



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Phil and Cherie Columbia



Both are native Kentuckians. Cherie was born in Shelbyville and was saved at age 13 while living in Zion III. Phillip was born in Lexington and saved near Crestwood, KY at age 12.

They met at work in the mid 1970's and were married in 1979. Now they have two daughters and two grandchildren living near enough so that they can be backup babysitters and homework tutors. They also care for Randy, Cherie's adult brother.

For nearly 40 years the couple worked as small business owners, providing food services to major corporations at seven locations in Kentucky and Ohio. They finally retired in 2019 and moved to Georgetown to be near their daughters and grandchildren.

Phil comments that they came to Bluegrass in search of the true Word of God, and stayed because they found it here, along with a loving church family.

### Dylan and Melanie Engle

Dylan was born and raised in Somerset, KY; Melanie (the daughter of Scott and Pam Lindner) was born in California and travelled the world as a military kid. Her family moved to Georgetown after Scott retired from the Marine Corps.

Dylan moved to Georgetown to marry Melanie in June this year. Pastor Fannin officiated at their wedding.



They were both saved as small children (Dylan was 8, Melanie was 5). Now they're involved in ministry at Bluegrass Baptist Church, working in the sound booth. Melanie also plays the piano in church. Her day job is at the VA (Sousley Campus) and Dylan is employed at UK as a security guard.

## Ron and Beverley Kristoff

Beverly is a clown. No, really. Read on to find out more!

Both Ron and Beverley hail from Gary, Indiana and were saved as children—Ron at about 12 years old and Beverley when she was six, then baptized on an Easter Sunday when she was 13.

They met at Merrillville Baptist Church in the summer of 1970 and married in January 1971. They have two children and two grandchildren. Ron is a retired Mechanical Engineer. He worked at three steel mills in Indiana for 20 years. In 1990 he and Beverley moved to Kentucky to enjoy warmer weather. Ron was employed at two non-union plants here before joining Toyota, where he retired in 2013. Beverley worked at a law office in Georgetown, then moved to manage a staffing position at Norrell Services before she joined the human resources department at Toyota.



They joined Bluegrass because they wanted to be part of a Bible-believing church grounded in the Word of God.

(About that clown thing: During a brief stint in California, where the couple had moved for Ron's work, Beverley took a Clown Course at "Circus Circus" in Nevada—where Red Skelton was mentored—and became fully certified).

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### 15th Anniversary: It's Great Being A Teenager!

The beauty of being a child is that the your whole life is ahead of you. We turned 15 this year. In the infancy of Bluegrass Baptist Church, God gave us several key families who were willing to go out on a limb and take on huge responsibilities. Through the years since then many families have visited us. Some have come and gone, but a great number of faithful families have stayed, supporting our growth from infancy and inability, into adolescence and stability, to our present stature and ability.

There isn't anything that Bluegrass cannot accomplish now. There may be bigger churches with longer histories and more complete ministry development, but we are at a stage of being fully able to undertake everything that God desires for a church to do—and to do those things well. Our growth flows from God working through the individuals who make up our church membership. Faithful followers of Christ, serving Christ, have made everything possible that God wants to accomplish through us, which leaves us to ask: What's next? Think of all that God has done through us over the past 15 years and think forward to what He may want to do over the next 15 years—and more!

**God wants our growth to continue.** That will be done by each of us sharing our faith wherever we are, personally reaching those who are closest to us, at home or at work, and in our organized evangelistic efforts.

**God wants us to carefully manage our resources.** The building we occupy will sustain our growth for perhaps another 18 to 24 months while we diligently control our expenditures and expand our resources, delighting in supporting the work He is doing here. It is a joy to practice good stewardship, corporately and individually, remembering as we continue to grow the admonition from Jesus: "Freely ye have received, freely give."

**God wants us committed to our mission.** Making disciples of Jesus Christ should be the objective mission of every church. We exist to glorify God by making disciples who love God, love others, and intentionally share the Gospel. We are blessed to have many families in our church who are earnestly seeking to do that, as they become better students of the Bible and better servants of Jesus Christ. That is as it should be. May it ever be so!

We have done great things for God, and I believe we are only getting started. There are more souls to be saved, more homes to spiritually commit as disciples of Jesus Christ, more decisions by young people to yield to God's calling towards a deeper and more intense ministry. Together we face a future shining as bright as the Son of God, because we are yielded to exalt Jesus in everything we do.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### Summer Camp At The Wilds

*by Youth Pastor Zach Kirchner*

It should be no surprise to anyone that Sarah and I love camp! I worked at the Wilds for four summers, Sarah worked there for five years and lived there for another twenty with her family as part of the full-time staff. The purpose of this Christian camp is to use its unique benefits to “serve people by presenting the Truth of God with the love of God so lives can be changed to the glory of God.”

