



EMILY & CLARKE

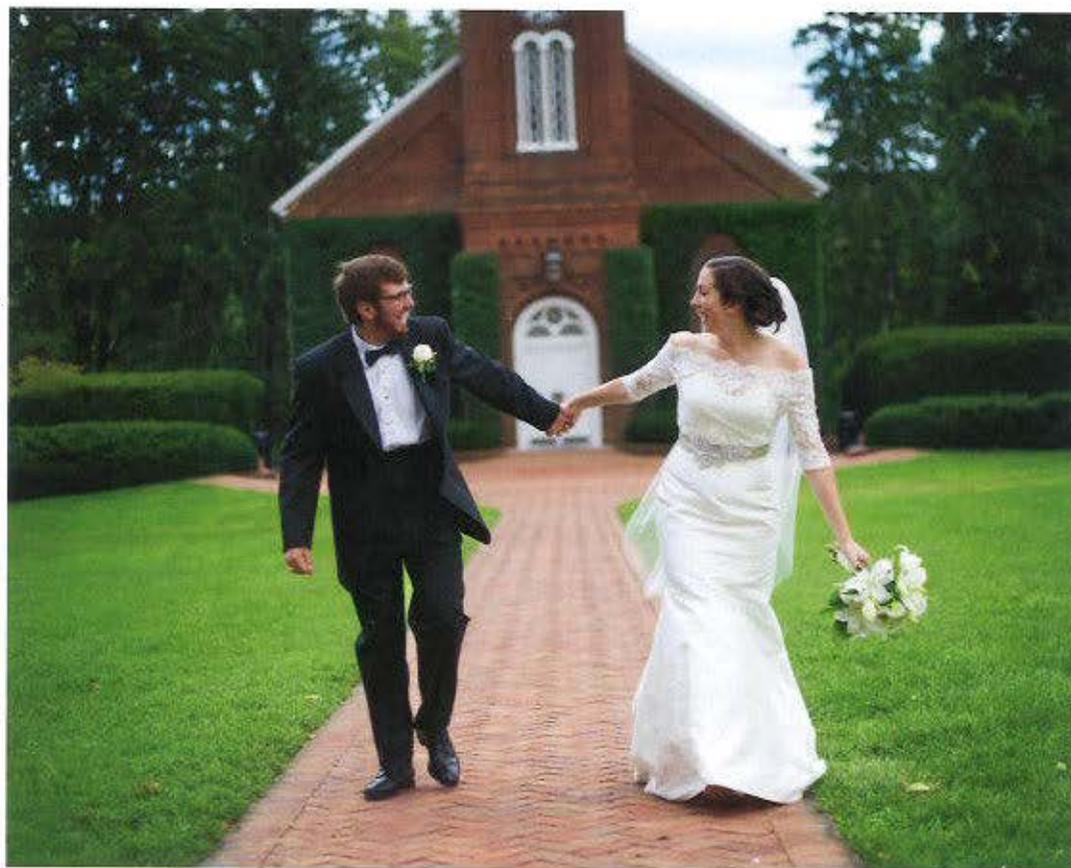


We want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to share a little bit about ourselves with you. We have the utmost respect and admiration for you as you consider adoption. We hope that this book will give you a sense of our hearts and who we are, as well as the life that we hope to share with a child.

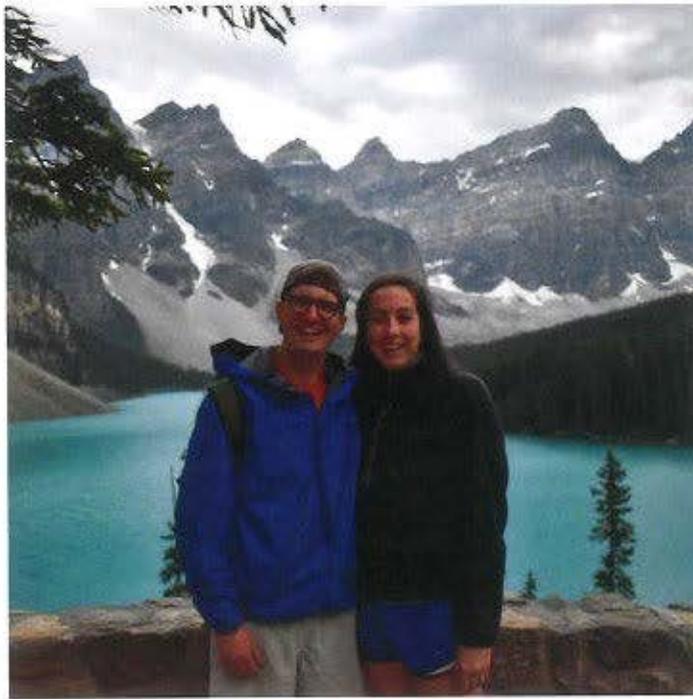
After dealing with infertility for many years, we grew our family for the first time through the incredible gift of adoption. Our daughter, Margot, was born in November 2019. It has been our greatest joy to be her parents and we are beyond thrilled to grow our family through another adoption. We thank you for considering us.



