

# 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.*

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## Bible Trivia

What was the first (and probably only) password mentioned in the Bible?

Answer from last month: the first coffin mentioned in the Bible was Joseph's. (Genesis 50:26).



## A Year in Review by Brian Watson

In the spirit of year-end lists (as I write, it's still December), I wanted to create a 2009 year-in-review of Pinehurst Baptist Church. Most magazines and newspapers create top-ten lists, such as "Top 10 Movies" or "Top 10 Books." Instead of creating a list of the top ten events in the life of our church in 2009, I will review the significant events of the last year by month.

**January:** As we began the year without a senior pastor, we relied on several guest pastors. The first one of the year was Jason Douros. In all, we had eight guest pastors.

**February:** Part of the nature of life, and of the life of a church, is birth and death. On February 8, we lost one of our dear members, Juanda Gibson, who went to be with the Lord. A beautiful funeral service was held on February 14, during which several of Juanda's relatives testified to her long life of love for God.

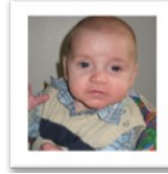
**March:** During this month we had a number of guest pastors, including Cecil Sims, who came to speak to us about stewardship.

**April:** Easter Sunday was our best-attended worship service of the year. We also started a new tradition at Pinehurst by offering a Good Friday service, and the first year of Men's Fraternity came to a close.

**May:** We completed the Puget Sound Baptist Association's Spiritual Assessment and Renewal Process that Ron Shepard led us through. It was particularly important that we spent time in prayer as a body but also as individuals, confessing our sins to God and seeking His renewal. This culminated in a service of testimonies. It was at the beginning of this month that the Pastor Search Committee placed the job posting for Senior Pastor.

**June:** The church voted to change my title from Worship Leader to Associate Pastor. We

also voted to move from two morning worship services to one. And we welcomed Ronald Lin Davis, who was born on June 17.



**July:** This was a particularly busy month, as we held a very well-attended Vacation Bible School, celebrated the marriage of Mary Sheppard to Andrew Morton, and the Youth made their annual summer trip to Lake Entiat.

**August:** Some of the Youth made another trip, this time to the Centrifuge camp, which was held in Turner, Oregon. At the end of the month, they had their second "All-Nighter" of the year.



**September:** Some members of our church were very active in remodeling the kitchen, which was completed in October. The new Sunday school year began and we added another women's class. We also witnessed the baptism of Diane Ragnone at Silver Lake and welcomed her as a new member of the church.



**October:** Most of us met our new Senior Pastor, Ryan Reese, for the first time when he and his family came during the weekend of October 10 and 11. As you know, we

voted to call him as our Senior Pastor and he accepted. The second year of Men's Fraternity started during this month, as did the new program for children on Sunday nights, TeamKID. The second ladies Bible study also began in October.

**November:** After some difficult travel, the Reeses arrived in Everett on the night of November 1 and Ryan started preaching on November 8. On November 22, we held a special Thanksgiving meal with our brothers and sisters from Iglesia Bautista Everett, the Hispanic congregation that meets at our church.

**December:** During the busy Christmas season we had many events, including a Christmas concert and a well-attended Christmas Eve service. We also formally welcomed several new members to our church.



**Other significant events:** We created a third-Sunday-of-the-month potluck fellowship, Helping Hands delivered over 100 quilts to the Madigan Army Medical Center, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee fixed some long-standing problems related to heating and plumbing.

**2010:** We can't possibly know what God will do this year at Pinehurst. As James writes, "You do not know what tomorrow will bring" (James 4:14). We pray that God will continue to grow us spiritually, in our knowledge of His Word, and in our faith. May the Lord bless us all as we seek Him this year, for James also writes, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

## Of Resolutions for a New Year by Ryan Reese

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:7*

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



### Mark Your Calendar!

January 10: Regular Business Meeting

January 17: Church Potluck

Everybody's doing it. And for good reason. The beginning of a new year seems to be the perfect time to reassess our lives. What is it you don't like about yourself, your circumstances? What needs to change in order for you to be the person you long to be? Thus, the New Year's Resolution. It's not necessarily a bad thing. After all, it is quite Biblical for a person to do some healthy self-reflection, or some "examining" as Paul called it (2 Corinthians 13). In fact, letting the Spirit shine His search light into our hearts should be a daily routine. But unfortunately, most of the "soul-searching" we see taking place in the New Year never gets down to the *actual* soul, where our real problems lie.

I see fruit of the most common resolution each year, as I suddenly have to wait in line to get on a treadmill or elliptical machine at the gym. In my frustration I always tell myself, "Don't worry. They won't be here in a few months." I find it sad that as we collectively enter into a time of self-reflection the primary problem we uncover concerns our appearance. Sure, there is nothing inherently wrong with being healthy. Paul told Timothy that "while bodily training is of some value, godliness has value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." So getting healthy does have *some* value. By all means, go to the gym. Eat right.



My wife and I are both vowing to sweat and diet together for the glory of God. But working out is of no real value to a heart that has made an idol of appearance. In fact, for this person, going to the gym has become an act of self-worship.

Here are a few suggestions for New Year's resolutions with your soul in mind, not just your shape.

**1. Read through the Bible this year.** The follower of Christ should spend time every day hearing from God through His Word. By spending 15-30 minutes every day this year you can *easily* read every page in your Bible. There are many different reading plans, easily found on the internet. Just search for "read through the Bible" and you will be bombarded. There are a few devotionals which correspond with year-long Bible readings. The best I've found has been D.A. Carson's *For the Love of God*, which now has three volumes.



**2. Invite people into your home.** One night a week, commit to having someone over for dinner. This could be someone in the church. This could be a neighbor. This could be someone who won't return the favor (Luke 14:12-14). It doesn't have to be fancy. Just pick up your dirty

socks off the couch and begin using your home for ministry.



**3. Pray.** Communicate with God more. Prayer is not supposed to be a morning and evening affair, but something we do continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Talk to God throughout your day. Pray as you interact with others around you, seeking opportunities. Learn to pray with each other. On Sunday nights we are going to hone in on corporate prayer, sharing our needs with our brothers and sisters, and pleading with God to bring renewal to our world.

**4. Give more away.** Your money. Your time. Your sweat. Your possessions. Give sacrificially. Living for God means living for others, and not yourself. Look around prayerfully at your possessions, your finances, your schedule. As Ron Sider asks, how can we "live more simply, so that others can simply live"?

