

Episcopal Mission of Warren County



St. Francis Of Assisi



Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. – Hebrews 13:15-16, BCP 376

Each Sunday at the Offertory, the gifts offered by the people are presented at the altar and prepared for communion. This sentence of scripture is one of the recommended ones for use to signal the beginning of this Great Thanksgiving.

In this sentence of scripture, the focus is on our giving praise. We do this with our lips, yes, but just as we promise in the Baptismal Covenant to preach the Gospel in word and deed, we also offer praise through deeds. When we share at the altar of God of what we have been given, it is just such an act of praise.

The spirit of praise grounds this year's stewardship drive, when we ask all who take part in the life of our congregations to offer pledges of financial support. These pledges help us make our budget preparations, yes, but they also invite you to plan how you are going to give praise back to God in the coming year.

It is in this planned practice of sacrificial giving that we draw close to God. We discover even more of his joy in our lives and thus praise his name even more. It is finding this joy that is at the heart of tithing, the giving back of 10%. More information about that practice and how you can take steps to make it a part of your life are on the back of this letter.

Your completed cards are welcome to be included in the offering plate on any Sunday between now and Sunday, December 8th, when we will bless all the pledge offerings.

Join with so many others in offering praise to God, by sharing of what you have been given.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew +

The Reverend Matthew R. Scott, Vicar
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