

Hi everyone!

Sorry I had to run off - I am playing in "Peter and Wolf" at the Paramount in Charlottesville this afternoon.

Because I don't do this enough, I want to thank all of you for being so supportive of my family and me over the past ten years. Adding two kids (three if you count that time when I married Brian) has been overwhelming at times, and I couldn't have continued to do this work for you without your patience and understanding. It means more than I can express.

I also want to thank Linda and Pastor Anne.

Linda is so organized, and she thinks of everything. I don't know how I would have gotten anything done all these years without her... or how I got anything done before she got here!

Pastor Anne, thank you for listening to my hopes for the Music Ministry going forward. You understand how important music is to our church, and how important it is to me that I can provide that service to the highest degree. For some time now, I have been struggling with whether or not time constraints would allow me to meet fully my own high standards and expectations with regards to the quality of my work on the organ and with the choir.

This is where Lenny comes in . . . I met Lenny a few years ago in the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra, he was playing percussion and wanted to join the bassoon section. At first I was like, "Haha, this kid from the percussion section thinks he can play bassoon? That's silly." I learned very quickly that he actually can play bassoon, very well. Now, I have a decent amount of respect for someone who knows what a bassoon is, but someone who can actually put it together... and play it? What a winner!

Lenny has an undergraduate degree in Music Education from James Madison University. When I learned he could also direct a choir, play piano, flute, oboe, clarinet and saxophone I knew he would make a perfect church musician, but he didn't live here so I didn't ask him about it. When I found out he was moving to Charlottesville this past summer I approached him with the idea of working at Grace Church—and now he does!

Lenny brings so much to the table. From hymn accompaniment, to special music, to taking over leading the choir, he has clearly elevated the quality of our Music Ministry at Grace church.

More than that, he is a good friend who takes the long drive to orchestra rehearsals and concerts with me, gets along with my husband, and plays with my kids. Baby Eloise has actually fallen deeply in love with him - not sure if you all have noticed...

He also helps us eat all the leftover food in our refrigerator.

Lenny and I are thankful for the support and appreciation you have for our Music Ministry, and we are thrilled that we get to do what we love week after week in the company of such a beautiful church community.

Love,
Suzanne

Hi everybody!

I apologize that I could not attend this meeting in person, so I wanted to write a quick note from me directly to go with Suzanne's.

I left my last job last year and moved to Charlottesville quite lost, unsure of what to do next. The job I left was, to put it simply, awful, and it left me wondering if I should even continue pursuing music as a career. For that reason, I was hesitant when Suzanne brought up working with her at Grace Church in the car one day on the way to orchestra rehearsal. I took a chance and decided to go for it, and it turned out to be the right decision. I have been so welcomed by the community of this church, and in my short time here I already feel as if most of you are old friends.

I feel particularly grateful for the Adult Choir, who put their trust in me on Wednesday nights. They are always willing to go along with the crazy stuff I make them do - - I promise it will help us sing together better! They never fail to make me feel appreciated and loved.

Luckily, we have been blessed with church leadership who value music as a part of worship, and I have been given the opportunity to stay on as a co-music director for the church for the year. I am so grateful for this opportunity, and feel blessed to be so accepted and appreciated every week. I am also very excited to continue my partnership with Suzanne, who has proved an incredible friend and colleague, and has some cute kids to boot! We are a great team, and I am so excited for you all to see (and hear) what is to come from us this year!

Lenny