

Charles (Chad) Wayne Blatherwick

Born June 16 1973 in Camden but grew up in Blue Anchor NJ and currently lay my head in Clementon NJ.

Married to Melissa and we just celebrated our 19th anniversary On October 16th.

Four children Chase (16), Sarah (13), Jacob (8), and Annika (4).

Graduated from Edgewood Regional High School in Atco NJ. I completed my undergraduate studies at the Moody Bible Institute where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biblical studies. This past May I completed my seminary work at Palmer Theological Seminary where I received my Master of Divinity.

I grew up in the small farm town of Blue Anchor. I am the oldest of four children, two younger brothers and then a sister. We had a dirt road, no street lights, and no cable TV. We did have a horse, a cow, some pigs, goats, and a bunch dogs, cats, and chickens. My mom was/is a nurse and my dad was/is a teacher. Mom made sure we were in church, Sunday school, and youth group every Sunday. Missing was not an option. I was a very good kid. At least, that's how I remember it. Haha. I had a very pleasant childhood. My parents loved us and each other. We had a really large family and often had over 60 people at Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter dinners.

My parents influenced me greatly during my early years. My dad was at every single sporting event and loved to do things with us. He also showed us how to treat a lady by the way he treated our mom. My mother was very loving and strong in her faith. She planted many seeds that have grown into fruition today. My pastor growing up was a man named Ed Rusk. He was also vital in my spiritual life as he served as a spiritual father to me. His investment in my life cannot be overstated. As far as my walk in Christ others who influenced me greatly were Jerry Ruff and Phil Pelphrey.

I have known who Jesus was my entire life. I could tell you all about him, why we celebrate Easter and Christmas and what it means to believe in him. However, I did not personally *know* Jesus until I was much older.

One evening I saw my wife praying, singing, and telling God how much she loved him. At that moment I heard God say to me "why can't you love me like that? That's how I love you, and I how I want you to love me." I was overwhelmed with the weight of my sins, the need for forgiveness, and God's overwhelming love for me. I dropped to my knees and wept. I confessed my sins and finally for the first time, fully submitted to God's call on my life. I felt a peace, joy, and love the likes of which I have never known.

Men of Sharptown: I know several of you already as fathers & volunteer staff from Delanco. I was also under Pastor Jerry for many years as a parishioner at Sicklerville UMC where I am now the associate Pastor. I feel tremendously honored & greatly anticipate our upcoming time together as Men spending time with one another & our Lord. See you soon. Chad