Matt & Jill

About Us

We have had the pleasure of knowing one another our entire lives. Matt was born here in our city and Jill's family moved to the area when she was 4-years-old. We met in Sunday School. We became fast friends and moved through life depending on each other's opinions and recommendations. We did a lot of things together including high school basketball games, dinner, concerts, and movie nights. But we never made the leap from best friends to dating. As it turned out, we both chose the same university to attend and continued our friendship through college. It was not until the summer before our senior year that we recognized the gift we had been given in one another. Through dating other people in college, we realized how rare it is to find one that you can fully trust with your heart. Matt proposed on New Year's Eve of 2000. We graduated from the university at the beginning of June, 2001, were married the end of June, 2001, and began our ministry as Senior Pastor and wife at our home church, where we had met, in August 2001.

ABOUT Jill
(written by Matt)

Jill is no stranger to the heartaches and disappointments of life. Yet, I have seen her respond with grace, strength, and wisdom. Learning from such trials has given her a clearer perspective on the depth of God's love, the value of relationships, and the blessing of life. She is tender, kind, fun, and self-sacrificing. She has a contagious sense of humor that brightens up a room as well as a wisdom that is sought out by other women. I believe her spiritual gift is encouragement. God has used her to breathe mercy and love into hurting hearts. She is not the typical pastor's wife. She is not plastic or fake but real and open. This is so refreshing. Her willingness to share her heart with others might be her greatest gift to me, our children, and our church family. I have grown so much from watching her, talking with her, and learning with her. She is the greatest blessing of my life, my best friend, and my source of joy.

ABOUT Matt
(written by Jill)

Matt is a man of honor. I have witnessed his mercy and tenderness toward others all my life. His heart is bent toward helping those in need. Growing up, his goal was never fame, but genuineness. He would reach out to the most unpopular person, put his arm around him/her, and call him/her friend. He is still doing that today. This character is evident in his leadership in our church. He does not preach at the people each Sunday, but talks to them as friends and family. It is a joy to walk beside a man that is the same person whether he is behind the pulpit on Sunday, or sitting in our home, on the couch, on Monday morning. Matt has been my best friend all my life. I have often said that God knew I would need him from the time I was little. My life would not be the same without him.

Our Home

Our neighbors are our family! We have built wonderful relationships with the families who live around us. We love to sit out on our front patio, watch the kids play with sidewalk chalk, and talk to the neighbors walking by. In the fall, we typically have the fire pit open, and often we have a neighbor stay and visit for an hour or two. Also in the fall, we visit the county fair, with all its fun rides and delicious food, just two blocks away from our house.

We live just one block from a park. So in the warmer months of the year, we pack up in the wagon and walk over to the playground. The park also has a beautiful pond where we hope to teach the children how to fish. In the winter months, if it is cold enough, the pond freezes over and the community is given allowance to ice skate. Our family loves to play in the snow! We make snow angels, build snowmen, and have snowball fights whenever we can.

In the summer time we like to gather our water toys and head to the pool. We also try to visit the zoo once a week, once the weather gets warmer and the animals come back out to play.

When we are indoors, our family enjoys playing games, reading books, listening and dancing to music, and watching a movie while eating popcorn. We feel so blessed to have our home!

favorites

Jill

Color: Purple

Food: Popcorn

TV Show: Survivor

Song: At Last, by Etta James

Season: The Fall. Football, colored leaves and warm fire pits are delightful.

Matt

Color: Blue

Food: Steak

TV Show: The Voice

Song: Remember When, by Alan Jackson

Season: The Fall. Cooler temperatures, the county fair and family activities are at their peak!

Jill and Matt

Momma and the little bears

Father and son

Our Family

Jill & Ellie

With Daddy

All five

Matt's folks

Poppy and Poppa

Jill's folks

Our three

Momma's boy

Daddy and his crew

Matt's parents live just ten minutes away and often have the opportunity to play with Ruby, Henry and Ellie. They are members of our church, so we also have the joy of worshiping with them each Sunday. Matt's dad worked as an Elementary School principal. His mom started out as a Home Economics teacher, but stayed home full-time when Matt came along.

One of Matt's sisters lives ten minutes away. Ruby, Henry, and Ellie get to play with their cousins as often as they want.

One of Matt's sisters lives several states away. They are a military family, and we do not get to see them as often. But they visit for holidays and summer breaks.

Jill's parents live just one hour away. Ruby, Henry and Ellie are always invited to come up and play at the park or go swimming in the pool. Jill's dad was the former pastor of our church, and is currently serving as pastor in his town. Her mom worked as a stay-at-home mom until the kids were in high school, at which point she taught English at the local Christian school.

Jill's brother lives a little under two hours away. He has four daughters and has been fostering a fifth daughter for the past year. Four of the five are in college.

The girls visit often to babysit and play with Ruby, Henry, and Ellie.

Dear Birth Mom,

What a privilege it is for us to have this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. We are Matt and Jill.

Matt graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Bible/Pre-Seminary and has also graduated from Seminary, receiving his Masters of Ministry. Matt has been the Senior Pastor of our Baptist church for 16 years now. Aside from Bible study and preparation for each Sunday's sermon, Matt spends much of his time teaching, mentoring and counseling, as well as visiting friends from the church that are sick, widowed, or hospitalized. Jill graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She also spends time teaching, mentoring and counseling, sometimes alongside Matt. In addition, Jill is an Assistant Director for the church nursery, is involved in the church music ministry and has opportunities to be a guest speaker for special ladies groups throughout the year. Each day, Jill has the honor of staying home with our three children, Ruby (5), Henry (2), and Ellie (18 months).

Adoption is dear to our hearts and is already a part of our family. We are humbled and blessed to be given the opportunity to adopt again. We are looking forward to welcoming another child of any beautiful color or culture into our family. Our interest is simply to invest our lives and pour our love into every child that we are blessed to have in our home.

♡ Matt & Jill

Why Adoption?

Matt and Jill have always been excited about the opportunity to adopt. We have been blessed to have two biological daughters, Ruby (5), and Ellie (18 months). But an added blessing for us was when we were matched for an adoption with our son, Henry (2).

Just a few years ago, we connected with Building Blocks, and met our son's birth mother. She is forever our hero! This young lady is a kind and loving mother. We are so thankful that she chose us for such an honor! A funny twist in our story is that we were matched with Henry at the same time Jill was pregnant with Ellie, so the two are only four months apart. It has made for one busy household, but we wouldn't have it any other way!

And that is why we want to adopt again. We have loved having the laughter of little ones in our home. We are delighted to share our story again and again with those who ask if Henry and Ellie are twins. And we feel there is so much room left to welcome another little one into our hearts and lives.