



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.

Farewell Message from the Sheppards

As many of you know, Randy and Christi Sheppard have moved to Alaska. Earlier in the summer, Brian asked them to share a little about the move, and what their plans are.

How long were you members of Pinehurst Baptist Church?

We were members of Pinehurst for twenty-five years.

Where did you move to?

We moved to Kodiak, Alaska

Why are you moving?

Why?—to be near and support family. Josh, our son, is stationed there in the Coast Guard. We can be company and help for Sara (formerly DeLong) when he is out on the boat and most importantly to be with our only grandchild, Caleb.

What part of the move are you most looking forward to?

We looked forward to the adventure of the move, the "new start" aspect and for the actual move (packing, travel, unpacking) to get over!

What will you miss most about Everett?

We will miss our church family, friends, familiarity and Randy adds Famous Dave's (restaurant).

What will you miss most about Pinehurst?

The children, friends, Wednesday night Sunday School teachers training and choir practice (fun!) and the beautiful music provided by Diane.

What are your fondest memories of Pinehurst?

Matt Hooker playing capture the flag with our kids when they were teenagers (I think each one has a scar to show from the "battle"). The Hinckley boys, Mutascu girls, and Cherry

boys—all the fun and silly things that went on with our kids as they grew up together in church. The mission trips to Scotland, Brazil, and Montana and getting our kids ready for Mexico, Brazil and Taiwan. Pastor Clint Compton singing on the roof of the church in a dress. The many VBS's over the years - Sunshine Sam, the whale that "ate" Dan Taylor, the elaborate decorations provided by Grace and Paul (and others), Patti Williams and her enthusiastic leading of the songs (and tunes that still repeat in our brains years later!). Teaching preschool Sunday School. The fellowship times—church picnics at the Gooches', watermelon nights, volleyball games, and potlucks.

How do you see God at work in this move? How does this move serve Him?

It began with an idea, an emotion perhaps, to want to be near to Josh and Sara and Caleb, to be support and company for them. The idea turned into a possibility and we prayed, "if it is Your will." We did not feel a "call" to Kodiak. We know God is at work everywhere and we could be used to serve Him in Everett or in Kodiak. We took steps in the direction of a move asking God to direct or redirect. We then talked to Josh and Sara to see if they wanted us (if Sara would want her in-laws so close!). Of course they were thrilled at the prospect of having family close.

We visited Kodiak last October to see it. We looked at employment possibilities: lots of boats that Randy could work on and there was a Providence Hospital on the island. Christi discovered she could transfer from the Everett Providence to the Kodiak Providence. So we began to slowly move in the

direction of a move. As each step led to another we continued to go forward, ever aware that if God redirected, we would redirect, also. Things happened more quickly than we anticipated and here we are in Kodiak!

How will you serve Him in Alaska?

However He wants! We are attending the church Josh and Sara attend, Lighthouse Baptist. (It is not Southern Baptist. Josh and Sara did visit the SBC church but it had no children and nothing for children so they sought out a church with children. Sara is a fill-in preschool teacher and is about to begin being in charge of the children's choir as the current choir leader is moving).

Pastor Cratty's sermon last week was very timely—about Moses' call and that God used what He had given him, a shepherd's staff. Our heart attitude is to serve where God wants, not where we want. There are many things we could do (like in any church — there are always many opportunities and needs for serving God's people) but we want to serve where God directs. We'll let you know what we end up doing.

Is there anything else you want to say to the people of Pinehurst Baptist Church?

Christi: Thank you. Because of your investment in us and our children, we have a family that knows, loves, and serves our Lord. Pinehurst always provided teachers (by having dedicated Sunday School directors and participation in associational training) for each age for our children—loving, dedicated Sunday School teachers. They provided for us training and the opportunity to become teachers ourselves. At

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I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Sheppard Farewell (continued)

teachers ourselves. At that critical teenage time, Pinehurst hired a Youth Pastor (we did not have the funds—we called by faith) who very much impacted and shaped who our children became. I encourage you, our beloved Pinehurst family to invest in each other—time, service and resources—to raise the next generation to know, love, and serve Jesus. Thank you, and may our Lord continue to use and bless you for His kingdom's work.

