

Rector's Note

8.13.26

Last week I was on vacation, a week so low-key that I didn't take a single picture! I hope you are getting at least a little time this summer that is restful and relatively unscheduled.

Here at St Martin's, the summer weeks are quieter -- fewer committee meetings, events, and offerings. But this summer has been far from quiet in many ways. Yesterday, the capital campaign team met with AOS architects and Delran construction to break down the costs and specifics of the proposed project for the sanctuary and parish hall. As the meeting was winding down, members of the Children, Youth, and Families committee arrived for a visioning session.

Moving forward on a capital project. Envisioning next steps for our CYF programming. These are not lazy summer activities! And yet, these are seeds we are planting this summer, to grow and bear fruit in the coming season. It is holy time well spent by groups of St Martin's ministry leaders.

There is another big new thing happening this summer, that we heard about at Annual Meeting. After much back-end building and data cleaning by Lorie, Noor, and David Dieck, after a bunch of virtual training sessions, we are ready to launch Realm.

Realm is our new church software that will manage our giving and membership going forward. The launch on August 20 will mean you will be able to see your membership info online, edit your directory entry, and if you pledge, see your giving for the year.

On or about August 20, be on the lookout for an email from Realm (not from St Martin's or from me), asking you to sign up. You will go to the link provided and make a login for yourself. You can also choose to get the app, Realm Connect, so that you can log in from your phone.

We will be having a few open houses for tech assistance in getting on to Realm, and just playing with it to see how it looks. Even if you can make your account with no issues, you may want to come by and compare notes, or help others.

I am so thankful to the staff and lay leaders of St Martin's for all of the work happening this summer!

Mary+