

Matt + Robyn





Hello!

*We are so
happy to
meet you!*





Our Note to You



WE WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW DEEPLY CHERISHED YOUR CHILD WOULD BE IN OUR HOME, AND HOW EXCITED OUR TWO GIRLS WOULD BE TO HAVE ANOTHER SIBLING. ALSO KNOW THAT WE DESIRE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO PRESERVE AND FOSTER THE SPECIAL CONNECTION THAT YOU TWO HAVE THROUGH BIRTH, FOREVER.



We feel so honored that you would consider us to be your child's adoptive family, if you decide to make an adoption plan. We admire your love and strength in considering adoption, and we want to be ready to make sacrifices for your child just like you are sacrificing now. God loves you and your child so much. We would love to show your child warm affection and thoughtful care as they grow, so that they can have a life that is full of joy and purpose.

Adoption has always been a desire for us, even before we got married. We've always had a "the more the merrier" family mentality. We love having a crowded table, a full couch, and a noisy house. Being a parent is one of our greatest joys and we simply look forward to adding to that joy in our home. The messes, the laughter, the art projects on the wall, the struggles, the triumphs, and the evening snuggles. We have fostered kids of varying ages throughout the last five years and were blessed by the uniqueness of each child.

We've previously been foster parents to three children; an infant, as well as a brother and sister who were eight and ten when they came to us. We think those experiences will help us to cultivate relationships with our future adopted children, and at the same time help them cherish their birth parents and stay connected to them. We believe there will always be a special part of you in your child, and we are committed to ensuring that this part is cherished and honored. Your selfless act of giving life to your child is something we will speak of often, and about how you made the decision out of a deep love for him or her. When we fostered, we tried to keep the kids connected with their birth moms. We arranged regular video calls and in-person visits. We talked about their mom often, sharing stories and answering questions with respect and honesty. We also made sure they stayed connected with their culture and made intentional connections as a family to people who could help them grow up to be all who they were created to be.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We would love to answer any questions you might have and hear more about you!

With Love,
Matthew + Robyn

Our Milestones Over The Years

FIRST MET - OCTOBER 2010

We met during our sophomore year of college. One of our first memories together was going on a cave-exploring trip with a group of friends. Matt loved to go on adventures and Robyn was one of the few girls who enjoyed that too. We respected each other highly and were friends throughout college.

STARTED DATING - FEBRUARY 2014

We graduated and Matt moved away to find a job. Just a few months into an internship in South Carolina, he decided he didn't want to let Robyn get away. So he drove back to Virginia and asked her to date him. Robyn said yes, and Matt was back the next weekend for our first date.

MOVED TO NORTH CAROLINA - MAY 2014

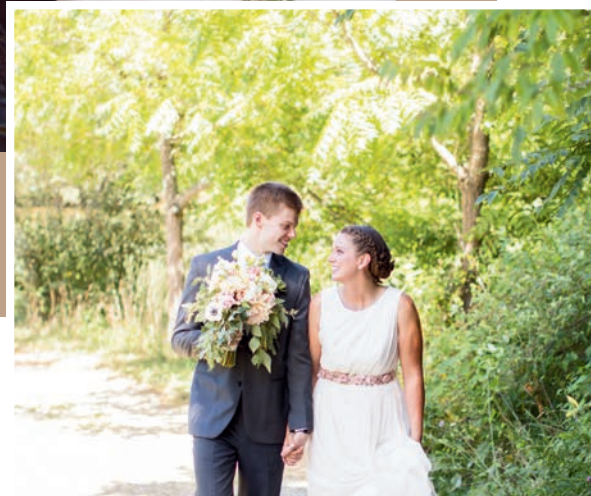
Our dates were long distance for a few months until we both moved to North Carolina. When we were apart, we talked on the phone for probably an hour a day, which helped us get to know each other well even before living in the same city.

GOT ENGAGED - JANUARY 2015

Matt planned a bike ride as the lead-up to his proposal. After riding for a while, we arrived at a little bench surrounded by trees on the edge of a lake. There as the sun set, Matt asked Robyn to marry him, and she said yes!

HAPPILY EVER AFTER - AUGUST 2015

We got married at a farm near where we met. The wedding was outside in a rolling field with mountains in the background, and the reception was inside the converted barn. We had square dancing and donuts for dessert! It was a beautiful day!



We've been married for nine years!

