



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Woody and Janis Preston



Both born in Eastern Kentucky, their 58-year marriage has produced four children and ten grandchildren. They met while Woody was at the University of Kentucky and Jan was at ECU. 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 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 served God together at Letcher Independent Baptist Church for 20 years, where 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.

Through the years 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.”

Jason & Jolie Preston

Faithful to Bluegrass Baptist Church since the first meeting in the Cardome Center 17 years ago, Jason and Jolie have participated in every step of our growth while watching their family grow with us. Kate was not yet two years old (she is now 19 and at college), Graham is 16 and Jase is nine years old. Jason is a deacon and Jolie has been involved in a wide range of church activities.



They both grew up in Christian homes. At the age of 5, Jason prayed with his older brother Norman for salvation. Jolie was saved on Christmas Eve at the age of 8 while she prayed with her dad, Bob Graham. Their next major milestone came at Pensacola Christian College, where they met and decided to marry. Their wedding was in 2001.

All that remained for the young Christian couple was to find a good church after settling in Georgetown. A flyer on their door led them to the right place, and today they are happy to declare, “Right from the start, we knew that God had placed us at Bluegrass and we have been blessed to share in the life of a church that has helped us to grow spiritually and as a family.”



Bethany Schumacher

Born and raised in Lexington, Bethany has lived in Kentucky for all of her 20 years. She received Jesus Christ as her Savior when she was five years old, sitting with her mother who opened the Bible to answer her question about how to be saved.

Now she works as an Office Assistant at New Vista of the Bluegrass. She heard about our church from friends Katherine Seaman and McKenna Clemons, and is glad she followed the Lord’s leading to visit here!

PERSPECTIVE

New Year, New Possibilities, Same God

By Pastor Kyle Fannin

We're one month into 2026 and the possibilities from God are endless! The church continues to grow, we are looking for a big year in our outreach, and solutions to property and capacity are front and center in our minds.

Let's talk first about our continued growth. The most important area of growth is not physical or numerical or financial but spiritual—our “inner man”. As each church member looks into the mirror of God's Word, comparing his or her own spiritual self to the character and conduct of Jesus Christ, we collectively grow in spiritual strength and likeness to the image of God the Son. We do not measure spiritual growth by how many respond to a public invitation, but rather by the spiritual fruit that manifests in the life of each member: holiness within, kindness in our interactions, and our conviction about what is right and wrong.

We are blessed that our church continues to reflect tremendous spiritual growth, which leads to all other forms of growth. For that we are grateful and excited to see how God will continue to work in us and through us.

The second area of focus is our outreach. This year I would like you to mark your calendars for nine intentional and focused outreach opportunities. The dates are 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6, 7/4, 8/8, 9/5, 10/3, and 11/7. We will meet at the church on each of these Saturday mornings and from there head out into designated neighborhoods to distribute informational flyers about God, salvation, and our church. It's something we have done monthly for 17 years, but this year I want to challenge everyone to participate, families and singles, young and old. By doing so we can cover all of Scott County and most of North Lexington in just nine Saturdays, potentially reaching 50,000 homes! If we average a turnout of 100 people every month (35% of our church population), it would mean each of us contacting 55 homes in an hour or less on a Saturday morning (and 495 homes on nine Saturdays)!

The third area to focus on is finding a solution, with God's help, to our need for more physical space. We received a clear answer towards the end of 2025 that we could not yet afford to build our 18-acre dream, so we are pursuing solutions on our current property at significantly lower cost. Please continue to pray as we seek to resolve many questions about sanitation connection, office and classroom space, expanded parking, and auditorium capacity.

Our objective in enhancing our current facility would be to increase its value while enabling more numeric growth. We are getting some final plans and numbers together and anticipate sharing more details by late February.

While the above three areas are all ministry possibilities to be excited about, the truly stabilizing and strengthening fact is that the God of the Universe and the Savior of our souls is invested in every aspect of our church life, because it is His church. As we go forward into this new year we will constantly be aware of opportunities for glorifying God and doing good.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Record Turnout For Ladies Meeting



The first ladies' Bible study of the year saw a record turnout—26 ladies, 5 children, and one puppy dog were in attendance. The goal was to beat the number of men at their prayer breakfast a week later! Teresa Mazzoni introduced a new study for the new year, “Joyous Journeys Around the Detours”.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Not to be outdone, the men rose to the challenge with 32 in attendance to enjoy good food, good fellowship, good singing led by Gary Wilt and Mark Byrum, a time of prayer together, and practical teaching by Pastor Zack Kirchner from 1 Timothy chapter 3 about the qualifications for church leaders that could generally

apply to all Christians. It is always heartening to see many teenagers (and a few even younger) at these special occasions for fellowship and spiritual instruction.



Family Outing At The Ark

More than 70 BBC members, families and friends, enjoyed a visit to the Ark where they watched an excellent live performance of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” (C.S. Lewis), followed by a pizza feast. The pictures show two views of happy diners sharing their enjoyment of good food and good fellowship.



