

Report of the Pastor

Pine Glen Alliance Church family,

I have been delighted to get to hear the stories of so many good folks in the Pine Glen family since October and to learn about the rich history of all that God has done here over the course of almost five decades. But I think we can all agree that 2023 was a challenging year in the life of this church. There was confusion, frustration, disagreement, disappointment, and hurt, an accumulation of relational brokenness over the course of many years. In the midst of all of that, I know that many of you were experiencing sorrow and even despair.

But we worship a God who is faithful, a God who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death, a God who knows what it is to suffer, a God who walks with us in our suffering, and a God who often works to redeem our suffering for our good and, ultimately, for His glory. I believe that God is doing a work of restoration and healing and rejuvenation among this body of believers. And it has been my great joy and privilege to have been invited to walk alongside you in this transitional season to provide whatever leadership and service I can to support that good work that God is doing.

Over the course of these last few months, I believe that God has indeed been faithful to start the process of recovering a sense of joy and excitement and enthusiasm to not only gather and worship together as a family but also to regain a sense of purpose and mission. I believe that His desire is for this church to be a light shining in the darkness, experiencing the love and grace and mercy of our God and sharing that love and grace and mercy with the community and the entire world around us. I also believe that God has the power to increasingly allow us to look back with gratitude for the ways that He was always at work here at Pine Glen, even in the darkest hours when the challenges seemed insurmountable. It is often in those difficult seasons when He does His best work of refining us and stretching us and teaching us to trust Him more fully.

There is much work that lies ahead for us in 2024. We need to nominate and elect elders so that the church can regain its full accreditation within the broader Alliance governance structure. We need to stabilize and bolster our financial situation, so that we're positioned to pursue the things that God places on our collective hearts. We need to pursue reconciliation and forgiveness with anyone we have hurt or who has hurt us. We need to gather information to clarify the shared sense of direction for where the church is going. And we need to eventually develop a process to search for the next pastor who will lead this church into the next season of what I truly believe will be a fruitful future.

As we work on all of these fronts, we will continue to gather, worship, sing, pray, study, learn, serve, give, eat, listen, laugh, and love each other. We will look back at the wonderful things God has done through this church body for almost 50 years. And we will look forward, with expectation and with anticipation, for all that lies ahead, for His glory and for our joy. It has been my delight to walk with you in this season of transition, and I can't wait to see what God has for you in the future...

Blessings,
Chad Oberholtzer, Transitional Pastor