



Love to Share

James and Kate ID 2085478

Dear Birthmother,

Thank you for considering adoption as you make a plan for your baby. We cannot begin to understand all of the emotions that you have experienced and continue to experience as you make this decision. Although we don't know your name or the path you have traveled to get to this point, we have been praying that you will find peace as you make plans for both your future and the future of your child. To us, you are courageous and should we be part of your plan, be assured that your child will know what a superhero you are in our lives. We know that you love your child and want only what is best for him or her (or them!). We thank you for the opportunity to give you an idea of our life through these pages. We love each other deeply and can't wait to share that love with another child.



We are James and Kate, and we have lived near the coast of South Carolina for sixteen years. James is forty-one and Kate is forty. We were born and raised in the same hometown, but did not meet each other until late in high school. We dated throughout college and have been married for seventeen years. Our adoption journey began when it became clear that carrying a pregnancy could potentially be dangerous for both Kate and a baby. We are so blessed to have been chosen to parent our son Barnes who was born in 2014. He is now a bright, adventurous, active second grader and brings unmeasurable joy to our family. We have spent a lot of time praying and thinking about another adoption and it feels right for our family.

We are a couple with great faith in God. We both grew up in homes where faith was important, and our parents modeled unconditional love and moral integrity. James is a minister in a Protestant church and works primarily with church youth. Kate does not work in the ministry, but personal faith plays an important role in her job as a social worker at a local hospital working primarily with adults with life limiting illnesses.

For us, family is a priority. It is important that we do our jobs well, but that is secondary to caring for each other and our household. We share with each other joys and challenges from our days. We value shared time off and make sure we always set aside free time in our calendars for each other. Our families of origin live about two hours away in the same town, and we talk and visit often, as well as enjoy holidays together. It is important to us to be nearby to help care for our parents should they need it in the future. We have friends and coworkers who loved and cared for us through our first adoption journey and are so excited for us as we embark on this journey.

Love,

James and Kate

Barnes's first international trip to Vancouver when he was 10 months old.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, we explored every park in our county. This is James and Barnes on a trail at one of our favorites.

We enjoyed a boat trip with some friendly pirates during a trip to Disney World in 2019.



We loved crossing the country to attend the wedding of a cousin on a ranch in Arizona.



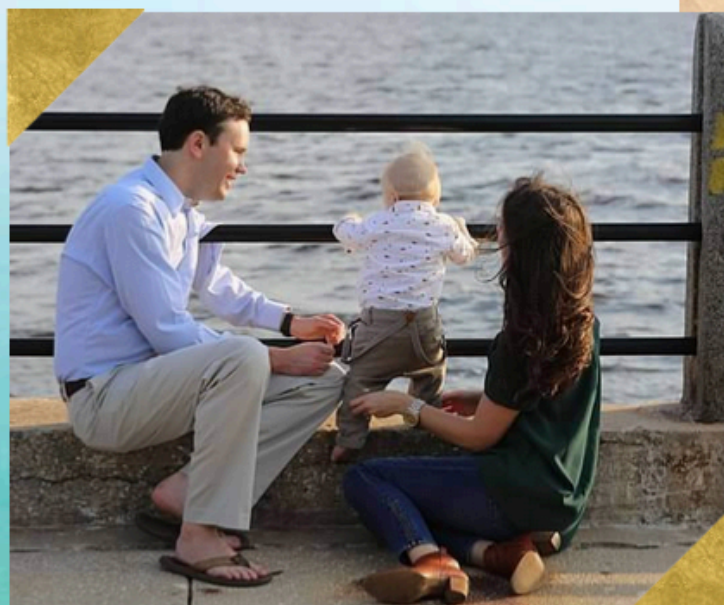
Enjoying our friend's wedding in Washington DC.



Hanging out at home with all of Barnes's favorite characters, mainly Baby Yoda.



Our sweet boy being a cheese.



Family Photos - 2015. Barnes has always loved climbing!

