



Dear Expectant Parents,

It is so nice to meet you and thank you for allowing us to introduce ourselves!

Our names are Cornell and Stephanie but most just know us as Nell & Steph. Out of the many pictures to choose from, these two show us best and in our purest form. We try to always keep the kindness, curiosity and zeal we had as children and hope to share that with our newest addition. What keeps us centered is expressed in Phil. 4:12. We have "learned the secret of being content in any and every situation".

God is our anchor.



about us

THE MEET CUTE

A sage lyricist from the great city of Memphis once said, "it goes down in the DMs". When it comes to how we met, he's exactly right.

The #1 song on November 28, 2015 was none other than "Hello" by British powerhouse, Adele. It was also the day that Cornell said hello to Stephanie on Twitter.

A month prior, we'd engaged briefly and publicly on the social media app and because, we "followed" the same people who we both knew in real life, decided to take things a step further.

While the first date didn't happen until two months later due to the holidays and quite frankly, Stephanie's hectic travel schedule at the time, we were smitten at first sight.

Our first date was January 2016. We met for brunch. at Second Line, then headed over to Overton Square for a movie. We held hands and felt an unspoken comfort. We'd found home.

We dated long distance for a year before Stephanie and Hendrix (pictured to the right) moved to Memphis from Atlanta to be with Cornell. There's something about growing roots in your hometown that is special and organic. We plan to be lifelong Memphians with lots of travel in between.

P.S. Hendrix says Hi!

November 28, 2015

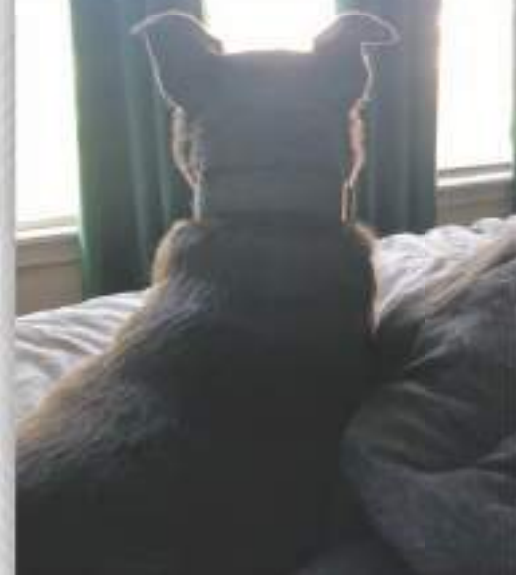
Hey, I hope you aren't weirded out by this, but you are gorgeous and you seem to be really dope, so I was hoping to introduce myself! So hi, I'm Cornell!



4:34 PM

Awww thanks so much! All credit to God, my parents and orthodontist. Lol I'm Stephanie and now to meet you.

4:40 PM





a little about **CORNELL**

Cornell was born in Memphis and raised primarily in the southern part of the city. He is the son of two ministers and devoted his life to Christ at a young age. He is a natural athlete and played basketball and football from elementary to high school. In high school, at the encouragement of his then bonus mom, he joined the Black Data Processing Associates' student development program which fostered a love for coding and software development. After receiving his bachelor's degree in Business with a minor in Management Information Systems, he began his now decade plus long career in federal tech consulting. He's also an avid gamer.

a little about
STEPHANIE

Stephanie was also born and raised in Memphis. She is the daughter of two musicians who met at a gig in Tunica, Mississippi in the late 70's. Stephanie was nurtured in a creative space with instruments serving as furniture and it was not odd for her to finish homework in a recording studio. While maintaining a peerless honor roll streak, Stephanie excelled at the performing arts. She played the violin for five years then majored in vocal performance in high school. Ultimately, performance became more of a hobby and she focused on academics. She has a bachelors in public relations and a masters in health administration. She's currently an MBA candidate. By day, she's a project management executive at a bank. She's also an avid mental health advocate and founded a non-profit in 2020.





