

Meet the **Tennant Family**

Matt, Melanie, Dean, & Eddy



UNIVERSITY
BAPTIST CHURCH

The senior minister search committee presents... The Rev. Dr. Matthew Aaron Tennant as a candidate to be the senior minister of University Baptist Church. Dr. Tennant has a vision for ministry in the twenty-first century, loves church and people, and wants to see UBC grow and share God's grace with our community. He has his doctor of philosophy in systematic theology from the University of Oxford, is a published author, and has been serving in pastoral leadership for over a decade. The candidate and the members of the committee feel God leading us together.

Personal Information

Born: June 17, 1973, Killeen, TX

Lived in Clawson, MI until 1982, when his family moved to Roanoke, VA. His parents Bob & Joyce Tennant still live in Roanoke.

Married: June 27, 1998 to Melanie Lynne Caudle in Scottsboro, AL.

Children: Dean Ashmore, born November 25, 2002
Edison Milford, born May 13, 2004

Ordained: August 21, 2004, Greenbriar Baptist Church, Arlington, VA

Education

D.Phil. University of Oxford, 2014

M.St. University of Oxford, 2008

M.Div. Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, 2008

M.B.A. University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2001

B.A. Carson-Newman College, 1994

Experience

Senior Pastor, Kilmarnock Baptist Church, Kilmarnock, VA, 2009-present—Organized and led multiple mission trips to Alabama, Panama, and Haiti. Fostered growth in food bank ministry and community interaction. Initiated the annual Lisa Spiers Memorial 5K Run. Chaired racial reconciliation committee. Managed seven staff members.

Visiting Professor, Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haïti, Cap Haïtien, Haiti, 2013-present—Annually teach graduate students an intensive course in philosophy of religion.

Pastor, Hickory Baptist Church, Whitakers, NC, 2004-2006—Preached, led, and organized Sunday worship services. Led a team from the church to conduct humanitarian relief after the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka.

Vice President, OptionsXpress, Inc., Chicago, IL, 2000-2002—Directed all aspects of operating the brokerage firm, including bonds, compliance, customer service, risk management, margins, new accounts, and trading. Acted as principal for firm.

Senior Trader, ProEquities, Inc, Birmingham, AL, 1997-1999—Supervised option and bond trading. Served as a principal for the firm. Supervised option and bond trading. Facilitated trade execution. NASD Series 7, 63, 65, 24, 4, and 53 licenses.

Outreach Worker, Homeless Assistance Team, Roanoke, VA, 1996-1997—Contacted homeless individuals and assisted them in receiving services.

Books

The Work of the Church Treasurer (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2017).

Preaching in Plenty and in Want (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2011).

Freedom & Existence (monograph in-development, based on D.Phil. thesis).

Articles & Book Chapters

"Hall in dialogue with Segundo on human rights." American Baptist Quarterly 28.4 (Fall 2009).

"Early Christian eschatology & interfaith dialogue." In Religion beyond its Private Role in Modern Society, ed. van der Kooij and Hofstee (Leiden: Brill, 2013).

"John Clifford's theological understanding of socialism." In Baptist Historical Society Centenary Conference, edited by John H. Y. Briggs (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2010).

"The existential dimension of Juan Luis Segundo's ecclesiology." Ecclesiology 12.2 (Spring 2016).

"Evil and nothingness: Berdyaev, the Ungrund, & theodicy." Studies in East European Thought. Under review.

Other Articles & Papers Delivered

Published articles for church leadership, ministry, and accessible theology for Baptist News Global, Baptists Today, CBF Mission Guide, Regent's Reviews (editor).

Presented papers at over a dozen conferences in locations, such as Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Bonn, Germany; Chicago, IL; Leiden, Netherlands; New Brunswick, NJ; Oxford, United Kingdom; Prague, Czech Republic; and Newport, RI.

Academic Awards

Guthrie Scholar, Columbia Theological Seminary, 2014

Philosophy of Religion Section (Chair), Mid-Atlantic Region, AAR, 2012-present

Board of Directors, North American Paul Tillich Society, 2009-2012

Paul Tillich Prize for Best Paper at AAR, North American Paul Tillich Society, 2008



Meet Melanie

Melanie grew up in Tennessee, met Matt in college and married at age 23. She served in the U.S. Navy (and Reserve) JAG Corp as an attorney for 8 years. While in Oxford for Matt's graduate studies, she worked at Oxford University Press. Since moving to rural Virginia, she has worked in a very different job—making sailboat sails. During her spare time, she likes running, hiking, cooking, and sewing.



Meet Dean

Dean, 14, born in Libertyville, IL, enjoys sailing, playing piano, and making stop motion videos. At the age of seven, he started racing Optimist dinghies and he still enjoys time on the family sailboat. He has been playing piano for seven years and, believe it or not, welcomes new and challenging pieces. In his spare time, you can find him filming short and witty stop motion films, which can be found on his YouTube channel.



Meet Eddy

Eddy, 13, born in Jacksonville, FL, enjoys playing soccer and guitar, reading, bike riding and exploring nature. When he is not climbing trees and examining creepy crawly things, you will find him practicing soccer. Eddy enjoys playing trombone in the band and likes spending time with friends and sharing a good joke or exciting adventure story. He also provides voices and plot development for his brother's stop motion videos.



For more information about Dr. Tennant, visit his blog at www.matthewtennant.org. You can follow him on Twitter (@theologymatt) or YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/matthewtennant>). Baptist News Global publishes articles by Dr. Tennant (available at <https://baptistnews.com>).



University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903

UNIVERSITY
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t. 434.293.5106

www.universitybaptist.org