About James



My parents still live in the house that I grew up in. My childhood was filled with Lego, forts in the living room and backyard, and trips to the lake with my family. As I got older, I spent my free time playing tennis and trading baseball cards.

My college years were filled with football games, ultimate Frisbee, and trips to see Kate. After receiving Civil Engineering and Master of Divinity degrees, I accepted a call to serve Christ through a church. While my work involves people of all ages, I specifically enjoy ministering to the youth and children in our congregation and community.

In my free time, I love playing tennis, golf, guitar, and cards with my friends. I cheer on the Clemson Tigers in all sports. Recently I started participating in an armchair treasure hunt and love to explore parks and historical locations with Barnes and look for clues. It is a joy to baptize and nurture the many children in my church and I am excited about adding another member to our family.

By Kate

It was James' sense of fun and silly humor that first caught my attention all those many years ago. He is the best part of my day, every day. I am so proud of the work he does with the youth of our church, as he has worked hard to make sure the middle and high schoolers feel like they are an important part of the congregation. He is caring and responsible and is always appreciative. His rational thinking and practical nature balance my more emotional personality in a good way. He is a wonderful father and has a gift for turning around Barnes's bad moods. James took on a majority of the childcare during the 2020 pandemic lockdown while I worked at the hospital. I'm not sure how he managed working from home and entertaining Barnes day to day, but he did it with grace and good humor.



About Kate

I was born and lived in the same town until I left for college. My favorite memories from my childhood are of days at the ballet studio and time on the water with my family and friends. After studying psychology and receiving a Masters in Social Work, I started my career as a social worker with a hospice agency and then transitioned to my current role with a Palliative Care team at a large hospital. In this role I provide support and comfort for families during a difficult time in their lives.

My favorite ways to relax are to read, listen to podcasts, walk and cook a good meal. I love to travel and my most frequent destination is the Washington DC to see my best friends. A good day for me would be spent sitting on the beach with friends and family.

I have loved James for over half my life. I am blessed by strong relationships with my parents and brother. My friends are important to me, and I want to be a good friend to them. James and I have a fantastic support network that will be there for us as we look forward to adding to our family.



By James

It was Kate's beauty, intelligence, and easy going personality that caught my attention when we first met. And twenty-four years later, it's those qualities that still attract me to her today. Kate is also the most loving and caring person I know. I see her love and care in the way she goes about her Palliative Care social work, the way she relates to her friends and extended family, the way she cares for our son Barnes, and the way she cares for me! I cannot wait to experience her sharing this love and care with another child.

About Us



This is the day Kate moved to college.



Our wedding day was so much fun. Family and friends traveled from all over the country for a day full of love.



Twice it has happened that James was asked to officiate a wedding of our close friends and Kate was a bridesmaid. Its a joy to be a part of our friends starting a new phase of life.

We went on our first date the Friday before Kate graduated from high school. We dated long distance for four years in college on opposite ends of the state. After Kate graduated college, she moved to Georgia where James was already in graduate school. James proposed at our favorite park that November, and we were married in 2005. After we both completed graduate school, James' job brought us to the coast of South Carolina in 2006, where we happily live today and enjoy walks in our neighborhood, dinners out, and time with Barnes. We have been together for twenty-two years!

About Barnes



Barnes is our active, fun, sweet seven year-old son. He loves creating art, playing with LEGO, building with blocks and visiting all of our nearby playgrounds. Barnes loves to climb anything, even things not meant for climbing. He wants to be a ninja one day. Barnes is currently in second grade at a local public school and is really thriving with new challenges. Barnes joined our family through the gift of adoption in 2014. It was a joy to have brought him home from the hospital following his birth. Parenting Barnes has been the greatest gift of our lives. We talk about his adoption frequently and he knows that his birthmother loves him and chose us to be his parents.

About Home



Beckley (15 years old)



Hobbes
(born June 2022)

We fell in love with our ranch home as soon as we opened the door with our realtor. Our home was built in 1952 and has fun details that make it unique. There is not a surface in our home that didn't get a fresh coat of paint or a good cleaning when we moved in and we continue to make improvements to fit our family. Our neighborhood is bordered by two rivers and there is a playground near our house along with a boat landing and sports fields. We love being in walking distance to a few restaurants and even a movie theater. It's a great neighborhood that is close to the city and our work places. We have been happy here for 16 years.



