



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Scott & Tracy Hill



Scott spent his childhood growing up at Lake Cumberland in the town of Burnside, Kentucky. He moved to Pendleton County in high school and later attended Berea College, getting a degree in Political Science. Tracy was born and raised in central Ohio in the small town of Granville. She attended Ohio University in Athens, earning a degree in Journalism.

Scott was raised in a Baptist church, was saved in 1987 at the age of 14 and baptized in Lake Cumberland. Tracy (a Presbyterian), was saved and baptized

Thanksgiving weekend 2021 at Bluegrass Baptist Church, the day before her birthday. They were married two months earlier! The blended family includes Tracy's daughter, a graduate of UK who lives in Lexington, and Scott's son who lives in Georgetown. Two married daughters live out of the area, and each has two children.

Tracy works for an Edward Jones branch office in Georgetown. Scott runs the Florence distribution center of Thermo Fisher, the world's largest medical scientific corporation, and oversees five other locations. He is a combat veteran who served in the Military Police before working as a deputy sheriff in Colorado Springs, CO (for a total of 24 years in the law enforcement field).

Linda Craft

Born in Kentucky, at Clays Ferry near the Kentucky River, Linda moved to Florida with her family when she was 14 years old. She married her husband, Don, 56 years ago. The family grew to include one son, David, and two grandsons, Drew and Dillon.

Linda invited Jesus Christ into her life when she was 34 and has walked faithfully with Him since then. She retired as a registered nurse in 2008, the same year that Don and Linda moved to Georgetown to be close to their son's family. She began searching for a spiritual home and met Pastor Fannin through a neighbor who knew that he had just planted a church here. In 2009 she joined Bluegrass Baptist. Don and Linda became "snowbirds", alternating between Florida and Georgetown for six months each year. Eventually, due to Don's declining health they stayed in Florida year-round and then came back to Georgetown in 2019, when Linda rejoined our fellowship. She has been widowed since last year.



PERSPECTIVE

God of the Mayflower Compact

By Edward Thal

America is unique among the nations of the world because it is less a nation than an idea.

It is essential for Christians to understand and uphold this identity because America was bequeathed by Christians, and that bequest lies at the heart of what made these United States a uniquely powerful and prosperous beacon of hope to the rest of the world. In its founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, is clearly expressed an idea that resonates with people everywhere who carry in their hearts a yearning for liberty.

It is a yearning that empowers them to thrive and prosper once they are free from the burden of allegiance to heavy-handed rulers, or suffocating religion, or onerous traditions and customs.

The seed of the idea that gave birth to what later became America was planted when Christian Pilgrims who sought their Promised Land sailed to the New World in 1620, and signed an historic document before they went ashore in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Mayflower Compact (or Covenant) was written by Separatist Puritans aboard the little ship Mayflower, who had left England because they yearned to worship the God of Scripture, free from the constraints of an official State religion.

The document records the first time in human history that free men voluntarily agreed to submit to a new form of government, under God. The only precedent was Israel, who accepted the authority of YHWH when they marked their homes with the blood of sacrificial lambs and left Egypt. But they were slaves then, not freemen.

The wording of the Mayflower Compact established the identity of a tiny colony (120 people in all) that would one day grow into the United States of America. Their covenant, written “In the Name of God”, declared that they had undertaken their journey to the New World “for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith”. (It is notable that despite the cramped conditions aboard ship, space was found for a large press that would be used to print Bibles!)

That Christian identity was underlined 156 years later in a Declaration of Independence that referred to the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God, who created all men equal, endowed by their Creator with rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Such an auspicious beginning would in the years to come draw millions to America from all corners of the world who carried the idea of liberty and equality in their hearts.

Someone has rightly observed that we don’t live in America, America lives in us!

Each succeeding generation of Bible-believing Christians bears the responsibility of demonstrating to their fellow-citizens that the impetus for that idea is the God of the Mayflower Compact.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Following the passing of Roger Caudill, who initiated our monthly prayer breakfasts, our first gathering in 2025 was held the second week of February and drew a record attendance of men, teenagers and young boys. Our time of fellowship, prayer and Scripture teaching was made more special on this occasion as we remembered our dear departed friend.

Fun and Games Night



The Horizons Life Stage enjoyed their February fellowship at the end of a cold, snowy week—the get-together was a warm and cozy night of games and a delicious spread of pot luck food. As always, lots of full bellies and lots of laughs were evident!

visiting friends went to “Activate” in Lexington for a recent outing that included a lot of competitive teamwork. They played games involving a horizontal climbing wall, shooting small targets across the room with laser guns, playing a quick-moving “board game,” and throwing rubber balls at a target. Tenth-grader Ian Tackett said, “I've been to Activate before, but it's way more fun with this group!”

If your teens are not involved, please encourage them to join in! It's a great way to learn, grow, and have fun with others.

Teens Activated!

