

When I joined the First Baptist Maumelle Church staff:

April 1, 2019

What areas of ministry I work in:

Senior Pastor

My Family:

My amazing wife Marabeth and I were married in May, 2004. We have eight precious (and precocious) children: Bethany, Joshua, Noah, Alexis, Kynslee, Zane, Jadalynn, and Ian. (Yes, we spend a LOT of money on groceries!)

When I was saved:

I became a Christian at age 9 on October 25, 1981.

Education:

High School: Ridgecrest (Paragould) High School, Paragould, AR (1990)

College: B.A. in Christian Ministries, Williams Baptist College (now University), Walnut Ridge, AR (1995)

Graduate School: M.A. in Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX (2017)

Additional Studies: Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX (1995-1999)

Previous Lines of Work:

Eight days after I turned 16, my parents bought the steakhouse where my mom worked (Candlelite Steakhouse, Paragould, AR), and I worked there all through high school and college, even coming home on major holidays during my first stint in graduate school. From 2009-2011, I worked there full-time as the manager / waiter / fry cook / cashier / host / bathroom cleaner / inventory manager / and any other duties Mom and Dad assigned.

My first foray into public ministry was as a youth minister / song leader at Second Baptist Church in Paragould, AR. During my years in Abilene, I served as the youth minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Abilene. My first pastorate began in 2001 at Diaz Baptist Church. I left Diaz in December, 2003 to begin pastoring at Forty-Seventh Street Baptist in North Little Rock, where I served until July 2008. From 2008-2019, I served as the stewardship consultant and GuideStone State Representative at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Little Rock.

Favorite Food:

My all time favorite is Alaskan king crab legs. I just wish I could afford to eat them.

Favorite Snack Food:

Baby dill pickles

Favorite Place in the World:

Wherever my family is.

Favorite Hobbies:

Reading, Racquetball, Spending time with my family

Best Advice Someone Gave Me:

Never give advice.

Favorite Sports Teams:

College: Arkansas Razorbacks

Professional: St. Louis Cardinals

Favorite Bible Story:

The life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Life Verse:

Psalm 37:4

One of My Greatest Experiences with God:

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus in Israel in 2007.

Most people don't know this about me:

I am modestly decent at playing the drums.

What's on my playlist:

Toby Mac, Third Day, Steven Curtis Chapman, Chris Tomlin, Elevation Worship, Dave Ramsey Podcasts, several sermon podcasts

The one book (besides the Bible) I'd recommend to anyone is:

Not sure I can narrow it down to one, so here are a few:

The Imitation of Christ – Thomas A'Kempis

Practicing the Presence of God – Brother Lawrence

Experiencing God – Henry Blackaby

The Cross of Christ – John R. W. Stott

A Genuine Faith – Rodney Reeves

The Total Money Makeover – Dave Ramsey

Good to Great – Jim Collins