Barnes's room



Living Room



About Daily Life



During the week, we are all up early to get ready for school and work. Barnes is currently in second grade at a school nearby our workplaces. James is mostly in charge of carpool and picks Barnes up right after school so they can do homework and play at a local playground or at home. In the evenings we try to have some playtime with Barnes before stories and bed. James sometimes has meetings for work in the evenings and Kate cooks dinner. We eat as a family as often as possible, but there are days when we cannot. On the weekends, we either spend time around the house or exploring the parks and playgrounds around our beautiful town. We travel a few hours to see our families about once a month. James works on Sundays so that is usually a day for Kate and Barnes to find something fun to do around town or run errands, often both!



Barnes isn't still often, but he loves any time Beckley will cuddle with him.



First day of kindergarten during the COVID-19 pandemic



Our living room is given over to LEGO creating most days.

About Kate's Family



Top: Kate and her dad, David, in 2020
Bottom: Extended family at Matt and Annie's wedding in 2019. James officiated and Barnes was the ringbearer.



In 2020, we invited Kate's parents to join our yearly family photos. It is so special to have these wonderful photos of Kate's dad especially. His health significantly worsened in 2021 and he passed away in early 2022.



Top: Barnes and Uncle Matt, who prefers to be called just Matt.
Bottom: Barnes and Grandpa in 2019. This is one of our favorite pictures of the two of them.

Matt, Annie and Teddy. We are so excited to meet the next member of our family, a niece due in January 2023.



The birth of Teddy coincide with a phase in life where Barnes didn't want his picture taken. Luckily he relented one day and Annie captured this great picture of the cousins.



Above: Kate bought her mom tickets to see Alvin Ailey, our favorite dance company in 2021

Below: Matt and Kate at Matt's wedding in 2019



I grew up my whole life in the same town with my family. My mother, Marybeth is retired. There are many things that I admire about my mom, and one of her best qualities is how she is such a thoughtful and good friend to both me and her friends. My father, David, died in March 2022 due to dementia. Growing up I could call my dad at any time from anywhere and he would come to help me if I asked. I hope to be as dependable and generous with my own children. My younger brother, Matt, lives with his wife, Annie, in the same town where we grew up. They welcomed Teddy, our first nephew, in July 2021, and are expecting a daughter in January 2023. I don't have any memories that don't include Matt (we are 22 months apart in age) and we talk on the phone at least once a week.

About James' Family

My dad, Tim, worked in state government before he retired. He is a great musician and plays many instruments including the guitar and drums. He passed down his passion for playing the guitar to me and has also taught guitar classes to children at a church in his community. Growing up I fondly remember summer nights spent playing tennis with my dad and trips for dessert at Sonic after the match was over. I love my dad's sense of humor and carefree personality.

My mom, Mary, was an elementary school teacher for many years before beginning retirement. Now her days are filled with walks, artwork, and good books. During my childhood, my mom lovingly drove me around the state for tennis tournaments and cheered me on. I still remember the way she would always prepare healthy food to get me ready for my tennis matches. I love the way my mom cares for others and the way she cares for herself.

My brother, Lee, and I shared a passion for tennis growing up, although he was always more successful in his tournaments. Now our common love of music always leads to impromptu jam sessions during our family get-togethers. I love my brother's sense of social responsibility and willingness to support a cause that he believes in.



Top: James' parents attended Barnes' kindergarten graduation.

Bottom Left: James' mom Mary loves story time with Barnes.

Bottom Right: James' dad Tim celebrates Barnes' love for Lego.



