed as a community and for our community to cultivate a space and place that invites growth for us as individuals and as a parish. We are open to change as we distinguish how to carry out God’s work in this time by engaging in deep listening and thought-provoking processes of discernment.



**JOIN US IN**

*Making A Meaningful  
Pledge to Fund  
St. Luke's and Its Ministries*

**WHAT IS A PLEDGE?**

Your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission and ministries of St. Luke's. Pledging enables the church to responsibly plan and prepare for the year ahead.

**HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?**

The traditional measure of giving to the church is the tithe. Tithing is the biblical principle whereby a person or family gives 10% of what they earn back to God through the church.

We encourage you to consider tithing, or working toward a tithe. The average 2023 pledge is \$4,560.

If a tithe or the average pledge sounds daunting to begin with, consider proportional giving. Start with your expected income for the next year and determine a percentage that feels right for you both spiritually and practically. From ancient times, people have given the first fruits of their labor, the first and best portion to God.

A good start for proportional giving may be 2.5% of your income, which is equivalent to pledging the first hour's pay of a 40-hour workweek.

### **WHEN DOES MY PLEDGE BEGIN AND END?**

This campaign is raising pledges for the 2024 fiscal year; it begins on Jan. 1, 2024, and ends on Dec. 31, 2024.

### **CAN I AUTOMATE MY GIVING?**

Yes. St. Luke's offers several ways to make your giving automatically. You may set up the payments from your card or account to occur on a weekly, biweekly, monthly, or quarterly basis. Contact the church office to learn more, 404-873-7600.

### **ARE THERE ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR GIVING?**

Yes. You can transfer appreciated stocks to St. Luke's and receive a deduction for the full value without incurring capital gains tax. Some parishioners also find it useful to fulfill their pledge through their IRA Required Minimum Distribution. Please contact the church office to learn more.

### **I AM FACED WITH FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

Let us know. It is okay! Prayer is a great place to start. We recognize that each one of us faces a different reality. Any gift should come from an appreciation of faith and abundance, not from a sense of compliance.

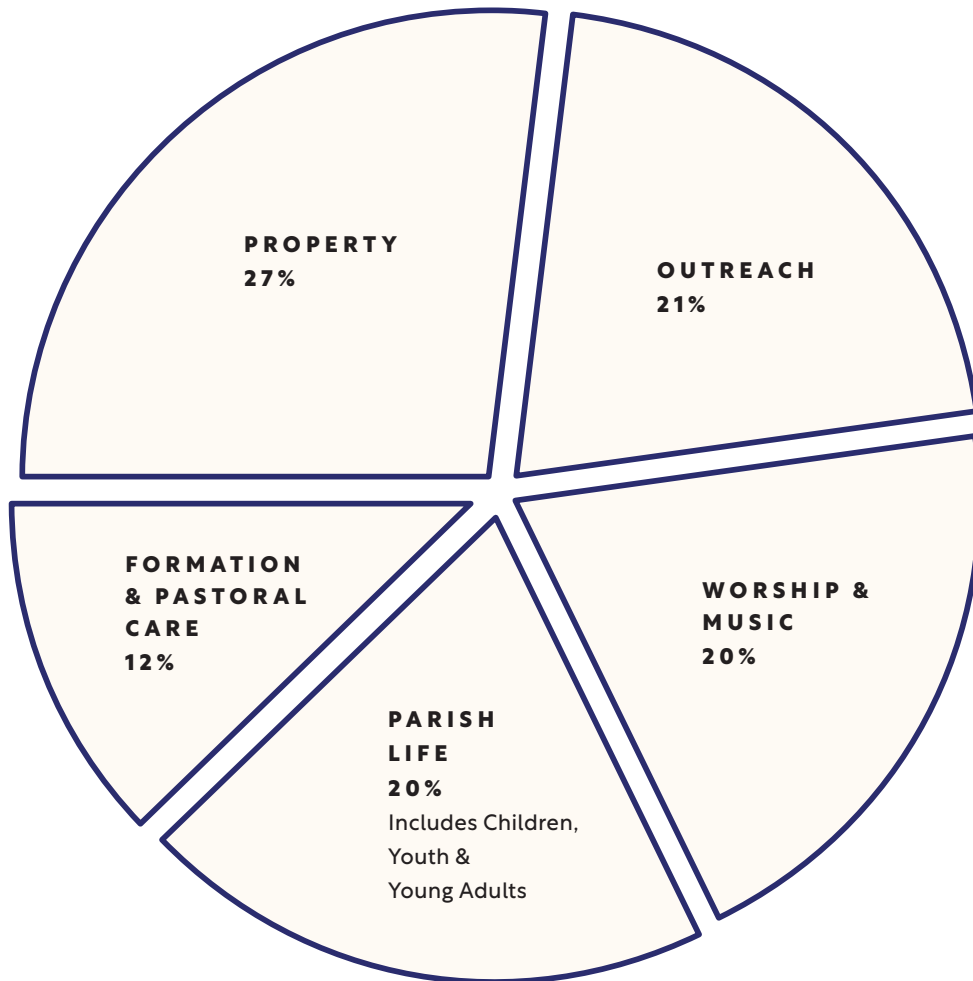
### **WHO CAN I SPEAK TO ABOUT STEWARDSHIP AT ST. LUKE'S?**