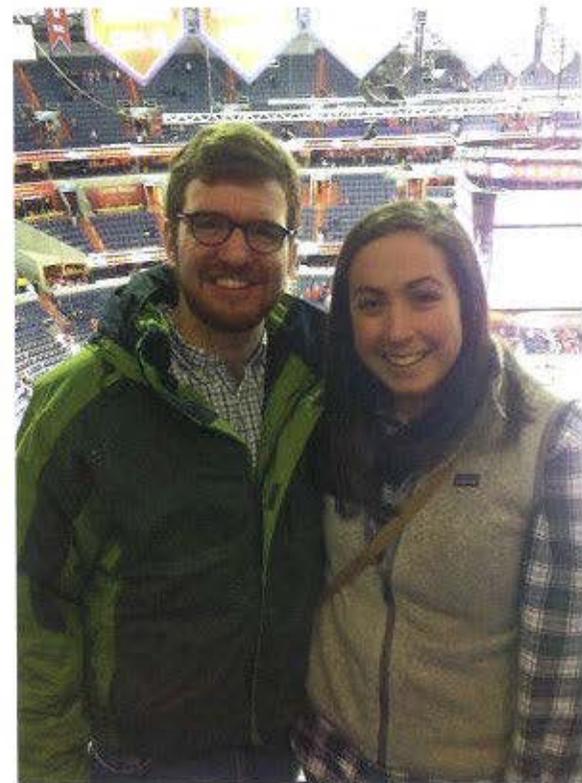
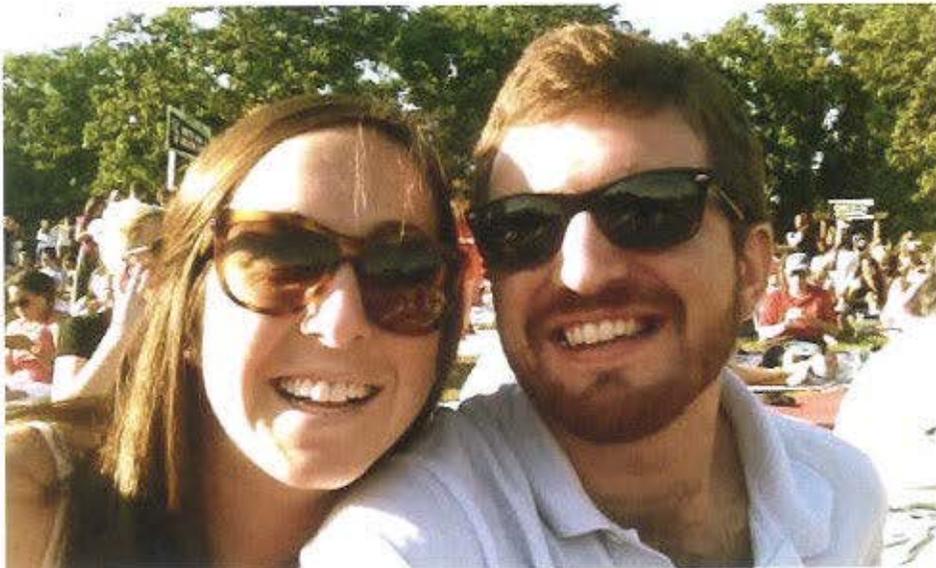
About Us



We met our freshman year of college, 13 years ago, at a Young Life Banquet (although Emily first spotted Clarke when he volunteered to sing in the freshman talent show). After a year long friendship, we began dating at the beginning of our sophomore year. It was clear from the beginning that we both had a quick wit, enjoyed thoughtful conversations, and really loved to dance. We dated for almost three years and were married at our university's chapel in September 2012.



