



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Gary & Nona Wilt

They have been members of our church since moving to Kentucky from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 2015. Gary was saved in 1975 and attended Mid-Atlantic Baptist Bible Institute soon after to gain basic Bible knowledge. Nona was saved in 1971 at the age of 15 and later attended Tennessee Temple University where she earned a degree in elementary education. For the next 31 years she taught in Christian schools throughout Virginia. Gary is a retired truck driver and now a retired Scott County school bus driver.



They enjoy working quietly in the background at church, just like their daughter, Jessica, our Pastor's wife. Nona works in the baby nursery and when she is not at church she enjoys sewing, reading, and cooking. Gary enjoys Bluegrass music, antique tractor shows, and dirt track races. On Sunday mornings the couple are always among the first to arrive at church to prepare coffee for the rest of us.

Married for almost 47 years, they have three children, Jessica, Andrew, and Samuel (Jessica is the oldest), and ten grandchildren – three of whom live here: Drew, Nate and Luke Fannin.

(Please pray for Nona. She is on dialysis and needs a kidney transplant. Both the Universities of Cincinnati and Kentucky have her on their donor list. Pray that a donor kidney soon becomes available).

Stu & Yvonne Thayer



They 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 the couple met. Both were raised in Catholic families.

Stuart was saved in 1990 and Yvonne made her salvation sure a few years later. They celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on September 23.

They lead the Horizon's Lifestage with Brian and Shannon Lawson. Stuart is also active as part of the security team at the church, 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. Stuart has one sister in Kentucky, but they rarely meet, and a brother in Arizona whom he tries to see whenever he can.

Luke and Laura Mitchell

Both Luke and Laura grew up in Stamping Ground. They first met in 6th grade and became close friends in high school, reconnecting at the end of 2017 when Luke returned from the Marines. A year later they were married, and have since been blessed with three children, Lilah (2021), Levi (2023), and Lawson (2025).

Luke works as a lineman for Kentucky Utilities at the Midway location. Laura previously worked as a Registered Dietitian.



Now she balances her time between being a stay-at-home mom and professional photographer.

They both grew up in church. Luke received Christ as Savior at age 9 and Laura at age 17. In 2020 Laura was invited to a Bluegrass Baptist service and Bible study by Victoria Lanter. After the COVID disruptions settled she and Luke began regular attendance at BBC and joined as members soon after. Laura now serves in the nursery and takes photos for the church from time to time. They have seen God work in many ways and are grateful to attend a Bible-preaching church with fellow believers who have a sincere love for serving the Lord.

PERSPECTIVE

Christmas: Fact or Fantasy?

By Edward Thal

A song made famous by Andy Williams when it was released in 1963 as part of his Christmas album, declares:

*It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you "Be of good cheer"
It's the most wonderful time of the year!*

The song became an iconic reminder of an annual celebration, joining Bing Crosby's 1942 hit, "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas". They tell of snow and sleigh bells and friends coming to call with holiday greetings and happy meetings and parties for hosting and much mistletoeing and caroling out in the snow.

But neither mentions the *why?* of Christmas or the Christ of Christmas. It's just a time to be happy with family and friends. No surprise, then, that as the years pass the central figure of the Christmas story fades from view, first becoming Xmas and then just a party time.

Christian tradition further muddles the story, placing the "three wise men" at the stable with the shepherds (we don't know the number of Magi from the East, and they arrived about two years after Jesus was born). As for the actual birthday, it was surely not December 25 because shepherds were not outside

with their sheep during the cold winter months—that happened during warmer weather, from April to October, so it is more likely that Jesus was born in late September or early October, a period that coincides with the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles and correlates with the birth of John the Baptist, about five months earlier (the calculation is too lengthy to explain here).

Let us delight instead in the main event of the so-called “Christmas story”—not the fantasy but the fact that should absorb most of our interest and wonder; the fact that should strengthen our worship of God; that should empower all our testimony to others still in darkness: There was day in human history when the Eternal God of the universe, Creator and Sustainer of all that exists, Glorious in Power and Majesty, left His eternal, holy heaven, and joined our human race in the most intimate and meaningful way possible—He was miraculously conceived and born as one of us! Scripture records that He...

...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself...(Philippians 2:7-8)

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Caroling Introduces Christmas



On a cold night at the beginning of December, 35 Bluegrass carolers of all ages turned out to sing and minister to the residents of three assisted-living homes — Magnolia Springs, Hometown Manor, and Windsor Gardens.

Christmas Dinner Delights



Over 200 of our church family (and extended family members) enjoyed a fun evening of good food and great fellowship in the ballroom of a local hotel.

Christmas Cantata

It was a glorious night of Christmas music, with contributions from the adult choir, the children's choir, the congregation, and narration of the timeless Christmas story. It's always a special time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The picture at right puts the spotlight on the team who are always in the background — our hard-working sound, lights and big screen technicians letting off steam at the end of it all!





Bible Adventure Club Awards

The same children who sang so sweetly, a week later were given their semi-annual awards for achievements in learning to know and understand the Bible, taught by dedicated adult volunteers.



Festive Forerunners



Our College and Career singles enjoyed an evening of dinner, games, singing carols, and fellowship as they closed 2025 with their annual Forerunner Christmas party at the Seamans. The evening concluded with a "white elephant" gift exchange and a devotional from Colossians.