Teenagers from Bluegrass and some



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. Brian Watson tells a story that underlines the impact of a godly father and a godly neighbor who laid a foundation that transformed his life forever.

I was blessed to have a godly father who took me every Sunday to Licking River Baptist Church on the banks of Licking River in Salyersville, Kentucky. My parents divorced when I was quite young, perhaps because my mother never attended church with us. A family that prays together stays together!

Despite this loss, it was a great blessing to have a father who was careful to teach me about staying in church and always tithing the dollar he gave me for the collection plate. I never understood how important that habit was until years later.

I was also blessed to have a godly neighbor. One day in the fall of 1982, when I was about 14 years old, she invited me to attend a fall revival at Salyersville Baptist Church with her and her son, my friend John. Little did I realize that my life would never be the same after I accepted the invitation.

The church was celebrating the last night of their annual revival and many people responded to the altar call. John and I were among them! Baptism was scheduled for the following Saturday at Licking River Baptist Church, which used the river as their baptismal. There was some preaching at the riverside, and then it was my turn to be immersed.

I will never forget the feeling inside when I came up out of the water—as if a weight was lifted off me. I did not know that I had any burdens until the burden of sin became real in that moment, and then it was gone! I remember hugging grandma while my dad stood crying beside me, so proud of his son. It was a glorious day.

Through the years God has made me understand how much love He has to offer, and that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. As I look back over my life I'm amazed at His constant blessings, and I can't help wondering, why me?

But I'm not complaining! Everyone needs a savior, and a loving, compassionate God sent Jesus Christ, who takes care of all his people—even me.

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Answering your particular questions while also providing an information resource for our church family.

Last Month Pam Lindner addressed the question of how to find the right church. In the third and final chapter of her story, Pam talks about how to fit in when you join a new church.

Fellowship in a church where you know you're in God's will has always been the same for us—no matter if we were in California, Japan, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Israel, Estonia, or Kentucky! In every place we all served the same God and had the same Holy Spirit dwelling in us, helping us commune with one another.

When Scott retired from the Marine Corps we began praying about the next step in God's will for us. The job the Lord provided was in Lexington, KY, a place we had never visited and knew nothing about. But we packed up and moved, sight unseen. Our previous experiences had taught us that we didn't need to worry about *if* there was a good church for us; we knew God would provide what he wanted us to have. We visited 3 churches after we arrived, and within the month we were members of Bluegrass Baptist Church!

When God reveals his will to you, there's no reason to wait. And no surprise to us, the fellowship here is just as sweet as any other church we've been a part of. The people are different, the culture is different, but the Savior is the same. We are all one in Christ Jesus and fellowship among brethren anywhere in the world is easy when you have Christ in common.

But it's important to note that while you feel an instant connection with fellow believers, just joining or attending a church doesn't create deeper bonds or friendships. The Bible makes that clear: "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..." (Proverbs 18:24). When you're new, everyone is a stranger and that can feel intimidating, but people only remain strangers until you begin the journey of building a relationship.

There have been a couple of places where I spent the whole assignment praying for a dear friend to come along and never received one. I can see now that I needed those times to cling to Christ alone as my dearest of friends and develop a deeper relationship with Him.

Jerusalem was one of those places for me as there was the language barrier added to restrictions from our government about forming relationships with locals. During this time my favorite place to spend time with the Lord was the Garden Tomb where they claim Jesus was buried. I would have Scott drop me off for an hour or two and just sit and pray and fellowship with the one Friend that laid down his life for me. There's no better fellowship than that.

Fellowship in church is edifying, but that's not the only function of the body. We are called to serve as well. Every church has something for you to do and some way to serve because that's the way God intended His church to function as a body. If God places you in a church, He has a plan for you there. If you are willing to be used of God, He will show you what He wants you to do. When you are new to a church you can't always see right away where they need help or even what opportunities are available, so it's important to be faithful in attendance and involved in every opportunity. You can't see a need or opportunity if you're never there, or your focus is always inward, looking for how you can be served. Instead, look around at how others are serving, listen for ministry needs being announced, ask someone in leadership about service opportunities, and pray about helping.

A good place to begin narrowing down a fit for you is with a Spiritual Gifts Test that helps you determine how God has gifted you naturally. Sometimes you might begin serving in an area that isn't a fit for you long-term, and that's okay. God will make that clear to you so you can move on to a new ministry, but you will leave with an understanding and appreciation for those who serve in that area and hopefully have gained some knowledge as well. For every ministry you serve in, you're learning more about yourself and how to best use your talents.

The most important factor in finding your place to serve is the attitude of Isaiah when he answered the Lord, "Here am I; send me." If you're willing to do anything God has for you, he *will* use you.

(P.S. Fifteen years after their time in Estonia, the Lindner's will soon be spending a day with their missionary friends, Mike and Penny Smith, who are back home for a short furlough!)