We began our married life living in Washington, DC. There, Emily worked for a non-profit supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and later a healthcare consulting firm, while Clarke taught 5th and 6th grade English at a school in Northern Virginia. We loved all of the museums, history, and delicious food DC had to offer. Those first years of our marriage were sweet as we grew up together.





We have now called Tennessee home for the past seven years. Upon moving to Tennessee, Emily enrolled in law school and now works part-time at a law firm practicing health care law. While Emily was in school, Clarke worked in fundraising for a university, but then decided he also wanted to go to law school. Clarke has been practicing real estate law at a local law firm for several years.

On any given day you can catch us walking to the local farmer's market with Margot and our dog, Tenley, chasing Margot around a playground at a nearby park, having friends over for dinner, or jumping on our neighbors trampoline. We love to explore new places both in our city and more broadly, and take trips to visit friends and new places whenever we can.

We are both so grateful to be married to someone we so deeply respect and enjoy doing life with.

About Emily

Emily is warm, kind, and very smart. She has a calm confidence that makes her a natural leader, but combined with her compassion and softness towards those in pain, her personality is a true mixture of strength and beauty. Being married to a woman with her heart and mind has been the greatest privilege of my life.

Studying Psychology in college, Emily knew she wanted to work in the healthcare field somehow. After we graduated from college, she worked for a non-profit, helping those struggling with homelessness and mental illness to get on their feet. When the time was right, she transitioned to working for a healthcare consulting firm. A law degree offered the ideal middle ground for her to use her gifts of empathy and organization. Now a practicing part-time healthcare attorney, she helps clients solve their problems, while maintaining ample margin for all of the big and small moments with Margot.





Emily is an incredible mother. It has been a gift to watch her tenderly care for Margot. She is the person who Margot asks for when she's sad, and yet Emily is quick to get her giggling. Emily is constantly creating a home that inspires creativity and fun for Margot. I see her helping Margot grow into exactly the person that Margot was made to be. While Emily balances part-time work and parenting, there is no doubt that her priorities lie with being available for Margot.

Apart from being a mother, Emily is a phenomenal athlete and excelled in soccer and basketball throughout her childhood, as well as in college. She still loves sports and enjoys taking Margot to toddler swim classes every week. Besides sports, Emily is a dedicated reader, and I am repeatedly struck by the dedication with which she continues to educate herself - whether it be a celebrity memoir, thrilling fiction, or investigative journalism. More than these, Emily is a loyal and devoted friend and maintains several deep, close friendships with women outside our city that she has invested in for years.



About Clarke

Clarke is a sincere, trustworthy, and hilarious man to whom people are genuinely drawn and with whom everyone is comfortable. Clarke has a unique ability to navigate almost any social situation gracefully, making friends with just about everyone along the way. He is as good a conversationalist as he is a listener.

Clarke is an amazing husband. Clarke has always pursued his varied interests and passions, whether they be intellectual or personal, with an unparalleled warmth and charisma. Clarke's kindness has been acknowledged by those around him as he received awards specifically for his character and kindness throughout his education. After receiving his bachelor's degree with a double major in English and Geology, Clarke engaged his love of learning and natural leadership skills by becoming a 5th and 6th grade English teacher. He was adored by his students and particularly gifted at making learning fun. Now a practicing attorney, Clarke's intellect and kindness assists him in being excellent at his job.



Clarke does not take himself too seriously and his interests are deeply genuine and vast. In one week you could find him acing celebrity impressions, teaching Margot about ancient civilizations, dutifully training our dog, Tenley, and making up songs that cause Margot to explode in laughter.

Clarke is a wonderful father. He is always kind and warm when parenting Margot. He has a natural ability to make Margot feel seen and loved. Clarke especially delights in sharing new experiences with Margot, taking the time to explain to her what is happening and assuring her that he will always be with her. Every night, Clarke tells Margot, "You are my daughter, and I love you." Margot and I are so lucky to have him.



About Margot



Margot is our incredible, 2-year-old, daughter. Margot joined our family through adoption when she was born in November 2019. She has kept us smiling and laughing every day since.

Currently, Margot loves splashing in any available body of water, whether that be a pool, ocean, or the tub. She is equally enthused running in circles on a trampoline, snuggling up to read a book, or singing loudly along with the radio. She love to play chase and enjoys patting Tenley every chance she gets.



Being Margot's parents has brought us indescribable joy. We are forever grateful to her birth mother for entrusting her to us. We talk with Margot about her adoption and remind her how much she is loved by us and by her birth family.



