



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Neal & Cookie Deering



To all the seniors in our church, Neal and Cookie Deering are the tirelessly imaginative leaders of the Primetimers LifeStage. Their infectious enthusiasm and cheerful encouragement make every get-together activity a memorable occasion, from an hilarious chorus line at a poolside party, to a quiz at Spindletop that ended in a chaos of laughter, to enthusiastic sing-alongs at a summer picnic, and “Moonlight Melodies” at the Lexington Opera House, the two magical maestros always think of something that makes each event memorable.

Pastor Fannin remarks that the Neal and Cookie team makes his job easier because they do such a good job.

Their involvement with our church began about 16 years ago when they were visiting their son in Georgetown. A flyer left on the door announced a new church meeting at the Cardome Center, so off they went. A year later, when they retired and moved here from Huntington, West Virginia, they knew they had a good church to attend.

The couple have been married for 63 years and have two children each with two children. Cookie was saved at the age of 21, and Neal a year later. They have been faithful servants of Christ ever since.

## Pat Puckett

Pat was born in Fayette County and gave her heart to Jesus at the age of 12. She met her husband, Joe, through a mutual friend and they married in 1962. Now they have two sons, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Kentucky has always been their home. In 2000 the family moved to a farm on Paynes Depot Road in Georgetown. Pat was a stay-at-home mom until her children were grown and she started working for the Kentucky Transportation Department in 1990. Now retired, she still works there twice a week.

Pat first visited our church in 2019 and immediately felt at home here, rejoicing that she had found a place of worship where biblical truth is preached every week.



## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### A Stewarding Church

Stewardship is a topic that we often cover in preaching and teaching at Bluegrass. Happily, it is a component of our church life where the members excel.

In all areas of our community we faithfully manage and share the bounty that God has given us. Our church members clearly demonstrate their trust in God by giving back to Him, and this in turn reflects great trust in the church's leadership to manage those offerings in a way that honors God.

With that in mind, I'd like to write about my responsibility for personal stewardship as a Pastor. If the flock are expected to be good stewards, then certainly so is the under-shepherd.

Titus 1:7 teaches that *a bishop must be blameless as the steward of God.*

This means that a Pastor must carefully steward the revelation of the grace of God and the truth of God to the church body and then to the world beyond. The passage in Titus chapter one expands on the meaning of such stewardship as Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, proceeds to teach how the Pastor should conduct his life and ministry.

There are negative character traits and behaviors that must be avoided, and there are positive ones that must be practiced. A Pastor should avoid aggression, anger, alcohol, attacking others, and avarice. Instead, a Pastor's life should reflect friendliness, discernment, holiness, and discipline.

A church doesn't need a preacher as much as it needs a pastor who will both feed the flock and provide spiritual oversight. As we face the exciting prospect of continuing physical growth in the coming 18-24 months, I would appreciate your prayers and your partnership in stewarding the work of God that daily unfolds here at Bluegrass!

And as you consider how I am to conduct myself as the appointed under-shepherd of this flock, I would encourage you to steward your life also for God's glory. Together, we will steward exponential growth in the good we can do for the community where God has placed us as a shining light.

### **\* *A Further Thought On Stewardship***

This addendum is such an important topic that I want to add it here while addressing the subject of stewardship, particularly as we anticipate our growth not only in numbers but also in the expansion of our facilities. I'm talking about how we as a church remain good stewards of the increasing income and expenditure that will be a part of our growth.

It has always been — and will continue to be — a point of emphasis that the management of our finances should be transparent to every member. We believe that every dollar received and spent is held in sacred trust for the Lord's work and it is the responsibility of each of us — especially the leadership here, including the pastors, the staff and deacons — to ensure that it always remains so. As a member in good standing at Bluegrass Baptist Church, your stewardship includes commitment to financial support and being aware of how the church takes care of its finances.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### Baby Shower



As they always do for new arrivals in our church family, ladies of all ages got together to shower gifts on the expected sister of Medelyn Kirchner, who was born just over a year ago.

Mom Sarah was delighted to receive the outpouring of good wishes and many practical or charming gifts on behalf of her new baby.

Our best wishes go to Pastor Zach Kirchner and Sarah for this happy event.

### Pumpkin Time!

More than 30 parents and children visited the farm of Wes and Jessika Wade to enjoy a Fall party that included hay rides, pumpkin carving, splashing in a creek and lots of fun and good fellowship.





The Empty Nesters Lifestage went to McConnell Springs Park for the annual Jack-O-Lantern trail that featured hundreds of carved pumpkins and some fire pits to roast color-changing marshmallows. All yummy fun!



**NOT THE NFL!**

Teens, dads, siblings and helpers enjoyed an hilarious but highly competitive game of flag football at Scott County Park on a fine Fall evening. There was very little defense, evidenced by the 92–89 scoreline, but there were plenty of laughs!



