



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Woody and Janis Preston



Both born in Eastern Kentucky, their 56-year marriage has produced four children and ten grandchildren. They met while Woody was at the University of Kentucky and Jan was at EKV. She was a Christian; Woody met Christ while attending a revival service with her at Faith Baptist Church in Lexington. They married in 1967, served together there, brought their first two children into the world, and then moved to Letcher County in Eastern Kentucky where Woody worked in the coal mines for 20 years, followed by 35 years with Norwood Construction. The birth of twin boys (including Jason, a deacon here)

completed their family.

They remark about the next 20 years serving God together at Letcher Independent Baptist Church that they “grew in the faith while developing friendships with some of the most wonderful people alive”. In 2003 they moved back to Lexington and again attended Faith Baptist Church until they joined our fellowship in 2019.

Now as they look back one thing stands out: “Jesus Christ has been, and continues to be, the provider of all good things. Without His love and gracious presence in our lives, we shudder to think about where our marriage and family would be today. We enjoy being part of Bluegrass Baptist Church because the preaching and teaching is doctrinally sound, there is warm fellowship in Christ, and opportunities to serve abound.”

Stephen and Stephanie Jeffries

They're both from Lexington, KY. Stephen was saved at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church when he was eight years old, and Stephanie received Christ as her Savior at a young age while attending Hillcrest Baptist Church but did not get baptized until later in life. They were married in 2010.

Church was not a priority for them in the early years of their marriage. Then In 2013 they were looking to buy their first home, deciding that Georgetown was the best place to build and also to find a good spiritual home. After researching several churches, they chose Bluegrass for its Bible-based preaching and rejoice that it is an active and growing church where God's presence is real. They remark that they have never regretted leaving Lexington!

Stephen works as an Operations Analyst Manager at eCampus.com. Stephanie is a homemaker. They have two children, Josh, 20, and Maddie, 6.



Joshua and Gretchen Doolittle

Joshua was born in Brazil, where his parents were missionaries. Gretchen hails from Easton, PA. He was saved in 2011; Gretchen in 2014. They met while working zip-lines at a Christian camp and were married in May this year, then moved to Georgetown three days later.

Joshua works for "It Just Makes Scents". Gretchen is a content editor and proofreader for AiG. They visited our church while looking for an apartment in Georgetown and immediately felt at home here.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

TIME MARCHES ON!

The old saying, "Time Marches On", is as true as any verse in the Bible and begs the question: What have you done with the time God gave you in 2023? Better yet, what will you do with the time God gives you in 2024?

Let me rehearse some of the great blessings our church experienced in 2023, beginning with an inflow of more members added to the church than in any other calendar year. Families and individuals came in the form of new converts, new movers to Georgetown, people who revived their dormant walk with God, and transfers from churches in our area that no longer preach or practice Biblical principles. However you arrived at Bluegrass Baptist Church, welcome!

Second on the list of blessings is that we had more volunteers than ever filling the roles of teacher, teacher's aide, usher, greeter, and helper in children's church, at VBS, and for our BBC Olympics. Others stepped up as lifestage leader, musician, grass cutter, nursery worker, and discipleship mentor. The list goes on. Clearly, those who worship God will also find ways to involve themselves in God's work!

If you haven't started, then 2024 is your year to find some form of volunteer service that will stretch your faith and demonstrate your love for God and others!

Third, we had more evangelistic engagements than ever in a single year. Our local evangelistic efforts include Welcome Wagon visits, Gospel Blitz, and Neighborhood Evangelism. We have reached thousands of homes in Georgetown and North Lexington through these three avenues of ministry.

Thank you for those who are happy to take Welcome Wagon visits and greet new movers to Central Kentucky. Your presence, your smile and the small church gift go a long way to say a kind hello to those who are new to our part of the country.

Thank you to Keith Seaman (North Lexington) and Edward Thal (Scott County) for heading our Gospel Blitz on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. If you haven't had a chance to get involved see either of them for times and locations of the next blitz!

Thank you to those who have really stretched their faith this year in our neighborhood evangelism efforts. Several adults participated for the first time, and I was delighted in the Spring and Summer to note the interest displayed by some of our middle school teenagers (Anna, Ian, Liam and others) who came out to share their faith in partnership with Edward Thal and Pam Lindner.

Yes, 2023 was a fantastic year in so many ways! I am excited to look ahead at what God may do through a yielded church family in 2024. As a closing

thought, allow me to challenge you with this: If 2023 wasn't a great year of spiritual growth for you, why not? What can you commit to changing in your life to ensure that 2024 is spiritually vibrant and satisfying? Time is marching on, and what we do with our time for God's glory matters now, and for eternity!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Bible Adventure Club (BAC) Awards

The annual BAC Awards saw more than 30 children receive ribbons and certificates for their year-long participation in our Wednesday night club for ages 4 through 11. Badges are earned for activities including Choir, Bible Reading and completing lessons, Memory Verses, and participation in games, music, and sports. A total of nine badges can be won. There's also a patch for bringing a visitor.

Christian Au was recognized for winning all nine badges. Six students earned certificates of excellence for finishing at the top of their class — two students from each of three classes. The students were Evelyn Au, Owen Vance, Jairus Davidson, Olivia Wade, Cooper Adkins and Christian Au.



BAC Director Wes Wade with some happy award winners!

It Was a Very Merry Christmas



Our Christmas Concert was a joyful Sunday evening filled with hymns and songs from choirs young and old, music from a string quartet, and a guitar and ukele duo, and Scripture reading in-between. It wasn't a typical Christmas Cantata, just the church family and friends lifting their hearts and voices in praise and worship to our glorious Savior and King.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PERSONAL REVIVAL THE POWER OF A MOTHER'S PRAYER

There are few prayers more likely to reach the ears of God than those of a mother for her child. Amelia Taylor was such a mother, who prayed earnestly for the salvation of her wayward son, Hudson, born in 1832.

James and Amelia Taylor were devout Christians. They lived in Yorkshire, England, where James was a pharmacist and an evangelistic preacher. Amelia provided a homeschool education for her children that included a thorough grounding in Scripture. When Hudson was fifteen years old, he started working as a junior clerk at a bank and soon was influenced by the worldly people around him to reject the God of his parents. Then an eye infection forced him to quit his job and return home. Hudson's moodiness, caused by his inner struggles, angered his father, while his mother began to pray for his salvation.

Several months later, about a month after Hudson's seventeenth birthday, he found a Gospel tract and began reading it at the same time as his mother was praying for him, determined not to stop until she received an assurance from the Lord that he was saved. Hudson later wrote of that moment: "As light was flashed into my soul by the Holy Spirit, there was nothing in the world to be done but to fall down on my knees, accepting this Savior and His salvation, to praise Him evermore." When he joyfully shared the news with his mother, she replied, "I know! It was not from any human source, it was in answer to my prayers."

Hudson Taylor eventually made his way to China as a trailblazing missionary who spent 54 years there, founding the China Inland Mission that was responsible for bringing over 800 missionaries to the country. They started over 100 schools and saw 20,000 Christian conversions, as well as the establishment of more than 300 stations of work with 500 local helpers in all 18 provinces of that vast country.

Before he died at the age of 73 in 1905, Hudson inspired thousands of young men to be missionaries through his preaching in England and America, where he became a friend of both Charles Spurgeon and DL Moody.

Hudson Taylor was famous for his blunt challenges to discipleship, declaring that the secret of an unsatisfied life lies in an un-surrendered will. "All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they surrendered to His power and presence with them," he added.

On another occasion he famously said, "I have heard of many people who trusted God too little, but have you ever heard of anyone who trusted Him too much? God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."