

## ***Meet the Member***

### ***Bill and Alice White Family***

If you ever have a chance to visit with Bill and Alice White, you will find them on their 10-acre property amidst a diverse number of animals including two labs (Dougie & Maggie), six stray cats in their barn who found a home during Covid, twenty chickens and four house cats; two strays that were promoted to in house living and two from the Humane Society. Along with that they have a large vegetable garden mostly harvested by now, but an activity they both enjoy. Part of the benefit of visiting with them was a dozen eggs and some Muscadine grapes. 😊



Bill grew up as a third generation Fort Millite and they now live in the home he grew up in on Whites Road named after his grandfather. After his graduation from the Citadel in Charleston, he received two master's degrees, one in Education from Wingate University in NC and the other in Education Leadership from Gardner-Webb University. He also has a license in textiles from Gardner-Webb. Alice's education is just as impressive. She has two undergrad degrees, one from the University of Richmond and the other from UNC, an internship at the University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree from Emory.

Bill worked for Milliken, a major producer of carpets, in both product management and quality control. In 1994 he went to work for Duracell in Lancaster through 2000 and then was on the staff for Forest Hill church for 5 years. Bill worshiped at Forest Hill for many years before working for them. This is where he met Alice and they were married on January 13, 1996. Today Bill is a social studies teacher at Banks Trail Middle School near their home.

Alice grew up in Roanoke, VA and has been a dietitian for Atrium Health since 1987 with a gap of five years to take care of their two young sons, Buck and Eli. Today, Buck is in his first year of medical school at MUSC after graduating from Clemson and Eli is a senior at Clemson studying finance.

Alice came to faith through her Sunday school class at 8 years old in a Presbyterian church in Roanoke. At the age of 13, there was a "lay renewal" service and for the first time she clearly understood the Holy Spirit's presence in her life. It added a whole new dimension to her daily walk and direction.

Bill's faith grew while attending Fort Mill high school. Their football chaplain, Art Beasley, was instrumental in guiding him into Fellowship of Christian Athletes where he made a profession of faith at one of their summer camps. Today, Bill gets up at five every morning for his daily devotions and quiet time, before traveling to the Fort Mill YMCA to swim a mile (72 laps) continuing his desire to stay healthy physically and spiritually.

As in most cases faith grows through adversity. In 1998, Bill and Alice lost their oldest son, Joseph, in utero after carrying him for seven months. It was a difficult time in their lives, but their faith in a caring loving God helped them through this difficult stretch. Another memorable moment just recently in 2020. Bill decided to help a friend, Rob, from his college years at the Citadel by donating a kidney. Both Rob's kidneys were failing, and he needed one to stay alive and go off daily dialysis. The kidney transplant was successful and during that process it stretched Bill's faith and was a reminder of how "awesome a God we have".

A favorite verse for Alice is Proverbs 3:5-6. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 is a favorite for Bill. *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future.”*

I’m not fond of poisonous snakes, but if you visit Bill on a Friday night during a home football game for Catawba Ridge high school you will find him setting off fireworks every time the Copperheads score a touchdown. Go Copperheads! Go Bill!

Written by Paul Veerman