



ADVENT 2024

## Rick & Paula Scott

Serving with Cadence International  
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This year has been a good and full one for our family, and I want to share two highlights.

My favorite day was April 13, the day that Emma married Aaron Shellhart. Having Aaron join our family has been a beautiful gift to all of us. We enjoy his love and expression for the Lord, the ways that he loves Emma, and how those two things inform and work out in their lives. In so many ways, their wedding exploded my imagination of the coming wedding feast of the Lamb and how the Lord loves us.

During the rehearsal the evening before the wedding, I looked over at Aaron as Emma and Rick walked down the aisle. As is so common with young grooms who can hardly contain their joy when they see their bride, Aaron was holding back tears and bursting with a smile at the same time. But as I saw the emotion on his face, knowing that he had been so patiently waiting for Emma to be his bride, I had a beautiful image of our Bridegroom, waiting so patiently for us, His Bride, with an unconcealable joy and smile as He sees us. Then, the next day, as Emma and Rick walked down the aisle again, the picture became fuller. Emma was dressed in a lovely white dress, looking as beautiful as any day, having prepared



months for this moment. But the image that became most clear at that moment was of Christ Himself, the One who prepares us and dresses us in the white of His righteousness for Himself. It is His own blood that makes us so beautifully righteous. And then He bursts with joyful emotion as we come to Him. What a moment and what an idea! How would we ever begin to understand these breathtaking truths if He hadn't

given us these creative, real-life metaphors to bring clarity?

I had worried over the years how a celebration like this would ever take place. We don't have a place we call home near our families and friends. What a surprise it was for us when so many people from near and far came to celebrate. Emma expressed that it was the people, not the place, that felt like home. That left us with another



image of the wedding feast of the Lamb that is to come. As everyone joins in the celebration at that feast, we will finally be at home with the Lamb. The gathering of family and friends at the wedding was both a culmination and a reminder of why we fill our home and the seats around our table.

A few weeks later, we had another wonderful celebration to honor Ethan's high school graduation. He graduated on Thursday with his homeschool community, and then on Friday, we celebrated with a senior dinner at our church. All the seniors sat at long tables in the front of the

room, with the parents and families gathered around tables throughout the room. The youth pastor played mini-slide shows for each senior and also wrote a poem with a verse for each graduate. It was a lovely tribute. As I listened to the verses expressing the interests and dreams of each student, I wondered what he had written about Ethan. My heart was thrilled when I heard expressions about his leadership, especially within his small group, that has helped to build a brotherhood for these young men who are growing in their understanding of community and Christ's work in their lives.

Needless to say, these exciting events have brought change to our home. As our kids move out into their own lives, our house has grown quieter. Many tears were shed this summer as we adjusted to the changes.

We are expectant for 2025 and look forward to new opportunities as we continue to open our home to the veterans and military students in our area. We plan to keep inviting people to sit around our table and desire to speak with both our actions and words of the coming Feast.

**Paula, for the Scotts**



*As you finish 2024,* would you consider giving financially to our work account? This year will be the first time we have ever had a deficit at the end of the year. We need about \$5,000 to make up the shortfall. In addition, we are looking for people to join our team with monthly support. Please pray that God will provide all these needs.



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**Rick & Paula Scott**

To join our monthly support team or make a one-time donation, please give online at [Cadence.org/Scott](https://Cadence.org/Scott) or contact Cadence Donor Services. Thank you!

**GIVE ONLINE**



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