We feel very excited, and ready, to welcome a new child into our family. We anticipate that our family will be complete with two children. We know Margot will be a great big sister. Since Clarke and I are both the younger of two siblings in our respective families, we are excited for the relationship a new younger sibling will have with Margot.



Our Home





We live in a large city in Tennessee that is rich with culture and activity. Our three-bedroom home allows for everyone to have their own space and provides plenty of room for playing and toys. We also have a big fenced in backyard where we grow a small garden and have spent hours watching Margot splash in a baby pool and run through the sprinkler.

Left to Right: Margot playing with our neighbors; Margot enjoying the slide at a nearby park



Our neighborhood is very child friendly. Our across-the-street neighbors are our dear friends, and they have three children with whom Margot frequently plays. We live within walking distance of several playgrounds, which we frequent several times a week. The local elementary school, a library, and a 3-mile greenway for walking and jogging are just blocks from our house. We frequent our city's zoo and the local botanical gardens.

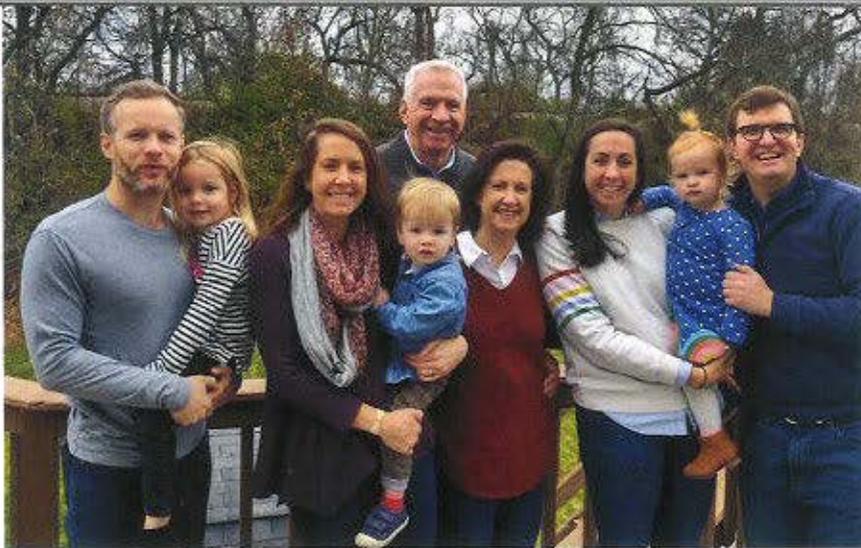




Tenley

Tenley is our beloved 6-year-old German Shepherd. She is ever by our side as we do housework, cook, and travel to see friends and family.

Tenley has taken a particular liking to Margot and can often be found calmly laying down while Margot climbs around her or tries to "give" her books. Tenley enjoys ice cubes, chasing squirrels, and lounging on the couch when she is not supposed to.



About Our Families

We are grateful to come from loving and supportive families. Both of our parents have been married for nearly 40 years and our families are thrilled with our decision to welcome another child into our family through the gift of adoption.



Clarke was raised in Atlanta, Georgia with one older brother, Ragan. Clarke grew up enjoying going to the beach in south Georgia, where he fondly remembers body surfing with his dad and brother.

Throughout high school, Clarke loved singing in a capella and running cross country.

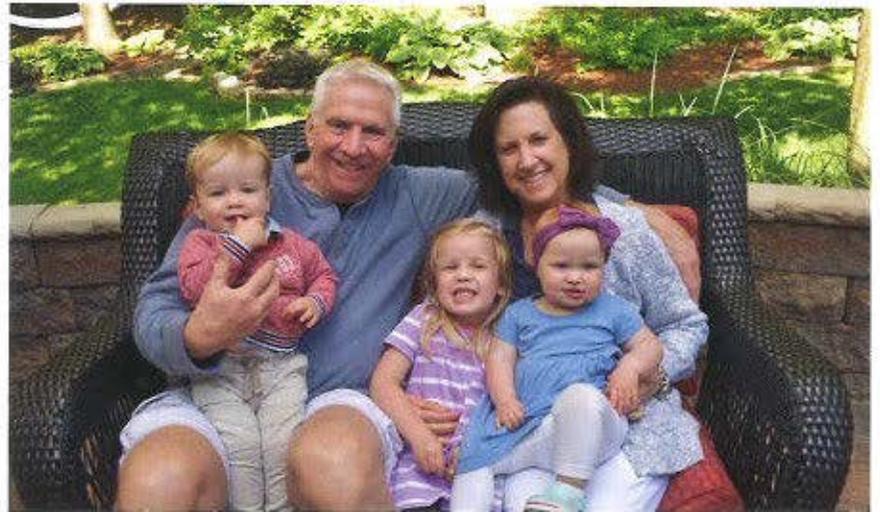
Clarke's parents enjoyed watching him perform in various theater productions and excel academically. They are very proud of all of his accomplishments. Granbee and Papa (as Clarke's parents are called) insist on weekly video chats with Margot and are her biggest cheerleaders. We make it down to Atlanta to visit on a regular basis.



