

To VBC, With Love

From Kay and Roy Woodruff

During the few weeks that we have been in our new home in the Asheville, NC, area, getting settled and oriented in this beautiful place, our VBC community has been much in our thoughts. We miss you and are very grateful for our 27 years of memories with you. We have thought frequently about your kind expressions of regard and appreciation on Sunday, June 1, in the worship service and the lovely reception in the foyer. Thank you for your words, gifts, hugs, and affirmations for Kay's leadership as Church Hostess, deacon and office staff, and mine as Volunteer Pastoral Associate, interim pastor and teacher. We brought them all to our new life here in NC, and they are sustaining us during this formidable transition. We will find a church home here that will not replace VBC, as nothing really could, but will be an extension of the spiritual pilgrimage and deep friendships that we shared with you.

Kay and I pray for you as a worshipping community and want to encourage you to move through these days of transition with expectation, dedication, faithfulness and hope. We will do the same in our new location. There is a favorite story about a couple who took the job as lighthouse keepers on the rocky coast of New England, where they lived and labored faithfully to keep the light burning brightly so that ships traversing treacherous waters near the coastline would be guided to safe harbor. After many years, the husband became ill and died. His last words to his loving and faithful wife were "Mind the light, mind the light." And, that strong woman continued to mind the light alone for another 10 years before her own death. Vienna Baptist Church is a lighthouse for Christ in the bulging throngs and unseen risks of Northern Virginia. Many of us signed on there over the years to keep the light bright and shining in calm times and in stormy times, in foggy times and clear times. The words we want to leave with you are the same as the faithful lighthouse keeper, "Mind the light, mind the light."

May God bless us all and guide us to the safety of His eternal shores - Roy and Kay

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