

Pinehurst Post

We exist to love Jesus and live for Him.

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We envision a congregation whose love for Jesus and one another leaves a clear and compelling witness for Christ.



Bible Trivia

Whose was the first coffin mentioned in the Bible?

Answer from last month: the first jewelry mentioned in the Bible was the gifts of jewelry given by Abraham's servant to Rebekah when he was seeking a wife for Isaac (Gen 24:22).



Will the Real Saint Nick Please Stand Up? By Ryan Reese

In 2005 I had the privilege of spending Christmas in China. We were visiting an IMB missionary from our church and spent two weeks in the provinces of Inner Mongolia and Beijing. Though we experienced much culture shock in this ancient land, the oddest surprise was the *Western* culture we found there: namely, Santa Claus. His plump, Caucasian face was plastered onto the front door of about every shop we visited. I don't remember seeing nativity scenes, Christmas trees or candy canes—but plenty of old Saint Nick. If you didn't know any better, you would think Christmas was centered on something this jolly white man did...or still does. This observation was not part of our culture shock—we could find this at home.

I've been asked on occasion if Christians should do the "Santa Claus thing" for Christmas. Often the question was posed by young parents who were not seeing eye-to-eye on how to lead their children in the holiday season. I believe it is important for Christians to lead the way in our celebration of Christmas—not run and hide from the culture that has changed the meaning of Christmas the world over.

I don't have all the answers on the North Pole, but I will share how Janean and I try to navigate these waters. **First, we don't lie to our children.** Santa is not coming—whether they are naughty or nice (sorry if that just rendered your entire childhood meaningless). Mommy and Daddy are coming to town—and if you look for your gifts in our closets we will spank you. **Second, we use the holiday as a time to teach them about Jesus.** Ezra will get presents—even though he is often naughty. He will receive gifts because God sent Jesus to us as a gift. We get our children three gifts because Jesus received three gifts from the wise men. **Third, we teach them about the real Santa Claus.** We have a children's book called *My Christmas Stocking—Filled with God's Love* by Crystal Bowman (Zonderkids, 2006) that the boys love. It tells of a man named Saint Nicholas who loved Jesus very much. Because he loved Jesus, he also loved people, and sought creative ways to bless them (especially the orphans and

poor) at Christmastime. "And so he gave presents wherever he went, to remind everyone of the gift that God sent...But sometimes in secret, a gift he would hide in somebody's stocking—way down inside." Our boys have to pick out some toys to give away after they get their presents—so they can experience both giving *and* receiving.

Saint Nicholas was a real man. He was a real Christian, and a great example of letting our light shine in a dark world—for God's glory (Matthew 5:14-16). We could rant and rave about how the meaning of Christmas has been lost on our culture (and we would be right). Or we could be faithful, in all the ways we can, to preserve the *true* reason for the season. And old Saint Nick isn't our enemy—he was our brother in Christ. Let's reclaim the real Santa—and share him with our kids. And let's follow his example. Give sacrificially to others this Christmas, as God did for us in Bethlehem. (For more information on the real Santa, try www.stnicholascenter.org). *

What's Happening at Pinehurst Baptist

There's a lot going on this month at Pinehurst. Be sure and mark your calendar, and think about whom you might invite to some of these activities and events. Here's what's happening in December.

6th: Business Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

12th: Christmas Concert & Dessert at 7:00 p.m.

13th: Lottie Moon ingathering and missions speaker

16th: Caroling; 5:30 - 6:00 have some light dinner (soup, chili); 6:00 - 7:00 go caroling in the neighborhood

19th: Parents' Night Out (Youth babysitting) - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

20th: Christmas music presentation; Paul's last night of teaching on John 3:16

24th: Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. *

Getting to Know the Reese Family by Katherine Bigney

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6b



Read any great books lately from the PBC Resource Center? Let others know what you think! Send in book reviews to pinehurst-baptist@verizon.net to be published in a future newsletter.



Mark Your Calendar!

December 6: Business Meeting

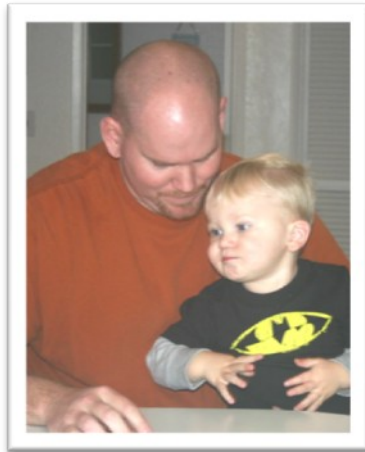
December 12: Christmas Concert & Dessert

December 13: Lottie Moon Missions Sunday

December 20: Christmas Music Presentation

December 24: Christmas Eve Service

Many of us had a chance to get to know a little about Ryan and Janean and their boys when Ryan came out to meet us in October as a candidate for our senior pastor position! I thought it would be fun to ask them each just a few additional questions so that we may get to know them even better, now that they are officially part of the Pinehurst family.



Pastor Ryan

Q: What verse or passage in God's Word has been one of the most encouraging to you in your walk with God? A: Romans 8:28-30

Q: What are three of your all-time favorite books besides the Bible? A: "Desiring God," by John Piper, "The Cross of Christ," by John R. W. Stott, and "Crime & Punishment," by Dostoyevsky.

Q: If you had to pick a favorite meal, what would it consist of? A: Mongolian Food—Hot Pot, Milk Tea, Shepherd Pies.

Q: What's your favorite sport to play? A: Basketball. Q: How about to watch? A: Baseball.

Q: With what famous person (from the past or present) would you like to sit and have a chat? A: The Apostle Paul.

Q: When you were ten, what did you want to be when you grew up? A: A Jedi Knight.

Q: What are three words you would use to describe your wife? A: Fun, compassionate, joyful.

Janean

Q: What verse or passage in God's Word has been one of the most encouraging to you in your walk with God? A: Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 8:28

Q: If you had an afternoon all to yourself, where would you spend it? A: Shopping.

Q: First thing that comes to your mind when asked "what makes you happy?" A: Family, friends, the sovereignty of God.

Q: What is your favorite season and why? A: Spring—new life, flowers, warmer weather.



Q: With what famous person (from the past or present) would you like to sit and have a chat? A: Jesus.

Q: When you were ten, what did you want to be when you grew up? A: Opera singer (but then I found out I couldn't sing).

Q: What are three words you would use to describe your husband? A: Christ-centered, encouraging, fun.



Ezra

Q: What's your favorite Bible story? A: Daniel in the lion's den.

Q: What is your favorite toy? A: Iron Man.

Q: What is your favorite color? A: Blue.

Q: What's your favorite treat? A: chocolate chip cookies.

Q: What is your favorite animal? A: Zebra.

Judah

Q: What is your favorite Bible story? A: Is Thomas the Tank Engine in the Bible?

Q: What is your favorite toy? A: Books.

Q: What's your favorite color? A: Blue (easiest to say?).

Q: What is your favorite treat? A: Mom's chocolate chip cookies.

Q: What is your favorite animal? A: Hoot owl. ✨