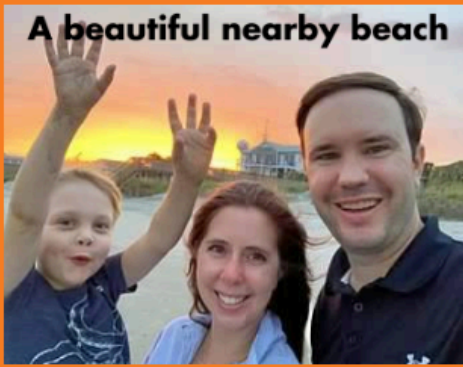


Clockwise from top right: James enjoys a visit with his brother Lee in Los Angeles; James' parents Tim and Mary attend his Doctor of Ministry graduation; Tim and Mary share Barnes' passion for artwork; three generations enjoy a visit to the zoo; Barnes loves climbing - even on his Papa!



About Our Community

A beautiful nearby beach



Our friends and extended family are integral to our lives. They have been supportive as we have parented Barnes and are excited to see us welcome another child into our family. James has had the honor of officiating weddings for some of our closest friends and Kate's brother and wife. Barnes's class at school is full of sweet friends and it is fun to run into them around town.

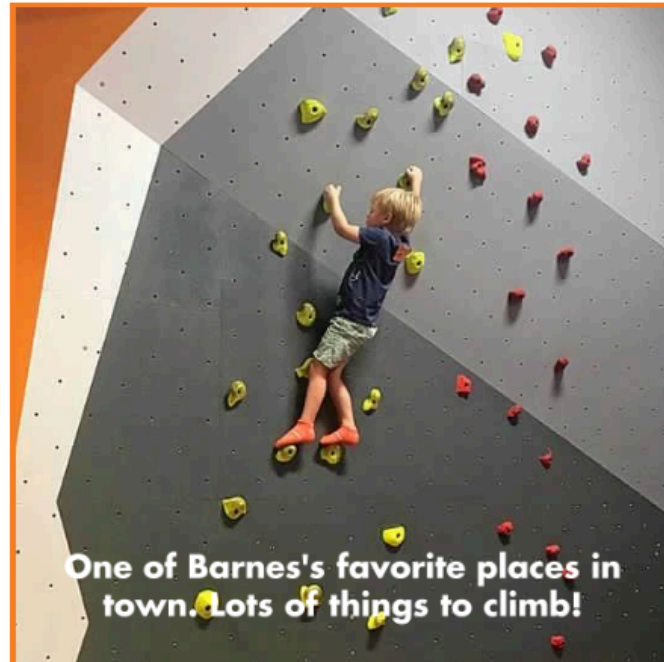
We love living near the coast of South Carolina. There are some days here that it is so pretty it hurts your eyes. During 2020, we explored almost every county park in our area with Barnes. Kate, especially, loves being a short car ride from several beaches. There are lots of fun playgrounds for Barnes to explore and we often drive to his favorites on the weekend.

Our church family ranges from young families like ours to elderly members who have been in the church since their childhoods. It is special to witness how Barnes is cared for and nurtured in his faith by wonderful Sunday school teachers and other volunteers. We know that we aren't alone in raising Barnes to be a good and fruitful member of society.

James and Kate's brother, celebrating Matt's wedding



One of Barnes's favorite places in town. Lots of things to climb!



Silly friends





Meeting a friend's baby, Baltimore MD



James officiating Kate's BFF's wedding-2019



Nanny sharing with friends was a blessing for Barnes's preschool years.



Catching up with friends at wedding is always fun.



Kate's cousins are all close in age and have young children themselves. It is fun to be together bc we all live in different parts of the US



