

Matt + Ann



Our Note To You



We are so excited to get to know you!

Hello!



From the start of our relationship, we had always talked about adding to our family through adoption. Having walked this journey once before, we know we want to grow our family through adoption again. We are so thankful for the many ways families can be built and feel so blessed to have adoption as a part of our story.

Our names are Ann and Matt, and we are so thankful that you have taken the time to get to know us by looking through our profile book! We are excited to be on this journey of adoption again, but before we tell you about ourselves we want to be sure that you know how incredibly brave you are in the choice you have made to consider adoption. We admire you and your bravery, strength, and selflessness in this decision. **We want you to know that if you choose us to be a part of your story, we will honor you from the very first day we bring your child home. You will become part of our family through conversations and stories, and we will honor qualities we see in your child that are there because of you.**

When we were dating and into our engagement season, we would often talk about our future together, and adoption has always been a part of the conversation for us. As you flip through our book, you'll see that we have two beautiful daughters who have come to us through both adoption and the gift of having a child biologically. When we started talking about adding a third child to our growing family, once again we felt the Lord leading us down this road of adoption. We count it an honor that you would even consider our family to become part of yours, and we hope and pray that you are the mother that God connects us with on this journey.

Our prayer for you as you look through our profile book is that you will see our love for Jesus, one another, our families, and our friends. **We are so thankful that you are taking the time to get to know us! We would be thrilled to answer any questions you might have and learn more about you!**

Love,
Matt + Ann



We love our love story!

IN ANN'S WORDS

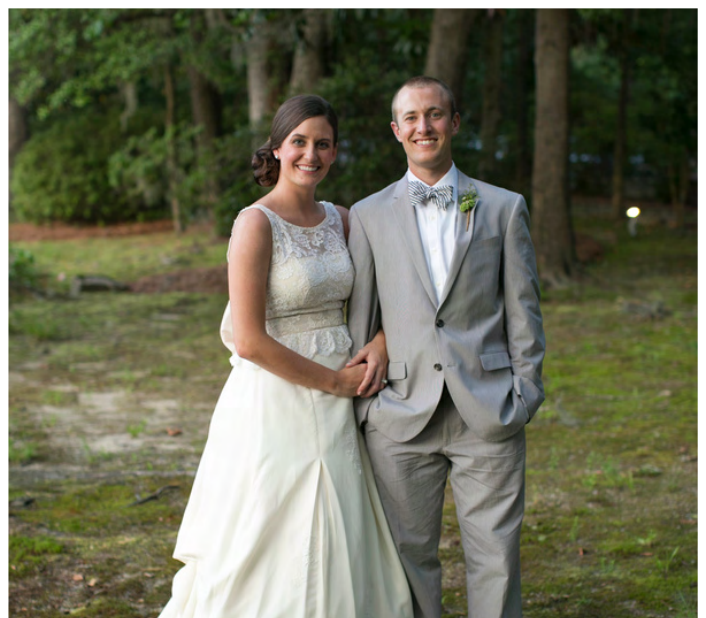
We met in 2010 when we both participated in summer internships. As our friendship grew, we both knew that there was more to explore with one another. We stayed in contact after our summer internships, and a few months into the fall of 2010, we began dating. Our new normal became boarding airplanes and making long drives to spend time together. After I graduated from college in the spring of 2012, I was offered a teaching position at a school in the city where Matt lived, so it was obvious this was the next step the Lord wanted me to take. I moved in August of 2012, and we were engaged in February of 2013!

Engaged!

