



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

John & Teresa Mazzoni



After many years of questioning God's existence and searching for answers in Scripture and other sources, John realized that a key Bible passage, John 3:16, was absolute truth. He was baptized shortly after, on April 12, 1998. Teresa was saved at VBS when she was ten years old and is grateful for a spiritual journey that has taught her nothing of worth can be achieved without total surrender to God.

Both were born and raised in Louisville where they first met in 1986, and then again in 1993. They were married in October that year. 28 years later, they have three daughters and four grandchildren (two boys and two girls). In October 2020

they moved to Georgetown to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

John now works at Kroger as a quality assurance inspector for produce and Teresa is employed at Ready Electric as business manager.

It did not take them long to find Bluegrass Baptist Church. "Our hearts desire was to have a church home where the truths of Scripture would be preached, taught and lived out so that we would be encouraged in our relationship with the Lord. We also wanted a church where we would find close friends who would become our extended family. God led us here."

Kelley & Shanna Oram



They met in 1998 while still in high school and were married in 2003. Now their family includes Connor, who is 22, works full-time, and attends JCTCS in Louisville while living at home, and Cole, who was born in 2009 and attends East Jessamine High School.

Kelley has been with Spectrum Cable for 22 years, serving as a Construction Coordinator, and Shanna has dedicated the last 18 years to UK Healthcare, where she is the Assistant Director for Primary Care Services. They stay quite busy traveling with Cole, who plays basketball for both his high school team and a travel team.

Both Kelley and Shanna were saved in 2005 and were actively involved in several children's ministries at their previous church before the Lord led them to join our family in at Bluegrass Baptist Church.

Mary Ann Hawley

Mary Ann moved to Georgetown from Michigan in 2016 after retiring from her job as an administrative assistant. She joined our church in early 2017.

The Christian commitment of her parents made an early impact on her and Jesus entered her life at the age of 13. Her mother directed a church choir, encouraging Mary Ann to develop her singing skills partly to overcome a stutter. It worked!

A lengthy period of spiritual drought as an adult finally ended when she found a home at Bluegrass Baptist Church and began singing again, blessing us all with her powerful alto voice. She also occasionally helps out on the piano.

Mary Ann has two children, David and Christine, four granddaughters, and three great-granddaughters.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Be a Missionary

A portion of a children's song goes like this:

*Be a missionary every day,
tell the world that Jesus is the way.
Be it in a town or country, or a busy avenue,
Africa or Asia the task is up to you!*

It goes on from there, and it sends a clear message of you and I being carriers of God's Good News around the world. Each of us has the ability to be a missionary. My thought this month addresses this subject: What is a missionary? and, How can you be one?

The word missionary was first used in the 1650's for a person sent by ecclesiastical authority to labor for the propagation of the faith in a place without indigenous organization. The Latin root is *missionarius* (pertaining to a mission) which comes from *missionem* (mission).

Missionaries are sent out from a Church or Christian organization for the express purpose of spreading the message of the Bible that the glorious God of Creation has come in the person of Jesus Christ to redeem mankind from their sins. In the New Testament that role is seen as an evangelist. In Acts 8, Philip does evangelistic work in Samaria, and then with the Ethiopian. Paul, in Ephesians 4:11, says that God's gift to a church body includes one (or more) in the role of a pastor/teacher, and also those who may fill the role of an evangelist. "Evangelist" is from the Greek word *euaggelistēs*. A transliterated derivative form of that word is eulogy, meaning to speak well of someone.

The missionary, then, is a person who carries the Good News of Jesus Christ to others, while speaking well of Jesus Christ in word and by their deeds. We are privileged as a church body to financially support 24 different servants who are evangelists in their particular parts of the world. When you give to "Missions" at Bluegrass, your gift is not part of our General Fund that supports our local efforts to spread the Gospel. Missions Giving only supports the global work done by our approved missionaries. Two questions should be addressed by each of our members during October each year, when we focus specifically on our worldwide outreach and its needs.

First, in what faith-based way can I support the work of world evangelism through the missionary families partnered with our church?

And second, is God calling me to be a missionary in a place where there is no indigenous Bible-preaching church?

In answer to the first question, consider whether you should pray daily for our missionary families. Then, consider how you may support them financially. Every penny given to Missions goes to the missionaries and their missions work, and your giving is a significant step of faith to begin supporting them through the local church where you already give your tithe.

In answering the second question, exercise your faith by asking God if He would have you go! If the Lord makes it abundantly clear that He wants you to go to a foreign mission field, then simply resolve to obey and trust God for His further direction. I know this process well. God led Jessica and me through it in 2006, 2007, and 2008, before we came to Georgetown to plant Bluegrass Baptist Church!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Bluegrass Olympics!



The bouncy castle, painted faces, and a Bible trivia competition were just three of 12 different events for Olympians to contest!

The 2nd annual Bluegrass Olympics was held on a beautifully sunny Saturday in September and was attended by well over 100 of our church family & friends coming together in friendly competition to play games and win tickets for their teams. More than 12,000 tickets were finally awarded!

