

Dear Trinity Friend,

This week, our Director of Cathedral Music, Canon Doctor John Strege announced his intention to retire from Trinity on May 2, 2010. By now, you should have received his announcement letter and probably shared the shock that I felt when John initially told me. John has been with Trinity thirty-six years. In some ways, he is Trinity! John's departure represents a significant event for us at Trinity and we can expect to move through this time of transition with John with many emotions: grace, grief, joy and hope.

John's beautiful announcement letter shared many of the wonderful achievements that we have enjoyed with his leadership but, in his usual self-deprecating manner, he failed to celebrate his own achievements: his passion for music, his skill at the organ console, his ability to build relationships that support our Cathedral music, his consistent desire to have music support worship (and not the other way around!), his profound use of silence in liturgy, to name a few. For these many years, John has shared himself with us in a deep, profound and very human way. We are all more authentic in our own lives because we have worshipped with John at the organ and shared him as a friend. Besides all that, he lights up the room when he walks in! As if this is not enough, his life-partner, Kevin Walsh, sings his heart out every Sunday! I could go on for pages and the good news is that we have John (and Kevin) with us for another year to celebrate. In the year ahead, each of us will have the opportunity to thank John for his ministry.

One of the ways we will honor John will be to ensure that our Cathedral Music Ministry continues to deepen, grow and develop. As per our Governance, we have a clearly developed process to guide us in this important transition. This fall, I will work with our Music Commission to do a thorough review of our current music ministry and consider opportunities for the future. Early 2010, we will begin interviewing candidates and expect to announce the new Canon for Cathedral Music after Easter 2010, with the expectation that he or she will arrive early August 2010.

So, we acknowledge that John is moving into a significant transition in his life and our life. We celebrate his ministry and our friendship with him. We look forward to the year ahead to make beautiful music with him and know that God will guide us into the future with a mature measured process to ensure strong music at Trinity for generations to come.

May God bless John and each of us as we move into this transition together.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lupfer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Very Rev. William Lupfer