



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEETING THE FAMILY

Dale & Nora Oliver



They met while working at Toyota and were married in 1990. Now have three grown children, Timothy, Amanda and Kaitlyn.

Dale grew up in Hancock County in Western KY and Nora is a Georgetown native. She “grew up in church” – Georgetown Baptist -- and was baptized on Mother's Day, May 12, 1968, after being saved at the age of 8 years. Although Dale also attended church all his life, he wasn't saved until 2016, during a revival service at Bluegrass Baptist Church. Jason and Jessica Noto invited them.

Nora comments: “We knew the first Sunday it was home!” Dale now serves on the security and grass cutting teams. Nora is active in the 4 & 5 year old Sunday School classroom.

Katie Bailey

Katie was born and raised in Georgetown. Her husband, Chris, was born in Alaska and grew up in Maryland. He moved to Georgetown in 2010. The story of their meeting is hilarious!

In Katie's words, “We met at a restaurant on a Sunday after church. Chris was our server – the worst ever! We waited 40 minutes for drinks and were planning to leave, but I thought he was cute and, however horrible his service was, it was



worth waiting around. Lunch took two and a half-hours! We married three years later.”

Katie was saved at Harvest Baptist Church when she was about seven years old. Chris is unsure of his salvation. The couple now have two children, Cannon and Kenna. Chris is an HVAC journeyman and Katie is a Treatment Coordinator for an orthodontist.

She loves coming to Bluegrass. “Pastor Kyle makes me laugh almost every Sunday! His messages are never boring and I always learn and take something away to apply to my life the following week.”

Susannah, Ethan & Grace Loghry



Susannah is the daughter of Scott and Caron McCracken. From Whitesburg, KY, in the Appalachian Mountains, she clearly remembers receiving Christ as her Savior at the age of 6, while at Vacation Bible School.

After graduating from Pensacola Christian College she started a marketing job in Nicholasville. Also became involved in local government and Kentucky state politics. Then she married and became a stay-at-home, homeschool mom for her two children, Ethan (now 17 and freshly graduated from high school), and Grace (13), in 7th grade. Susannah later worked as Director of Special Events for the PGA Tournament and then as a 2020

Census Enumerator & Supervisor in Kentucky. She went through a difficult divorce at that time.

Then her mother was diagnosed with cancer and Susannah found that she too had cancer. (It's all clear now!). The experience drew her closer to Christ and gave her opportunities to encourage others. Her greatest blessing was to meet the receptionist at her oncologist's office, whom she had talked out of an abortion several years before and now rejoiced to hear that she had since received Jesus Christ as her Savior, was happily married and attending a good church.

When Covid temporarily closed Susannah's church in Lexington she visited BBC, where she and her children were quickly made to feel at home. "Lives are being changed here, and I have been loved and supported, like part of the family."

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

A Notable Milestone

Acts 14:21-23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

God's plan is for churches to reproduce churches. The text above details Paul and Barnabas' return trip to their sending church at Antioch. As they passed through the regions where they had planted churches, Scripture tells us that they confirmed the souls. That means they made sure those who trusted Christ were growing solidly in their faith. It also says that they ordained elders, just as our church did a few weeks ago for Pastor Zach Kirchner. In those New Testament churches, just as in ours, ordination meant that some were noted and established in the Gospel ministry who rose, not above the rest, but to a calling that God had placed on their lives.

The next natural progression is to birth another church out of our own. While God controls the calling of men to the ministry, we can do the preparing for that opportunity. Our pastors at Bluegrass feel led by God to be here, teaching, preaching and providing leadership and counsel to this flock, but someday soon we can expect God to call a man to the Gospel ministry from our midst, to go out and plant a new church. That's what happens in a healthy, growing church.

We can be thankful that we have a God who is always in charge, and that His Holy Spirit is always convicting, convincing, and confirming His work that remains to be done. May His work always continue to be done through the body of believers here, at Bluegrass Baptist Church.



Pastor Kirchner and Sarah show off his Ordination Certificate / A group of pastors and deacons pray for the new pastor / Pastor Bud Calvert, who led the ordination of Pastor Fannin 16 years ago, congratulates Pastor Kirchner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING! **The Joys of Attending a Christian School**

by Lauren Canterbury

When the time came for our daughter to start first grade, there were some tough decisions to make.

We knew that public school was not the best place for her. Homeschooling was not a viable alternative, but it was most important to us that her formal education came from a biblical worldview, so we chose to send her to a small, private Christian school. In addition to the social environment, she has had access to academic clubs and various sports teams.

While it is not possible to control or fully know the Christian foundation of all the classmates at a Christian school, it is possible to research, interview and observe the teachers and administration for evidence of Godly decisions and biblical principles. The evidence is seen in student-administration interactions, dress code enforcement, disciplinary protocols and follow-through, as well as academic content. We have strived to continually provide oversight by asking questions and examining textbooks and materials. The greatest negative, of course, is the cost of private schooling. It's a difficult sacrifice, particularly if there are multiple children in a household. While not a perfect solution, we are grateful that it has worked well in our situation for the past 10 years.

LifeStage / Foundations / *Jamie Davidson*



Led by Jamie and MinYoung Davidson, the Foundations are made up of families with children ranging from newborn to 5 years old. They enjoy informal events where the kids can play while parents enjoy fellowship with each other. Their most recent activity was a joint event with the Homebuilders for a movie night at church. Several families and over 20 children enjoyed the outdoor screen in the church's courtyard. (A visit to Salato Wildlife Center is planned for later this year).

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT REVIVALS

A Continuing Series

THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING (Part One)

A little over 100 years after a handful of Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Jonathan Edwards became pastor of a church in Northampton, Massachusetts. He was 26 years old. His first published sermon, *“God Glorified in the Work of Redemption”*, was delivered to a gathering of Boston clergy in 1731.

The colony had been founded in 1620 by Christians who sailed from England seeking freedom of worship in America, the “New World”, as it was then known. Their first act, before landing ashore, was to sign a document “In the Name of God” that declared their purpose as “advancements of the Christian faith, for the Glory of God.” 111 years later, that faith was beginning to fade into dry religion. Edwards preached to the group of Boston pastors that the universe depends every moment on the knowledge and creative will of God; that the perception of God’s beauty and goodness confers a glad “consent” to God, who decrees conversion and a holy life leading to ultimate joy. Edwards later delivered a series of sermons on “Justification by Faith Alone” in November 1734. The result was a great revival in Northampton and along the Connecticut River Valley in the winter and spring of 1734–35. His subsequent report, *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God* (1737), made a profound impression in America and Europe.

In 1741 he preached a very different sermon to a church in Enfield, Massachusetts. It became a further catalyst for a so-called First Great Awakening sweeping through the young colonies, restoring the vibrancy and power of Christian faith. *“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”* emphasized God’s wrath upon unbelievers after death, sending them to a real, fiery Hell. Mankind's own attempts to avoid falling into the "bottomless gulf" are insufficient as "a spider's web would be to stop a falling rock". An act of grace from God was the only chance for sinners to escape, if they believed and trusted in Christ. A report from an eyewitness noted that “before the sermon was done there was a great moaning and crying out through the whole house. The shrieks and cries were piercing.”

The effects of that sermon would lay a foundation for a new nation, under God. 1776 was only 35 years away.