

From John Lintner, Director of Music

Dear GPC Members, Fellow Travelers, and Friends,

It is with deep gratitude for the rich 34 years we have made music together at Georgetown Presbyterian, and it is certainly with mixed feelings, that I have set my retirement for June 30th.

I first visited GPC in 1965 as a college student, when I came to hear the then-newish organ played by William Watkins, widely considered the Dean of Washington Church Music. Leaving DC for a teaching career in the Los Angeles area (as English teacher and UCLA swim coach), I eventually returned to my hometown, subsequently taking up organ lessons with Bill. In 1980 I became his assistant, and when he retired in 1997, I was asked to become the Director of Music at GPC. A joyful 17 years has followed.

There is a certain inevitability to the cycle of life, and it now seems prudent to leave this post, and pursue other matters of personal interest. When I joined GPC in 1997, the Session asked their standard question of new members, “What made you want to join this congregation?” My answer was, that in my experience, GPC uniquely exemplified Christ’s words “I came, that ye might live more abundantly.” And it thus remains.

Author Norman Maclean, in his beautiful book *A River Runs Through It*, tells us that “all good things... come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy.” It has taken me a long time to unravel that statement, but I believe it to be true. Art can only be perceived by the heart. An intellectual reduction of it reduces it to trivia. But the heart knows its value, the same as the heart knows love is true, even if it cannot be seen, dissected, or even intellectually defined. It can only be experienced. It is my great hope that this Congregation will continue to nurture the art of worship. It is as close to heaven as we can hope for on this planet, other than those we love.

With affection and admiration,
John