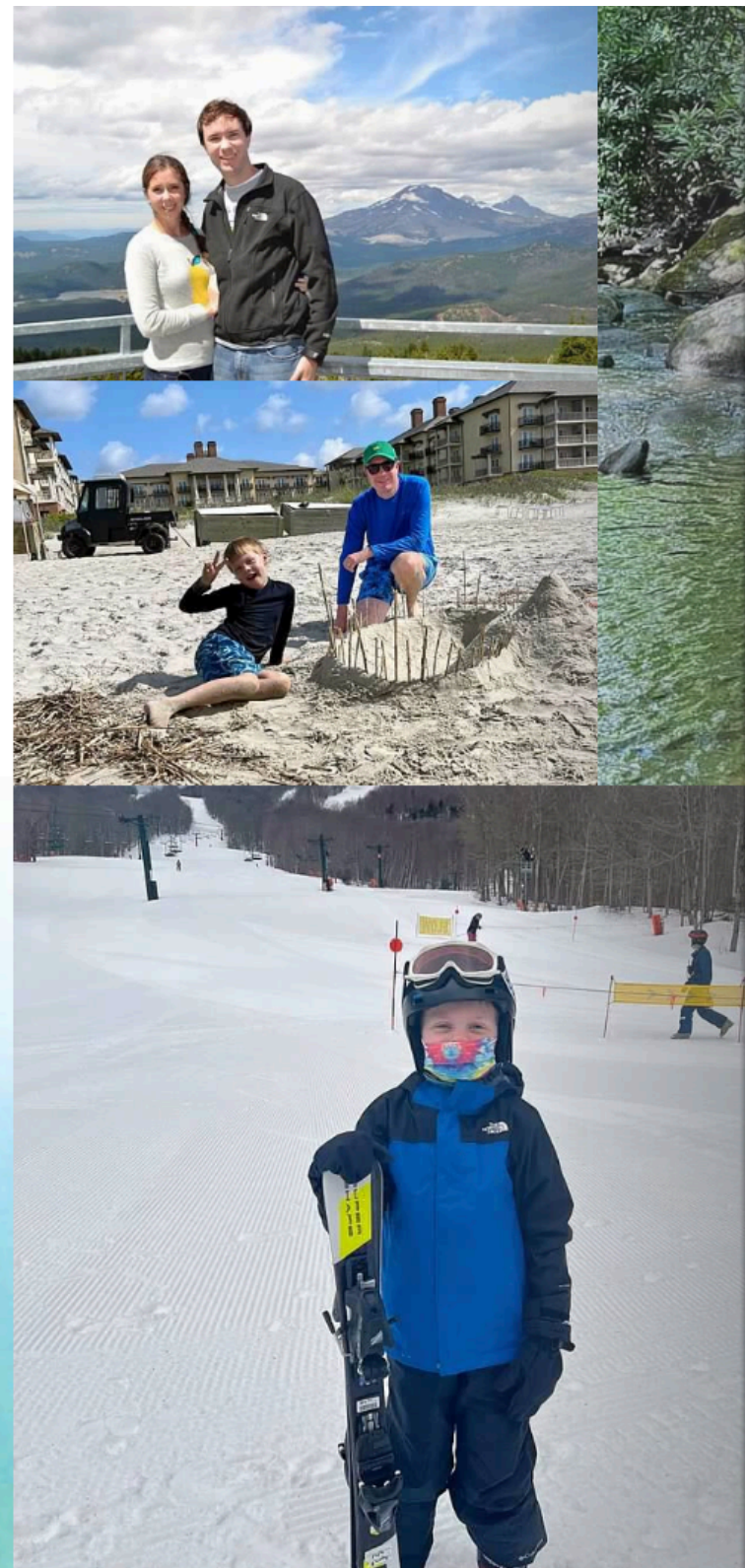
Toasting our friends' new marriage



Attending a work conference with friends makes it more fun!

