

Meet St. Martin's new Director of Music Ministry

St. Martin Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome Dr. Joseph Line our new Director of Music Ministry, and his wife, Darby. "Dr. Joe" comes to us with a bachelor's degree in organ and piano and a master's degree in conducting from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Ohio. His doctoral degree is in conducting from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

His extensive career includes music director positions for various churches including Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor, Michigan and St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. Dr. Joe has also held professorships in music at the State University of New York and an endowed professor's chair at Marshall University in Huntington WV. He has performed well over 200 recitals as a soloist and accompanist and has conducted both amateur and professional choirs, symphony orchestras and opera theaters to critical acclaim in the United States and Europe.

Joe and Darby moved from Princeton, NJ to South Florida five years ago and now live in Coral Springs with their two Shih-tzu dogs, Kaffee and Kona. Darby is an experienced massage therapist and a certified clinical aromatherapist. Their son, Ken, and his wife, Yamilet, also live in South Florida.



New Musical Additions to the St. Martin Liturgy

"Singing is the deepest form of prayer ... because the Holy Spirit is present in each breath." On September 13, three new congregational songs were added to the liturgy at St. Martin. For an eleven week trial period (until the beginning of Advent) we will be singing instead of speaking both the Memorial Acclamation ("Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.) and the Great Amen, which follows soon afterward. A newer version of the Lord's Prayer was also introduced.

Dr. Joe introduced these new pieces to the congregation during the announcements this past Sunday and explained how, taken together, these musical works serve to elevate the liturgy toward the high point in the service – the breaking of the wafer symbolizing Christ's broken body. He acknowledged that while he and many others very much love the Malotte Lord's Prayer that has been used in the past, the work as a liturgical piece is problematic for several reasons. Noting that the Malotte work was written using the words "debts and debtors" appropriate for Presbyterian services, Dr. Joe indicated that the music does not adapt well to the many additional syllables needed for the sentences about trespasses. Furthermore the Malotte was written with trained soloists in mind and its wide range of notes is almost twice that of any hymn and congregational song. This puts it beyond the singing abilities of over 90% of adults. Because of these features, it can be very forbidding not only to current members but also to individuals and guests who come to visit St. Martin's from time to time.

The new Lord's Prayer that will be sung is by the ecumenical composer Owen Burdick. Because it is proclaimed in three ways all at once, worshipers are free to choose how they want to participate on any given Sunday. Those who wish to speak the words will find this easy to do because the words are presented just as one would normally say them. For those who wish to chant the text on a single note, giving the singing a mysterious quality that, too, is also possible. Over the coming weeks, the beautiful melody of this new work will be revealed first by the organ and in about three weeks by the choir. At that point, the congregation will be invited to sing along with the choir if they wish ... but members are always welcome to chant or say the text as they desire.

Both Father Bernie and Dr. Joe hope you will use this trial period as an opportunity to prayerfully consider these works and to give your best to enrich and enliven these new additions to our liturgy.