

# STORIES OF GRACE

## Our church family share their stories of Grace Bedell Family



God has extended grace to us from birth. We were both born into loving, Christian homes and decided to follow Christ by kindergarten. Kevin was raised in rural Western New York and Laura grew up on a farm here in Waynesboro. It is humbling for us to think of how blessed we are to each have a strong heritage of faith.

As teenagers, we were both involved in church activities, including foreign missions trips. Kevin helped to build a Christian Education building in Costa Rica, and Laura worked on a youth camp in Greece and a hospital in Papua New Guinea. After high school, we each decided to attend Houghton College, a Christian college in New York State.

We met near the end of our college experience and quickly realized that God intended us to be together. Laura graduated first and spent six months teaching in China. After Kevin's graduation, we were married and moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to begin Kevin's time in the U.S. Army. We also began our experience in ministry together—teaching Sunday School in a large church, volunteering with the work of our Army Chaplains, and serving poor families in the schools where Laura taught.

After leaving the Army, Kevin got a job in Florida. Shortly after moving, Ryan and then Rachel were born. We were active in a small Baptist church, and toted our infants along while we helped with the youth group and continued to teach Sunday School. Living through two hurricanes prompted us to move closer to home up north.

Anna and Sarah were born in Winchester, Virginia, where we had moved following a job transfer for Kevin. Our home in the country was a fun place for church friends to gather for bonfires, but we still wanted to be closer to family and friends back in Waynesboro.

We moved to Waynesboro in 2008 and began visiting a number of different churches. Grace really stood out to us because of the warmth of the congregation and the vision that Pastor Larry had for the future of its ministry.

Since that time, God has been very gracious to our family through a number of transitions. These have included job losses, the creation of Waynesboro Mothers of Faith, helping four children with school work, and the loss of family members and friends. We have not always understood these things, but we trust that God has a plan.

Looking to the future, it is hard to know exactly what God has in store for us—which makes us both curious and excited. We know that He has given us a burden for the lost both here and across the world, and that He may call us to serve in another context someday. For now, we are thankful that He has brought us to serve here at Grace, and we are thankful for the church family that surrounds us!