



MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

Dear Friends,

I've been doing as Dr. Luke says Mary did with these words: ***“And Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”*** You see, the impact of Bethlehem was such that she could not forget. She could not get the moment and the images out of her head.

As I write, I'm feeling the same way. 2024 was a remarkable year, one in which hopes and dreams surrounding the remarkable vitality of our church were in full display: *Embracing Disability; Beyond Hospitality; The Good Life; A Baby Changes Everything*; as you served in the community and region through Hoskin's Park, Greenway Park Elementary, Room In The Inn, A Roof Above, WNC Disaster Relief, Vacation Bible School, Music & Arts Camp, Rainbow Express Camp, and so much more. I'm simply unable to get these incredible images of service, learning and faithfulness out of my head. I don't want to. They are indelibly seared into my memory.

From the bottom of my heart, would you allow me to say **thank you**. What you have done with your faithful, generous financial giving is beyond compare. You have placed us on sound financial footing and none of that would have happened without all of us doing what God was nudging our hearts to do. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I'm in awe of each and every one of you who make up the Body of Christ called Matthews United Methodist Church.

So, carry us into the future, friends. Much is beckoning us forward into 2025. We are only two years away from celebrating our 150th Anniversary as a church. We celebrate God's grand work in and through us for 2024, but with an eye to what God is calling us to be and do in 2025. We have some extraordinary days awaiting us.

Better ... Together.

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