

**“JOHN ANDREW (1931-2014) AND GERRE HANCOCK (1934-2012)
THE HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP OF A RECTOR
AND AN ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER”**

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1. Under the leadership of Fr. John Andrew and Dr. Gerre Hancock, the Eucharist and a beautiful liturgy and music became the heart of life at St. Thomas Church. Together with the theology of Bishop John Henry Hobart and the architecture of Ralph Adams Cram, they added grand liturgy, preaching, prayer, and music to bring us to the gate of heaven, to create a trinity-like whole that expressed what St. Thomas—and the Episcopal Church—could be in the modern era.
2. The worship and music they designed had to fill this magnificent space, be bold enough and grand enough to occupy it, to echo off its walls and resonate from the pulpit. It could not be meek or fearful in proclamation or presentation. It could not be intimidated by its surroundings but rather had to equal these surroundings. It could not shrink from addressing the fear and concern outside its doors, the lure of the secular world, of capitalism and modernity and technology. It had to surpass them in its power and beauty. Just as Hobart and Cram knew that The Episcopal Church could survive only by being unique, so too did Andrew and Hancock know they had to offer what the world could find nowhere else: the spirit of the Living God expressed in words and music.
3. In 1991 John Andrew published a message that said St. Thomas stands for four things: to suggest, to remind, to invite, and to inspire:
 - 3.1. To suggest: St. Thomas suggests that there is another dimension to this world—the power of the love of God.
 - 3.2. To remind: St. Thomas stands here on this corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Third Street to remind us that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people singled out with a vocation, with a proclamation to make.
 - 3.3. To invite: We are here to invite, to evangelize, to attract, and to convince people to join us.
 - 3.4. And to inspire: We are here to inspire by sacrifice and generosity.