Teens and Elephants

What is it about Christmas and white elephants? Anyhow, our teen group also enjoyed a white elephant party, and one teen came splendidly dressed for the occasion, while others just enjoyed the mystery of figuring out their white elephants.



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 by **McKenna Clemons** provides an insight to life as a Christian teenage girl, and why church is so important to her.*

Being a Christian teenager in a world full of fleeting pleasures and all-consuming entertainment can be disheartening, as many of the younger generation seem to have abandoned faith, holiness, and God!

As a teenage girl striving for Christlikeness, I am often discouraged by the callousness of unbelievers towards God. On the other hand, my experiences have taught me how important it is to be part of a good church.

During my early teenage years, church was a place of conviction and accountability, especially in times of rebellion and challenging circumstances. The Youth Group lessons and regular services forced me to recognize that it was my responsibility to form my personal beliefs based on the truth of Scripture, not simply accepting the beliefs of my parents or teachers.

In more recent years, I have found that the church also offers sincere fellowship and opportunities to serve and grow. Though being a Christian who does not want to conform to the world is isolating for teenagers, the church provides young people with a place to belong as they search for answers and life direction.

I am blessed with friends in church who support Godly pursuits and help me to establish my faith. Ministries like the Forerunners LifeStage have been an encouragement to me, equipping me to go out in the world and confidently defend my faith. If you are a young person reading this, I would encourage you to prioritize church in your life and seek the biblical counsel and community that a healthy church family provides.

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 **Pastor Zach Kirchner** continues a series that he titles: **Harmony of Scripture: Reconciling Apparent Contradictions**.*

Last month I introduced the question: Can God be seen? The Apostle John twice declared that “No man hath seen God at any time”, and yet there are numerous references in Scripture (about 25 of them) that seem to contradict that statement.

About one-third of the occurrences follow the form of Genesis 12:7, which says that “the LORD appeared unto Abram.” We need to be careful here — Scripture does not say, “Abram saw God with his eyes.” It simply says that the LORD *appeared* to Abram.

The Hebrew word for *appeared* can mean that something became visible to the eyes, but it has a much heavier connotation toward the idea that something was now understood or that a message was received and/or accepted. Sufficed to say, the “LORD appeared” passages do not necessarily indicate that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or Moses saw the LORD with their eyes.

Another significant portion of passages in which it seems that someone saw God can be categorized as “experiential.” For example, Moses tells the LORD that other nations know Israel sees the LORD “face to face” (Num 14:14). However, upon further reading, we see that Moses is talking about the pillar of cloud and fire. Israel did not see God, but rather saw a manifestation of God in their midst. Several of the prophets and David in the Psalms talk this way. David says, “I have seen thee in the sanctuary” (Psalm 63:2). Isaiah and Micaiah both say that they “saw the LORD sitting on his throne (1 Kgs 22:19, Isa 6:1–2). Amos says he “saw the LORD standing upon the altar” (Amos 9:1). These specific passages provide good examples of why we must learn to recognize literary devices in Scripture.

Not everything in Scripture is literal, but we do follow a literal method of interpretation. In this case, the writers used colloquialisms such as “I have seen” or “I saw” to explain that they had some experience (vision, dream, etc.) whereby they were somehow able to tangibly enjoy the majesty of God.

We use idioms and colloquialisms like this all the time. For example, consider the sentence “Let’s grab some coffee.” To grab something is literally to aggressively or roughly seize it, but you and I have no intention of aggressively seizing a hot cup of caffeinated beverage. In fact, I have no intention to order coffee but rather a hot cup of tea! We may also say, “I need a Kleenex,” but do we really mean the name-brand Kleenex, or just some generic brand of tissue? In the same way, “experiential” passages in Scripture make use of generic communication, and they do not contradict the clear statements that no one has seen God.

The final group of passages are slightly more difficult to interpret. Consider Exodus 33:11 — “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.” Jacob also says “I have seen God face to face” (Genesis 32:30). Samson’s parents fear for their lives when they declare: “We have seen God”(Judges 13:22–24). However, upon further study, these too can be harmonized with the rest of Scripture.

The Exodus 33 passage clearly refers to an intimate time of communion between God and Moses. It cannot be that Moses literally saw God face-to-face, for just nine verses later, God says that “No man [shall] see me, and live.” Moses experienced just a small taste of the glory of God when he received the Law, and Moses’ face shone like the sun from even that little glimpse of God’s glory.

In the cases of Jacob and Samson’s parents, it seems that God appeared to them in a physical fashion, often referred to as a theophany or Christophany (i.e., an appearance of Christ prior to His incarnation).

In summary, God has revealed truth to us; He has allowed some to have experiences that provide a small glimpse of what He is like, and He has on occasion appeared in human form to others. However, the statements of John, Paul, and of God Himself that no man has seen God are perfectly true. God is a spirit, and his blinding glory cannot be fully seen by any mortal!

If this article has given you a lot to think about, bear in mind that nowhere in Scripture does God indicate it is easy to understand his Word. In fact, mastering Scripture is more commonly talked about as work! But it is rewarding work. If we are motivated by faith that God is truth, that his Word is truth, and that Scripture does not contradict itself because it flows comes from a logical and perfect Divine Author, we can work with confidence to make sense of difficult passages.