## 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 Jesus Christ. This month's story is from teenager Levi Johnson, about a recent tragedy that brought back unhappy memories and motivated him to seek answers from Scripture.**

I recently witnessed a shocking event that forced me to relive the personal tragedy of losing my father when I was only four years old. He died suddenly of a stroke, and I still have vivid memories of ambulances and EMT personnel at our home. Those images returned when a neighbor took his own life and our street filled again with flashing lights, police and EMTs.

My first emotion was grief, for my own father and for the poor man next door whose sense of hopelessness and loss drove him to react to the challenges of life by ending his own life. I asked myself why God allows evil in this world through the deeds of those he created to be relational beings, to love God and love each other.

The words of Solomon came back to remind me: *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).*

Solomon goes on to list the seasons of life that produce both joy and sorrow, love and hate, war and peace, and concludes (verse 11) that God made everything beautiful, but there is ignorance in the human heart about the purposes of God. Despite what many believe, there is no such thing as a truly good person. Solomon added: *There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. (Ecclesiastes 7:20).*

The Apostle Paul expressed the same thought: *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23).*

How, then, can we have hope? Has our sin made everything pointless, endlessly repeating the cycle of life and death? The void in every human heart seeks fulfillment in work, careers, family, marriage, friends, entertainment, education, and every recreational activity imaginable. These things may not be wrong in themselves, but when they take the place of God, they become sinful—and will never fill the emptiness inside us.

Solomon, a man of great wisdom and great wealth and power, explored every dimension of life, and discovered only futility in the end.



*Whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11).*

There is, a remedy, but it is one that many reject, like my unfortunate neighbor: the only way we will ever find true satisfaction is to put our faith in Jesus Christ. When someone becomes a child of God, He gives us ultimate peace, and everything we need to walk with Him.

Jesus taught: *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6-7).*

The Apostle John confirmed what he had experienced in receiving Jesus as his Savior: *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...(1 John 5:11-13).*

The Apostle Paul added, from his experience: *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13).*

With God, the door is always open for those who want to receive Him. When we put our faith in the wrong things and try multiple remedies to escape our pain of inner emptiness, the day will come when we will be challenged to acknowledge that only God is able to satisfy us.

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

*And Jesus answering said unto them, they that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. (Luke 5:3)*

Regardless of our circumstances, God has prepared a place for us. He loves us unconditionally if we choose to receive Jesus Christ as our eternal hope and Savior. John 14:1-3 records the comforting words of Jesus:

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.*

The Apostle Paul went on to explain how such a wonderful end is possible: *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

## 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:** Part Two: "Why do we sing the music that we do?"

**The Answer** from Pastor Zach Kirchner is that our music should always fit our purpose—to glorify God.

We strive for "**fittingness**" when we think about our music being paired with biblical truth. The primary passage for this conviction, 1 Corinthians 14, teaches that there is no such thing as amoral sound. That is, *everything* that gives sound conveys some message. Paul uses the illustration of an army preparing to charge but the bugle sound is unfamiliar. Instead of the army making a focused attack, there is confusion, and Paul emphatically states at the end of chapter 14 that "God is not the author of confusion" (v. 33).

To give an example, consider the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy." Even if we could not articulate why we love that hymn, we likely enjoy it because the triumphant text of the hymn is reinforced by a majestically regal tune that portrays God's glory!

**There is objective beauty in fittingness, and God designed us to recognize and appreciate it.**

I have previously written about the need for **separation from worldliness**, and that same principle applies to associations connected to the songs we sing. It is not the primary criteria for our music, but it is important.

- First, *we don't want our music selection to be tied exclusively to any para-church organization*, so that potential compromise in their leadership does not demand compromise in ours.
- We also want to be careful to ensure that *our music does not have connections to groups or organizations that would espouse less-than-biblical ideology*. For example, some groups or organizations promote an improper view of God by overemphasizing His love while avoiding God's holiness and justice. Others may lack separation from the world, some may teach that God



still speaks to us through dreams or visions, and still and others may highlight man more than God.

By contrast, our desire is to avoid anything that distracts from the central focus of our music—reverently bowing our hearts before the Lord. A secondary goal is that our music never causes anyone to stumble in their walk with God (see 1 Corinthians 8:9–13).

These filters may seem strict, but an awareness of who God is (i.e. holy, righteous, immutable) informs our thinking. For example, Hebrews 12 tells us that God caused Mount Sinai to burn with fire and to be shrouded in darkness and storms. If even an animal touched the mountain, it was to be put to death. The sight was so terrifying that Moses shook with fear. Today, we live in an age of grace and we should eagerly, passionately, and gratefully worship the Lord. However, since our worship is directed to God we must be mindful of the unchanging character of the One we worship.

May all the music we use in our worship at Bluegrass Baptist Church bring the utmost glory to God as we guide our affections from the temporal to the eternal.

Here's some suggested further reading on the subject:

- Worship in Song, by Scott Aniol
- Article — Strange Lyre: The Pentecostalizing of Christian Worship