The core of our marriage is the kindness and grace that God has shown to each of us. Because we have been so loved by Him, we each have reason to be kind and gracious to the other. This foundation along with consciously admiring each other's strengths even when they are very different from our own have created an affectionate bond that brings us lots of joy and can weather any storm.



As we've had kids, we've shifted from looking for as much adrenaline and adventure as possible to slightly more tame and relaxing pursuits. We still love camping and have taken our girls camping from the time they were infants. Successfully passing on our love for camping is a win in our book! Whether camping or at home on the back deck, Matt loves building a fire, sitting by it, and talking. Second to that, we like visiting coffee shops to sit and talk. We also enjoy gardening together. Robyn is the main garden planner and has most of the botanical knowledge, and Matt digs and builds the garden beds and trellises and tops it off with irrigation systems. We are always excited to harvest together, or groan together about what crops the squirrels and deer got to before we did!



MY HUSBAND

Matt

Matt is truly irreplaceable. I love him for his integrity and how I can trust him completely to provide for and love our family well. He strives daily to be present and intentional with every one of his relationships. He loves his people well. Matt is also very creative. Whether he's building our kid's treehouse, configuring a slip and slide for the neighborhood kids, or coming up with a new recipe to cook, his creativity brings so much joy and excitement into our lives. Matt's greatest strengths are his work ethic and humility. While no man is perfect, he readily asks forgiveness from me and the kids if he is ever irritable and is insanely committed to loving better the next day. I love how much he loves Jesus. It drives his ability to find joy in the everyday and his consistent love for others.

Matt is an incredible father to our girls, Nora and Haven. He is always outside playing with them, whether it's soccer, throwing them as high up in the air at the pool as they will let him, or eating breakfast in the treehouse. He loves including them in his tasks, where they explore and learn together, like building bookshelves for a neighbor or changing a flat bike tire. Matt is a dedicated father and intentionally involved, always ready to listen and support them. He is looking forward to being a father through adoption, and to share his love and enthusiasm, and to teach them all the things he's so enjoyed teaching Nora and Haven. He's eager to embrace this new journey and do all that he can to provide a loving, nurturing environment for your child.

CONSISTENT, THOUGHTFUL, GOD-CENTERED, HANDY

I LOVE BEING A FATHER.

It has been fun to see the personality differences between our girls and I'm excited to experience another new and different personality coming into our family. I think these differences are really enjoyable and a privilege to witness. Seeing the delight that our girls and Robyn show when taking care of others makes me look forward to the enjoyment they will have in caring for another person in our family. As a father, I want to make sure my children feel blessed and loved- both now as children, and throughout their whole lives.

Growing up, I appreciated that my Dad didn't try to steer me or my sister into a specific career that he thought would be best- instead, he looked at who we were, and what we enjoyed, and helped us find something that clicked. It's because of him that I found the field of Industrial Design. I hope to have the same understanding of my kids' personalities and a supportive, encouraging approach toward them as they grow.



I manage a team of industrial designers. We design the physical shape and appearance of products that our company makes and sells. I worked as a designer for eight years at this company before being asked to manage others. I really enjoy the work and see myself staying at this job indefinitely. The hours are flexible and I work at home one or two days a week. When we adopt, I will have sixteen weeks of paid time off to spend time at home with the family.

I really enjoy spending time with my family. Very high on the list would be a Saturday afternoon spent in the backyard with them, gardening or working on projects. I enjoy grilling and often make dinner on our charcoal grill. When I'm alone, I enjoy more in-depth house projects like building cabinets and furniture or the playhouse in our backyard. Reading the Bible and praying are also priorities when I have alone time. When I have time with just me and Robyn, I love to just sit and talk. We have also been going to the gym together which is a highlight of the week.



MY WIFE

Robyn

I tell Robyn often that I think she is in a league all of her own, and I mean that wholeheartedly. She understands the people around her so deeply, so perceptively, and usually knows what is going on in my thoughts and emotions before I do. She has a warm and affectionate love for our kids and is fiercely protective of them. When one of her friends or a neighbor is in need, whether it's medical advice, a meal, a ride, or a babysitter, Robyn is generous and amazingly proactive to lend a hand. The love she has for people drives her to action. She has pushed me to be a better person in countless ways that I'm so grateful for. I love the grace that she shows to me when I do something wrong, and I love the fun that she brings to our family- always thinking of a new adventure for us to go on, and genuinely delighting in it.

