

# Music Ministry Notes

- Ray Conway, Minister of Worship

January 25, 2022

Dear College Street Family,

WOW! How can we even begin to express our gratitude and complete amazement for everything that you brought together in the Retirement Celebration this past Sunday. It is an impossible task to try and tell you what it meant to us. But here is our attempt...

We were greeted by this fabulous music - a piano/organ duo beyond compare! Thank you, Jay and Brad, for setting such a beautiful tone for worship. The Holy Spirit was felt from beginning to end and every precious moment in between.

The kind words spoken from Paul, Richard, Sharon, Christi, Matt and Monte so humbled us and blessed us. We feel SO underserving of all that praise - and we know that you join us in giving ALL the praise right back to our great God!

Choir, the two songs chosen could not have been more perfect! How we loved "We Followed the Man" that brought back so many special memories from the Passion Plays. And "Never Once", one of our all-time favorites, you sang it so beautifully and how it stirred our souls.

The slideshow was wonderful and fun, and we will enjoy looking at that again and again. Thank you to Lauren and all who contributed pictures covering so many decades!

Then the FINALE - oh my goodness! All those who will forever be "our Youth" coming together for a powerful "Friends Forever" - that was just over the top! Oh, the tears! It was very, very special to see all of you there, including our children, who made all those musicals and choir tours happen over the years. Thank you, Kayla for the beautiful solo, and Brad for leading this precious song.

The meal was delicious and the décor so beautiful. I noticed all my (Vanessa) favorite colors right away! Thank you, Leigh Ann and all your team, everything you do is top-notch. Also, we will enjoy the gorgeous plant that we got to take home and enjoy in our home. It will be a reminder of the love we felt from you on this day and on all the days before.

Only later did we see the program and the precious words written there. What a surprise to add to all the surprises you gave us. The homecoming picture on the front - we can't even remember when we saw that last!

Your generous gift to us from the church has touched and amazed us and we are so very humbled by this. Certainly, we did not ever expect such a gift! You continue to bless us beyond measure. Thank you also, for all the sweet cards and notes that we will read over and over. Also, the lovely Bible with your hand-written notes in the margin alongside the scriptures will be a dear keepsake that we will treasure.

We know a big thank you goes to Paul Tichenor and to Susan Thrift, and other point leaders for putting this unforgettable day together. Thank you for all who came and shared this great time with us. We just could never have imagined in our wildest dreams such a day as the one you blessed us with. On that first day in 1981 you took a very inexperienced (and a little scared) couple under your wing and made us your own. You have loved us and given us grace through failures and successes, through all the good times and the hard ones. We are who we are because of you. So, thank you is not enough, but we hope that you know our hearts are full and our gratitude is great. We will FOREVER remember this day and have never felt so loved and honored.

We love each one of you and thank God for bringing us here and bringing us back here. What a complete joy it has been to serve Jesus with you and make Him known through music ministry. You have made it easy! Our joy will be complete when we are able to return and continue to serve alongside you as God leads.

THANK YOU WITH ALL OUR HEARTS!

Ray and Vanessa