Everywhere you looked there were smiling faces, some of them covered in ice cream, and loud cheers or yelps of excitement from winners of games like the Bake Walk, the Galaxy Maze, the Road Hazards, and chanting of “Grandma! Grandma!” as Pat Puckett beat another grandma through the inflatable obstacle course! When all of the tickets were tallied and the winners were determined, first place went to the Forerunners and Horizons team, seen below celebrating their victory with an ice cream party!



Dads & Sons & Daughters Go Camping



More than 20 dads, sons and daughters repeated last-year’s adventure by spending a night of fun and fellowship together, camping under the stars at a farm on the Kentucky River.

ENCOUNTERS:

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

In this section we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is increasingly hostile to Jesus Christ. Written submissions should be 200 to 300 words in length, or you could simply tell us your story.

This month's story is about a small child who reminded Edward Thal that amidst the craziness, simple, honest, faith in God secures our salvation.

Many years ago at a church in Northern Virginia I helped a single mother by driving her seven year old daughter to school each day. Katie would sit in the back seat, tied into her safety harness, and I adjusted my rearview mirror so that I could watch her as we chatted on the way to school each morning. One day I decided to talk to her about how to be saved. I introduced the subject by saying it would make me very happy if Katie told me that Jesus lived in her heart. She casually replied, "Jesus is in my heart!"

"When did that happen?" I asked.

"Last night," Katie said.

She was so matter-of-fact about it, looking out the window or playing with a doll in her lap while she spoke, that I hesitated before gently asking what had happened. She told me her mother had come at bedtime to pray with her as usual, kissed her goodnight, and left her to fall asleep. "But I didn't sleep because I was thinking about Jesus and how much I wanted to be his child so that he would always take care of me. Then I asked him to come into my heart."

I waited for more information, but Katie was looking out the window again at the passing traffic, so I probed a little further: "How do you know Jesus came into your heart?"

With that, she finally looked at me in the rearview mirror, with an expression on her face that wondered how anybody could be so dumb, and declared with quiet certainty: "Because I asked him."

It was one of the best moments of my life, clarifying in that instant everything I knew and believed about a God who loved me so much that He came to earth to pay for my sins by dying in my place. And I was reminded about Jesus calling a little child to Him and telling His followers that they should be as humble and trusting as little children to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:1-11). Ours is truly a wonderful salvation!

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Life comes at us in a hurry, sometimes making it difficult to get timely answers to questions that confront us while reading the Bible or wondering how to apply Bible truth to real-world problems. Here we aim to answer your questions while also providing a resource for our church family.

This Month's Question: Why do we sing the music that we do?

The Answer from Pastor Zach Kirchner is that our primary goal is not to be different in our choice of music, but to glorify God.

What we sing at Bluegrass Baptist Church is very different from both what the world says is popular and what many other churches sing. Our primary goal is not to be different, but to glorify God, and that approach inevitably will differ from music which does not exalt God.

So how do we choose the music that we sing? Music plays such a big a role in most people's lives—and has a tight a grip on some—that Christians cannot remain ignorant about this issue. At Bluegrass, we base our decisions on three main filters — the words, the music, and associations that are connected to songs.

The words in our music must be biblically sound. That is, we want what we sing to portray truths taught in Scripture. Not every song must come explicitly from Scripture, but the author's paraphrasing must line up with biblical truth. For instance, consider the words of the old hymn, "Rock of Ages." The author writes, "thou must save, and thou alone; in my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling." It is a beautiful expression of the truth of the Gospel (see Philippians 3:3–11, Luke 9:62, Ephesians 2:8–9)!

Scripture also gives us principles regarding music apart from words. That is, the music that pairs with biblical words must check a few boxes as well: we're commanded to teach and admonish one another and to be sober, vigilant, and Spirit-controlled, and our music should portray that (see Colossians 3:16, 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 5:18). We shouldn't sing tunes for sentimental reasons or because they make us feel a certain way—instead, **the music should support biblical truth** by reverentially ascribing proper worth to God (the essential meaning of "worship") or instructing and encouraging one another.

A real-life example is much of the music popular in churches over the last 30 to 40 years that doesn't sound at all like traditional music known and loved by Christians for many centuries. Several commentators knowledgeable about church music have traced this shift to what they refer to as "[The Pentecostalization of Christian Worship](#)."

Proponents of this trend emphasize that passion is more important than biblical guidance in the area of worship. This is a big deal because, as one man said, "One of the *primary* means of getting into trouble for God's people is taking the true worship of God and blending it together [with] whatever the culture is doing, to ascribe as its worship" (see Exodus 32, Numbers 3, Revelation 2–4). The point is that we should not encourage blind passion without knowing what to be passionate about!

A second main emphasis of the "pentecostalization" of worship is belief that the Holy Spirit can be miraculously ushered into our presence through our worship. But Scripture teaches that the Spirit is always with us! The Father poured out the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17–21, cf. Joel 2:28–32), and we need not look for another "Day of Pentecost" experience in our worship today!

(Next month: Separation from the world, and the "fittingness" of our music).