

## MEET THE MEMBER

### Darrell and Beth Thomas

Both Darrell and Beth Thomas grew up on farms, Darrell in the Lynchburg area of TN and Beth in Franklin, KY. As children of farming families, they were both busy on the farm and active in the 4 H club. But it wasn't until college that they met. They attended Belmont College in Nashville and met after a chapel service during their freshman year. Four years later, Darrell and Beth were married.



At Belmont Beth received a college degree in elementary education with a minor in music focusing on piano. Darrell was pre-med and went on to attend medical school in Memphis, TN. While Darrell was busy with school, Beth became a dental assistant since teaching jobs were scarce at the time. While in Nashville attending college Darrell coached a girls' basketball team to two city championships, but it wasn't enough to dissuade Darrell from medicine.

After medical school they moved to Knoxville, TN where Darrell had a busy medical practice in Neurology specializing in muscle and nerve diseases working frequently with patients diagnosed with ALS, Muscular Dystrophy, and neuropathy. Beth was a stay-at-home mom, but also taught piano, managed the properties that they own in the Knoxville area and worked occasionally as a substitute teacher.

Growing up, Darrell was extremely active in boy scouts achieving the Eagle Scout award. He continued that passion for scouts with his son (also an Eagle Scout) and vows he will continue the scouting legacy with his grandsons. Darrell retired in late August 2020 after 30 years in private practice. However, for the month of July 2022, Darrell will be traveling to West Africa to work in a hospital through MedSend. ([www.medsend.org](http://www.medsend.org))

They have three children, Abby, Meghan (twin girls) and Derrick. Abby and her husband live nearby in Charlotte and have four of their 9 grandchildren. Meghan lives in San Antonio, TX with her husband and their two boys and two girls. Their son, Derrick moved back to Knoxville with his wife to start a career as a Prosthodontist. They have one child and another that is due in August 2022. (Prosthodontist is a dentist that specializes in bridges, crowns, and implants. It is not a dinosaur.)

Darrell is an avid cyclist and when they are not traveling, he is usually up early riding his bike. In 2018 Darrell had a serious bike accident suffering a brain injury with internal bleeding. Interestingly, because he was a neurologist, he checked himself into the hospital which ended up saving his life. There was a long recovery, but he is back to cycling. Beth loves to read, listen to classical music, and entertain guests.

Both Darrell and Beth are active at Eternal. They help with the preschoolers every month on Sunday mornings. Beth attends a women's community group on Tuesday and Darrell a men's study on Friday mornings. Together, they attend a Sunday evening community group that is for couples and singles.

While growing up on the farm, Darrell's family attended a small Baptist church, but later decided to attend the Methodist church in town. Unfortunately, the gospel was not preached in the church, and it wasn't until medical school and attending Adrian Rogers church (Bellevue Baptist Church) in Memphis that he heard and understood the Gospel. Darrell always had the feeling he was a child of God, but it wasn't until his last year of medical school that he was convicted to seek out his Sunday School teacher and pray with him to give his life to Christ. In Darrell's words, "I finally realized what it was to surrender to Christ."

Beth grew up attending a Missionary Baptist Church in the Franklin area and made a profession of faith at the age of 10 during a revival at the church. Being a rural area, the creek near the church sufficed for her baptism. However, she didn't start to grow in her faith until after she was married, and they began attending Bellevue Baptist Church. Ladies Bible studies including many Beth Moore series kept her in the Word and God used her three children and piano students to weave His spiritual tapestry into her life. "God has been so faithful to show me his perfect timing in my life situations."

One of Darrell's favorite verses is Psalm 34:1-3. *"I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together."*

One of Beth's favorites is Psalm 91:2. *"I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"*

Philippians 4:6-7 is another favorite. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Darrell and Beth are making up for lost travel during Covid. Overseas travel has been something that they welcome and have taken several trips already in 2022. When they are home, they are faithful attenders in church and in their community groups. When you see them introduce yourself. They have made many good friends at Eternal.

Written by Paul Veerman