

MEET THE MEMBER STEVE AND JENNY MEDLIN

Steve and Jenny grew up hundreds of miles apart in different states with different careers, but their paths crossed in 1988 at a large singles group at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. It started with a smile which led to long conversations that allowed their friendship to blossom. They were married a year later in 1989, but let's travel back in time and see how their spiritual journeys brought them to connect at that singles group.



Their faith walk started when they were in grade school and has continued throughout their lives. Steve was raised in Roanoke Rapids, NC where his family worshiped in a small country Baptist church. At 9 years old he attended a VBS program at his church and listened as the pastor explained the salvation story. Steve expressed an interest and prayed the sinner's prayer with the pastor. However, like many who make a profession of faith at an early age, his faith was up and down. In college, however, while participating in a Southern gospel singing group, his faith grew and became authentic. The other members of the band lived genuine lives of faith and that impacted Steve. His personal life and his early spiritual commitment started coming together.

Jenny was raised in Joliet, IL and attended a Presbyterian church and was active in Young Life and the church youth group in high school. She had a good friend from Indiana that invited her to attend a Christian camp sponsored by Taylor University during sixth grade. The camp counselor prayed with Jenny and her friend in her room one night and Jenny felt a peace come over her as she realized God cared for her personally. Jenny had been terribly homesick but slept soundly for the rest of her camp experience. It impacted Jenny to know that even for a young girl God answers prayer in profound yet simple ways.

Steve did his undergraduate work at East Carolina University and went on to receive his law degree from Campbell University in Raleigh in 1982. He spent 36 years as a Special Agent and attorney in the FBI and as a consultant for counterterrorism matters. Jenny graduated from Northern Illinois University and started her career in the jewelry business moving to Houston to manage a large jewelry store at the age of 23. Her confidence and skills were a platform for business success and thereafter she landed in Northern Virginia as a regional manager responsible for three jewelry stores. It was here that she attended that singles group that brought their two unique journeys together. Later she worked as an event planner for a group of government contractors and as executive assistant to the head of a private Christian school.

After their marriage, they spent 11 years living in the Toledo, OH area. During that time Jenny experienced two important events. Her kidneys were failing, and she became pregnant. This is not a good combination. They received conflicting medical advice and were counseled strongly to abort as Jenny's condition was potentially life threatening. However, the Lord spoke to Jenny and she had a peace about keeping her child. She continued carrying the baby even while on dialysis which was a rare combination that most of the medical community had never experienced. The Lord protected Jenny and her baby, and she delivered a premature but healthy baby boy. Soon after that her sister, Janelle Fights (also now a member at Eternal), volunteered to donate her kidney to Jenny and that saved her life. The kidney lasted till 2015 when Jenny had another successful transplant from a colleague at work. In all this

Steve and Jenny give God the credit and glory for bringing them through these difficult events that ultimately caused their faith and trust in Him to grow stronger.

Their miracle baby, Matthew, is now a Captain in the Army and is assigned to Civil Affairs with a specialty in Mandarin. He was married to Anna in 2021 and they, too, live lives of faith while stationed at Fort Bragg.

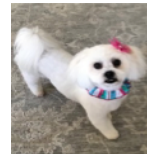
Steve and Jenny retired and moved to the Charlotte area to be closer to family in 2018 and started looking for a church to attend. They live in The Palisades in southwest Charlotte, but started commuting to a church in the South Park area. Following the Covid lockdowns they began to search for a church closer to their home. Encouraged by friends they started to attend Eternal in February 2022, and they became members in July 2022 along with Jenny's sister, Janelle Fights, Janelle's husband Konnie Fights, and their middle sister Joanne Wheeler. They are so thankful for the expository teaching from Scripture and appreciate the relaxed style of worship music. Steve and Jenny are the leaders of a Community Group for Eternal in their home.

Steve enjoys playing the guitar and weightlifting and assists in leading a Christian men's study group in their neighborhood. Jenny is a children's leader with the Community Bible Study organization, is active with the Palisades Women's Club, enjoys reading mysteries and shopping with friends. They both enjoy a good walk with their energetic three-year-old puppy named Gracie. She is a mix of Bichon Frise and Shih Tzu.

Proverbs 3:5-6 has provided them with much comfort during difficult times when the path didn't always seem clear.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

For Steve and Jenny, trusting that God is in control of their circumstances regardless of their understanding has given them much peace over the years.



Written by Paul Veerman