

S.C.C.C./P.D.

SOJOURN

COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHILD/PARENT DEDICATION

MIDTOWN

OCTOBER 21



SOJOURN COMMUNITY CHURCH DEDICATION@SOJOURNCHURCH.COM
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OUR PRAYER:

Gracious God, Giver of all life,

We pray for these parents.

Give them wisdom and patience.

Let Your peace and joy dwell in their homes.

Instruct them in Your gospel truth.

Strengthen them in faith.

Sustain them through prayer.

Order their lives by love.

We pray for these children.

Be gracious to them.

Draw them to Yourself.

Help them to love and trust Jesus.

We pray that You will grow them in faith,

So that they might be like arrows in Your hand.

For Christ's sake, Amen



Luke and Heather Barker present their son, Declan Lucas Barker

Declan Lucas Barker was born on March 19, 2012 to Luke & Heather. He is our firstborn son. We were initially drawn to the name “Declan” by its look and sound, but ended up choosing it primarily for its meaning, “man of prayer.” His middle name, Lucas, is after his father, with whom he shares the same initials.

One scripture that fully describes our past 7 months with Declan is James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Declan has truly been a gift from the Lord.



Seth and Sloane Barnett present their son, Ephraim Fielder Barnett

Seth and Sloane Barnett are the parents of Ephraim (*pronounced Eff-rum*) Fielder Barnett. Fielder was born on May 26th, 2012. Ephraim means “fruitful” and Fielder means “dweller in open country”. Since having our son, God has shown us how to love sacrificially as we care for Fielder and serve one another. Psalm 127:3-5 says “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows to the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them...”



Brent and Molly Braun present their son, Ezekiel Webster Braun

Ezekiel Webster Braun entered our lives on March 3, 2011. There doesn't seem to be a day that goes by where he doesn't change and grow, and as those days pass, our hope is that God will strengthen him throughout his life—strengthen his loving spirit, his caring nature, his infectious smile, his friendship with his big sister Ainsley, and his love for the family and friends around him. Zeke has never ceased to keep us on our toes and as much as we hope he learns from us, he also teaches us that love truly knows no limits.



Sam and Ariana Gafford present their son, Zethan James Gafford

Zethan James Gafford, born on August 3rd, 2012 to Ariana and Sam Gafford. Sam found the name Zethan while reading through 1 Chronicles. He thought the name was interesting and liked how Zethan was apart of a group of warriors. Zethan unexpectedly came six weeks early and spent a week and a half in the hospital. Through that time we learned to trust in the Lord and His will for our lives and we are learning to be patient as we adjust to having a baby. Our verse is, "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).



Alex and Laura Beth O’Nan present their son, Felix Jonathan O’Nan

Felix Jonathan O’Nan was born to Alex and Laura Beth O’Nan on March 21, 2012. His sister Miriam just turned three and is incredibly kind and loving towards her new brother. Felix is a name that we both liked, and we were glad to learn that it means happy and fortunate. Our boy is a very happy and content baby, and he is quite fortunate in that, by God’s grace, he has been born into a Christ-loving family and gospel-centered church. With Felix’s arrival, our hearts have expanded with love, and we are constantly reminded, “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:16).



Aaron and Erin Oneal present their children, Nora Dirla, Avie Grace, and Levi Montgomery Oneal

Nora Dirla Oneal was born on November 6, 2009. Avie Grace and Levi Montgomery were born on April 27, 2011. Nora's middle name is in honor of her great grandma who passed away before Nora was born. Levi's middle name is after Pastor Daniel Montgomery because of the impact his leadership and teaching has had on us the past six years of our lives. Avie's middle name is a constant reminder of the free gift of grace that we received through Christ.



Josh and Lindsay Thomas present their son, Elan Thomas

Our son's name is Elan, which is Hebrew for "oak tree," and is used to symbolize strength and sturdiness. He was born Sept. 4, but was in the NICU for a week with low platelets and glucose. During that time, Lindsay and I were working through Mark's gospel, and we took great comfort from the story of Christ calming the stormy sea in chapter 4, saying "Peace, be still," teaching us that we serve a God who's equally good as He is powerful. As first-time parents, we're growing in patience and humility, knowing that we must rely on – and submit to – the Lord in all things.



