



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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StMarksFincastle.org

October 28, 2025

To my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you today to discuss your annual pledge to our beloved Saint Mark's home. Although the Holy Trinity is with us in all domains and places in our lives and not confined to our beautiful Church and Campus, the building does allow us to meet and celebrate The Good News every Sunday and throughout the week as different ministries convene to do the work of God's calling to them. The structures allow us to meet and celebrate our faith, to hold each other up in times of celebration and sooth each other during the most painful and challenging times in our lives.

It helps us to incorporate our Faith into how we lead our daily lives as Christians in our thoughts, meditations and actions. It feeds and nourishes us.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church of Fincastle is a material manifestation of God's Grace and is our home. As with any home, there are financial needs to maintain it- monthly water, electricity, grounds maintenance costs to name just a few- and then those costs that crop up unexpectedly- e.g. who can forget the sewage crisis that arose just before last Easter and brought us a hefty and unexpected cost. So, as with any home there is a budget. Pledging is the main source of income for our beloved church. Approximately 75% of our budget comes from the weekly pledges from members of our congregation. 75%, this is a hefty percentage, but to whom much has been given, much is expected. Our Church Family gives us love and compassionate forgiveness; it sustains us with the Good News of Eternal Life and relief from the hardships of this earthly life that Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us in his ultimate sacrifice.

Each of our family members has different financial resources, but I ask you to contemplate what Saint Mark's provides you with and incorporate Saint Mark's into your individual budgets, to pledge what you can and honor that pledge.

There are a variety of ways to help ensure the long-term financial health of our Church- some examples could be including Saint Mark's in your estate planning, purchasing Life Insurance and making the Church the beneficiary, and if you have the resources making gifts to specific ministries within the church. For those who have a tight budget and cannot pledge much or engage in longer term financial planning that include Saint Mark's, consider volunteering your time and skills to ministries that call to you at Saint Mark's.

I thank you for meditating, praying, and discerning on what you can give to your Saint Mark's home and then fulfilling your pledge.

Wishing you Grace, Peace and Faith.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Hagan, MD
Senior Warden