

## **Rector's Note**

### **4.1.26**

I often get asked, How do I become a member of St Martin's? You would think the answer would be simple, but it actually depends on what is meant by membership.

If you want to be eligible to vote in our Annual Church Meeting, membership means you need to attend Sunday worship and give any amount of money to the church. If you want to be counted in Parochial Report data sent to The Episcopal Church as a communicant in good standing, you need to be baptized and attend Sunday Eucharist at least three times a year.

There are many ways to get even more deeply into membership and belonging at St Martin's. You can choose to not only give to the church, but pledge each year, that is, promise to give a certain amount. You can join a committee or serve on vestry. You can come to activities and worship opportunities throughout the week and year, from Wednesday noon service to Worship Reflections to Adult Forum to retreats and beyond. You can be baptized if you never had that rite before. You can be confirmed or received by the Bishop.

But all of that is still too narrow, because the universe of people who belong at St Martin's includes many others. The person who does not attend services but hangs out in the kitchen with James. The many people who come for concerts and musical events. Everyone who gets Field Notes in their inbox. The person who visits their loved one in the columbarium. Someone from another faith community working on a community engagement committee, baking for St James or helping a refugee family. Even the person who walks their dog on campus or plays with their family in the playground. All of these folks can consider themselves to be connected to St Martin's, and can choose to call me their rector.

When a connection crosses over to membership can happen gradually and be a bit fuzzy. Just like our faith journey itself. Those of us who come through this campus and sit in the church pews, even those of us who are in Sunday services regularly, do not all think or believe alike. But we are all neighbors, all part of this St Martin's community, all one body.

Happy Holy Week, St Martin's!

Mary+