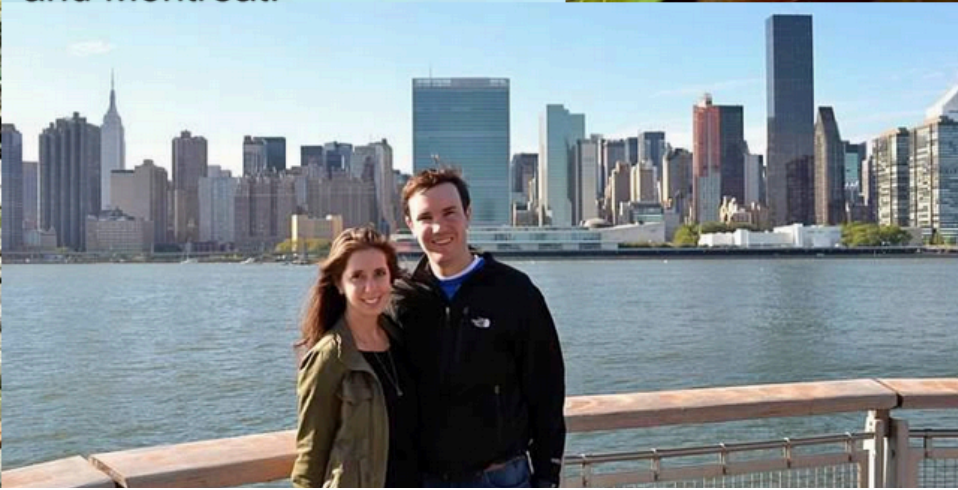
About Travel

One of the things that we love to do and plan to continue to prioritize for our family is travel. We are lucky enough to have friends and family in some of the most fun cities in the country. We have enjoyed visits to San Francisco, Seattle, New York City, Tucson, and Washington DC over the past few years. Barnes was even an international traveler at age 10 months, when we visited Vancouver BC during a visit to the Pacific Northwest for a family wedding. Another favorite destination for us as a family has been Disney World. The best part of vacations is the chance to be together as a family without the distractions of work and household chores. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic put a pause on traveling, but we are looking forward to another trip to Disney World, skiing in Vermont and Kate and James going on a Grand Canyon rafting adventure. We have dreams of planning a trip to Europe in the next few years. In addition, Kate has an African safari trip on her lifetime bucket list and also wants to take Barnes and James back to Nosara, Costa Rica where she went on a girls trip in summer 2019. James is interested in a 1980's North American treasure hunt and has a list of twelve cities he plans to visit and explore with Barnes before he turns 18.





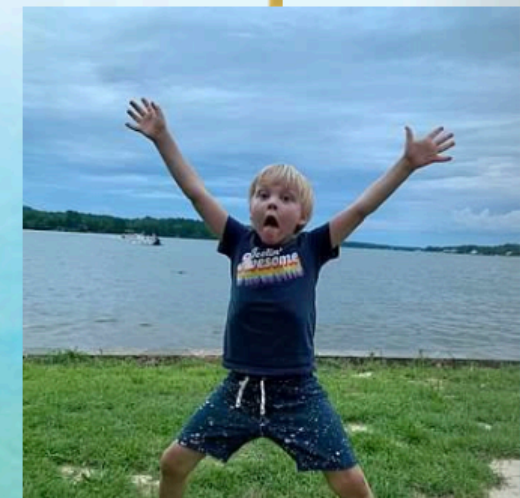
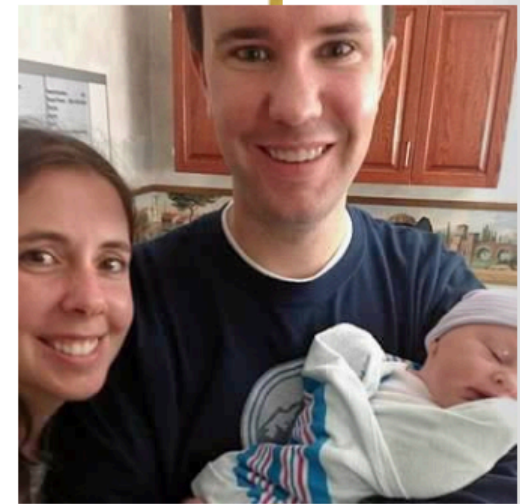
Clockwise from Top Right:
Disney World's Animal
Kingdom, Costa Rica, New
York City, Asheville,
Vermont, Kiawah, Seattle,
and Montreat.



About Parenting

Arriving at the hospital the night that Barnes was born both exciting and nerve-racking. We were so excited to become parents and so thankful that Barnes's birthmother chose us to parent her son. Our hope for Barnes and any other children we parent is that they grow up happy, healthy, and whole. We want to foster an environment where Barnes feels comfortable to be the person he is and know that we love him unconditionally. For our children, we want them to have access to good education and take school seriously, but it is not required that they make all A's. We hope for them to find their way in the world standing on their own two feet one day, knowing that we are always there to support them in any way practical.

