

Dear UCUMC Family,

Sunday, July 23, 2017 was an overwhelming outpouring of love and support of me by everyone at UCUMC. I am humbled and truly thankful to each of you for your kindness. Thank you to the SPRC for the beautiful engraved glass plaque, and for the generous check. Thank you to the Celebration Choir for the lovely engraved Treble Clef plaque and the fun hand held signs that you waved. Thank you to the reception committee for the lovely flowers, pictures, video, and refreshments. Thank you to Wendy, Jeff, Eddie, and John for your kind words of recognition. Thank you to the congregation for your kind words and meaningful cards that you gave me that overflowed several baskets at the reception. You all came together and blessed me in many special ways.

You were so kind to recognize me on Sunday, but after 20 years I believe it is I who should be saying thank you. I thank God for calling me here and allowing me to serve Him and this community along with you. I thank you, the members of University City, those who are here at this time, those you have been here at different points in time but have moved away for various reasons, and for our dearly departed who have gone ahead to the church triumphant. All of you have been great encouragers of me and partners with me in ministry,

Whether you are a singer, keyboardist, instrumentalist, handbell ringer, dancer, puppet team member or leader, Children's Choir leader, VBS team member, Youth Choir counselor, actor, Audio/Visual Tech Team member, set builder, costumer, publicist, usher, Communion Team member, Altar Guild member, Acolyte, office volunteer, Church Council or committee member, Sunday School teacher, or Youth Ministry leader for my kids, colleague on staff, encouraging card and humorous email sender, or pastor, you have been important to me and to this ministry.

Lastly, I thank my wife, Karen, and our daughters Kathryn and Maria for their love and support all of these years, and for being a part of so many things in my ministry area. I love you.

For the good things that have come during my time I give all credit and glory to God. This moment is a celebration of what God had done through us, and I am blessed to have been a leader and a servant with you at this place over the years, and I look forward to the bright future that God has planned for us at University City.

Blessings,

Matt