Robyn has the incredible ability to first and foremost love our kids deeply and delight in being around them. She loves doing things for them like painting their nails, taking them to fun places, and cooking for them while also having a strong standard and expectation for their behavior. She makes sure that they are being respectful to each other and others. She's able to hold to this high standard for them without diminishing the warmth of her affection for them, which is really beautiful to see. She especially loves to help our kids and others play creatively- she considers it a win if she can inspire them to play farmers, doctors, mechanics, dragons or anything creative, and delights to join in role playing games like this with them.

WITTY, EMPATHETIC, ATTENTIVE, RESPONSIBLE

BEING A MOM IS SUCH A JOY!

I am excited to hold a baby close, hear their sounds, and see their smiles. Each stage our children have grown through has seemed better than the last one, but I do miss the baby stage. I'm looking forward to the play that will happen between our children, and seeing their unique personalities. I can imagine the chaos at dinner time with three young children and am looking forward to it! I'm excited to see them grow into adults and find their own lives outside our home but remain close as our relationship grows into more of a peer-like friendship.

My parents were intentional in everyday life. There weren't separate work life, social life, and family life spheres. We were a part of their whole lives. I have sweet memories of playing with toy horses beside my dad while on a construction site and him teaching me to back up a trailer on the family farm. My parents had a lot of trust in me and gave me a lot of freedom and responsibility. Similarly, we want to give our kids the confidence to try hard things and be confident to pick up and keep going when they fail.



I am a pediatric nurse turned stay at home mom. I enjoyed my years as a nurse and the challenge of working on a pediatric bone marrow transplant unit. A couple of years ago I made the decision to stay home, which has allowed me to dedicate more time and energy toward creating a warm and nurturing environment for our family. Caring for our family is challenging in different ways but is so rewarding.

Going to the gym is my most consistent free time activity as I find that a hard workout is the best mental refreshment there is. When I have other alone time, I enjoy digging in the garden and taking care of our plants. I'm an avid reader and will never say no to an extended time to finish a novel. Watching the girls' budding interests brings me immense joy, as does playing fetch with our dog, Winnie. I think I enjoy camping and hiking the most out of anyone in our family, and I usually plan these adventures for us. I like to bring other people into those activities as well, and I love to organize gatherings with friends and neighbors.



Nora



Haven

Nora is four years old. She is a sweet and thoughtful girl who is cautious and introverted, but deeply social and loyal to her people. She's an avid gift giver and is often asking us to mail cards she's made to a friend or family member. She also is quick to give away toys to friends having birthdays. Nora is an animal lover and is gifted at taking care of our puppy, chickens, and any stray snails she finds. She also enjoys playing with baby dolls, biking, swimming, and the occasional pony riding lesson.

Haven is a two year old bundle of joy and emotions, bringing enthusiasm and the full range of emotions to almost every activity. She thrives in situations where her loved ones are together, cherishing family moments and adventures. Sleepovers with Mom and Dad are a highlight for her, and she eagerly embraces any opportunity for a new experience. She often has insightful questions or a funny commentary on what's happening around us. Her lively spirit and affectionate nature make her a delightful companion.

NORA AND HAVEN ARE BOTH EAGERLY HOPING TO WELCOME A NEW SIBLING THROUGH ADOPTION. NORA'S NURTURING INSTINCT AND HAVEN'S JOYFUL EXCITEMENT WILL MAKE THEM GREAT SISTERS FOR THEIR NEW SIBLING.

WE LOVE THE PURE JOY THAT COMES FROM SEEING KIDS DO AND SAY CUTE, SILLY, AND UNEXPECTED THINGS. AND THOUGH IT'S A WEIGHTY JOB TO HELP SHAPE WHO THEY GROW INTO, WE ENJOY THAT OPPORTUNITY AS WELL- GETTING TO TEACH THEM WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LIFE, AND GOD, AND THE WORLD.

Our greatest prayer for our children is that they know how deeply they are loved. That they know deep in their bones how high, how wide, and how long is the love of God for them. We pray that they know without a doubt how much they are loved by us. We want them to always feel secure in this unconditional love, knowing our commitment to help them grow into all they were created to be, nurturing their unique gifts and guiding them with unwavering love and encouragement.

In parenting, we try to focus on our kids' hearts, not just on their actions. We want them to grow up doing what's right not because they had to, but because they're learning the goodness of doing what's right and actually desire to do the right thing from deep within themselves. Our parenting aims at shaping their hearts, knowing that what they love and what they do both flow out of what's going on in their hearts.



