

Dear Friends,

This is a letter to express my unbridled gratitude for the privilege of participating in the leading of worship in our church over the last twenty years. During that period it was my joy to play not only three services each week, but also more than 1600 weddings and nearly 1000 funerals.

Among the richest blessings were 10 years of youth choir and boy choir rehearsals, performances and tours; literally from coast to coast from small churches in remote areas to some of the great cathedrals in the United States. I am grateful beyond words to have been a part of the lives of these young people, serving as their choir director, as organist when they married or when their children were baptized, and organist as family members moved from this life to the next.

Many of you I met for the first time at a Sunday School retreat, at Presbyterian Women, Rutledge, and at Concerts. Others of you I met in more unusual places - at Lenox Square, Phipps, on an airplane, once in another country – you name it, we are everywhere! These friendships have been great gifts to all of us.

Over the years I have served our church, each week I am most moved by your exuberant singing of hymns! There is something special, a feeling difficult to define that characterizes our participation in worship services at our church. No matter how many times we've been there or how long we've been away, the minute you walk through those big doors under that steeple – we feel at home. We know there is something stable in this changing world. That “feeling” is the Holy Spirit!

The seat given me to steward is one of privilege and great responsibility, and like any minister, we musicians are called by God to a place and a time to serve. The time has come for me to make a transition in my ministry from full time work at Peachtree Church, so it is with spirit of sadness, yet a heart beating with gratitude that I tender my resignation to follow God's call into my career as a concert organist and conductor.

I plan to remain in Atlanta at present and will continue to be available to you as needed. I am a member of Peachtree Church and plan to remain so. I will be a “Music Ambassador” of this church for as long as I live.

Please know of my deep respect and love for Vic Pentz. I am a better person in every way because of who he is. Vic has been my biggest supporter for 14 years as was Frank Harrington before that. Most musicians go through a lifetime without a working relationship like those I have enjoyed with each of these outstanding leaders.

There is not a Church Organist alive who could have asked for a greater environment in which to grow, participate and to thrive. I am so grateful.

With every good wish, I am,

Most Sincerely Yours,

Nick Bowden