

April 9, 2019

Dear Idlewild,

In light of all the transition this congregation is facing, and because I love you so, it is with such bitter-sweetness that I submit my resignation as Director of Children's Ministry. My husband, Kyle, a United Methodist pastor, has been appointed to a church in Virginia, much closer to both of our families. My last Sunday will be June 2, and my last day will be June 7 at the close of Vacation Bible School. While we feel God's clear leading in this new chapter for our growing family, it will be very difficult to say goodbye to a community that has meant so much to me.

"I feel like I've come home," I said. It was October 16 of 2016 and I had just attended a worship service in the beautiful Idlewild sanctuary for the very first time before interviewing later on that afternoon. I sat in the balcony with Nancy and Gib Wilson and watched as children gathered up front for the Time with the Younger Church. Warren and Bennett Gladstone were baptized, and Webb Thomas read the baptismal questions to the children. I thought, "The Holy Spirit is moving in this place!" I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of it, and so it was with great joy that I accepted the job offer a few days later.

It's hard to believe that that was only two and a half years ago, because sharing life with this church family has been packed full of countless rich memories since then. You have embraced me so warmly and strengthened my belief that - despite all the harm done by the Church across the world - the Body of Christ can indeed be a place of healing in our journey toward greater wholeness. Idlewild is a shining example of the good that can occur when we come together across generations, looking to children to lead the way as they illuminate the importance of having child-like faith. My walk with Christ has deepened through building relationships with this faith community at large, but most notably through the relationships built with your precious children. My gratitude for this; for them; for each one of you is immeasurable.

I give thanks to God for allowing me to feel, with this congregation on that October day in 2016, that I was coming home, and for giving me the opportunity to have shared this season with you. As I get ready to quite literally come home this summer, returning to my home state after thirteen years away to raise our daughter, Anna Charis, closer to her grandparents, great-grandmothers, aunt, uncle, great aunts, great uncles, and cousins, I will rejoice in knowing you have been an integral part of my faith journey in more ways than I have yet realized. I know that God will sustain this strong community of faith through all of the changes taking place, and that His grace is sufficient for all of our needs.

The beauty of all being children of God is that we are always family, no matter what transitions we go through. I will hold onto that belief in this next chapter, and I trust that you will, too. It is an honor to know each of you as brothers and sisters in our Rock and Refuge, Jesus Christ. It is true that I will miss you, but what is truer is that I love you. Thank you...for everything.

Joyfully,

Caitlin C. Bomar
Director of Children's Ministry