

Please Welcome Our New Director of Music Ministries to St. Stephen's

Dear Parish Family,
I am thrilled to announce that we have called Dr. John Whiteside, A.A.G.O, to the newly created position of Director of Music Ministries for St. Stephen's Church. John comes to us from Christ Church, Needham, where he has served as Director of Music Ministries since 2005, directing the Adult Choir, Youth Choir and Bell Choir and playing the organ during worship services.

John plans to spend his first few months with us learning about our hopes and dreams for our music program, and developing a program that embodies the skills needed to amplify both our musical and spiritual growth.

John is a native Bostonian who spent most of his childhood in coastal Maine, where his father taught at Bowdoin College. He started piano lessons with William Eaves at the age of 4, and when he wasn't practicing piano he was learning the skills of sailing. Perhaps because of his own early exposure to music, John has a particular passion for developing children's choirs.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, majoring in music, and received both his Masters in Music and his Doctorate from Boston University. John has also earned the Associate Degree from the American Guild of Organists. His teachers have included the late John Ferris at Harvard University, Max Miller at Boston University, and John Julius Baird. He has also done post-graduate work with Anton Heiller and Robert Shaw.

John has served as Dean of the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as well as on the Music and Liturgy Committee of the Diocese of Massachusetts. He has served as Director of Music in many churches including Christ Church in Andover, Massachusetts, St. Michael's Church in Milton, Massachusetts, and Christ Church in Charlottesville, Virginia.




John and his wife, Anne, live in Dorchester and are both excited about joining our parish community. Their daughter, Leah, works at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Their son, David, is enrolled at McGill University in Montreal.

I know you will all join me in welcoming John and Anne when they come on-board in early 2009—likely no later than February 1.

Many, many thanks go to the wonderful Music Director Search Committee that worked with exemplary dedication and discernment: David Game, Ben Lacy, Kitty Wheatley, Bob Jackson, John Seavey, Sally Avery, Jill Beresford, and Maggie Moy.

And thanks that are far too numerous for me to even begin to articulate go to David Baker, our Interim Organist, who has been an amazing gift to all of us during this time of transition. David has served us with such dedication and skill, and has become so much a part of the fabric of our family, that saying good-bye to him will not be easy for any of us. Plans for a proper send-off for David will begin soon. He has graciously agreed to stay on and to do all he can to assure a smooth transition.

Pax,
Margot+



To thank David Baker for all he's done as our organist to shepherd us through our interim period, we will be taking up a collection to show our appreciation for his dedication. If you'd like to contribute, please make your check payable directly to David. We will present him with our gift at a time of fellowship to celebrate his service.