

A message about our annual fundraising event.

The Bishop's Committee has decided that due to COVID-19, we will replace our in-person gala with an online silent auction and virtual live auction.

*We plan to hold the silent auction over **the week of September 20** with the live auction taking place on **September 26** when we had originally scheduled our in-person event.*

We are working on the events and will keep you informed as we define just how it will work.

Because of the pandemic, we have been unable to work on the two Revive & Restore projects which have already been funded—replacing the two doors between the sanctuary and Fellowship Court with a double door, and remodeling the Narthex. These projects will be completed when we are able to hire and interact with contractors to do the work. So this fundraiser will be a little different in another way—we'll donate all of the proceeds.

This year, the money raised will go to support St. Andrew's Children's Center. As you know, the Center closed in March and wasn't able to re-open until June. During that time, the Children's Center continued to pay for limited salaries and wages, employees' benefits and its regular bills which put a serious dent in their reserve. At this time, the Children's Center is increasing enrollment, but it is a slow ramp up and they continue to use savings to stay afloat. The St. Andrew's Children's Center is part of our St. Andrew's family and we want to do everything we can to help the program stay open while as we work towards thriving again.

We do not have as many opportunities for donations from outside vendors this year due to the pandemic. Restaurants have been closed or providing take-out only, theaters and sports venues are closed, etc.

If you are able to make a donation for the silent or auction, it will be greatly appreciated. We realize that for the rest of this year and early in 2021 it will be difficult to plan specific dates for fellowship types of events like dinners and barbecues, but if we're all flexible on timing, I think these will work. You may even come up with something that fits well with our current circumstances, such as a meal delivery, shared dinners on Zoom, or something much more creative. Please e-mail kcartelli@hotmail.com with your auction item, a description and its value by August 15.

We really appreciate your support and think we can make this virtual alternative fun.

Thank you!

Kathy Cartelli and Catherine Sharbaugh
Event co-chairs