

Rector's Note
July 3, 2025

In the weeks since I wrote in Field Notes about our capital plans, the architect's drawings, and how the project got away from us, I have received calls and mail from many St Martin's members. Overwhelmingly, the communications have not been about looking back, blaming, or accusing, but about how folks can be helpful in completing this phase of the project so we can move ahead.

I am incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support, and for the generous donations we have received. We are almost finished with paying the architect's final invoice. But even more than that, your responses illustrate that we are a spiritually mature community that responds to challenges with care and grace.

To be sure, in vestry, finance, and buildings and grounds committees, we continue to reflect on our communications, and on ensuring that we do not get off track again. And even there, keeping ourselves from getting mired in shame or blame will keep us open to real self-examination and change.

You may be thinking you would like to help, but don't feel you can make a big contribution right now. And that's ok, because there is something else you could consider doing that would help St Martin's, and might be really good for you as well.

If you have not ever tried to give your gift to the church proportionally, you could consider changing to this approach over this summer. Proportional giving means you make an electronic transfer or write a check every time you are paid. The amount could be 10%, or 1%, or less than 1%.

If you've never given this way before, the amount is less important than the practice. It is about changing the way you think about giving to St Martin's from a donation to a tithe, to giving a little bit off the top -- first -- from what you have been given. Giving back to God some of what has come from God.

Such a practice of regular giving, regular letting go of some of what we have, such a practice is really freeing. In anxious times like these it can help us let go of our fears of not having enough money. In times when we may all feel a little stretched financially, such a practice can make us feel richer, as we look back over the weeks and see how our little gifts add up.

Give it a try, and see if making your giving a regular spiritual practice can invite you to see God's abundance more fully.

Mary+