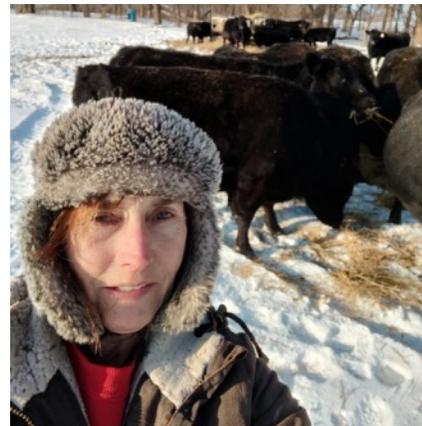
Snowmageddon!

It wasn't quite that bad, but we should record that January was notable for bouts of icy cold, snowy weather that forced several cancelations of church services. The pictures capture some of what it was like as a reminder to praise the Lord that winter is only one of four seasons each year.



Sunset on the outskirts of Georgetown, January 27, 2026.

The pictures below show the parking lot at Georgetown Hospital and Lauren Canterbury tending to her cattle in the cold. "This is how we have fun," she said.



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

*Here we share anecdotes from or about church members, telling their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is indifferent or hostile to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **Shane Colvin** reminds us that God is always our help and strength.*

You can't drive far through the rolling farmland of central Kentucky without seeing an old barn weathered beyond its years of use. Noting its dilapidated condition, the thought might cross your mind, "Someone should tear that thing down."

As the years pass, the storms of life can beat us down and wear us out just like that old barn. 2025 was a personally challenging year that brought much sadness with the sudden passing of my father. As I wrestled with God over this unexpected tragedy I was reminded of an article I had once read and decided to keep because its truth was so compelling yet simply told.

A pastor of a small church would occasionally call on one gentleman to pray a closing prayer, and it always concluded with these words: "Oh God, thank you for this word today, and bless these people today." Then he would add, "*And, O Lord, prop us up on our leaning side.*"

It was the same ending to every prayer. Finally, the pastor asked him what it meant. "I love the way you pray," the pastor told him, "but I don't understand your closing phrase. What does it mean when you ask God to prop us up on our leaning side?"

The man responded: "Well, Pastor, as you know, I'm a farmer. I live out in the country. I've got an old barn, and it's been there a long time. It's been through a lot of weather, and a lot of storms, and a lot of bugs have eaten at it. One day I got to looking closer and I noticed that it was leaning to one side. So, I thought to myself, I better do something because it's just a matter of time before the whole thing falls.

"I went and got some pine beams, and I propped it up on its leaning side. It still leans, and probably always will. But I propped it up on its leaning side and it's not going to fall down because I propped it up. And I got to thinking about it later when I was on the tractor, riding in the field.

"I thought about the kind of year I've had, and some of the storms I've been through, and some of the people that are bugging me, and eating away at my joy and eating away at my spirit. And I just got to thinking, you know, *I'm still here!*

“I’m still standing after all that stuff I’ve been through. The storms, and the howling winds – they couldn’t topple me. I’m still standing, by the grace of God.”

The man paused before he concluded, “From time to time, I find myself leaning. Leaning toward my old desires, leaning toward anger, leaning toward becoming bitter or hateful at the people who are bugging me, or leaning toward the old habits and the old life I used to have.

“And when I feel myself start leaning like that, I just remember that old barn, and I pray out loud on my tractor – *Lord, I thank you that you’re going to prop me up on my leaning side.*”

Proverbs 3:5 reminds us: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding.”

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*In this section we answer questions about Bible doctrines or texts or Church life or Christian life in general. If you have a question that you think may prompt an answer helpful to yourself and to the church family in general, please let us know. This month **Joe Rincon** addresses a question that we seldom think about although it is a constant part of our Christian vocabulary:*

Why do we say “Amen”, and what does it mean?

“In Jesus name I pray, amen”. This is the typical ending to most prayers, but what does this familiar word actually mean?

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word translated “amen” was used as a means of congregational affirmation.

Deuteronomy 27:26 says “*Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.*”

After hearing the truth of the law and the curse associated with disobedience, the people were to respond with “amen”. The word conveyed the idea of agreement with what has been said. Saying amen meant saying “truly” or “so be it”.

It was also used in a worshipful sense. Psalm 72:18-19 ends by the psalmist proclaiming “*Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: And let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.*” The psalmist doubles the word for emphasis, ascribing reverence to God by affirming that His wondrous works and glorious name are indeed eternal truth. The “amen” is a verbal seal of certainty.

The word “amen” is also used in the New Testament. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul has been addressing the use of tongues, stating that the gift of tongues does nothing to edify the church if no one can actually understand what is being said. Vs 16 says, “*Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*”

Paul is saying, “how can someone say amen if they can’t even understand what you are praying?” The priority is on understandability. To say “amen” meant that one has both understood and affirmed the truth that has been spoken.

Saying “amen” should not be a mere formality or a reflexive response to what has been prayed or spoken. Rather, Christians should say amen because they agree with what has been said and desire to see it accomplished. To say amen is to affirm truth both in one’s own heart, and in the hearts of others.