We both like to live life to the fullest and always try to bring fun wherever we go, and Matt's planned proposal was nothing short of fun and amazing! I had flown home to South Carolina for the weekend and Matt secretly boarded a plane and flew into the town where my college is located. After he asked for my mom's permission to propose to me, he began working on a choreographed flash mob proposal with over fifty of my closest friends and family. He worked with two of my best friends to coordinate a dance to "One Thing" by One Direction and secretly taught everyone involved through YouTube tutorial videos. On Saturday night when I went to spend the night with some of my friends, I got put in the back of an SUV with the back trunk left open. I was so confused as to what was going on, but all I was told was to sit back and watch. Suddenly, the music started, and all of my favorite people surprised me with a flash mob proposal, topped off with Matt dancing towards me through the sea of people. When the dancing ended, he got down on one knee and asked me to spend forever with him—I didn't pause for a second with my YES! We ended the night with an engagement party, celebrating with friends and family!

Our Wedding

We got married outside in the middle of June in South Carolina. The day was beautiful...75 degrees with a slight breeze. Our ceremony was performed by Matt's dad who is a pastor, and we had one of our best friends playing music for the ceremony. We wrote our vows to one another, and we had one of our mentors pray over us during the ceremony. We both love to dance and spent the entire night on the dance floor. We went on a honeymoon right after the wedding to a beach resort in Mexico. It was so much fun, and we love looking back every year and watching our wedding video with our girls!





We have been married for ten years!

We believe that what has kept our marriage so strong over the years is that we strive to keep Jesus at the center and always continue to date one another. One of our favorite parts about our marriage is the way that we prioritize date nights. They are not always glamorous or require us to spend a lot of money, but it's intentional time that we carve out of our schedules to be together. We believe the best gift we can give our children is a picture of a healthy marriage with Jesus at the center.



our favorites

Weekly date nights

Going to sporting events together
(college football and basketball games)

Going on walks around our neighborhood

Serving in our church together

Traveling together to new places

Creating community opportunities
around our home



Matt



IN ANN'S WORDS

MATT IS CALM, STEADY, AND A TRUE ROCK FOR OUR FAMILY.

Matt has an incredible ability to always see the best in people. His positive outlook on life is contagious! He is a confident yet humble leader in our home and for his team at work. He is always looking for ways to put others above himself. Matt is absolutely hilarious! He can captivate a room with his wit and his ability to tell a good story. He can bring the fun to any situation! Matt is a great athlete. Growing up, he played basketball and baseball, and he still values staying in good shape today. He loves playing pick-up basketball with his friends and makes it a priority to be active.

Matt is the absolute BEST dad to our two girls. He is present, intentional, loving, gracious, and absolutely adores them. He often says, "I cannot believe I get to be their dad!"

Watching him love our girls so well is one of my favorite parts of our marriage. When he comes home from work, he puts all distractions aside and totally puts his focus towards them. He gets on their level, asks about their days, and engages with them. One of our favorite parts of the day is right after dinner before bath, when we have a nightly dance party in our kitchen. Matt will tell "Alexa" to turn on some fun dancing music, and Willow and Naomi know what that means: time to be silly and dance with mom and dad! That's always followed by bedtime routines, and Matt is often requested for story time right before bed. They never have to question how much their daddy loves them—he tells and shows them every single day! He's also the best Uncle Matt to all nine of his nieces and nephews. They know him as the "fun uncle" and he definitely lives up to the title!

Meet Matt

My friends describe me as a fun, optimistic, full of life, and a very encouraging person.

I am a college pastor at a local church, and I love what I do! My job is very family-friendly and flexible, and I love that my family gets to be such a huge part of the ministry that I lead. My wife and children are around my team and the students a lot, and we are all in this together. I work alongside some amazing people, and the church is fully behind the value of family coming first.

In my free time, I love playing and watching sports. I played basketball and baseball my entire life up until college. I like trying new restaurants and coffee shops. I also love spending time outside in our backyard and at the park with my family. Traveling and exploring new places is also a favorite of mine.

I have amazing parents who have shown me love my entire life not just through words, but through their actions. They always encouraged me to do my best, and reminded me that my value was not found in what I could do, but in the person I am. They parented with patience and grace, but also gave me truth even when I didn't want to hear it. They gave me a wonderful example of the parent I want to be to my children.

