



Today, I am announcing my official retirement from First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky to be effective on Sunday, December 3rd 2023. It is my plan to have the sanctuary project substantially completed before I leave. I have given notice to the architect and general contractor that our hard deadline for completion will be December 1, 2023. I also want to give the appropriate committees time to execute a plan to cover areas and responsibilities I am responsible for at this time.

When I began my ministry with you on August 15, 1984, I could not have imagined how wonderfully God would bless Kathryn and me as our lives intersected with yours. There is no place we would rather have been and no one with whom we would rather have shared this long and joyous journey with than First Baptist Church of Owensboro. We have been profoundly blessed to walk through this journey of faith with so many of you presently and with many who have gone before us.

Kathryn has been my partner in life and ministry. She has immersed herself into the music ministry at First Baptist Church of Owensboro under the incredible music leadership of previous and current ministers of music. She has been a part of the Church Choir, Handbell Choir, Childrens music leadership, Rejoice, Higher Purpose Quartet, and just recently began playing the keyboards for worship. I have endured listening to her practice the piano preparing for worship. More importantly, I am deeply grateful for her patience and understanding of the call to ministry in a local church.

I want to thank Pastor Paul Strahan for his steadfast support and his spiritual leadership of this great church. I also want to express my deepest heartfelt love for our current ministerial staff in which I serve along-side in ministry including our administrative staff, maintenance staff, and food service staff.

The sense of clarity and resolve in this decision does not lessen the enormous amount of emotion Kathryn and I feel about each one of you our church family.

Over the years our relationship has evolved from minister to congregation and now to deep and long-lasting friendships. You are our family- a sentiment that neither time or place will diminish. We plan to remain in Owensboro and be a part of this great church, but in a much different capacity of course. We look forward to having the freedom to serve, worship, travel, and rest when needed.

The memories of these past 38 years have been mixed with joys and sorrows along with ordinary tasks of shared ministry that will sustain us for the rest of our lives. We are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve in ministry with each one of you.

With our deepest and abiding love,
Bob and Kathryn