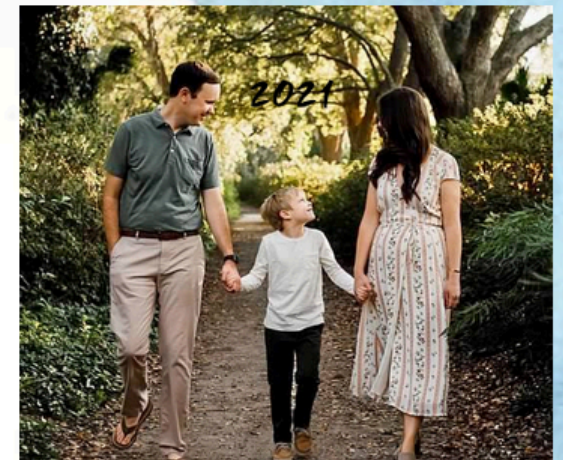
In all honesty, thinking about how to integrate birthparents into the lives of our adopted children was difficult to visualize prior to adoption. The reality of parenting an adopted child has helped us to see that maintaining communication with birth families is important to a child. There is a role and relationship distinct from ours as adoptive parents that our children may need with their birth families. We want to support and foster that relationship in ways that contribute to the healthy development of a sense of identity for our children.



Top: Our first family photo at the hospital the night Barnes was born.

Middle: James baptizing Barnes at our church

Bottom: Barnes being Barnes

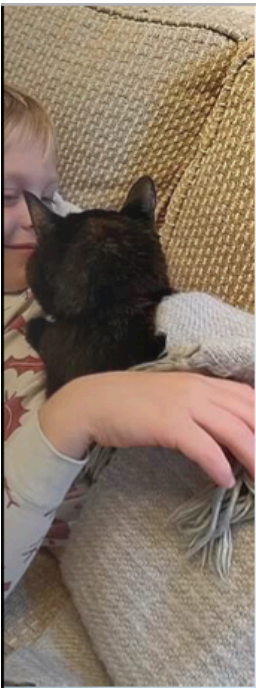


We have a tradition of having a professional photographer take family photos each Fall. These are some of our favorites from over the years.



Clockwise from top left: During family photos in 2021 Barnes insisted on a photo on James's shoulders; Kate and Barnes share a laugh during dinner out; Barnes and Beckley snuggle on the couch; Kate and Barnes exploring a city; James and Barnes cheesing for family photos; we love dressing up for Halloween.





Please know that we hold you in our hearts and prayers as you consider adoption for your child.



Top: Kate and Barnes find the bedtime story quite funny.

Middle left: Kate and Barnes take a lighthearted selfie.



Middle right: Barnes is our favorite superhero.

Bottom: Barnes loves to build!

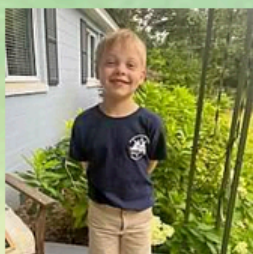


A Final Note

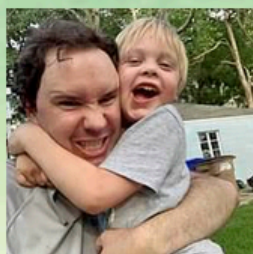


We appreciate the time you took to learn a little more about us. We want you to know that we look forward to growing our family with adoption. It's our goal to give our children the type of family that we had growing up. A family that is open, loving, and supportive in all things. We enjoy our life now, but there is such a large place for another child in our hearts and lives. We cannot wait to share the things that we love with our children: God, family, friends, and traveling to name a few.