We currently have the honor of raising two beautiful daughters, and when I think about growing our family once again, I get so excited! I'm excited to watch our daughters be big sisters to another sibling. I'm excited to love another child and watch them grow up, and I love thinking about another little one joining in on the nightly dance parties we have in our kitchen after dinner! I pray that my children always know they have a dad who is cheering them on through life.



I love shoes...you can always find the latest Nikes on my feet!

Ann



IN MATT'S WORDS

**ANN IS THE MOST EMPATHETIC, CREATIVE, FUN,
AND LOVING PERSON I HAVE EVER MET.**

She has so many close friends which is a result of the way that she truly cares and has an ability to deeply feel what other people are feeling. She is always finding creative ways to make lasting memories, even on the most ordinary days. As a wife, she constantly looks to encourage me through her words, she serves me daily with her actions, and she asks great questions and listens intently. My love for Ann grows more and more each year. She is an incredible wife, mom, and friend.

It has been an honor to parent alongside Ann and watch her thrive as a mom, and I know that she is ready to grow our family once again through adoption.

When I met Ann, she was completing her student teaching in college as an Elementary Education major. I got to hear stories from Ann about how much she loved teaching and seeing her students grow throughout the year. I could tell how great she was with kids through the passion and excitement in her words. Throughout the first few years of our marriage, Ann taught first grade. I would often get to visit her classroom, and after each visit I walked away in awe of how great of a teacher she was and how much her students loved having her as their teacher. With our two daughters, Ann is the absolute best mom. She really can do it all, and at times I do not understand how she does so much. She is fun, intentional, caring, patient, kind, encouraging, and loves our girls relentlessly.

Meet Ann

My friends say I am intentional, empathetic, reliable, responsible, trustworthy, witty, and never wavering in the trust that I have in God's goodness and faithfulness in my life.

As an Adoption Consultant with an amazing company, I am so blessed to be able to walk with families who are in the adoption process. Serving and praying for them is such a gift, and I love what I do! My job is super flexible. I set my own hours and I work from home. I never feel like I must choose work or family—family always comes first! When we add another child to our home, I will take some time away from work as we adjust to a new family rhythm. We will most likely utilize a private program at our church for children of staff families once we feel like our family is ready for that, but we will make the best decision for our family and most importantly, for our child.

Outside of spending time with Matt and our girls, I love creating intentional community opportunities for my friend group. You can often find me out to dinner with my girlfriends or on a walk with one of them on a pretty day! I love opening my home and hosting game nights, backyard fun, and movie nights with our kids. I grew up playing and watching sports. In the fall, you can find me cheering for Clemson football and in the winter for Duke basketball! I also love reading, listening to podcasts, and photography.

My mom and dad did an amazing job creating a home where I felt safe and loved. There was an incredible balance of grace and truth in our home growing up, and I never doubted that my parents believed in me and were my biggest cheerleaders. I strive to emulate that in my home. As a momma to our two girls, I know that the love I have as a mom does not waver or change based on circumstances or how they come into our family. God has allowed me the gift of being their momma, and I'm so excited about the opportunity to parent and love another child! I hope they always see the unconditional love I have for them and that I'm their biggest cheerleader.



Willow + Naomi



Willow is at such a fun age right now as she is no longer a toddler, but a little girl! She is five years old and we were so blessed by her adoption into our family. She is curious, hilarious, empathetic, and a great big sister. She loves going to her preschool program and has lots of friends! She is kind, smart, and loves imaginative play. She has too many baby dolls to count, loves all things pink and princesses, and loves playing outside in the backyard!

Naomi is two years old. She is discovering new things and loves to follow her big sister around wherever she goes. They are truly the best of friends! Naomi is full of personality, strong-willed, so funny, she gives the best snuggles, and loves to be around people! She is outgoing and incredibly empathetic.

