

## The Communicator January 29, 2023

This is a special Sunday edition in honor of Andrea Carr's retirement. It is also to inform all who don't know of our beloved Patsy Davis' passing into the nearer presence of her Lord on Thursday, January 26. Patsy's Memorial Service will be held some time in the Spring.

Letter from Andrea Carr.

### “DEAREST FRIENDS AT ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS:

When I began my musical work at St. Michael's, little did I know that it was to become the cornerstone of my understanding of this, my musical gift and God's greater purpose for me. The Parable of the Talents took on a new meaning and the eternal, wrestling question facing most musicians, of what to do with this musical talent, became absolutely clear.

Thanks to the years of inspired sermons by our many clergy, the beautiful music, as well as the sweet and touching response of many in the congregation, I came to understand that all music, no matter how simple or elaborate, dramatic or calm, all of it is an expression of our emotions that can reach us, touch us, inspire us, unite us and uplift us, drawing closer to God.

The combination of the Word and Music have the ultimate strength that drives home the message, weaving these through the service, setting the stage for moments of peace, love, sorrow, compassion and praise. Music allows us to feel more fully and release emotions we are unable to comprehend, much less express.

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These are the lessons I have learned and though I will not be with you here each Sunday, I know that the Lord still has more work for me to do, despite my enormous limitations. I hope to GO OUT INTO THE WORLD and still share this music ministry beyond the walls of our dear church.

Since I have been able to continue playing, directing, and singing for so many years, few of you understand that I have been legally blind for almost 20 years. This past year, my vision declined considerably and I could no longer read anything without the valuable help of technology. This has been the reason for my extra, post pandemic confinement and minimal socializing. I hope you will forgive that I don't know many of you and come across as utterly anti-social.

General living requires vision for everything and mine is waning and tires quickly. This is the reason I cannot continue. I must be more selective about this final chapter of my music ministry, which has more to do with teaching, promoting and guiding the next generation of musicians.

To our great family of choristers at St. Michael's, past and present, thank you for joining me in our life changing music. I have loved our work together and could never have done it without you. The indelible memory of our music lives on in our hearts and makes us friends forever.

To those that no longer sing upstairs with us, Steve, Carol,

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Jim, Juanjo, Harriet, Ellen, Gabriel De la Cruz and so many others, we miss you!

To our dearly, departed choristers: Chula Nicholson, Cynthia Sargeant, Lorna Mozer, and Bob Roberts, Patsy Davis, we remember the joy of singing together.

To Gabriel Vargas, pianist in his own right, thank you for coming on board as my Assistant, with the interest and commitment to learning all you can about a successful music ministry. With Andrea Rogel's help, I am sure that you will do your best to keep up the faith through music.

The arrival of several new choristers is thanks to "God working in a mysterious way". Together with Patricia, Susan and Kay, new members have joined the choir in a beautiful and truly bilingual collaboration, something I had always hoped for.

Thank you Andrea, Lucy, Yola, Susie, and Gabriela.

Thank you to Doug for his gentleness and unwavering faith in me, Tamara for her loving encouragement and to Gillian for her steadfast support. Special thanks to Jim Papp, for sharing his vast knowledge about Liturgical music and Psalm singing, together with considerable donations of choral and organ music.

And to you, the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels,

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THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING YOU  
ALL THESE YEARS.

I remember my father sitting me down at age 15, when I was already very advanced at the piano, and explaining to me that there are only TWO kinds of workers in the world: those who create things and those who offer their services. It was a real downer for the sprouting ego, but he was right... except that perhaps some of us can do both!

May music soften our hearts and may God help us all find a path forward.

Peace be with you.

Respectfully yours,  
Andrea