

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Vincent G. "Chip" Seadale, Rector *October 1, 2020*

One of my favorite record albums is by the jazz and pop singer, Dianne Reeves, called *Bridges*. The title cut is stunning—enough so, I've reproduced the lyrics below. The song tells a story about a woman who has crossed a thousand bridges, in her "search for something real," but all of them, alone. And while she knows a "bridge of sorrow," and prays that it may not last, she also knows there "must be Bridges made out of love." (I invite you to go on YouTube to hear it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTYhL8teRNo>)

In case anyone is wondering who we are these days, through all our uncertainty, anxiety, turmoil, information and chatter, here's what I believe most:

In all we say or do as Christians, following the God in Christ we know, this is who we are to our world:

We are Bridges made out of Love.

And that is what I most want to remind all of us, beloved members and friends of St Andrew's Church, right now.

Love for our God, love for each other, and love for everyone, and every creature, God has made. Giving our hearts to God, we become the means for bridges, for healing, for reconciling everyone to each other, and to God

I invite you to consider this, and all that St Andrew's Church means to you and to our beloved community of faith, and all we may mean to our island communities, indeed, our world, and then fill out the enclosed pledge card for your gift to God in 2021.

And in case you are inclined to fill it out quickly, without spending much time to think about—and perhaps pray about—what all this means to us, and to you, [I ask and invite you to choose another route: to read through all the materials we've prepared for you to look at and prayerfully consider, as you discern your role in our shining enterprise.](#)

In these materials, aside from your pledge card (which we ask you to return before November 1 in the enclosed envelope), you will find:

1. Where our church now stands financially;
2. Where I believe we are spiritually; and
3. How we would ask you to help us in this Stewardship Campaign.

With the gracious and excellent supportive work of our new “Finance and Stewardship Team” (Co-Facilitated by Michael Balay and Warden Carl Malmquist, together with our new Treasurer, Mardi Moran, Warden Barbara Rush and Altar Guild Director Pamela Lindgren Monterosso), our aim is, in these materials, to provide to you the following:

Transparency (where we are financially) + **Purpose** (where we are spiritually) + **Conviction** (your resolve to help).

Please take the time to consider our offerings herein, and respond with your heart.

And please do what you can to stay connected, and remain engaged with us, in our personal Daily Meditations (weekdays), our Sunday worship on our YouTube channel, and our twice-monthly “Coffee Hour Chats” on Zoom every Second and Fourth Sunday of the month.

And always remember this: I always thank God for you.

Faithfully yours,

Father Chip+

Bridges *Dianne Reeves*

I have crossed a thousand bridges
In my search for something real
There were great suspension bridges
Made like spider webs of steel
There were tiny wooden trestles
And there were bridges made of stone

I have always been a stranger and I've always been alone

There's a bridge to tomorrow
There's a bridge to the past
There's a bridge made of sorrow
That I pray will not last

There's a bridge made of color
In the sky high above
And I pray that there must be Bridges
made out of love

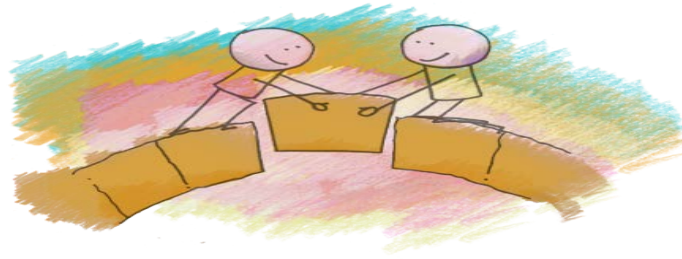
I can see him in the distance
On the river's other shore
And his arms reach out in longing
As my own have done before
And I call across to tell him
Where I believe the bridge must lie
And I'll find it
Yes I'll find it
If I search until I die

When the bridge is between us
We'll have nothing to say
We will run through the sunlight
And he'll meet me halfway

There's a bridge made of color
In the sky high above
And I know that there must be Bridges
made out of love

ST ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH + MY PLEDGE FOR 2021

BRIDGES OF LOVE



Name(s) _____ Contact Info: _____

(LAST YEAR'S PLEDGE: \$ _____;
increase of 20% would be \$ _____)



Total Pledged for 2021: \$ _____

(I would like to include St Andrew's in my will, or arrange for planned giving—
please contact me)

I hope to pay _____ (weekly/monthly/annually)

(Please provide envelopes)