Patrick and Michelle Avery present their daughter, Stella Marie Avery

Stella Marie Avery was born on Dec. 22, 2011 to Patrick and Michelle Avery. We chose Stella because it is Italian for “star.” Michelle lived in Italy for three years. And Marie is a family name. We have been truly blessed by this gift from God. There have been many tears trying to figure out how to be a good parent, and there have been many smiles and laughs as we have watched her grow during the past nine months. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9



John and April Bolin present their daughter, Audrey Elise Bolin

Audrey Elise Bolin was born on May 12, 2011 to John and April Bolin. Her name was chosen because it is a classic name and not overly popular. Since Audrey has come into our lives, we have learned the lesson of unconditional love, and just how valuable life really is. Before Audrey was born, we didn't realize we could love someone so much, but love has now overflowed our hearts, and she continues to amaze us daily. 1 Samuel 1:26-28 as Hannah mentions her prayer for a child and her dedication of Samuel to God is important as we have prayed for Audrey, and God has blessed us with her.



David and Rachel Cabal present their son, Eli James Cabal

Our son's name is Eli James Cabal. We chose the Biblical name Eli which means, "my God" and James is after David's father. Eli was born on July 22. He is the first child of David and Rachel Cabal. Since Eli's birth, we have learned more and more about self sacrifice. We find joy in caring for our son and have gained an even deeper understanding of what it means to put one's family first. We have also come to appreciate even more the sacrifice of God's son. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."



Corby and Emily Ewing present their son, Asa Corbett Ewing

Asa Corbett Ewing was born to Corby and Emily Ewing on July 25, 2012. We initially chose the name Asa because it was Emily's great-grandfather's name. We were sold on the name after learning the story of King Asa in the Bible. His story demonstrates what happens when we choose to follow God, but that no man is perfect, as at the end of his life he did not always follow God. However, by the grace of God, he is characterized in the Bible as one whose heart was fully committed to the Lord. In this season of being parents, we have been blessed to learn true humility and grace!



Nathan and Kristi Ivey present their son, Jack Edward Ivey

We chose Jack Edward Ivey, because it is traditional and has family roots. Jack was born February 27 to Nathan and Kristi Ivey and big sister Katherine. We have learned the joys and the challenges of raising our children, in particular the faithfulness of God who always give us sufficient strength and wisdom. They are a constant reminder of Jesus who said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”



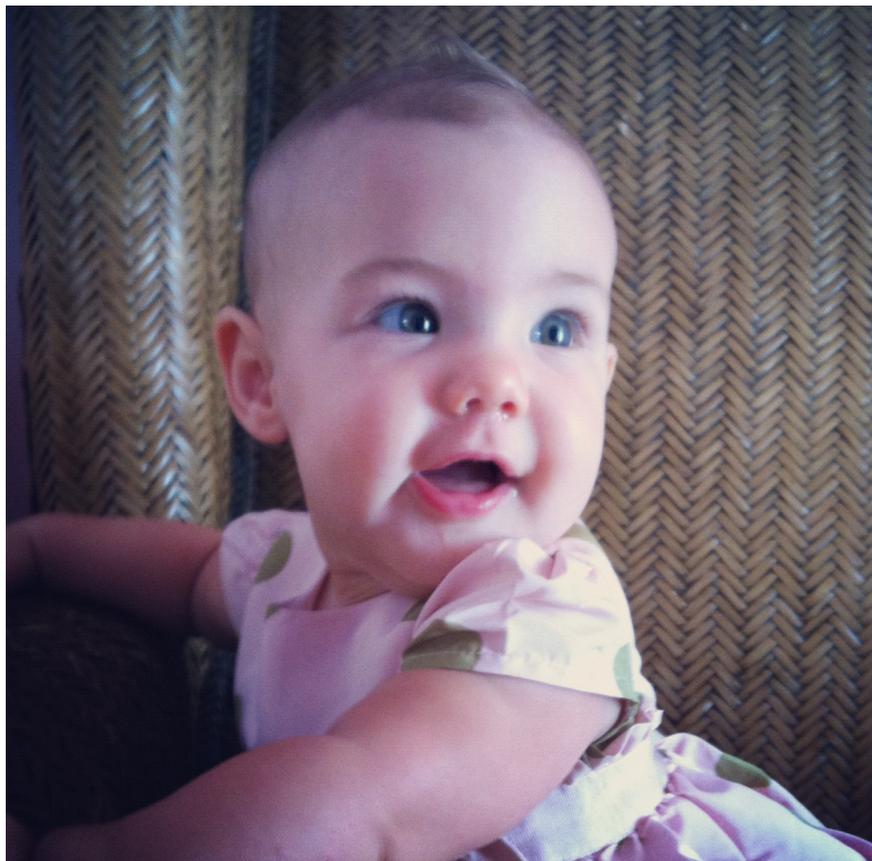
Aaron and Andrea Ritman present their son, Isaac Thomas Ritman

