

November 3, 2020

Dear HFFBC Elders and Church Council:

It was Jonathan Edwards who first introduced me to the memorable phrase, “the surprising work of God.” This is a phrase I have often repeated during my Christian journey throughout the years as I have watched God move and work in my life in ways that are strange, unexpected, and, yes, even surprising. I am writing to you today to pass along the latest “surprising work of God” in my life.

Effective December 31, 2020, I will be officially resigning my position as Pastor of Student Ministries here at HFFBC and will be transitioning with my family to Salem, Massachusetts to assume the role of Lead Pastor at First Baptist Church in Salem.

It is bittersweet for us to be leaving this church and community. We have grown to love each one of you uniquely, and have found it a great blessing to be part of your lives and to serve alongside you in God’s Kingdom work on the Seacoast. But we are also excited, affirmed, confident, and so sure that God is calling us to Salem to “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

We are walking into this pastoral calling with a missionary mindset, knowing full well that cross-cultural, long-term Gospel laboring is before us in a place where “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few” (Luke 10:2). It is, therefore, with a humble heart that we request intentional and long-term prayer from you – whom we view as our sending church. We will ourselves commit to intentionally praying for the ministry of HFFBC long-term as well.

Sarah, Nora, Clara, and I are so thankful to God for each of you, and will miss walking alongside you in daily life. But in this “strange joy” we follow the Lord Jesus Christ into His harvest field and make it our “ambition to preach the Gospel” (Romans 15:20) and to make Him known.

Your brother in Christ,

Steven White

Stevenwhite28@gmail.com

C: 865.323.4439