

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## LAUREN HUDSON '03

by Doji Dove

LAUREN HUDSON has been around CCS since the beginning. “Since my dad, Mark Niehls, founded CCS, I attended before I was even school-aged.” Some of her earliest memories are from the original location, in the Coventry Hills Church of Christ building. Her fondest memories from the early years include the “graduation” ceremonies, learning to tie her shoes, and playing on the playground!

Lauren considers her time and experiences at CCS some of her most formative. “CCS was challenging, yet fun; small, but kingdom-minded. I felt like I was one step ahead of my peers in college because I’d already learned how to research, write reports, work experiments, and communicate effectively.” Additionally, she appreciated the personalized attention and instruction. Lauren fondly remembers lock-ins, formals, sports, class trips, and being taught to focus on what is important. “It’s more than just a school; it’s a family.”

After graduating from CCS in 2003, Lauren received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology from Lipscomb University. While there, she met her husband, Matt. Matt’s humor and boldness drew her to him, but his ability to challenge her spiritually also intrigued her. “One

foundational aspect of our relationship is that we were friends before we dated! He’s still my best friend and always will be! I can’t believe God has allowed us to walk alongside each other in life and in ministry. I have been unbelievably blessed!”

The roles of wife and mother are Lauren’s greatest joys. She and Matt have been married for almost 7 years, have a son, Shapiro (1½), and are expecting a baby boy in January. Family time is one of their favorite activities. Lately, they’ve been doing a lot of fall activities, such as picking pumpkins, visiting fall festivals, and trick-or-treating.

Currently, Lauren works at Rescue House Church, where Matt is the lead pastor. They had the honor of planting this church in January 2010 and have seen thousands of lives changed for the glory of God. Professionally, she feels being at Rescue House and seeing miraculous life changes happen is another great accomplishment in her life. She is not only the pastor’s wife, but she is also operations director, handling all of the behind-the-scenes tasks. “What I love most about working at Rescue House is the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself. I truly believe there is no better investment than the local church. Jesus believed that too – He gave His life for it.”

Lauren would advise current students, “The world is a lot bigger than high school, and life is about so much more than you or me. Jesus created each one of us on purpose, for a purpose, and the sooner you can figure that out, the better. I believe it’s a mistake to try and decide what you’re going to do before deciding who you’re going to be. Make it a priority to answer these two questions: ‘Who is Jesus?’ and ‘What does that mean for me?’”



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