Our Values



*in our home
we value...*



Grace

Because God has given us grace by forgiving our sins, we relate to each other and to everyone we meet with readiness to show grace to them. Instead of resentment or holding grudges we respond with forgiveness and acceptance if we are ever wronged.



Humility

This is considering the people around us and their needs before our own. We do not think of ourselves as higher or more important than anyone else. We believe that everything we have is a gift from God, not something we earned or deserved. We are thankful for common, everyday blessings.



Sincerity

We place a high value on being sincere in what you say. That means always following through on what you say you will do, and not saying something you don't actually mean. We work to actually have the right attitudes inside, and then display them openly.



Effort

We don't demand success or achievement from each other or from our kids. Instead we just expect them to try wholeheartedly at whatever project or task is in front of them. We encourage and congratulate effort and dedication wherever we see them, no matter if it is play or in chores. We want to cultivate effort in our kids not because it's needed for success, but because it honors God to live at our full potential.



Time Together

Our days always start with breakfast and the Bible. Matt reads to the girls and after he heads to work, we jump into homeschool for the day. Many days that involves books at the kitchen table, and other days it's a field trip with friends. In the evenings, we like to spend time outside, go on walks around the neighborhood, or run some errands. Most of the places we need to go to are close by and we like to bike to many of them. For groceries, the library, soccer practice, and the pool, we often bike. We love simple days together as a family. We enjoy our neighborhood pool and have enjoyed teaching our kids to swim. Seeing them develop the courage to do things they used to be timid about like jumping off the diving board is so rewarding.

When we go on vacations, it's usually either camping or going to visit Robyn's parents at the beach or their home in Virginia. We have lots of fond memories from going to a beach house with Robyn's parents and our kids playing on the beach at different ages. One of our favorite trips was going hiking at Mount Rainier in Seattle, Washington for our fifth anniversary.





Traditions

One of our favorite traditions is Robyn's sourdough bagels! She makes them on Matt's birthday, Father's Day, and sometimes the kids' birthdays. The bagels are the centerpiece of a festive breakfast on the special day. We make epic breakfast sandwiches with bacon, eggs, sprouts, and avocado. For Christmas and Thanksgiving we celebrate either with Matt's mom and sister or with Robyn's parents and brother, his wife, and their three kids. These celebrations normally include spending several days together, living life together, going on lots of walks and bike rides, barbecuing, boating, going on errands together, cooking and eating together. For our kids' birthdays, we decorate our dining room with streamers and pom-poms and normally have some kind of special outing for them and a birthday party with family and friends. At each girl's birthday, Robyn creates a poem about who they are this year, how they've grown, and what they're into, and she writes it out on a letter board for all to see.

WELCOME TO Our Home



We live in a one-story house in North Carolina with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, which was built in the 1960s. We chose this house because the dining room in the back has lots of windows which let light in, and bring a view of the backyard into the house. We renovated the kitchen ourselves and Matt made the kitchen countertops and cabinets himself. We've done a lot of DIY work in the backyard too, building a chicken coop and a playhouse and putting in pathways and growing grass. We really enjoy our backyard and when the mosquitoes aren't trying to eat us alive, we spend a lot of time out there. In the spring and fall we often eat dinner outside on the deck. Our girls like playing with the hose, plastic baby pool, or other water toys, or playing with sand on a sand table. One of our favorite recurring moments in the home is when we are in the living room sitting on the couch during the kids' nap time. When the kids wake up, we hear their stomping feet running down the hallway from their bedroom out to the living room, then full speed onto the couch and into our arms for a hug. We would love to have more feet stampeding down the hallway, coming to see us after naptime!

We live in the suburbs. There are lots of universities nearby and our school system is rated in the top three in North Carolina. Our neighborhood is really friendly. When we go for walks we meet lots of neighbors and they are always eager to chat. We've gotten to know many of the people around us just by running into them while going for walks. Robyn has planned block parties the last three years for our neighborhood and we've generally had about sixty people come! There is a neighborhood pool that we can walk to, and lots of other kids come there to swim. We also like that we are close to grocery stores, the library, hardware stores, and doctor offices, so we don't have to spend a lot of time driving to get what we need.



