

Help Feed Those in Need Both Locally and Globally

I have been a pretty avid runner for the past 7 years or so and about 5 years ago a running buddy of mine introduced me to an App called Charity Miles. The basic idea of this App is to allow users to raise money for a charity through the miles they walk, run or bike. The App pairs me with a “sponsor” for each activity (works with walking and biking too) I log and after I am done I share my activity on social media (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) and the sponsor then donates to the charity I have chosen. For running and walking it is \$0.25/mile and for biking its \$0.10/mile. Since I carry my phone anyway, I found this to be a great way to do some good for others while doing some good for myself.

Before the pandemic hit I had been running to support an organization raising money for cancer research, but I decided to change to a charity named Feeding America given the food needs many in our community face. At the time, I really didn’t relate my running life to my St. Andrew’s life, but as time has gone on that has changed. As a quick reminder,

The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. At St. Andrew’s we pursue that restoration in our community through our core values of service, acceptance, faith, worship and learning.

Our Vision is to be recognized as an inclusive Episcopal Church dedicated to feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger and being transformed by the life-giving encounter with God.

Being able to be in the service of others by raising money to help an organization feed the hungry, simply by turning on an App while I exercise, has brought two very important pieces of my life together. And so, with the restrictions on gathering, we have been forced to rethink how we as a congregation support our Mission and Outreach Ministry (no Deck the Halls) and its primary focus on feeding the hungry in our local community.

So how can we help feed those in need, both locally and globally? First, you can download the App and select Feeding America as your charity (or a different charity if you choose) and then use the App when you walk, run or bike. If you share it on social media then a donation is made (you do have to share it). The app makes that easy as well. However, to make this a St. Andrew’s community activity, I have created a team that anyone can join in Charity Miles and want to offer a challenge to those willing to join the team and log some miles. For each mile completed by our team through the end of 2020, we will donate \$1.00 to St. Andrew’s Mission and Outreach Ministry, up to a total of \$1000.

What if you don’t walk, run or bike, but you would still like to play a part? I invite you to put forth a challenge to the team and help provide the funding Mission and Outreach needs to continue and grow its Ministry. Or you could do both!

Anyone needing more information about Charity Miles or “technical” help, please contact me.

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