Mark Simmons | Director of Membership & Stewardship  
[mark@stlukesatlanta.org](mailto:mark@stlukesatlanta.org)



# *Your Financial Support at Work*

This chart shows the projected breakdown of St. Luke's 2024 budget, which is largely funded by your support of this stewardship campaign.



# *Your Pledge Matters*

Your dollars directly fund community ministries and our ability to engage in impactful work that benefits the most vulnerable in our community.

Our ability to provide meaningful programs for children, youth, and families, learn from thought leaders, host world-class musicians, and offer inspiring opportunities for worship on our beautiful campus are also made possible thanks to your generosity.



**PLEDGES &  
CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**74%**



**ENDOWMENT**  
**17%**



**REVENUE GENERATING  
REAL ESTATE 10%**

# *Belonging*

## **AT ST. LUKE'S**

“What I love most about St. Luke’s is the numerous ways to serve. You can find your “fit” here based on your interests and abilities so you really feel as though you are giving of your time and God-given talents in the best way. The diversity of ministries and ways to participate is special and truly a blessing.”

**-ARDITH BARROW**



“St. Luke’s has been a healing place for us where we’ve been encouraged to think about God in more expansive ways than we were taught. We have loved the book studies with Ebenezer Baptist Church, which we believe has been sacred and holy work. We are learning to pray with our feet here.”

**-BROOKE &  
DREW MCGUFFIN**





"In an era of declining faith in both churches and our most important cultural institutions, our dream is that St. Luke's will stand out as a place that will stay relevant and will change as the needs of the surrounding community evolve."

**- EMILY &  
JASON O'ROUKE**



"My dream for St. Luke's is that it will continue to grow and be a welcoming and nourishing place for ALL."

**- OLIVIA STEPHENS**



## *Mission Statement*

We are an inclusive Christian Community - Praying, singing, and working together to love God and our neighbor.

## *Vision Statement*

We dream of being a courageous, diverse, healing, and justice-creating sanctuary for the heart of Atlanta.

## *Core Values*

### **FAITHFUL**

We strive to follow Jesus in the sacramental tradition of The Episcopal Church in prayer, fellowship, and study, and in service to the greater community.

### **INCLUSIVE**

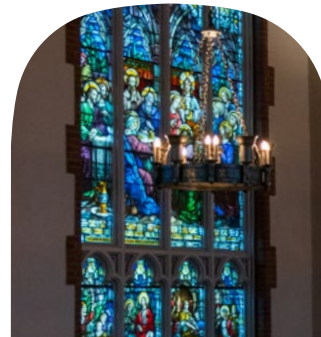
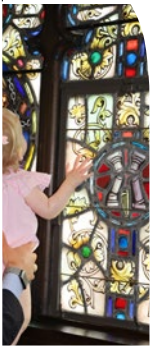
We strive to welcome and grow with many kinds of people and perspectives toward a more just society.

### **DYNAMIC**

We are open to change as we distinguish how to carry out God's work in this time by engaging in deep listening and through-provoking processes of discernment.

### **GENEROUS**

We strive to collaboratively use our resources to care for each other, our church, our community, and our world.





## *Everything is Waiting for You*

**WRITTEN BY DAVID WHYTE**

Your great mistake is to act the drama  
as if you were alone. As if life  
were a progressive and cunning crime  
with no witness to the tiny hidden  
transgressions. To feel abandoned is to deny  
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,  
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;  
the swelling presence, and the chorus, crowding  
out your solo voice. You must note  
the way the soap dish enables you,  
or the window latch grants you freedom.  
Alertness is the hidden discipline of familiarity.  
The stairs are your mentor of things  
to come, the doors have always been there  
to frighten you and invite you,  
and the tiny speaker in the phone  
is your dream-ladder to divinity.

Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the  
conversation. The kettle is singing  
even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots  
have left their arrogant aloofness and  
seen the good in you at last. All the birds  
and creatures of the world are unutterably  
themselves. Everything is waiting for you.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
435 PEACHTREE STREET NE  
ATLANTA, GA 30308