

Greetings!
A Reflection by Martha Shimkin
April 7, 2020

The Immanuel Vestry recently sent handwritten cards to every individual or group in our Parish directory. We each were assigned about 30 cards. It wasn't necessarily easy to squeeze in this effort as we were all also moving work home, taking care of family, and striving to keep everyone healthy. Vestry members checked in on each other to make sure everyone finished their cards and we wondered....would people appreciate this? Two weeks later I can share that our card writing effort was one of the most meaningful things for us to have done. To our surprise, Vestry members received so many thank-yous, messages, and blessings from across the Parish. I thank our parishioners, members, and friends for your open hearts to receive, as well as what you gave back in gratitude.

Now I encourage everyone to choose a few names from the Parish directory, maybe some good friends or maybe people you don't know so well. Send a card or two or three with an uplifting message to someone in our Parish community. Enjoy the time to think about someone as you send an encouragement in a short note. Children and youth can easily join in, too. I believe you will be as blessed as we Vestry members have felt. It is something you can do for others and, as attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "For it is in giving that we receive." (Book of Common Prayer, page 833.)

With that, I also wish you all the best blessings of Easter and the renewal of Spring. My encouragement to you: We will gather again!