

Dr. Kevin A. Purcell



Personal Information

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Family Background: I was born in Maquoketa, Iowa on October 17, 1969 to James and Jan Purcell. I lived in Central Illinois and Central Wisconsin before moving to Milwaukee when I was ten. My family still lives there.

Spouse: My wife, Barb Purcell, was born July 8, 1972 in Cincinnati, Ohio and grew up there. Her parents, Ray and Reba Roseman moved to High Point, NC shortly after she graduated from High School and they still live there. She graduated in 1995 from Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She is an elementary school teacher. She earned her National Board Certification in 2004. Barb enjoys entertaining, crafts, and music. She has been very active in all of my ministry settings including at different times Woman's Missionary Union, Choir, Sunday School, Nursery, Youth and Children's Ministry as well as Kitchen and Library Committees and Sunday Morning Children's Moment.

Children: My sons are Michael, born April 15, 1994 in Forth Thomas, Kentucky and Daniel, born March 23, 1998 in Clinton, North Carolina. They are very active and love sports, computer games and playing with Mom and Dad. They are both very talented and are both baptized.

Education

Doctor of Ministry – Preaching

Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina (main campus is in Massachusetts)

Dissertation Title: *The Role That Multimedia Can Play in Expository Preaching*. See website to read this.

Graduated in May 2005.

Master of Divinity – Pastoral Ministry

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina

Graduated in May 1998

Part of my work was done in Church Growth at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Missions and Church Growth at *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*, Louisville, Kentucky. I studied at Southern in Louisville from January 1993 to December 1995 and transferred to Southeastern in January 1995.

Bachelor of Arts – Religion Major, Philosophy Major and Communications Minor

Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky

Graduated Cum Laude in May 1991

Studied Drama and Music

Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Graduated With Honors, June 1987

Pastoral Experience

High Peak Baptist Church, Valdese, North Carolina – Jan. 2007 to Present

- We have installed a multimedia system to enhance our worship services
- Started *Merge* the High Peak Drama Team
- The church has about 400 members with a growing average attendance of about 140

Long Creek Memorial Baptist Church, Dallas, North Carolina – Sep. 2000 to Dec. 2006

- Church did \$150,000 renovation of facilities and paid off the debt in less than 2 years.
- Started Wednesday Night missions programs for children and Sunday Night discipleship program for children
- Supervised a staff of a part-time music minister, part-time youth minister, full-time secretary
- Began FAITH Sunday School Evangelism outreach strategy with great success
- 400 resident members with 175 active and average attendance grew from about 65 in September 2000 to about 90-100 currently
- \$175,000 annual budget with about 20% going to various missions causes
- Associational Positions: Secretary and Chairman of the Associational Mission Team, Member of the Executive Team, Member of Board of Directors of Christian Women's Job Corp, Association Prayer Coordinator and active in Ministerial Associations for Greater Gaston Baptist Association and for Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry area.

Evergreen Baptist Church, Rose Hill, North Carolina – March 1996 to August 2000

- Organized Deacon Family Ministry Plan
- Church was Incorporated
- Started Youth Drama Team
- Started Wednesday Night Discipleship Training
- All Church Debt was Paid Off
- Called First Part-time Youth Minister in Church History
- Started Mission Iglesia Bautista, an Hispanic Mission, with two families; it is still growing stronger every week
- 160 Resident Membership & \$70,000 annual budget with average attendance around 50 while I was there
- Associational Positions: Secretary & Vice-president of Pastor's Conference, Chairman of Preacher and Place Committee & Church/Minister Support Committee, Backyard Bible Clubs and Missions VBS Consultant on ACTeam/Sunday School Team, Member of Nominating Committee

Blanket Creek Baptist Church, Falmouth, Kentucky – August 1993 to December 1995

- Parking Lot was Paved
- Started Visitation Program
- Organized Deacon Family Ministry Plan
- Associational Positions: Sunday School/Discipleship Training Director, Published Association's Newsletter

Other Ministry Experience

Minister of Youth & Children, Knoxville Baptist Church, Williamstown, KY, May 92 – Aug 93

Interim Pastor, Beaver Baptist Church, Cynthiana, KY, Spring of 90 & Summer and Fall of 91

Minister of Youth & Singles, North Benson Baptist Church, Frankfort, KY, Mar. 89 to Mar. 90
Int. Minister of Youth & Children, Highland Hills Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas, KY, Summer 88
Summer Missionary, Summers of 87 & 89
Secular Work, Worked as delivery driver and assistant manager of Dominos Pizza,
Dispatcher and Security Guard at Georgetown College, Salesman for Vector Marketing