We know that adoption is both beautiful and messy, and we are continually learning and growing in our understanding of the complexity of it all. We are so grateful for the relationship that we have with Willow's birth mother. We stay connected to her with phone calls, FaceTime calls, text messages, and we try to visit annually. We have pictures of her birth family around our home and often flip through Willow's birth storybook that we had created when she was born. It's full of pictures and words that help explain her story to her on her level of understanding. Adoption is a very common and open conversation we have around our home. We seek to honor Willow's birth momma in everything we do and promise to do that with you, too! The girls are so excited about adding another sibling to our home. Willow reminds us often that she will be big enough to help with the new baby, and she can't wait to be a big sister again! Naomi will love and welcome her new sibling, and we know she will give the best kisses and hugs.



Family Time

Our family values spending quality time together, and we love creating intentional opportunities to make memories together. We love going to the park, visiting our local zoo and aquarium, and we love taking golf cart rides around our neighborhood. We enjoy playing in our backyard (sidewalk chalk is a favorite around here!), and on the weekends we go to our favorite Mexican restaurant or neighborhood pizza spot. Because of where we live, we can and often do take day trips to cities close to ours that offers fun activities for kids as well.

Every year we go to the beach with Ann's family and again with Matt's family. The beach is one of our favorite vacation spots, and because we go to the same place each year with both sides of the family, we create new memories every year! We value traveling and love doing it with our extended families. We try to do a few weekend trips in a year with just our family unit, too. We'll either head to the mountains, the beach, the lake or make weekend trips to go see extended family.



Holidays

Our family loves holidays! We gather with our extended families for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all birthdays. For Thanksgiving every year, we gather on a family farm with about sixty relatives from Ann's side of the family for a day of four-wheeling and eating BBQ. It's always so fun to see all our extended family in one place! We'll usually end the day with a game of two-hand touch football in the front yard with all the cousins.

Our favorite holiday to spend together is Christmas. We travel every year the week before Christmas to Matt's family and do an early Christmas with his side. We love going to see Santa, look at Christmas lights, and we always have matching pajamas with all the cousins. We do Christmas as our family unit on Christmas morning before traveling to Ann's side of the family. We gather at Ann's grandmother's house with all the family for a fun gift exchange, traditional Christmas dinner, and fun with all the cousins!

We also love birthdays in our family! One of our favorite traditions that we have is that when it's someone's birthday, they wake up to a decorated house full of balloons, streamers, confetti, and a sprinkled donut from our favorite donut shop down the street. We value experiences as a family, and so we always make the day all about the person we are celebrating. From activities to meals and everything in between, the birthday person gets to plan our day!





Our Values

Our family values quality time with one another, being deeply rooted in community, spending time with our extended family, and traveling. When it comes to how we filter decisions in our home, we have five family values.





Start the Party

Bring the joy wherever you go! It's our role to set the temperature of the room we are in.

Extravagant Generosity

Live a life that is extravagantly generous, whether that is with our time, energy, finances, or our home.

Open Door Policy

Create a home where people know they are always welcome, just as they are.

Everybody, Always

Show love to everybody, always.

Life On Mission

We filter our decisions as a family to make sure we are living on mission to love like Jesus calls us to in everything we do.

We Love Our Family!

ANN'S FAMILY

I am one of four children. Satcher is my older sister, and she is married to Branford. They have three children. MaryClarke is eleven, William is ten, and Oliver is eight. Henry is my older brother and he is married to Stephanie. They have three girls. Abigail is five, Eliza is three, and Charlotte is six months old. My little brother, Wright, is married to Lindsey. They are pregnant and expecting a little girl very soon! My mom is Sissy, and she is the best mom and grandmother in the world! She has been a widow for sixteen years now as my dad passed away from colon cancer back in 2007. He was an amazing man who loved the Lord and led his family so well. We are grateful for the time we had with him and know that he would be so proud of all of us today!

MATT'S FAMILY

I have one older sister, Katie, and she is married to her high school sweetheart, Jeremy. They have three children. Tripp is ten, Henry is eight, and Lola is five. My parent's names are Tom and Kathy, and they have been married for over forty years. They have an incredible marriage, and we are so grateful for the amazing example they set for us daily!