HOW CORNELL THINKS OF STEPHANIE

They say home is where the heart is. After meeting Stephanie for the first time, I immediately felt like I was home. It wasn't the shared love for Memphis, sports, food, or even our loving families. It was the natural feeling of someone wanting to make you feel safe and comfortable. It did not take long at all for me to know that this was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. Stephanie continues to challenge me to be the best version of me. I am blessed to have a partner who is as warm, supporting, and loving as Stephanie.



HOW STEPHANIE THINKS OF CORNELL

Cornell is the calm in the midst of my storm.

Cornell reminds me, in so many ways, of my own father. He is gentle and kind. He never hesitates to lend a helping hand to strangers. He is a hard worker and fiercely loyal to those he holds close. I feel a peace and safety with him that has never faltered. He had an incredible example of fatherhood in late father, Cornell Sr. His hugs were a balm. And Cornell inherited the warmth of the physical and figurative love. He is a strong and confident presence which is driven by his Faith. He always wants to do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reason. There is no other person I'd rather parent with than my best friend and spades partner for life, Cornell aka Nelly.

OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



We live in the center of a cove. We bought our house in February 2022 and renovated it with our expanded family in mind. There are lots of trees and friendly neighbors who are mostly retirees.

Our friends, Marques & Tanya, live 4 doors down.



The Children's
Museum (5 mi.)



Lichterman Nature
Center (1 mi.)



We live in a family oriented neighborhood, with many top rated public schools, parks, and amusements within driving distance. Our home is a two story, 4 bedroom colonial with 2 bathrooms . Our favorite place in our house is the den. Its perfect for entertaining family & friends with a quick entry to the backyard where we can play fetch with Hendrix.

THE MAKING OF LIFELONG FRIENDS



Erreka & Dr. Chris



Sam & Erica



Marques & Tanya



Blanchard, Sydney & Grace



Wes & Trevor



Erin, Fran, Jason & Meg



Adventures

Together we love to see and experience new places, people, and foods! We appreciate the beauty of world around us, and try to soak in as much as we can each year, whether it's around our home or a far off destination.

This is us on our honeymoon. We rode ATVs through the hills of St. Martin



**CORNELL'S
EXTENDED**
family



Cornell's family is large and loving. They have never met a stranger. Every year, they gather together for a big Independence Day celebration. He is without a doubt his aunts' favorite nephew and the cousin who never misses a birthday. His family is originally from Memphis.



**STEPH'S
EXTENDED**
family



Stephanie's family is a hoot! There is never a dull moment at family gatherings. They play games, sing karaoke and host a celebration for each birthday. Stephanie's maternal grandmother had 16 siblings so her extended family is immense. There's no use of the words "step" or "removed" in her family or Cornell's. Once you're in, you're in.

FAMILY TRADITIONS



As a family we have many traditions. We look forward to them each season.
Many of them have been passed down from our great grandparents.



BABY MENAH
(DAUGHTER OF THE ERREKA & CHRIS)



MIKE & KAM
(SONS OF FRIEND, KIMEL)

OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS HAVE
THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST KIDS. WE
LOVE THEM DEARLY.



KHLOE (COUSIN)



BABY BERLYNN
(SISTER)



HEART (NIECE)



PRESTON (NEPHEW)

Our promise to you...

The greatest imprint you can leave on this earth is someone to tell the story on how you changed their life.

We knew early in our relationship that we wanted to adopt. Our families did not necessarily pursue the legal paperwork to do so but the family members we gained over the years through the 'open door' to our homes are the most endearing to us.

We have worked tirelessly to prepare ourselves individually and collectively to continue that call. Whatever God has for us, shall be for us. And it will be His will incarnate. It is with such joy and gratitude to be given the opportunity to pour into the life of another person. We hope this gives you a glimpse into the love we have for each other, our people and our newest addition(s) will be no different.

Sincerely,
Nell & Steph

