

**Special Edition
The Communicator
Sept 21, 2023**

Father Doug requested that I send this letter out as a Special Edition of The Communicator. The letter was sent directly to the choir earlier today. Please, let us all remember that we have only recently healed from difficult times and let us give Laurie the warm welcome she deserves and will need going forward.

Laurie Rodriguez was Andrea Carr's substitute for many, many years. As co-founder of the choir 23 years ago and long-term choir member I can assure you Laurie will bring her professionalism to this job. We look forward to hearing the choirs (both adult and junior) as they lift their voices under her capable leadership.

Dear Choir,

We are extraordinarily thankful to both our Organist Gabriel Vargas and Choir leader Andrea Rogel for their dedicated service in this year. Unfortunately, with continuing budget restraints, the Vestry found it difficult to employ three persons in our Music Program as Laurie Rodriguez is coming on today as Director of the new Children's Choir.

As we continue to consolidate Staff, we are thanking Gabriel and Andrea for their music, but we are forced to reduce to one music employee, that is, Laurie will become our Organist and Adult Choir and Children's Choir leader on October 1st. This difficult decision was made unanimously at the last vestry meeting. This is not a firing of the two, but a financial reality that a small Congregation with a limited operating budget must face.

To avoid misinformation and rumors I am sending this letter to Carol to publish in *The Communicator*.

We will honor both Gabriel and Andrea at our next service this September 24th and thank them for leading us these many months.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Douglas Carter

CC: The Communicator