Top: Emily's Family
Middle: Margot and Granbee at Margot's Birthday
Bottom: Emily with her Mom and Sister, Jesse

Emily grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her older sister, Jesse, is one of her dearest friends. Jesse and her husband, Robert, have two children, Matilda (4) and Bodie (2). Being an aunt and uncle to Matilda and Bodie has been so much fun. In fact, Emily was at the hospital when Matilda was born and visited Bodie when he was days old. Emily's parents delight in their role as grandparents. Juju and Gramps (as they are affectionately called) make frequent visits and are sorely missed by Margot when they leave.

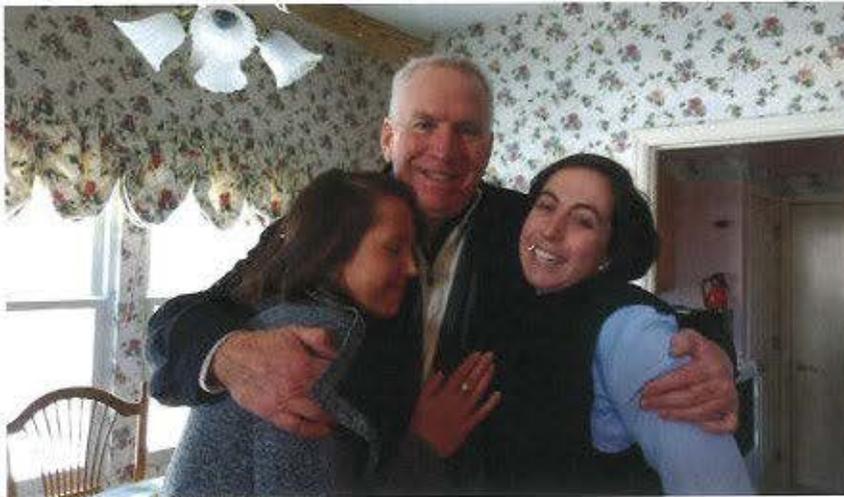
We spend as much time with our families as we can, including holidays and vacations. We enjoy spending New Years with Clarke's family at the beach in south Georgia and look forward to every Thanksgiving where all of Emily's extended family gathers to celebrate. Both of our families have been taking trips to the beach nearly every summer for most of our lives, and we are so thankful to be able to continue in those traditions even as we grow older. This time with our family is some of our most cherished of the year.



Top: Emily with her Sister and Dad
Middle: Clarke's Family on Vacation
Bottom: Emily's Parents, Gramps and Juju, with their grandchildren

