

September 24, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

On September 14, our Spirit and Stewardship team sent a letter encouraging us to move forward by reclaiming our joy, together. The St. Mary's community is small but mighty, and there is much going on within and because of St. Mary's. Your Vestry is excited about the community spirit we feel that makes it possible to dream big, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Although we projected a deficit in the 2021 budget, generous bequests and unexpected gifts mean we have what is needed to meet the basic needs of parish administration this year and continue serving the larger community. This is definitely cause for celebration! Thanks to all who have made this possible.

We are finding joy as our community flourishes with new ministries such as Christian Formation, the ongoing success of CSC and Walking Together (COPA) in serving our neighbors with love, an energetic new Music Director with big plans, triple-threat Sundays (Zoom, in-person, and live-streaming), coming together for memorial services for those who died during the pandemic, our continuing partnership with PG Library for their book sales, as well as supporting other community partners who use our spaces.

But we can do more. We want to do more. It will take more. This parish has dreams and it takes all of us to make those dreams reality. We have dreams like adding a Family and Youth Minister to our staff. We have dreams to beautify our campus by landscaping the front yard (yay!), painting the church and replacing the flooring in Edwards Hall, just to name a few of the more visible joys. Some dreams are still being formed; our Campus Study Committee has been meeting regularly to consider new ways to use our abundance of space and partner with the community to help meet some of the pressing needs of our neighbors.

We have set a challenging goal of \$300,000 for the 2022 pledge campaign, about 33% above what was pledged in 2021. To meet this challenge, we need to change the way we view pledging. It is not a bill we pay to satisfy the church's needs; it is an offering of love, given so the dreams God plants in us can be made manifest in our community and in the world. On the back of this letter are four perspectives on giving for your consideration. When you dream about the future of St. Mary's, consider how you can help. What combination of time, talent, and treasure will you commit to St. Mary's in 2022?

Please return your pledge card by November 7, All Saints' Sunday, and plan to attend our Spirit of St. Mary's breakfast after in-person church that day. We will give thanks for the faithfulness and foresight of previous generations, and celebrate our commitment to the future. Giving is a good and joyful thing.

In the love of Christ,

Fran Foote, Senior Warden

On behalf of the St. Mary's Vestry

### Four Perspectives on Giving

#### *Giving as a proportion of income – the Biblical tithe is 10%*

		Weekly Pledge as Proportion of Income									
Annual Income	Weekly Income	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%
\$20,000	\$385	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$23	\$27	31	\$35	\$38	\$42	\$46
\$30,000	\$577	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$35	\$40	\$46	\$52	\$28	\$63	\$69
\$40,000	\$769	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$46	\$54	\$62	\$69	\$77	\$85	\$92
\$50,000	\$968	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$67	\$77	\$87	\$96	\$106	\$115
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$69	\$81	\$92	\$104	\$115	\$127	\$138
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$81	\$94	\$108	\$121	\$135	\$148	\$162
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$92	\$108	\$123	\$138	\$154	\$169	\$185
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$104	\$121	\$138	\$156	\$173	\$190	\$208
\$100,00	\$1,923	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$135	\$154	\$173	\$192	\$212	\$231
\$110,000	\$2,115.38	\$63.46	\$84.62	\$105.77	\$126.92	\$148.02	\$169.22	\$190.32	\$211.54	\$232.60	\$253.85
\$120,00	\$2,307.60	\$69.23	\$92.31	\$115.38	\$138.46	\$161.54	\$184.62	\$207.60	\$230.77	\$253.85	\$276.92
\$130,00	\$2,500.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$275.00	\$300.00

#### **Giving to meet specific needs**

We have certain known costs to continue operating and ministering as we currently do. For example,  
 \$2000 pays the Rector's salary and pension for one week  
 \$2800 keeps the office up and running for a month  
 \$5000 pays the utilities for a quarter

#### **Giving to respond to a challenge to grow our mission and outreach**

To reach our goal of \$300,000, we need a variety of gifts of different sizes.  
 6 gifts of \$10,000  
 10 gifts of \$6,000  
 15 gifts of \$4,000  
 20 gifts of \$3,000  
 25 gifts of \$2,400

#### **Giving out of a sense of abundance**

Follow your heart, your sense of gratitude and your desire for abundance and joy at St. Mary's. What are you willing to commit as we dream about the future? What does it mean to "with gladness, present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord?"