We are so grateful to be blessed with amazing extended families! Although we don't live in the same city as any of them, we are able to spend intentional time with them often and FaceTime daily with different family members on both sides. They make trips to come see us, and we make trips to go see them as well. We spend holidays together, a week at the beach every summer with both of our families, and take long weekend trips together. Family is very important to us, and we make every effort to see them as often as possible! They are all so excited that we are adding to our family through adoption again as they have been able to experience the gift that adoption is to our family already. They have been praying for us, the momma that we will connect with, and the precious baby that will join our family!



Home Sweet Home

Our home is a five-bedroom, three-bathroom home on a quiet street in a very family-oriented neighborhood. We love our neighbors and have lots of children running around between the different yards all the time! We have a flat backyard with a basketball court, firepit/outdoor eating area, and a grassy area as well. We love our big family room off the back of our house, and this is where we spend a lot of our time together if we are not outside enjoying time in our backyard. The kitchen is the center of our home-- we love spending time as a family in our kitchen cooking meals, baking cookies, and having our nightly dance parties before bath time!



We absolutely love the city that we live in!

We are situated in a safe, family-friendly part of town with lots of fun amenities including local parks, tennis courts, a neighborhood swimming pool, and family-friendly restaurants. The schools that our home is zoned for are amazing, and we are so thankful for the diversity in the staff and students that attend there. Diversity is important to our family for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is that we want our Willow to see herself in the people that she is surrounded by. Because we live in a suburb of a large metropolitan city, it's easier for us to be intentional in our decisions to make that possible. We want our children to be exposed to different cultures, races, and life experiences from the people around us.



Our Future



We love our home and our neighborhood, so much so that we just completed a home renovation project to make it work for our family in the future. We don't anticipate ever leaving the city we are in as Matt's job is steady and this is where we want to be. However, we are always open to wherever God calls us to go! We will always keep traveling as a family because we want our children to grow up seeing how diverse, beautiful, and big the world is—we believe this helps create a sense of just how creative our God is!

Faith + Education

We are grateful for the sacrifice that God made in giving us His Son, Jesus, and we desire to walk in our relationship with Him daily. Our family is far from perfect, but we strive to be a family that is marked by love, authenticity, generosity, and grace. Our church family plays a huge role in our lives, and we seek to be in community weekly, volunteer in various roles around the church, and we make it a priority to have people in our children's lives that are great role models.



Right now, we plan on sending our children to the amazing public schools that are in our part of town. We want our children to go to school with their neighborhood friends and create a sense of community that way. However, we are always open to adjusting our plans based on the needs of each of our children. Several great private schools are close to our home as well. If we need to consider those in the future for one or more of our children, we absolutely can and will.

We value education in our home, but more than that, we value what all our children are going to bring to the world through their gifts and passions. We believe that each of them has been given a unique set of abilities, and we want to help them discover those and go after their dreams. We both attended college, but because we attended two different avenues (Ann attended in person with the traditional route of college and Matt attended online), we see that there are different routes when it comes to education. While we will encourage our children to attend a four-year college, we will not force that on them, and we will support them in whatever decision that would make the most sense in their pursuit of their dreams.



Thank You!



WE ARE SO THANKFUL OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED!

We are excited to grow our family again through adoption. We want you to know that we commit to raising our child to know and trust Jesus, love others well, and live a life that is full of adventure. We cannot wait to make you part of our family's story through conversations, pictures, and the extent of openness that you feel comfortable with as our child grows up. We are so thankful that you took the time to get to know us by flipping through these pages. More than anything, know that when we decided to present our profile book to you, we started to pray for you as you make this decision. We are hopeful that you will feel peace as you take your best next steps; we will continue to pray for you and know that we are grateful for you!

Love,
Matt + Ann



You are loved.