



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY / PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE /  
WHAT'S HAPPENING! / HISTORY OF REVIVALS

## THANKING THE FAITHFUL

### Stuart and Yvonne Thayer



Joined Bluegrass Baptist Church in 2012 as transplants from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Stuart was born and raised in Louisville, KY. Yvonne is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where they met.

Both were raised in Catholic families. Stuart was saved in 1990. Yvonne made her salvation sure a few years later. They celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on

September 23. Together they lead the Horizon's Lifestage. Stuart is also active as part of the security team at the church while Yvonne participates in Gospel Blitz, and both participate in the Welcome Wagon ministry. They consider our church as their family, especially since Yvonne's family are all in different parts of the southwest United States and Stuart has one sister in Kentucky, but they rarely meet, and a brother in Arizona whom he tries to see whenever he can.

## MEETING THE FAMILY

### Luke and Laura Mitchell



Both Luke and Laura were born and raised in Kentucky, down the road from each other in Stamping Ground. They grew up in church. Laura was saved when she was in high school and Luke when he was nine years old.

They first met in 6th grade and became close friends in high school, but went their separate ways after graduation. Years later they reconnected when

Luke was visiting home from the Marines. They began dating, and married on September 22, 2018. They have one daughter, Lilah, born March 2021.

Luke works as a lineman for LG&E in Louisville, KY. Laura reduced her workload to spend more time at home as a mom but remains active as a part-time Registered Dietitian and part-time professional photographer.

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### On Growth

Life causes growth. Sunlight, water and fertile soil ensure that the tender tree grows into a large cedar or sequoia. So it is with our church, this Body of Christ. Growth is the natural process for a healthy church filled with the Life of Christ.

The sunlight of His presence shines into our lives, where it joins with the saturating water of His Word and brings forth growth through active cultivation of the soil of our hearts. This is what a church experiences

when her members desire God to impact their lives. When we yield to Him and yearn for more of Christ, there is undeniable, unreserved growth.

Spiritual growth in each believer and in the church body feeds all other growth, whether in numbers, or finances, or physical structures, or influence in our community. We need only look at the rapid growth of the early church as our model. 120 people who met in an upper room to worship God and pray for direction (Acts 1:15) quickly became 3,120 (Acts 2:41-47) and then grew further as they experienced persecution and opposition that galvanized their unity and inspired their testimony (Acts 4-8). They soon reached the point where so many were receiving Christ that God encouraged them to go beyond their borders until multiple churches were engaged in preaching, teaching, and healing. They soon impacted the whole world!

We are no different than the first church in Acts. We have grown, and by God's grace will continue to grow. This means that our Sunday classrooms will become tighter squeezes, that our services may take on even more meeting times, that our LifeStages will be shaped and reshaped to accommodate the need for building relationships among many new members, and that our physical location may (likely will) shift. These are the blessings of the Lord, not the burdens of ministry. These are signs of health, vibrancy, and LIFE! To God be the Glory.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### **Sunday School:**

**by *Riley Jo Hanna***

About 4 years ago, my family and I joined this friendly church. I was 7 years old and my brother, Trace, was 4 years old. When I first went into Sunday School I was a little shy, but then a girl named Anna started to talk to me. Over the years, we became better friends. We would hang out on Sunday mornings and evenings and Wednesday nights, too, and I gained more friends like Skylar, Olivia and many others. I also have great teachers and classes. Every time someone walks into class, they



get a nice warm welcome from the teacher and classmates. The teachers always teach a great story straight from the Bible. There are 10 in my class, and they are all excellent friends.



*Riley Jo (top left) with some of her friends in the oldest group of our Sunday school ministry.*

When I was little, I accepted Jesus into my heart at the age of 6. I got baptized by Pastor Fannin at the age of 7. At our church you will grow closer to God every day. Now I'm 11 years old and about to turn 12. That means I will be going into the teen group soon. I'm looking forward to it! For now, I'm serving in children's church helping kids who are 6-8 years old put their trust in Jesus Christ, find their way through the Bible and have a great time at church!

