

## ROBERT REARDEN



**Most important issue facing St Andrew Parish:** Uniting parishioners of diverse cultures and generations into a Christ-centered community where all are actively engaged in parish life is the most important issue we face. It is made more challenging because many parishioners are not actively involved in parish life today. Addressing the issue begins with each of us recognizing the presence of Christ in others, putting aside our fears and engaging others on a personal level. Engagement can be deepened by fostering a Parish pastoral plan that supports life-long faith formation, assists those undergoing similar life experiences, bridges cross-cultural and cross-generational gaps, and provides opportunities for stewardship.

**Most significant positive about St Andrew Parish and why:** Saint Andrew's most significant positive lies in the strength of its diverse ministries. With over seventy active ministries, there are numerous opportunities for all parishioners to engage in various aspects of parish life. Spanning family life, religious formation, liturgy, children and youth, education, and social activism, our range of ministries exceeds that available in most parishes. Our large number of ministries is a testament to the commitment of our parish laity to live our faith. Our challenge is to increase the number of parishioners involved in these wonderful opportunities to make our ministries even stronger.

**What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council:** The gifts I would bring include the following... experience as a Pastoral Council member for the past year, a willingness to work with others; the ability to listen attentively to others; respect for the opinions and perspectives of others; the ability to recognize the needs of others; the ability to foster a wholesome environment for discussion; the ability to plan and organize activities; and a belief in the ability of the group to discern God's will through listening, prayer and dialogue. As a 20+ year parishioner and parent of three children who attended Saint Andrew's School, I understand our parish past and believe we can build a more vibrant Christ-centered community in the future.

**Optional Information:** My wife Susan and I have been St. Andrew parishioners since 1982 except for a three-year period when we lived in Atlanta. We are parents of three children who attended St. Andrew's School and Nolan High School. While a parishioner I have taught Baptism preparation classes for three years, served as Scoutmaster of our Boy Scout troop for seven years and served on the Pastoral Council for the past year.