

CLELAN CORNER

Featuring Wendy Paul, Executive Office Administrator



Please tell us a little about yourself.

My husband, Kris, and I were born and raised in eastern Pennsylvania, are high school sweethearts, and celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary last August. We are born-again Christians, have two cats and a small flock of chickens. Kris and I lived in California for more than half of our married life – a few years at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, and more than ten years in Ventura County while Kris was serving at the Channel Islands Air National Guard base. We never would have chosen to move to the West Coast, but we're so thankful for God's perfect plan in sending us there. We absolutely loved it! (Fun tidbit...Kris was only 17 when he bought my engagement ring!)

Do you enjoy traveling?

I do have an adventurous side and love to explore new places. I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity to travel outside of the country several times while in school (Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, and Spain), and to Israel once for work. Kris and I love to travel in the US in our truck camper, especially exploring anywhere out west. Some of our favorite locations in California are Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, Big Bear, the Eastern Sierras, and anywhere in the desert, as well as the Grand Canyon/Kaibab National Forest and Sedona in Arizona. We love hiking in the mountains and being immersed in God's magnificent creation!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

While I would love to visit Israel again, my top choice would be an African safari. Kris worked as a zoo keeper for several years, primarily with elephants, which allowed me many opportunities to feed and pet them, as well as other up-close encounters with giraffes, lions, anteaters, snakes, and a variety of other animals. I learned so much through his time at the zoo and gained a deeper love for these magnificent animals. To see the beauty of Africa and these amazing creatures in the wild would be incredible! (Another fun tidbit...did you know that the gestation period of an elephant is 22 months?!)

Are you glad to be back in Pennsylvania?

While I miss the west tremendously, it is nice to be closer to family again. I'm also very thankful to have a few acres where we can raise chickens, have a large vegetable garden, lots of flowers, some fruit trees, and soon-to-come blueberry and raspberry bushes. In addition to learning so much about gardening, I've enjoyed learning how to preserve our harvests through water-bath canning and other methods. I'm excited to venture into pressure canning this year. There's no shortage of things to learn about gardening and preserving, so make sure to share your gardening and canning tips with me when you come to the office! Plus, if we wouldn't have moved back to PA, I wouldn't be working for Clelan and Company... so yes, I'm definitely glad to be back!