Ordination, Licensing and Baptism

Ordained by Blanket Creek Baptist Church in Falmouth, Kentucky in November 1993
Licensed by Northwest Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August 1987
Baptized at Northwest Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in May 1987 after trusting Christ years earlier at Summer Camp in August 1980

My Philosophy of Ministry

Preaching

Preaching is an important element in the Pastor's calling. My sermon style and delivery are expository and conversational with many stories to illustrate. I preach with just a brief outline, which allows me to have eye contact with the congregation. I enjoy using visual illustrations, drama, and sometimes even singing to make sermons come alive. My sermons are 25 to 35 minutes long and biblical in content. I preach messages in series, either on a topic or through a book of the Bible. I start with the spiritual needs of the people in mind and point them to biblical solutions. On occasion I will use dramatic, first-person monologues to communicate the message.

Pastoral Care

Hebrews 13:7 and 17 talk about the role of pastoral leaders of a church. As a pastor it is my responsibility to care for the spiritual well-being of the congregation with which I am entrusted. In order to care for the spiritual needs of our congregation in the pulpit, I must be active in caring for them through individual contact. In this very busy culture, this can become a challenge, so I attempt to be creative. Of course pastoral visits might be part of that, but regular phone calls, notes in regular mail and via email will also play a part. I also believe in a team ministry approach. Acts 6 says that the spiritual leaders of the church are to focus on the ministry of the Word and Prayer. Therefore I believe in equipping the church to partner with me in pastoral care to the sick, bereaved, shut-ins and visitors. I also rely on an active outreach visitation program for evangelism. The deacons and small group leaders like Sunday School teachers or Discipleship teachers should make regular contact with members calling on the pastor to help them through training and partnership. As a pastor I cannot do it all. So I must empower others to be blessed with this kind of ministry as well. In the early days of my ministry I will make contact with shut-ins and as many inactive members as possible.

Leadership

Leadership of a church is also an important part of a pastor's role. My leadership style is based on a player-coach metaphor where I am a leader and a participant in ministry. Jesus is the head of the church, and as His under-shepherd, I like to work alongside people to achieve goals and perform tasks as a member

of a team. Ephesians 4:11-15 is my theme passage for leadership. It says God has gifted some to equip the church to carry out its ministry. Ministry is taught best by servant leadership. This is a style where the leader works alongside those he or she is training to show them how it is done.

For administrative decision making I rely on a church board or council, which should be made up of proven, gifted leaders. They will represent the various areas of fellowship in the church. Just as the deacons are the primary care givers, the board or council is the primary decision making body. Some churches choose to combine these two groups into one committee or board, usually called the "Deacon Board." This can work so long as deacons see themselves as ministers and servants first and the decisions making does not distract them from achieving their Biblical role as laid out in Acts 6 where deacons were first ordained in the early church.

One of the primary callings I have fulfilled as a pastor has been to bring rejuvenation to stagnating churches and to reorient members to look at the work of the church in a new way. The three churches I have pastored all have been inward looking. It was my goal to turn them outward looking.

Theological Convictions

I believe that the Bible is our supreme guide for understanding the nature and purpose of our existence as a church and as Disciples of Christ. My theology is traditionally Southern Baptist as described in the Baptist Faith and Message. Regarding the church, I believe that all Christians are called to be disciple-makers according to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20. We are also all called to be servants according to the Great Commandment of Matthew 22:37-40. Each believer also has other gifts to do further ministry. I believe the local church is God's central focus of ministry to the world. One becomes a member of a local church when they are baptized as a sign of their salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ who died and rose again and lives within each believer through the Holy Spirit and guides them until He will come again to call His bride, the Church, home to heaven for eternity.

My Personal Mission Statement

As a minister of the gospel my primary task is to communicate the truths of scripture to the church and the world. As a pastor I am called to equip the church through the power of the Spirit to glorify God and be on mission for Him (Ephesians 4:11ff). As a citizen I am to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, drawing and pointing all people to Jesus. As a husband I am to sacrificially love my wife just as Christ loves the church. As a father I am to guide my children according to the model of Deuteronomy 6. And as a member of the kingdom of God, my focus is to build up the church in whatever form it exists and give support to fellow ministers as I am given opportunities to do so.

Interests and Activities

I am a big sports fan. I enjoy pro football, college and pro basketball, baseball and NASCAR. I like to read spy novels; Tom Clancy is my favorite secular author. I have many favorite Christian authors including Jerry B. Jenkins, Tim LaHaye, Joel C. Roseburg, Bruce Wilkinson, Max Lucado, and Chuck Swindoll. I also enjoy working with computers. I write a monthly column for *Christian Computing Magazine* called "Higher Power with Kevin Purcell." It deals with using a computer to study the Bible.

References

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