



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.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Getting to Know the Northrop Family

For our "Getting to Know" section this month, we asked the Northrop family some questions.

David and Annette:

Where did you grow up?

Annette: My childhood was spent in Lakewood, Colorado. My young adulthood was spent mostly in northern Virginia (near Washington, DC.). My first home with David was in Kennewick, WA.

David: I was born in Helena, Montana, lived in Salt Lake City, UT for almost five years, moved to the Portland, OR area in first grade, then to Oregon City, OR after seventh grade.

How did you come to faith in Christ?

Annette: God's presence was evident in my life at an early age. I'm so thankful for that. My parents honored God by getting me to church and encouraging my faith. They each taught my Sunday School classes at various times growing up and were a big influence. I asked Christ into my heart during a thunderstorm at age 5 ("What time I am afraid, I will trust in Him." Psalm 56:3). I was baptized on an Easter Sunday at age 8.

David: I was fortunate to be raised by godly parents who had me in church from the very beginning. I had my parents' example and numerous Sunday School teachers and pastors that weekly taught me about God's love for me and how His word teaches us about a personal relationship with Him. At the age of 10, I overcame my reluctance to go forward for baptism when my younger brother decided it was time for him to go. That was November 1973. Public baptism occurred the following spring following the pastor's discipleship/membership class.



Where did you go to college/what did you study?

Annette: I went to Baylor University and earned a degree in Management and Marketing. After I started working at an insurance company, I realized God didn't call me into a career in business, but to teach. Through God's divine intervention I was able to attend graduate school at George Washington University in D.C. and get a Master's in Education with a K-8 teaching certificate.

David: I attended Seattle Pacific University and earned a B.S. degree in Chemistry. During my senior year I took an interest in Forensic Science and found several schools offering graduate programs in the field. I received a fellowship to study Forensic Chemistry at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. earning a Master's of Science in Forensic Science. Still being a glutton for punishment, I continued graduate work at Georgetown University where I completed my Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry.

Where do you work?

Annette: My favorite work is being a Mom, but outside the

home, I am the teacher librarian at Tulalip Elementary School.

David: I work for the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory out of the Marysville Lab. I am currently the Chemistry and Microanalysis Supervisor with responsibility for myself and four other scientists conducting examinations of evidence in cases involving drugs, fire debris, hairs, fibers, paint, impressions (footwear and tire track), explosives, glass, and other chemical unknowns.

How do you represent Christ in the workplace?

Annette: I try to demonstrate love as Christ would do. I'm sure I'm not always successful, but God's grace is always present. As I build relationships with students and staff, I gradually share my faith in Christ as I listen and attempt to encourage. Being in a public school this is not always easy, but God shows me little ways I can make a difference. For example when a student is having a "bad" attitude and says to me, "Oh My God!" I respond by saying, "God is good". It really throws them off guard and often the attitude changes and it keeps me calm as well, and shows

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Getting to Know the Northrop Family (continued)



I can really love that child.

David: I have been very open about my faith and have tried sharing my love for Christ with all those I work with. I've been fortunate to have a few f e l l o w Christians in

the office, but there are several who are not. Similar to Annette's approach I've tried to bring my faith into conversation when opportunities arise to do so (such as "what did you do this weekend?"). I also invite people to church and for special programs (although with limited success – some have been openly hostile towards the Gospel – challenging the fact that as a state employee I must maintain a separation of church and state – an obvious misunderstanding of constitutional law).

How did you meet and how long have you been married?

Annette: David and I met at the church we both attended in Falls Church, VA, Columbia Baptist Church (CBC). We sang together in choir and ensembles. When we first met, I was just home for summer break from college so I didn't really pay too much attention to him (he looked sort of scary with a beard), but when I moved back home I was drawn to David's kindness. We started playing tennis and running together. He even talked me into playing on the coed softball team. Imagine that! I found that David was a steadfast friend with a heart for God and that was important to me. Our relationship grew over time (and is still growing). We've now been married for almost 20 years.

David: What Annette said. I was drawn to Annette by her beautiful smile and her love and caring for other people. Her singing and her love for serving Christ were especially attractive. I also saw how much she loved children and drew them to her.

Our first official date was the January 1989 Presidential Inauguration on the south lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and it was overlooking the same lawn at the steps of the Capitol where I asked her to marry me on July 5th, 1991. We were married the next April at CBC.

What brought you to PBC and how long have you been attending here?

Annette and David: We first came to PBC in early 1999 after moving to the area from Kennewick, WA. We were initially drawn to PBC because of its denominational affiliation, since we attended Southern Baptist churches in both Richland, WA and Virginia. We stayed because Benjamin wanted to go back to the church with the "cardboard box church." (The Sheppards were his amazing Sunday School teachers, he had just turned 4 and they had a cardboard box set up for the kids to play in.) We also appreciated its biblical foundation, the warmth of Pastor Omar and Alice Irby, and since music had been a big part of each of our lives, we liked that there was a choir of which to be a part. We are thankful for how many members have been role models for our family.

Ben and Michael:

How is school going, and what do you enjoy most about it?

Ben: It's OK. I like history and math. I also like playing trombone in Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. I am especially happy that I made the JV baseball team this year. I can't say I always enjoy school because of the



negative and inappropriate behavior of other students.

Michael: Good. I enjoy friends, PE, Math, and Band (I play trumpet).

How do you represent Christ at school and in sports or other extracurricular activities?

Ben: I try to be a positive influence for others, to be different in a good way. Teammates and classmates are often aware that I'm a Christian. My high school teammates tease me in a friendly way about playing for Jesus.

Michael: I try to set a good example and be godly toward others and respectful.

Tell us something that you appreciate about your brother.

Ben: Michael is a pretty funny kid.

Michael: Benjamin plays ball with me. He's a good friend to talk to when he's not grumpy.

Where do you see yourself at age 25?

Ben: I haven't planned that far ahead, but my dream is to play baseball professionally.

Michael: Married and not in Washington, but somewhere with a lot of snow in winter and dry in the summer, like Colorado. I don't know what else I want to do yet.

Thank you, David, Annette, Ben and Michael, for sharing with us!

