



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY / PERSPECTIVE /  
WHAT'S HAPPENING! / ENCOUNTERS / BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## MEET THE FAMILY

### Mike and Lisa McCorquodale

Lisa was saved in Vacation Bible School. Mike was saved as an adult, while watching Charles Stanley on television. They moved from Oregon to Owingsville, Eastern Kentucky, in 2010, and despite having to drive an hour from their home for each meeting they joined our church when we were a small but growing fellowship meeting in a storefront on Paris Pike. They shortened their commute by finding a home in Georgetown but later moved back to their original location while still attending here.



Lisa works for Miss Behaven's Gift Shop in Georgetown. Mike is retired. They have been married 37 years and raised three children: Quinton (34) lives in Minnesota, Molly (33), is married. She was a member here before moving to Virginia where she taught at a church school. Grace (23), is married and lives in Florida.

### Sherman and Heather Shelton

Sherman and Heather were both born and raised in Kentucky. He grew up in Lexington (where he was saved at the age of 17); she comes from Barbourville (saved at 10 years old). They met while working together at a restaurant in Lexington and were married in 1999, moving to Georgetown in 2003.



Sherman works as a professional chef providing specialty menus and meals for his customers. You may see him greeting at the church or doing security. Heather can often be found in the nursery. She is employed as a psychologist in the Owen County school system where she assists students with disabilities. They have three children: Chloe (20) is engaged to marry Luke Johnson; Micah (19) is finishing up his first year at Alice Lloyd College, and

Joanna (14) is a freshman at Great Crossing High School.

The Shelton's joined Bluegrass in 2012. They appreciate most the sense of family evident here, and the good Bible teaching.

## Luke Johnson

Luke is the older brother of Levi Johnson. They are from Medina, Tennessee (no relation to the Johnson's from Texas).

He received Christ as his Savior at the age of seven, then was baptized at the Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Medina. After the family moved to Georgetown, Levi was the first to discover our church and encouraged Luke to attend here too. The move brought an unexpected blessing into his life.

Brother Levi is best friends with Micah Shelton, playing on the same basketball team. Luke went to watch a game where a young lady caught his eye. She was Micah's sister, Chloe. Levi introduced them, they began dating, and now they plan to marry on June 7th this year!

Luke is presently employed as an automotive service advisor.



## PERSPECTIVE

### On Church Growth

*By Edward Thal*

How do you grow a church? The answer is simple: *you* don't.

The resurrected Jesus Christ plants a church, appoints a pastor, adds believers, provides a Living Word to build and sustain life, superintends governance, gives direction, corrects wrongdoing and showers blessings on obedient and faithful servants who worship Him in sincerity and in truth.

In short, it is *His* church. He does the building and the growing and His sheep follow His lead. It is a unique relationship, so close that He sees the church as His Body and individuals within the Body as particular members!

*Ecclesia* was the Greek word used to identify members “called out” from among the citizens of Athens to form a governing assembly. The word appears 115 times in the New Testament and is generally translated as “church”, referring to Christians “called out” from the world system to serve their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while following “the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Today, alas, “church” has come to mean a religious organization that meets on weekends. It is viewed first as a building, a location for regular entertainment of a “spiritual” nature, usually characterized by lively music and comforting speeches. Rarely is “church” seen as disciples and worshippers of a living God who contain His life and light and share it with the world.

The biblical picture that unfolds in the New Testament is of the *ecclesia* as a dynamic living organism joined in a mystical union that forms a Body where the glory of God is manifested.

The Apostle Paul said it best in his letter to the Ephesians (3:20-21):

*Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly  
Above all that we ask or think, according to the power  
that worketh in us,  
Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus.*

(17 years ago, Bluegrass Baptist Church was planted with two members. Our recent Easter morning service saw a record attendance of 341 worshippers. Soon we will move for the fifth time into a new building to accommodate the growing numbers added here by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, who enlivens those who honor and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### Visit Our Library

The church library is where you will find a wide range of books to suit all ages—ranging from children's books to books for families, and inspirational biographies, and church life, and Christian doctrine, and Theology. More will soon be added.

Jenny Hamm is your librarian; ask for her if you need more information (and expect a call from her with a gentle reminder if you forget to return a book).



### Wedding Shower

Chloe Shelton will soon be Mrs. Luke Johnson—see “Meet the Family” above. Her wedding shower in preparation for the Big Day (June 7th) was a fun time on a Saturday morning at church. Chloe was only seven years old when she began attending here and it was a joy to share memories about her growing up, then hearing ladies share their “recipes” for a successful marriage, as outlined in Titus Chapter Two.



*In the picture at left: sisters Joanna (14) and Chloe (20), with mom Heather, and Luke's mom, Becky.*



## Sacrificial Sunday



Passing collection plates is not something we normally do. However, our recent sacrificial giving Sunday was a special occasion of united worship and consecration to mark the gathering of gifts for the next step in a building program to accommodate our continuing growth. See 1 Chronicles 29 for how it was done in King David's day when the first temple in Jerusalem was planned.

