

July 2011

From the Pastor 

Welcome to the Family

For two monthly musings I thought I would give you an insight on the Pavelski family. Last month I sat down with Ryan and interviewed him. This month I spent some time with Mindy. Mindy sat down with me and while listening to Broadway hits (my choice, not hers) and we talked. Here's what came of our time together. My words will be in italics.



Hi Mindy. We have been married for twenty years. During all that time you have been married to a minister. For half of that time I was in Youth For Christ (YFC) and for the other half I have been a senior pastor. What's it like being a pastor's wife?

I think that there has been a big difference between when you were working with YFC and now that you are a senior pastor. In both places I was unpaid help, but with YFC my role was pretty small. I helped with mailings, auctions and events. I wasn't really involved in the lives of the kids you worked with too much. Although, I guess I helped a small amount with some of them. As a senior pastor's wife, there's a lot more that I'm involved in.

What do you see as your role in the church?

I see myself as the mother of the church. Even though I'm younger than some, just as I pray for Ryan as my son, I pray for the church. Even when there aren't specific prayer requests for someone, it's always good to have someone praying for you. I covet the prayers of the church for us as well.

What's it like being married to a pastor?

I don't know, because I've never NOT been married to one. If you don't guard your time as a couple and as a family, I think sometimes it's difficult. It's more difficult than some jobs which are nine-to-five, because a pastor's job is not nine-to-five. It's a blessing in a lot of ways, but it can be stressful. Early on in the ministry you said to me that you have to have a little bit thicker skin, because I'm very sensitive. Therefore, it's really difficult when someone says something that's hurtful; it bothers me. Then there are times when I am able to witness you baptizing someone or doing a baby dedication; those times bless my soul.

What's it like being the mother of a fifteen year old?

I think I have a really good relationship with Ryan. We definitely



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balance the parenting out. When Ryan slept through his stop on the school bus and ended up at the high school one morning, I freaked; you laughed. We are a good team. So far it hasn't been as horrible as everyone had predicted it might be to have a teenager in the house. He's a great kid; he listens sometimes. He's spreading his wings. He's getting to the point where he's realizing that he's not going to be at home with mom and dad for the rest of his life, and he has to figure out his way. That's the stage we are going through now. The times when he's tired or doesn't feel good are when my "little boy" comes out. When he's been at school for a long day and out with the world, he comes home kind of smart alecky, so we bring him back down to what reality is at our house which is not what reality is like at school.

What are the top three things that are important to you?

My faith, my family and prayer.

How do you keep those things alive?

I keep my faith alive by reading the Word, trying to get as much knowledge as I possibly can and praying the Lord will give me the words to share or the words to encourage or the words to uplift someone. As far as my family, I try to guard it. It's tough when someone says something not nice about our family or I feel is unfair, so I'm very much protective over our life and our family in general. Our life is kind of an open book at the church. People see us and our relationship with each other and also our relationship with Ryan. We are much more exposed than other families. We have to really protect Ryan, because I know he struggles with wondering what life would be like not being a pastor's kid. We really guard your day off, so as a couple we can spend time together. Our family really treasures times when you don't have a meeting or responsibilities or we don't have a growth group or something, so we can spend time together.

How do you keep your prayer life alive?

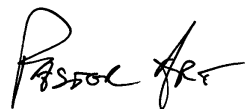
I'm involved in Moms In Touch. We pray weekly for three other women's children. That's just a minor prayer activity. I probably pray about every hour about something that comes to mind. There has been many a night when lots of the congregation has been prayed for over long periods of time. (Like the last trip to Haiti!) As you can see prayer is a regular part of my daily life.

Any other thoughts about the church you want to pass along?

I feel God has really blessed us with this church. I feel we've learned a lot about ourselves. We've loved getting to know all the families, watching all the kids grow up and seeing the kids graduate. I think it's always hard for a church to go for a long period of time with an interim pastor. I think God really sustained the church during what I'm sure was a tough time. I thank Steve Chastain for being able to hold down the fort. I feel we were definitely called here. I hope by us being here we have been an encouragement to the people in the church.

I am so thankful Mindy was willing to sit down and talk with me, so you can get to know her better. I thank God for my wonderful bride.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pastor Art