### **Youth Group: by *Ethan Graham***

One of the things I love most about Bluegrass Baptist Church is fellowshiping with people my age (I'm 17) who love God as much as I do. A great way to do this is through the youth group. Most of my best friends have come from participating there. Our group of about 20 teens is led by Zach and Sarah Kirchner.



*Some of our older teens. Zack Kirchner is third from right in the back row—Ethan is third from left.*

Zach is an excellent speaker who connects with us very well. He has helped me and the other young men of the youth group by going out of his way to meet with us, over lunch or elsewhere, to talk about our spiritual walk. Sarah has done the same with the young ladies. Both

Zach and Sarah are musically talented and are always willing to teach and bless others with their musical gifts.

We have large activities once or twice a month where we do things like ice skating, or going to Top Golf, and smaller activities like playing basketball or other games. New members that join the youth group are warmly welcomed and should look forward to a lot of fun and fellowship.



*Younger teens and pre-teens are led by Wes & Jessika Wade*

## **Adult Ministries: Expanding Our LifeStages**

A New Testament Church forms a Body of Christ made up of many individuals. The Bible likens each member to a specific body part—a hand, an arm, a leg, an eye, a mouth—each with a role to sustain the overall function of the body (1 Corinthians 12:12-18). We're also a family, loving and supporting each other.

At Bluegrass Baptist Church we have organized our family into groups that bring members into closer contact with others at a similar stage in life who will broadly share the same interests—singles, for example, or married with children or those in their golden years. The continued growth of our church has seen the number of LifeStages expand to eight, each headed by a married couple who form a point of contact within the group and coordinate activities. Here's a complete list:

1. **Forerunners** - College Students [Keith & Erin Seaman]
2. **Beginnings** - Singles & Young Married without children [Zach & Sarah Kirchner]
3. **Foundations** - Young families with children ages 0-Preschool [Jamie & Min Young Davidson]

4. **Homebuilders** - Young families with children 1st-6th Grade [Shane & Erica Colvin]
5. **Navigators** - Families with mostly teenagers [Jason & Jolie Preston]
6. **Empty Nesters** - Couples with no children or no more in school [Chris & Jen Graham]
7. **Horizons** - Couples 55-70 [Stu & Yvonne Thayer/ Brian & Shannon Lawson]
8. **Primetimers** – Couples & Widows/Widowers (Neal & Cookie Deering).

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT REVIVALS

It doesn't take much reading of Scripture or of human history to discover that God's answer to rampant wickedness and confusion is to bring spiritual revival (*Isaiah 59:19*).

But what is "spiritual revival"? And how can we experience it? Paul's declaration to the Philippians, that he seeks nothing in this life but to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, answers both questions. The need for revival from God, the giver of life, is always with us as a pressing necessity – and possibility. From the moment of birth descendants of Adam drift towards lifelessness. This downward spiral or "entropy" is something we share with all creation. Everything in the universe is always moving from order to disorder and decay.

On a spiritual level, our carnal nature alienated from the life of God drives us towards sin and death. Only spiritual rebirth can reverse this process. Even then, after we are born again by the Spirit of the Living God, the downward pull of corruption in our fallen human nature requires continual refreshment by the Spirit of Life to maintain an upward trajectory towards God. Where there is no refreshing, we gradually experience a type of death in our spirit. When the condition exists in most members of a congregation, the church itself – a "body of believers" – begins to die. Revival restores, resurrects, and renews both individuals and churches.

Many revivals are recorded in Scripture. The greatest of all Old Testament revivals happened with the first Passover in Egypt, when an entire nation was liberated from bondage and impelled by miraculous intervention towards their Promised Land. In the days of the Judges, periods of spiritual decline would be followed by seasons of quickening. In the days of the Kings, revival swept across the land of Israel under David and Solomon. After the nation was split, brief revivals in Judah came under Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah. When Judah again backslid into idolatry God judged them by the hand of the Babylonians. Then revival came through Nehemiah and Ezra who led the people back to their land to restore Jerusalem and the Temple.

***Next Month: New Testament Revivals***