*(Our members are so faithful in their usual giving that plates are available in the lobby for tithes and offerings to be deposited there as a private transaction between the worshipper and God. It is an ongoing miracle that by His Grace and your regular giving, our operating budget is always met, although we seldom talk about financial needs).*

## ENCOUNTERS:

### LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

Here we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is hostile to the Gospel. **This month's story is from Ken and Lydia Au, about our church's impact on their children, Christian (11) and Evelyn (7). Christian's testimony about his salvation begins the story.**

"My dad and mom introduced me to Jesus Christ. From a very young age, I knew that I could trust God and His Word. When I was 10, I began to understand that I am a sinner and that I need Jesus. I was saved and baptized soon afterwards here at our church. In addition to what my parents taught me about God's view and how man's view is different, I was also influenced by the Christian stories and missionary biographies we like reading together. God has also taught me so much from all the sermons and classes here at our church!"

Lydia takes up the story: "One of the questions in Christian's study book asked him to look up Philippians 4:4 and write a prayer of rejoicing for salvation through Christ. The amount of space given to write is very short, so we were delighted to see that Christian managed to squeeze in, 'Dear God, thank You for Your Son, and for making salvation possible.'

“Later in the evening, as our family was in the car heading home from church, Christian gave us a few post-it notes and asked us to read what he had written earlier in the day. Our hearts were warmed as we read the prayer that Christian had originally written in response to his study book question:”

‘Thank You, Jesus, for going to Calvary’s tree.

Thank You for dying to set me free.

Thank You for bearing my sin upon Your shoulders.

It must have felt heavier than the heaviest boulders.

Thank You, Jesus, for taking the shame and pain,

That I might not have any more stain.

To thank You is what I crave.

Thank You, Jesus, for all You gave.’

Lydia continues: “We want to share this little poem with you. It is a testimony to the blessed preaching, teaching, and fellowship we enjoy at our church. We are especially thankful for the wonderful Kids4Truth books made available as the Bible Adventure Club curriculum. These books have helped to spark numerous and important spiritual discussions in our home, and have helped not only our children, but our whole family, to grow in understanding and in faith.”

## **BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Answering your particular questions while also providing an information resource for our church family. This month’s topic is the Pope. Pastor Zach Kirchner shares his insights.**

The head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, passed away on April 21, 2025. The term “pope” comes from the Latin word *papas*, which means “father,” and it came to refer exclusively to the bishop at Rome. The word “bishop” in the Bible is not a special title as it is now used, but is an alternative for the word “pastor.” The word “pope” did not come into general use until 440 A.D., when Leo I (the Great) claimed the title and set a precedent that the bishop at Rome follows to this day.

The so-called Pope was not always as revered, popular, and powerful as he is today. This two-part series will answer the questions, “What led to the papacy’s emergence?” and “What should a Bible-believing Christian think of the Pope?”

Several factors that shaped the papacy include the writings of church fathers, church councils, and statements and precedents of key popes. In the 100s and 200s A.D., church fathers wrote frequently about the authority of bishops and a concept called *apostolic succession*. The early church fathers promoted the authority of bishops because (1) a bishop provided an authoritative voice in disputes over doctrine and practice, (2) a bishop could preside over church functions like the Lord's Supper and steward the church's resources, and because (3) humanity is finite and sinful, so it often looks to an authority figure for instructions. *Apostolic succession* argued falsely that Christ had given the "keys of the kingdom" to Peter, that Peter was the first bishop of Rome, and that Peter passed down the "keys" to the following bishops of Rome. This concept made the Pope totally authoritative and became the source of many debates between the Eastern (Greek) and Western (Roman) churches.

Church Councils were meetings of church leaders to clarify disputes about heresies and distinguish between true and false doctrines. Unfortunately, some of these meetings contributed to the pope's authority. We owe a great debt to councils such as those at Nicea and Chalcedon, where doctrines like the deity of Christ and the Trinity were recognized (not created, but recognized). Despite the good that the various church councils accomplished, however, they simultaneously gave more authority to the papacy. One such ruling comes from Nicea in 325 A.D., which consolidated power into the hands of three churches (Antioch, Rome, and Alexandria).

Finally, several bishops made very noteworthy advances for the papacy's power. Bishop Ambrose of Milan (pope from 374–397) barred the emperor, Theodosius I, from the church after Theodosius had massacred an estimated 6,000 people. Theodosius repented, and bishops then began to more frequently claim authority over even the leader of the state. Innocent I (401–417) declared the "universal jurisdiction of Rome," making Rome supreme over all other churches. Nicholas I (the Great; 858–67) set a precedent for the pope meddling in political disputes when he demanded that a French King divorce his second wife and take back his first wife. The king conceded to Nicholas' demand. Gregory VII, Urban II, Alexander III, and Innocent III taught or demonstrated papal authority by organizing a largely unsuccessful army during the Crusades (1095–1291). Pius IX (1846–78) confirmed popular Catholic doctrines of the so-called Immaculate Conception (1854) and papal infallibility (1870).

Next month, I'll evaluate the papacy against Scripture and provide a biblical response.