

# Episcopal Mission of Warren County



St. Francis Of Assisi



September 16, 2018

Today marks my final day with you for a short time as I step aside for an eight-week sabbatical. This break from pastoral ministry will be focused on my doctoral work, and I am looking forward to making further progress on my dissertation.

In many ways I am reluctant to leave. The Episcopal Mission of Warren County is blossoming in so many ways. New members have joined us. Lay leaders are growing and claiming vital and lively ministries. New structures and approaches to ministry arise to help us better pursue Christ's mission. I am humbled and honored to be a part of all this with you, and stepping back from these blessings feels awkward.

Yet I do this in confidence that you all, committed members, new visitors, appointed leaders, and incredible staff, have all the tools necessary to continue to thrive in our work of sharing Jesus with our neighbors and friends. Most importantly, I know that God dwells in each and every one of you, and his love will shine forth in ways I cannot predict and certainly cannot control.

So I say this: Go and be the people of God to our community that so needs the words and presence of the Prince of Peace, the Bringer of Hope, and the Author of all Good Things. Gather each week in prayer and in joy, bringing others with you into this pattern of transformed life. I will return on November 13th and be overjoyed in all that you have done in Jesus. I'll share the blessings that time away, reflecting and writing, offered me as I dare to continue ministering in Christ's name as a clergy person in community. Renewed by time traveling apart, we will again share life celebrating, growing, and sharing as Jesus' disciples together.

Please pray for me as I will pray for you,

Matthew

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The Reverend Matthew R. Scott, Vicar  
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