

Rector's Note

9.18.25

This past Saturday, vestry spent several hours on retreat, getting oriented, getting to know each other, and doing some brainstorming about who we are as a St Martin's community. It was good to have the time and spaciousness, to be just a bit away (at our sister church St Paul's!), and to pray together and connect.

We also had Safe Church training during our retreat day, led in a live interactive format by Rev Luke. Luke has been providing these trainings for staff and volunteers that are of excellent quality and meet the diocesan requirements for lay and ordained ministry leaders. At Tuesday's vestry meeting this week, vestry voted to approve the list of suggested modules of online training through Praesidium (the platform used by this Diocese) that will supplement the live training. We are really fortunate to have Luke working on Safe Church training and compliance in such a thorough and thoughtful way. Youth and community members of all ages will be safer and better cared-for as a result.

Another thing to feel grateful for this week is that we now have a signed agreement with our architect, memorializing the planning and drawing work that has been done and completing the last payment of this phase. I am grateful to vestry, to the attorney who has been helping us, and to the many St Martin's members who made gifts to the 135th fund to get us to this point. You have all helped ensure that the project can soon move into a new phase.

Finally, I'm feeling immense gratitude for the ministry of The Rev. Laura Palmer. Laura's last Sunday at St Martin's is this Sunday. I will miss her, and I know you will too. Laura has been such a deep healing presence in this community, and I know she will bring that same care, attention, pastoral presence, and powerful storytelling to St Christopher's. Please join me in hearing her preach this Sunday, and in celebrating her at a special reception after the 10:30 service.

Mary+