More Pictures of Us

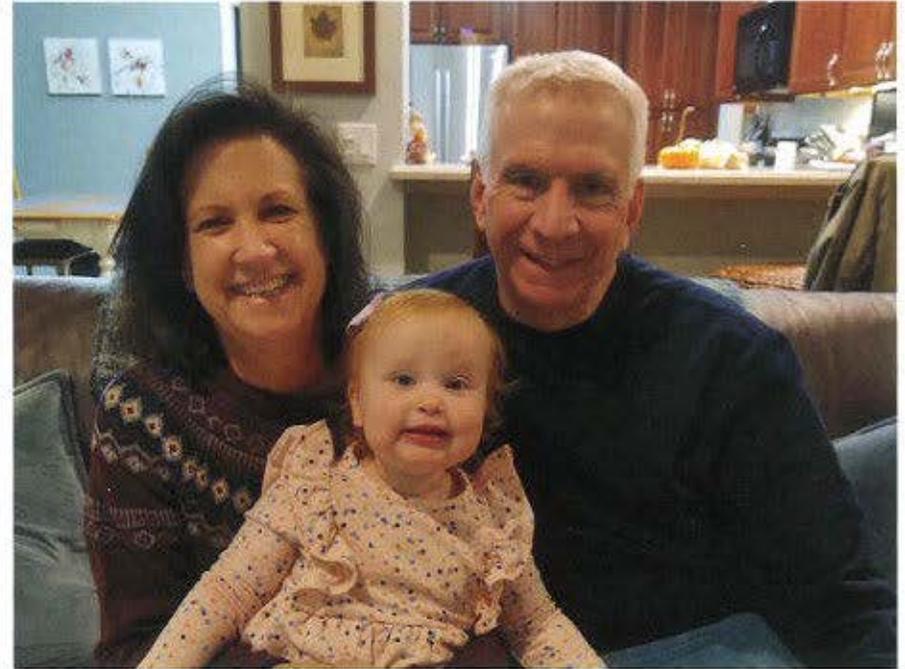
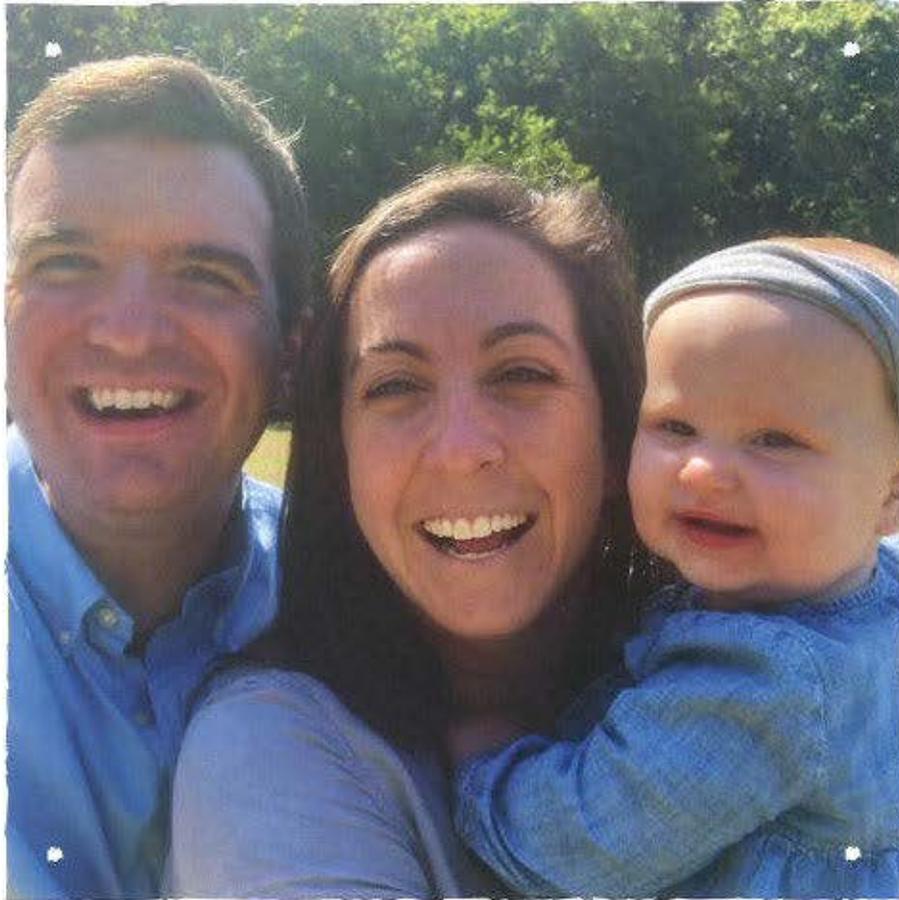
Clockwise from Top Left: Trip to the Zoo; Clarke and Emily; Matilda and Margot Scootering; Our family before Christmas Dinner 2020; Margot in the Snow; Emily and her sister after surprising her Dad on his birthday