Isaac Thomas Ritman joined his parents, Aaron and Andrea, and sisters Ava and Evelyn on July 6th, 2012. We were overjoyed to learn that we were being blessed with another child. The name Isaac, meaning “laughter,” fit perfectly. He spent the first week of his life in Kosair’s NICU. Although it was difficult, we learned to fully trust God’s plan for him, and find peace in that. Our prayer for Isaac comes from Colossians 1:9, “So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.”



Ryan and Emily Speight present their son, Harrison Milo Speight

Harrison Milo Speight, is our son's name. If he were to become a Congressman, Harrison would do well, but if he becomes a professional soccer player, or the like, Milo is more fitting. Bureaucratically, he is Harrison, but to everyone else, he is Milo. Milo was born on the 16th of July, 2012, at 12:02 AM. Labor and delivery was close to tragic, and joy was slow in coming. We have learned to love each other more deeply. In the first few weeks there was no time or energy for sugar coating our feelings and prayers to God (John 4:24). Joy was slow, but now it is full (Psalm 30:5b).



Aaron and Courtney Wafzig present their daughter, Stella Kathryn Wafzig

Hi, We are Aaron and Courtney Wafzig. Our daughter's name is Stella Kathryn Wafzig. We chose Kathryn after her maternal great grandmother. She was an awesome, Christian lady that was devoted to the Lord and to her family. We hope Stella will follow in her footsteps in many ways. Stella has two wild and wonderful older brothers, Carter and Hudson. Since having Stella we have learned that once again we have room in our hearts to expand, and love another child more than we thought possible. Just like our Heavenly Father loves each and every one of His children. A Bible passage we treasure is Psalm 46.



Robert and Erin James present their son, Cedar Charles Cash James

Cedar Charles Cash James... goes on forever, right? "Cedar" just came to Erin a few weeks before she even knew she was pregnant. "Charles" is a beloved grandfather. "Cash" is from Johnny Cash. (Have you met Robert?) He was born January 22, 2011 as the doted and picked on little brother of Penny. He's taught us the value of sleep and a good sword fight.



Darren and Brittany Jennings present their son, Beren Brown Jennings

Beren Brown Jennings was born on May 25th, 2012 at 1:50pm. It was amazing and crazy. Beren Brown is named after two great men—one fictional, the other real. Beren is a tragic hero in Tolkien's *The Silmarillion*—the first human to marry an elf in the *Lord of the Rings*. We could geek out about it but we won't here. Brown was Brittany's grandpa's name. Grandpa Brown was gentle and wise—a much loved man of God. The Lord knows how to give good gifts. We have learned to be more gracious to each other and ourselves in these 4 months. Psalm 73:26 is helpful in trying times.



Jackie Priest presents her son, Jackson Sanford Priest

Jackson Sanford Priest. Born December 22, 2011. He is the brother of older sisters Addyson and Carlee Priest. Jackson's name comes from a duo on both mom and dad's sides of great men and his grandfather. There has always been a sweet calming sense of welcome anytime you are around this sweet boy. We are thrilled to have this addition to our family and could not be more blessed to have him. A verse that has transitioned us well has been 1 John 4:9, "We love because he first loved us."

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