Randy: Our first Sunday away from Pinehurst was pretty tough. We had been driving for one day and intended to drive all day on a Sunday. As I woke up that morning I thought, "Oh, no. What have we done?" The reality of leaving had finally hit me. We were leaving people who we love and who

love us. This was shown to us up to the very last moments of being there, by your helpfulness and care and provision for our trip.

A lot has been said to us about our involvement, or investment in PBC. I have to say that what we received far outweighs anything we gave. I have been going to sleep late, or early, depending on how you look at it, because it really hasn't got dark here yet. As I try to think and pray, thoughts of God's care have filled my mind, and His care was poured out on us through His people at Pinehurst. Thank you, all.

Please continue to love each other, give to each other, serve each other, and overlook shortcomings that I know were overlooked in me. Please invest everything you can in your children.

Love your pastors; they have a tough row to hoe. Keep your love for Bible study and your high regard for those who teach.

I fully intend to visit you in the future, (unless I get caught by a hungry bear), and I also expect that Pinehurst will be a different church than it was when we left. Praise God for not leaving us the way we are, for giving us great churches like you, and for His promise that tells us we never have to say goodbye.

We love you all.

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Fall at Pinehurst by Ryan Reese

A wise seminary professor once told me, "Jesus said *he* would build his church—He told *you* to make disciples." That has been good for me to remember each time I am tempted by the "next big thing" that promises a spiritual explosion in the church. Do we want Pinehurst Baptist Church to grow? Of course. But we must remember that Jesus' ministry—and that of the apostles—was not a one-size-fits-all program, but life-on-life discipleship. I believe that Pinehurst will grow spiritually *and* numerically as we invest in one another's lives. We want the emphasis here to be on people, not programs. Some churches are very busy, filling up the calendars of their members, exhausting them in a flurry of activities. We don't want to be that church, as busyness does not ensure that real spiritual growth is taking place. So the church council has agreed on a plan or "program" for the fall that aims to simplify our schedules yet give ample time to engage in the activities laid out for the New Testament church.

Sunday Nights. Beginning on September 4, we will begin a Sunday night corporate worship gathering. It will be more informal than Sunday

mornings, and include a time of singing together, praying for one another, sharing what God has done in the week, and studying the Scripture. Pastor Brian will be teaching on some of the great themes that run through the Bible from start to finish. This is sure to be a fascinating study that will bring more clarity to our understanding of the Bible as we get a better grasp of the big picture God paints in His Word. The services will begin at 6:00 p.m. We are also planning activities for the children and youth during this time.

Sunday Morning Bible Study. Our fall classes begin on September 4th as well. The adults and youth will follow the return of the exiles to Jerusalem in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The children will be conforming their minds to the Word of God as well through Lifeway's *Bible Teaching For Kids* curriculum.

Devotion Groups. We are not scrapping the small togetherness provided by Devotion Groups—just simplifying. This fall we will have two women's groups and one men's group meeting regularly to devote themselves to fellowship and prayer. We aim to spend half of our time studying a

biblical passage on prayer, and the rest of our time putting it into practice. The women will have the option of meeting in the morning (at church, with Donna Lopez) or in the evening (in homes, with the pastor's wives) on a weekday. (Exact dates and times will be determined soon.) The men will meet on Saturday mornings. We will also recommend that these devotion groups take a break from their regular meetings one time each month to go *do* something together. The men will probably go climb trees and throw rocks. I don't know what women do for fun; some of them have husbands who hope it will be cheap.

We would love to see everyone involved in these ministry gatherings at Pinehurst. To be salt and light in a dying world Christians need to be *in* the world. Get involved in your neighborhood, your community, your school, or wherever you can. And then come back to the body of Christ to get the strength, knowledge, and encouragement to go back into your mission field with boldness and love. I look forward to seeing God do good things in and through us this fall.