



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Roy & Dolores Wood

They have been with us since 2012 and still brighten every Sunday with their color-matched outfits!



Roy is originally from Louisville; Dolores hails from Harrodsburg, where her father was a pastor, and where Roy was saved under his ministry while on vacation from Florida in 1972. He soon returned to Kentucky and married Dolores two years later. She was a little slower in surrendering her life to Christ, finally doing so in 1980. The couple have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

They have two sons, Kevin and Brian, and a granddaughter, Kadence.

Roy worked at Johnson Controls in Georgetown, which is why they moved here. Dolores managed a school lunchroom. Both are now retired.

They believe they were led to Bluegrass Baptist Church because Bible truth is preached here, and they rejoice in “being blessed by a beautiful church family.”

David & April Bridenbecker

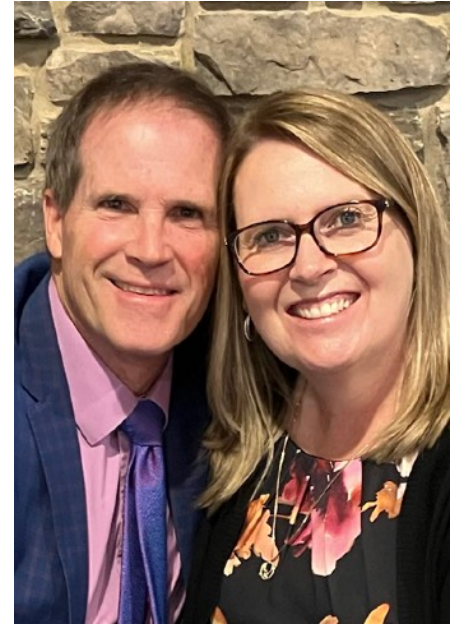
David claims that you can find anything at Walmart, and he should know—he met the love of his life in the checkout line there and the two soon became one.

April is a Kentucky girl from Hillsboro, one of five sisters and three half-brothers. David was born and raised in Utica, New York, the youngest of seven children. He had no desire to live in Kentucky but was persistently reminded by Matthew 6:33 that it was God’s will for him to be here, and so he finally obeyed.

In addition to each having multiple siblings they both have the same salvation experience of kneeling and praying at their bedsides; David when he was 24 years old, and April when she was 27.

They moved to Georgetown from Nicholasville in 2016 and joined BBC a year later, becoming involved in numerous church activities, especially working with children where their enthusiasm and creativity have endeared them to many appreciative young’uns and their parents.

David is a small business owner and April is employed as a Workforce Development Program Manager at UK.



Bethany Schumacher



Bethany is from Lexington, where she works as a medical assistant in a doctor’s office.

She was raised in a godly family where Jesus entered her life when she was five years old. As an adult, she began to seek a Christian community where she would be challenged and fed to grow spiritually. Her search eventually led her to Bluegrass Baptist Church and we’re glad to welcome her into our fellowship.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Spirit of Christmas

I have been accused of being a bit of a “Scrooge” about Christmas and its celebration. To that I say, “Bah! Humbug!” I very much love Christmas because I love the Christ of Christmas.

The fact that God would enter our world as a helpless baby demonstrates His omnipotent control over all Creation. That He would become a man with the singular intent of rescuing us is beyond human comprehension.

This Christ of Christmas will be preached and proclaimed in Bluegrass Baptist Church through sermons and songs and worshipful appreciation beginning on December 1. Each Sunday morning in December I will preach on the theme of *Emmanuel: God With Us*. The series will examine the Majesty, the Miracles, the Messages, and the Ministry of God as He dwelt among us. The underlying intent will be to stir the heart of every believer in our Savior Jesus Christ, and to challenge every unbeliever to place complete trust in Him.

In addition to our Sunday morning preaching services, our Choir will host a Christmas Cantata, “Love is Born” on December 15 at 5 pm. Through the diligent commitment and hard work of more than 30 willing servants who love to present the Gospel in this way, the musical presentation will, we hope, bless the hearts and minds of our church family, and guests from our surrounding community.

If you have family or friends who may not come to hear a Sunday morning sermon but would enjoy listening to sacred Christmas music, please invite them to be here.

Please note also that we will not have church services on Wednesday, December 25, nor on January 1, 2025. Our long standing tradition is that these are special times for families to be together in reunion and fellowship.

Above all, take time in the hustle and bustle of this season to pause and reflect on the true Spirit of Christmas. God's priceless and eternally meaningful gift of his only begotten Son to redeem our lost race from the awful consequences of our sin should humble and motivate us to share the gift of Jesus with everyone we meet!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Train Ride!



Stu Thayer is a train enthusiast building a massive miniature railway layout in his basement, so it was no surprise that he and Yvonne came up with the idea to take an old-fashioned scenic train ride through the beautiful Kentucky countryside. Several others from the Horizons LifeStage joined them and a good time was had by all.

Another Baby Shower!