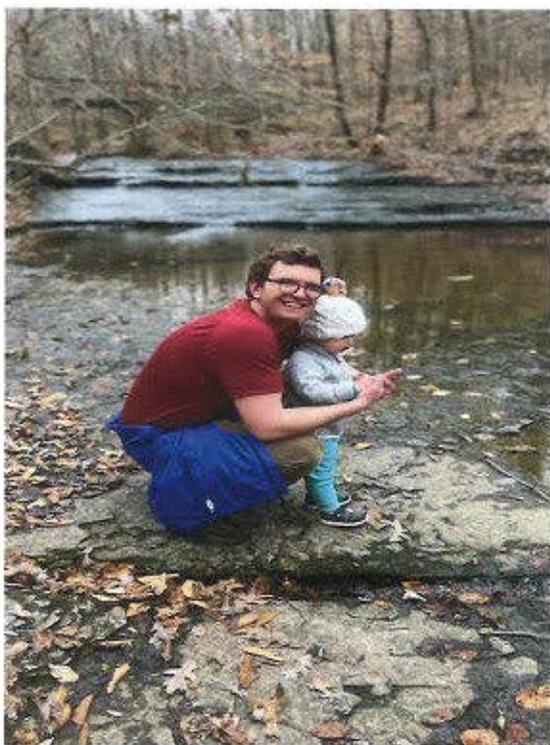
Clockwise from Top Left: Father's Day Picnic; Margot with her Great-Grandparents and Cousins; Margot on Halloween; Clarke with his Parents on our Wedding Day; Clarke and Margot sharing a snack on the beach; Getting Ice Cream with Emily's Sister's Family





Clockwise from Top Left: Family Picnic; Margot with Gramps and Juju; Margot in the Backyard Pool; Margot Hiding with her Stuffed Animals; Margot LOVES the beach





Clockwise from Top Left:
Clarke and Margot by the
Creek; Margot loves
baking; Emily and Margot
eating some of Matilda's
4th Birthday cake;
Cousins watching the
train display

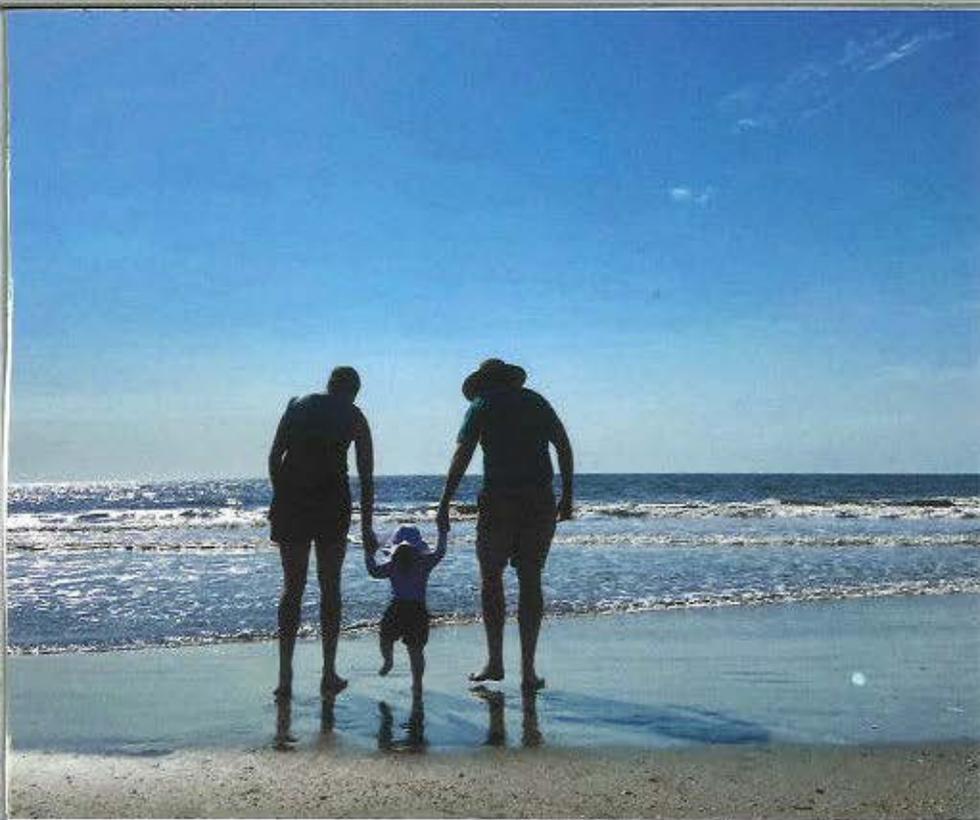


Clockwise from
Top Left: At the
beach last summer
with Emily's entire
family; Emily and
Margot running
around in a nearby
park; Watching our
neighbor's baseball
team; Clarke and
Margot enjoying
some sites at the
zoo

