



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

800 Rountree Street
Kinston, North Carolina 28501-3655

www.stmaryskinston.com

Telephone: (252) 523-6146

Email: Twarren@stmaryskinston.com

Wednesday in the First Week of Lent - February 21, 2018

Dear St. Mary's Parish Family,

These last few weeks have been incredible! Since accepting the Vestry's call to serve as your next Rector, I have wondered so much, in a new way, about what dreams God has for this church family in the years to come. In what ways will the love of Christ be made present and visible through how we live, worship, and serve with each other? What impact will this season of ministry have on our families... on our city... on our world? These have been awesome and exciting prayers to pray and, as I mentioned in my sermon last Sunday, it is truly an exciting time to be a Christian in this world and a member of St. Mary's.

I'm writing to highlight two very important things to you that pertain to this very topic:

1. On Wednesday evenings in Lent, (beginning today!) I hope that you will participate in our supper and program series. **The theme will be "LISTENING" to God's call on our lives, as individuals and as a church family. We'll begin the supper & program as soon as Evensong concludes. Evensong begins at 5:45pm in the Nave.** The ECW will be offering their warm hospitality during these special evenings, so please come and enjoy!
2. The Vestry and I have prayerfully decided to take steps toward acquiring the adjoining property to our West Lawn (900 Rountree St.). As such, we are beginning a fundraising campaign towards the purchase of the property itself, the demolition of the structure on the lot, and further costs associated with preparing the lot for the future use of the land that will be determined by a long-range planning committee. Thanks to a most generous offer, **from now, through Sunday, March 4, any donation that is made specifically towards this project will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!** Please consider being a part of this exciting possibility for St. Mary's by making a contribution towards this project – I assure you, no gift is too small. Checks for this purpose should have "Capital Fund Drive" written in the memo line. Contributions may also be made online, at www.stmaryskinston.com/give, selecting the Fund of the same name.

So, again I ask, and invite you to ask in your own prayers: What dreams does God have for this church family in the years to come? This season of Lent is a wonderful time to pray about and discuss this together. We have an incredibly rare opportunity before us to expand the presence of St. Mary's Church in our neighborhood. These things are a blank canvas, of sorts, on which God is inviting us to be His instruments in creating beauty for the sake of sharing the Gospel of His son, Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Thomas P. H. Warren
Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church