Last month it was Sarah Kirchner expecting her second child (Zoe has since arrived to join Madelyn). This month Victoria Lanter (seen here with first baby, Jocelyn, 18-months), enjoyed treats and gifts from church families celebrating the soon arrival of yet another member to their family and to our fellowship.



* In the midst of all our festivities and recording new births, we also pause to remember the passing of Roger Caudill, our dear friend and brother in Christ.

Record Attendance at Thanksgiving Dinner

Our church has grown to the point where we could no longer hold our annual Thanksgiving Dinner in our own building, so we moved the event to the Hilton Hotel ballroom where a crowd of over 240 people squeezed in to enjoy food, family and fellowship. Pastor Fannin shared a brief message after the traditional turkey feast with all the trimmings, followed by personal testimonies and worship in song.



ENCOUNTERS: LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

In this section 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 from Rick O'Roark shares his life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ, and its cost.

I grew up in Eastern Kentucky, the heart of coal country. My sister and I were raised in the Catholic faith and attended a Catholic grade school. Our family never missed Mass; even when we would go to our family cabin in Tennessee, Mom would get us up to drive over an hour to Knoxville to attend Mass.

During those childhood years and into my adult life God seemed very distant. I often wondered why. My spiritual walk was a constant struggle, feeling disconnected, my mind wandering during Mass. Church attendance became mechanical, something I was just supposed to do. Then in the Spring of 1998, on a Sunday morning as I sat in a pew, I heard a still, small inner voice saying I needed to leave! It was the last time I attended the Catholic Church.

I was led to visit a Baptist church, where for the first time I heard the Word of God preached and taught, making me aware that I needed to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. After receiving Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I was baptized. Everything changed from that moment on!

I dreaded telling my mother, whom I loved dearly, that I would not be returning to the Catholic Church. Joining her at the kitchen table for coffee early one morning, I began to explain my decision. She was a woman of few words, simply replying, "I hope you know what you are doing." I could see the disbelief and hurt in her eyes, heightened by the concern that I was on the road to hell. It was difficult to know I had hurt my mother, who was never able to come fully to terms with my decision, but I have never had any regrets about taking that life-changing step.

There is a cost to following Jesus, but I thank God every day for saving a sinner like me. There are places I no longer go and friends I no longer see and family that may still feel hurt by my decision, but it is a price well worth paying. Luke 14:25 speaks to this cost of discipleship:

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also he cannot be my disciple." Jesus speaks here in a comparative sense, not literally, that our love for Him should be so great that nothing else and no one else compares.

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Life comes at us in a hurry, sometimes making it difficult to get timely answers to questions that confront us while reading the Bible or wondering how to apply Bible truth to real-world problems. Here we aim to answer your questions while also providing a resource for our church family.

This Month's Question is about the "Apocrypha", the collection of books that never made it into the Bible. The answer is from Pastor Zach Kirchner.

The term "apocrypha" means "hidden" or "secret." The word is used to describe any book that is not in our canon of Scripture ("canon" means the collection of books received as genuine Scripture). Apocryphal books include 1 and 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, the Wisdom of Solomon, Ben Sirach, Baruch, the Letter of Jeremiah, the Song of Three Youths, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, the Prayer of Manasseh, and 1 and 2 Maccabees.

Some portions of the apocryphal books seem very similar to Scripture, and others are vastly different. For example, Wisdom of Solomon 1:3 says, "For froward thoughts separate from God: and his power, when it is tried, reproveth the unwise." If someone quoted this and did not reveal the source, many Christians would likely have a difficult time distinguishing between this and certain Proverbs (see 17:20).

Although there are overlapping statements between the Apocrypha and authentic Scripture, there is strong support for the Apocrypha's omission from the canon. First, Jesus Christ and the Apostles quoted extensively from the Old Testament, but the apocryphal books are nowhere to be found in direct quotation (see Luke 24:44 for Christ's affirmation of true OT books).

Second, the phrases "the word of the Lord came unto me" or "thus saith the Lord" occur more than 215 times in our OT, but similar phrases occur only once in the entire Apocrypha. Even the apocryphal authors knew better than to falsely claim that God had told them something!

Third, many of the books are fanciful and include things that are abnormal. For example, the book of Tobit records bird droppings blinding a man on a hot night,

and a young man's interaction with an angel named "Raphael," and the intestines of a fish protecting a young couple from an evil spirit and restoring a man's sight.

In Bel and the Dragon, the Daniel we know from Scripture is said to have caused a dragon to burst open by feeding it a mixture of tar, hair, and ashes.

By its own attestation, the Apocrypha is not Scripture, and Jews and Christians have for centuries rejected it as true Scripture. However, the apocryphal books do have value. They give us an excellent picture of life and culture in the 400 years between the writing of the OT and the NT. First Maccabees provides great detail into events of the time, and the Apocrypha does include truly beautiful statements about God (Tobit 3:11).

We do not need to fear the Apocryphal books. If we know why they are not Scripture, we can be confident that God has preserved the true Word of God just as he promised (Isa 40:8, Ps 111:8, Matt. 5:18, 24:35).