The 1,000-acre property is tucked away in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina. Each week of the summer around 1200 people of all ages are there (including adult campers), immersed in Christian fellowship and in the Word of God. Distractions like phones (and all connections to social media and the outside world) are removed.



This summer, our church had the blessing of sending 21 campers, including 13 to the regular week-long teen camp, two at the Junior Boot Camp, and six participants in the two-week Camper-In-Training program (they're the ones on the right, some of them armed with pillows). Days were full of games, hikes, activities at the lake, and occasional highlights like the Wilds “Funtime” of skits, funny songs and drama.

During their time at the Wilds, each camper must deal with their own conscience loudly proclaiming that there is a God and we must decide what to do about Him. There is a chapel message each morning, a very practical “Christian Life Seminar” each afternoon, a 25-minute individual “God & I” time and a follow-up discussion with others who share a cabin. The Word of God is again

proclaimed each evening. Besides all that, campers each have a counselor to help them think about what next steps they need to take in their spiritual walk, including the vital first step of salvation! Everything at the Wilds is planned and purposeful.

Camp is a great benefit to all who go because it removes the cares of this world and allows time to focus on spiritual things. If you or your teen have not yet been to the Wilds, I would greatly encourage you to plan a future visit. You won't regret it!

## **Navigators LifeStage** *By Jason Preston*

Our group consists of parents with teens. But we also have younger siblings in some families which gives us a wide age range. Each year we have a big Aloha party to send off the teens graduating from high school and to welcome the new seventh graders. It's a wonderful time of summer fellowship, games, and of course lots of delicious food.



### *Aloha Moms in the party spirit!*

This year over 50 people attended, including parents, teens, and younger siblings. We took time to pray for teens heading off to college or the workplace and also prayed for the incoming teens starting a new stage of life.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT REVIVALS

## *A Continuing Series*

### THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

America's First Great Awakening occurred in the 1730s and 1740s, beginning in New England and spreading through the colonies down the East Coast. This spiritual revival among established Christian churches brought a great sense of unity to the different colonies and set the stage for the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence from the British Crown. The Second Great Awakening began in 1800 and ended in 1840, reaching mainly unchurched people throughout the new country. The revival sparked a rise in personal faith, mainly through camp meetings and the work of circuit riders—evangelical preachers on horseback who brought the Gospel to outlying communities.

The camp meetings often provided the first encounter with organized religion for many who attended. These social venues lasted for several days, featuring fellowship, worship and preaching. Crowds ranged from hundreds to thousands who experienced the spiritual power of messages that emphasized individual sins and the need to turn to Christ for personal salvation. When converts returned home, they joined small local churches, or started their own churches.

The beginning of the revival is traced to a Presbyterian Church in Logan County, Kentucky, in 1800. The spiritual movement exploded a year later at a camp meeting at Cane Ridge, KY, where Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist ministers participated in the services. The six-day gathering attracted as many as 20,000 people and was soon followed by outpourings of God's Spirit in Tennessee, Indiana, and Southern Ohio, even spilling over into Canada.

A powerful revival movement in the upstate frontier region of New York was led by Charles Finney, a lawyer who had a dramatic conversion experience in 1821, at the age of 29. He immediately left his law practice and began preaching, explaining to a client: "I have a retainer from the Lord Jesus Christ to plead His cause and cannot plead yours."

Finney was ordained by the Presbyterian Church in 1824 and began his missionary labors in the frontier communities of upper New York, causing a stir by contradicting rigid Calvinism, urging his listeners to accept Christ openly and publicly. His messages were said to be more like a lawyer's argument than a preacher's sermon, but they had great power.



Sometimes before entering a new community Finney would spend a week camping in the woods where he fasted and prayed for God's blessings on the meetings to follow.

He rode on horseback from town to town while local newspapers and unhappy clergy noted the increasingly rowdy meetings where people would groan and moan under conviction of their sins as they responded to Finney's new-fangled "altar calls". In 1832 he began an almost continual revival in New York City, finally moving to the spacious Broadway Tabernacle built for him by his supporters in 1834. He left New York in 1837 for Oberlin, Ohio, where he taught at Oberlin College and served as president from 1851 to 1866.

Today Charles Finney is recognized by many as the "father of modern evangelism" who paved the way for later mass-evangelists like Dwight L. Moody, Billy Sunday and Billy Graham.