

To the entire Salem family of faith,

With a heavy heart, I submitted my resignation a few weeks ago. Since the news broke, Lauri and I have been overwhelmed by the letters, emails and phone calls that many of you have sent our way. Your kindness has been consistent with the way I have always been treated by the Salem community. Lauri and I will always thank God for the lifelong friends we have made during our (now too short) four years together. In a few weeks, we will be leaving for a new adventure as Camp Director at El Camino Pines in Frazier Park. I am still wondering if there is a way to take a few hundred people with us.

I want to tell you a few of the things that I tell strangers about Salem. First, I tell them about the music. I have never been to a church with so much musical talent and so many beautiful singers. For the last two hundred Sundays, it has been a blessing to sing with you and listen to your music. Soli Deo Gloria! Second, Salem has a wonderful playground. Almost everyday, my office is filled with the sound of children at play, and that's a wonderful way to pass the time. When my office walls were closing in, I could always go downstairs to play kickball or four-square. Third, I've always marveled at all the refrigerators. Everywhere I went, there were abandoned leftovers and lots of ice cream. And then there's the parking lot. I was lucky enough to arrive early to almost every event I attended...and even then, I was often parking and walking a long way.

After 80 years of life together, we're bound to have a few personality quirks. Personality is a wonderful gift and Salem has plenty of it. When I tell people about Salem, I will think about all of the people who I couldn't help but fall in love with. All the people who courageously faced difficult, even impossible circumstances, and still found God in the middle of their lives. We have sang together, played together, ate together and grown close to one another. 'We are one great song of love and grace...ever ancient and ever new.'

And that's what I'll miss.

In His Grip, Pastor Glen