



# The Message

The Newsletter of

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - Little Rock, Arkansas

A House of Prayer for All People

## An Announcement from Canon Snapp

Dear people of Trinity Cathedral,

I believe in divine providence, even though (of course) I fall short of understanding it. Somehow I don't think it was an accident that I ended up here at Trinity for not one but two periods of time—for almost three years beginning in 2010 under Dean Jensen, and for over five years under Deans Keller and Meaux. God had good, life-giving purposes in mind, which we were all called to help fulfill, and through grace we have moved in that direction. Soon another providential turning point will come, which won't be easy, but which I pray we will approach faithfully.

After much consideration and soul-searching, I am planning to take early retirement from Trinity beginning June 1. My last Sunday will be May 30. Not immediately, but in the next year if all goes well, I expect to move to England because of long-standing personal connections there. Arkansas will always be “home” to me, but a new home and new callings and challenges await. We will see what forms my priestly ministry may take in that context.

Leaving Trinity will be difficult, despite exciting prospects. I will not be engaging in the life of the parish, pastorally or liturgically, for at least a year—which is standard procedure for clergy making transitions. Remembering that “goodbye” comes from “God be with you,” I trust that we will have good opportunities for saying goodbye in the weeks before my departure.

I cannot thank you enough for your love and support over these years, and I cannot thank God enough for God's provision for all of us. Forever, we remain united in the mystical Body of God's Son, Christ our Lord, and we will always rejoice in that communion and fellowship. I take comfort in leaving you in the capable, loving hands of Dean Meaux and other leaders, both clergy and lay. Trinity Cathedral will remain in my heart and in my prayers.

Sincerely,  
Russ Snapp



*Russ with the Black Madonna and Child at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston*

## Celebrating Russ' Ministry Among Us

by *The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Dean and Rector*

To the People of Trinity -

You may, like me, have mixed emotions about Father Snapp's retirement. I am thrilled for him: for the opportunity to rest and adventure into this next phase of life. I am also sad for us: we will miss his steadfast leadership, and love of and within our community.

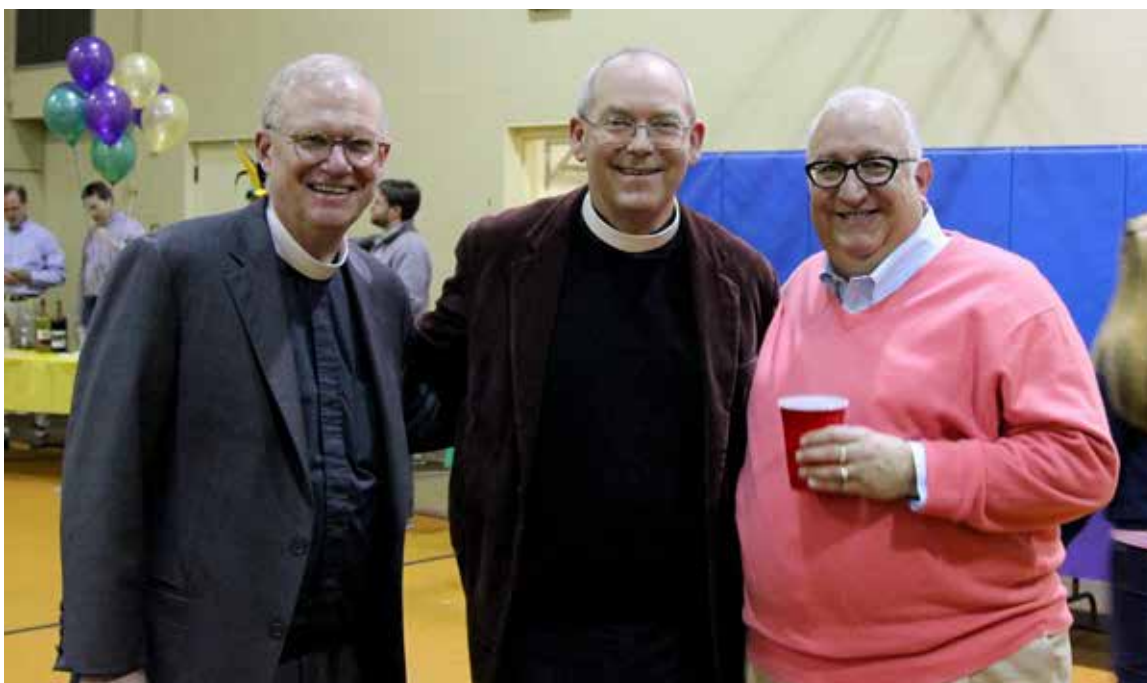
Since the moment I met Russ, I have held a deep sense of gratitude for his ministry. He has served this Cathedral during some of its greatest needs: at Dean Keller's retirement, at the onset of the pandemic, then assisting me as I took on the role of Dean. He is calm, patient, and discerning, and, most of all, his love for God makes him a faithful companion in our discipleship. He has made a way for us to join him as he seeks Christ in his life. Thanks be to God that he has shared his life and faith with the Cathedral! He is a blessing to us in every way.

Because we love him, we will do all we can to celebrate and support him as he retires. I encourage you to send him cards, eat meals together (safely, of course), and tell him how you feel. I also hope you'll join us on May 30th, Trinity Sunday. Father Snapp will preach at the 10:00 a.m. service that day, then we will gather for a wonderful celebration in the Garth. We will have a catered, safely prepared reception and we will shower Russ with our love, including gifts.

If you'd like to participate in a parish gift, we will offer Russ a "purse." This is a financial gift for priests from congregations in honor of their ministry among us. If you'd like to participate in this gift, make an offering directly to the Cathedral marked "Father Snapp's purse." We will present this gift to him at the celebration on Trinity Sunday.

It can sometimes feel like we never have enough time together and, I am reminded that every moment is a gift from God. Russ' ministry reminds us to be swift to love and make haste to be kind: this is the blessing he has given to us. I pray we return it to him, and one another, again and again.

Peace be with you,  
Dean Meaux



# The Rev. Canon Russ Snapp - a ministry in pictures