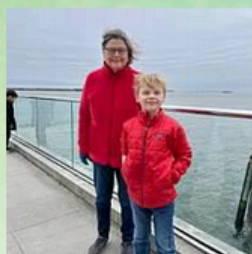
A G L I M P S E



First day of 2nd grade



Barnes and James giving good hugs



Barnes and Grandma at the aquarium



One of the many towers Barnes built



Hiking in the NC mountains



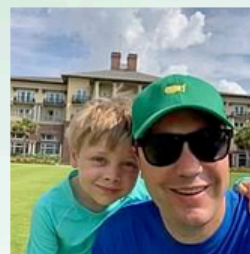
Barnes and Mimi snuggling



James loves to play guitar



We are so lucky to live near the beach



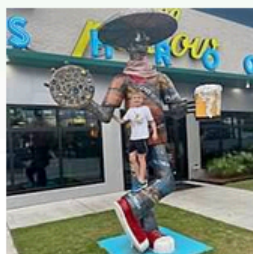
One of our favorite vacation spots



Matching PJs at Christmas is a tradition



Family day at a local theater



Barnes can always find something to climb!



Barnes and Teddy at Grandmas



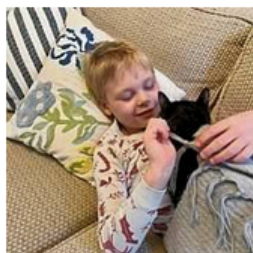
Kate and her best friend, Anne



Mimi, Papa and Barnes at the Holiday Lights



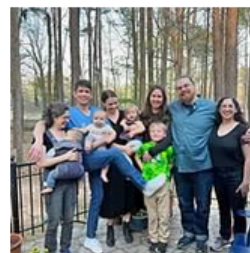
Like we said, always climbing something!



Beckley loves Barnes more as he gets older



Easter Sunday



All of Kate's cousins and their kids



When his party was cancelled due to weather, Barnes got a huge cake to himself!

A T O U R L I V E S

FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name: James Occupation: Minister Education: BS in Civil Engineering Masters in Divinity Doctorate in Ministry Religion: Presbyterian Date of Birth: 11/2/1980 Hair Color: Brown Eye Color: Blue Height: 6ft 3in	Mother's Name: Kate Occupation: Social Worker Education: BS in Psychology Masters of Social Work Religion: Presbyterian Date of Birth: 7/9/1982 Hair Color: Brown Eye Color: Brown Height: 5ft 8in
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Date of Marriage: July 23, 2005

Children: Henry Barnes was born 11/4/2014 and joined our family through the gift of adoption. He is incredibly active and loving. He enjoys LEGO, playing games and climbing anything that is safe.

Interests and Hobbies: We love to eat out together, explore our local parks and museums, and travel. James enjoys history and puzzles. His current hobby is working with a local bike sharing program to keep the bikes charged and moved to the right place. Kate loves to walk with friends or alone, read, listen to podcasts and cook. She enjoys the beach and planning travel to see friends and new places.

Home: Our home was built in 1952 and is ranch style. We have taken pride in renovating it, the major projects being the bathrooms and kitchen. Our home is colorful and we have a lot of art and pictures on the wall. It is located in an older neighborhood with homes ranging from small bungalows to million dollar estates on the water. The neighborhood has a lot of trees, including a street that is called the avenue of oaks. We are walking distance from some restaurants, an independent movie theater and a weekend farmer's market.

Pets: Beckley is our 15 year old cat. She is slowing down, but has always been very sweet and friendly. Hobbes is our lab mix puppy whom we got from a local rescue at 4 months old in October 2022. He settled in quickly and is a great addition to our household.

Openness to birthparents: We hope to have an open relationship where we share photos and updates regularly. We will ensure that our children know that they are adopted and our hope is that they will have a relationship with their birthparents. We want the relationship to be child-centered and always focused on what is best and most comfortable for our children. We are open this including regular phone contact, letters, and visits.

Childcare Plans: After our parental leave ends and we return to our jobs, we hope to be able to place our child in one of two choices of childcare centers that are close to our home. If this is not a possibility because of limited space, we will plan on either nanny-sharing with friends or hiring an in home childcare provider.

