



**Patrick M. Ohlenforst, D.D.S., M.S., Inc.**

*Orthodontics for Adults, Teenagers, and Children*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!** Cindy and I are celebrating 48 New Years in Irving! That's how long it has been since we moved here (before any of our three daughters were born) to open my orthodontic practice.

1976 was an interesting year. Like many years, there was political and economic unrest across the globe. It was the Bicentennial of the United States. Jimmy Carter beat Ronald Reagan in our presidential race. A new company started in California – Apple Computer. There was both a winter Olympics and a summer Olympics. AND...my wife Cindy and I moved to Irving where I opened my practice a few blocks from what is now Baylor Scott & White Hospital.

WOW!! What a ride it has been! I have been blessed to have been helping create smiles in Irving for 48 years. Orthodontics is a great profession. I still enjoy that but also would like to do more things with Cindy and our kids and grandkids (ages three to ten) – maybe more traveling...??

Because I still love seeing my patients, and because so many of you have become good friends, I have thought and prayed about who could continue the services that we (including my amazing staff!) provide. I am happy to introduce and brag about Dr. Nick Ward, a Board Certified orthodontist who graduated from the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. He has been coming into the office for a few months, so many of you already know him. He is a wonderful person and did his orthodontic training at my alma mater at the Orthodontic Department at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He is an Irving native, lived about a block away from my home in Irving as a child, and moved back to Irving last year.

I'm still coming to the office, and plan to do so until at least June. We're conferring on many cases and, although he's taken over the practice, we don't expect our transition plans to impact patient treatment plans, estimated treatment time, or financial arrangements. I am sure he will be able to continue the high level of compassionate, caring orthodontic treatment that I have tried to provide for all these years. I hope you will support him as you've supported me.

As we all know, change can be both good and challenging. I will miss terribly seeing all the wonderful people I have come to know and love as patients, parents, grandparents, and referring doctors and families. However, I still plan to be around the office quite a bit, and to work with Dr. Ward to assure a smooth transition and the best care for all involved. We all also know that life is about balances. So, change dictates that it's time for Cindy and me to spend more time with each other, with our daughters and sons-in-law, and with our eight grandchildren.

Thank you to every one of you for everything you have done to give me such a great career. I look forward to staying in touch.