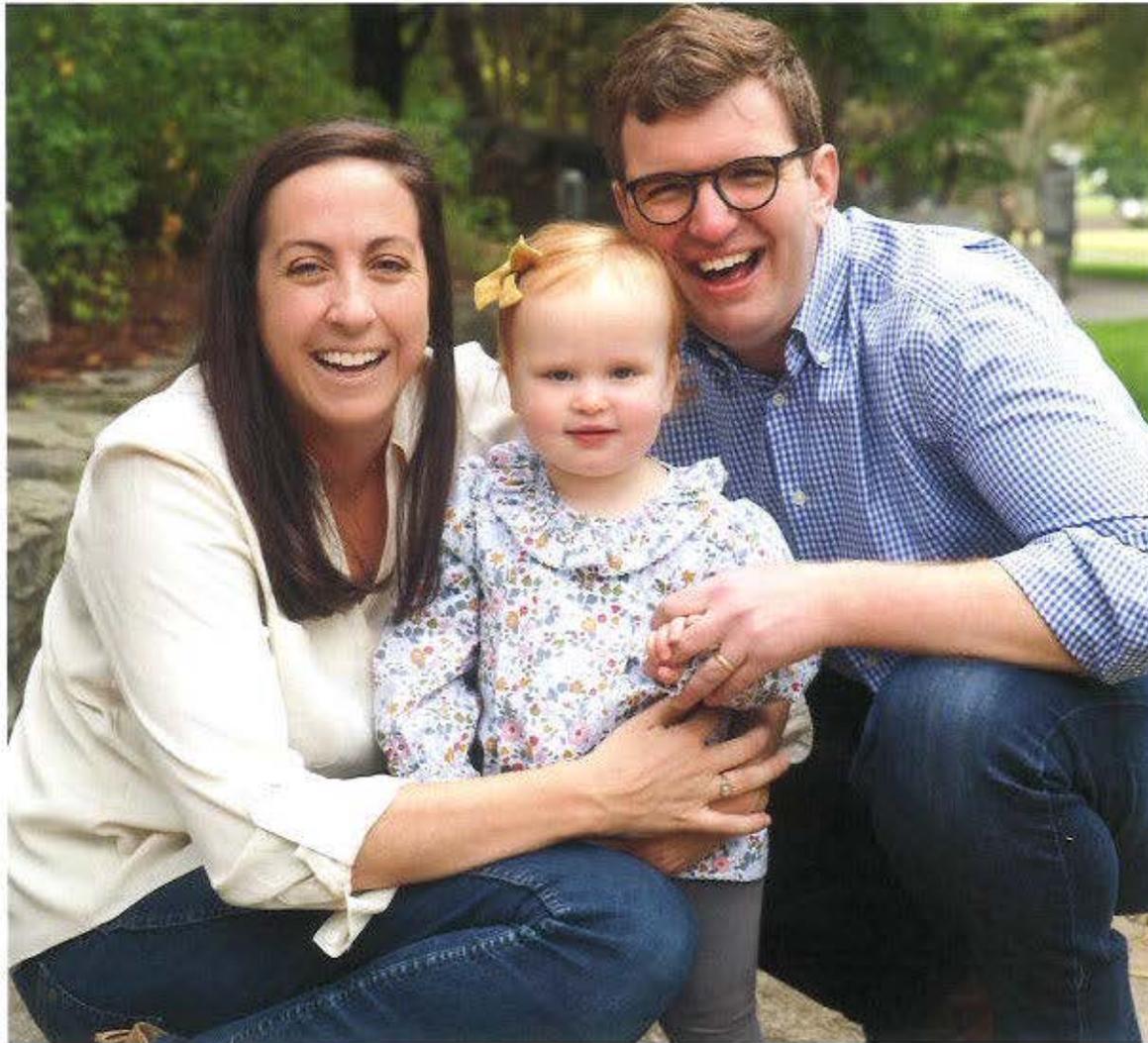


Clockwise from Top
Left on Next Page:
Family at the
Beach; Emily's
immediate family
and paternal
grandmother on
her parents' porch;
Margot running
through the Zoo;
Margot and Clarke





Our Future



We are so grateful to have shared parts of our hearts and lives with you on these pages. We hope and pray that you might consider us as parents for your baby. As parents, we desire to love your son or daughter with all that we have and all that we are. We would raise your child in a loving and nurturing home with Christian values. We are thankful to have the full support of our families and friends in adopting. Your child will be encouraged, celebrated, and surrounded in love throughout their life.

We look forward to the day when God blesses us with another child to love forever. Thank you for the love and strength you are displaying through the gift of adoption.

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