

Rector's Note

7.23.26

At any given time, members of this St Martin's community need help from each other. Someone has an injury. One of us needs surgery or other medical treatment. Someone gets hospitalized. We or our parents can no longer leave our home or residence. Someone is a new parent. A loved one dies. We are struggling with a life transition or loss.

I spend a good part of my week meeting with folks in my office, at a coffee shop, or in their home or the hospital. The reason can be anything from just getting to know each other to pastoral and sacramental issues such as confession or anointing the sick. This is one of the most joyful and most meaningful parts of being your rector. And also, I don't do this work alone.

Many other ministers do pastoral care at St Martin's. Stephen Ministers accompany people during difficult times, praying with them and listening to them. Deacon Carol Duncan, and our newly reactivated Eucharistic Visiting team, go out to homes and hospitals, bringing communion when someone can't make it to church.

There are more informal ways that St Martin's parishioners minister to each other. Offering rides to church or medical appointments. Bringing a meal to someone. Phone calls, emails, mailed cards, and visits. And prayers.

There is a gift in receiving these acts of love and care, and also a gift in giving them.

If you or a loved one are going through something, or if you just want to say hello, please reach out to me for a meeting. Ask to be on the prayer list (it can be your full name or just your first name). Ask one of the Morning Prayer leaders to pray for you by name at that service. Go to the altar rail for healing prayers during Sunday 10:30 communion. Ask for a Eucharistic visit or a Stephen Minister.

This is what community is for. And this is another way we make God's kingdom real, here and now.

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