

# RENEW!

Jesus said, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."  
— Luke 6:37b-38

How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things he has done for me?  
— Psalm 116:10

September 28, 2023

Friends,

**What a weekend!** Even though the events of **Martyrs' Weekend** are firmly in the rearview mirror, I remain enthused and energized by the outpouring of creativity, the hours of dedication, and the spirit of celebration we experienced so recently.

In a word: **Wow!**

We proved that St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is alive and well — certainly willing and more than able to dream big and to accomplish even more. Below is a quick summary of the events, and the numbers, of Martyrs' Weekend:

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On **Martyrs' Weekend** we welcomed **hundreds** of parishioners, guests, and neighbors to a variety of events:

- ❖ **Hope & Food** on Saturday morning
  - ❖ Morning Prayer (**48** attending)
  - ❖ Brownbag Breakfast (**115** receiving)
  - ❖ *plus a Health Fair!*
- ❖ **Celebration of Remembrance & Renewal**
  - ❖ At least **375** attending Saturday evening
  - ❖ Banners in procession from throughout the Diocese
  - ❖ At least **40** choristers joined the St. Mary's Choir
  - ❖ *plus we raised nearly \$5,000 to support affiliated ministries!*
- ❖ Remembering **Constance and her Companions**
  - ❖ Over **100** joined us for Holy Eucharist on Sunday
  - ❖ Over **80** attended the Picnic at Elmwood Cemetery

So now the question I have for you is: **what's next?**

*Please turn the page to read my thoughts on that very question...*

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By God's grace, we're doing great things at the Cathedral.

## And we're just getting started!

Now that we have been reminded how God has blessed St. Mary's, now is the time to ask: how do **you** know God's abundance in your life? How has God given **you** "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over"?

God has certainly been generous! What is **your** response to that generosity?

Your faithful response is invited to be shared on

**Renewal Sunday, October 8.**

**I'll be offering my pledge to God that morning. Will you join me?**

**The renewal** of our Cathedral building is reflected — even magnified — by the renewal of our Cathedral family. I see this reflected in the smiles, laughter, friendship, and positive energy revealed in our common life of worship, study, and service.

**God's blessings** abound here at St. Mary's. As the psalmist once wrote, truly our "cup runneth over." How we shall we respond to such abundance?

**My giving** recognizes that God has blessed me deeply and profoundly in so many ways in my service as your Interim Dean, a position which has brought me both challenge and deep joy.

**I give** not only because of my gratitude for God's abundance but also because it is God's call for me to support the work of the church in all the ways I can. We are all called to love both God and neighbor; our church provides an excellent opportunity for doing both.

**So here's the challenge I bring you:** how has God blessed you with abundance? And how will you express your gratitude and answer your call to support the work of the church as an expression of your love for God and your love for your neighbor?

For 2023, the Cathedral adopted a budget of just over \$560,000 in expenses — but only \$503,000 in income. This deficit spending is not only unsustainable but also fails to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings in our life. I invite you to consider anew how you can respond to God's many blessings, and how you can share even more fully in the life and ministries of this, your great Cathedral.

**It's online! It's easy!  
Scan this code to make  
your 2024 pledge now.**



You will note that our Pledge Card has two sides. One side is for noting your financial commitment — information the Mission Council relies on in preparing a responsible budget. The other side lists ministry opportunities—additional ways you can support our common shared ministries here.

We will offer our 2024 pledges on **Renewal Sunday, October 8** as we bring them to the altar and pray God's blessings on our renewed commitment to support the work and ministries of your amazing Cathedral. Please prayerfully consider your sacred commitment to God's work when you make your pledge.

(And if you are not able to be with us in person, you can scan the code to the left to make your pledge online. Or simply return your commitment by mail.)

Yours in Christ's love,



The Rev. Gary Meade, *Interim Dean*

**St. Mary's is alive!**