Meet Winnie

We just recently welcomed a golden retriever puppy into our home and named her Winnie. She is really playful and loves to run after the girls as they run laps through the house, or play tug-of-war. The girls like to hug her and lay on her and Winnie goes along with it willingly.

Our Family



Matt's mom, Karen, lives nearby in our neighborhood. Matt has a sister named Corinne, who lives in Florida. She moved there to get a degree in counseling and stayed there after her degree. Unfortunately, Matt's dad died in 2019. Robyn's parents, Barry and Leesa, live in Virginia, but they come to visit us often. Robyn has one brother, Blake. He is married to Allison and they have three kids; Cyrus, Henry, and Zoe. Cyrus is close to Nora's age, and Henry is close to Haven's age.

We have a pretty close relationship with both extended families. After Matt's dad died, we encouraged his mom to move to our area from Maryland and into our neighborhood. It has been nice to have her nearby. Our kids spend the morning at her house every Monday, and sometimes we stop by to visit or have dinner at each others' houses. She finds joy and purpose in caring for others and would be elated to have another child in our family to help care for as a grandmother.

Robyn calls her parents several times a week, and has really open communication with them. Our family vacations often include Robyn's parents. We all enjoy when they visit or when we go camping with them. They are extremely supportive of the decisions we make as a family and willing to sacrifice to help us. Our girls often will spend the night with Robyn's parents when they visit town. When we are together there is little need for organized activities- we enjoy just living life together, cooking and cleaning, sitting and talking, playing with kids and dogs, or doing house projects together.



Our Faith

There is nothing better than knowing you are loved by God and that you'll get to spend forever with Him, enjoying Him and His blessings. We are doing our best to show our kids the beauty and kindness and goodness of God, so that they chose to follow him wholeheartedly. Following God is a decision in the heart and can't be forced on anyone, so we will not try to force them to believe. We long for our kids to have hearts that treasure God and other people. We've been members at our church for ten years, and have just made the decision to join a new church that is just getting started near our home. We are eagerly getting to know new friends at this church. We will continue to spend time with friends we've made at the previous church, and expect to be well supported by both those old friends and the members of the new church.

LOOKING AHEAD

We plan on staying where we are for many more years. In five to ten years, we could see ourselves moving to a larger home where we could better help our parents as they age. When that move happens, we would love to move to a property somewhere in this area where Matt could keep his same job, but with more space for roaming and maybe more animals. We are dreaming of having four or maybe five children, but we will leave that up to God's plans. We think having that many siblings would be a fun and enriching way to grow up, and it would be a great blessing for us to get to care for them along the way.

EDUCATION

We are just starting homeschooling with our girls. We chose this route as a way to have more time together with our kids, as well as to give them what we think is the best education we can, by being able to individually tailor the pace and teaching methods to each child's specific needs and learning styles. We aim to teach through both academic learning and real-world hands-on experience, so besides the school we do on paper at the kitchen table, we are in a co-op and a nature group to give our kids plentiful social interaction and hands-on learning. We have open minds about education and plan to decide on a year-by-year basis what method would be best for each child individually, whether it's home school, private school, or public school.

We aren't dead-set on any of our children going to college, but we do plan on supporting them in whatever career path they choose. Our goal is to provide the love, counsel, and resources they need to follow their dreams and fulfill their God-given potential. That will almost certainly mean some kind of additional education after high school, and we will be cheering them on and helping them financially for that education, whether it's college, trade school, coding bootcamp, or some other form of education.





YOU ARE LOVED



WE HAVE LOVED OPENING OUR HEARTS
TO OUR FOSTER CHILDREN IN THE PAST
AND WE ARE SO EXCITED TO ADD TO
OUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION!



*We are praying for you as
you move forward and hope
you feel so much peace and
support around you!*





Thank You!

We want to say thank you again for considering us for the privilege of being parents to your baby. We pray that God will give you peace and guidance in making this decision and in all the other decisions before you in the months ahead. Your child will be a great blessing to the world as he or she grows up, and as they become an adult. We are excited for that life to begin and even if it doesn't overlap with our lives, we know that it will be good. If you choose for us to be the ones for your child, we would love to keep you in your child's life and will share openly with you. Our conversations with your child about you will always be founded in gratitude and appreciation for your care and protection of their life. We will encourage him or her to cherish and develop their relationship with you. We will keep you connected as they grow and take their first steps and ride their first bike. And most of all, we will love and care for them with all that we are and everything that we have.

Matt + Robyn

