

# Episcopal Mission of Warren County



St. Francis Of Assisi



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December 1, 2017

*"Mary treasured all these words, and pondered them in her heart" - Luke 2:19*

Each Advent we wait in expectant joy for the celebration of our Lord Jesus' birth. This year, we invite you to contemplate how you can share that expectant joy through a pledge to next year's ministry. Not only will you be helping our congregation leaders in planning and guiding our work together, but you will also engage more deeply in the life of faith. Pledging is an invitation to cast away the shadows that lure us into fears of scarcity and instead to boldly proclaim the light of faith that burns in our hearts. To make pledging and giving a regular practice of our faith life invites us to see our financial lives as full of God's gifts, gifts which he asks us to be faithful stewards of through the practices of giving back.

Financially, your church continues a strategy of pushing the boundaries of our current financial resources in order to fund our ministries. While we have been advised to reduce our use of our endowments by \$50,000, we are encouraged by the new life and energy each of our congregations is experiencing as we pursue Christian mission in this new age for the church. It may not be the church of yesterday, but the hope, born of strong faith, leads us to continue to invest as we already experience evidence of new life and mission. Help us continue to boldly pursue this new life with your support.

As you contemplate your pledge for next year, we also invite you to pray about how you can bless the future church through planned giving. Included in this packet is a pamphlet on how to make the church a part of their estate plans. Your clergy, charged to regularly encourage members to make good plans for their families and communities concerning such things, stand ready to pray and discuss such options with you as well.

This is much to consider. Mary had a lot to consider in her days of waiting. Yet the church is in some way always in pensive, excited waiting for the birth of new life in our midst. Make the decision to invest in that new life or to grow your investment as you welcome the blessings of Jesus more deeply in your life this year.

Yours in Christ,

*Matthew*

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