

BRET MILLER

IT Manager - Home Office

Where are you located?

Belmont, NC

How do you serve in GCI?

I am the Information Technology (IT) Manager for the home office. I do my best to help our churches use technology to reach people and to stay accountable.

How did you connect with GCI?

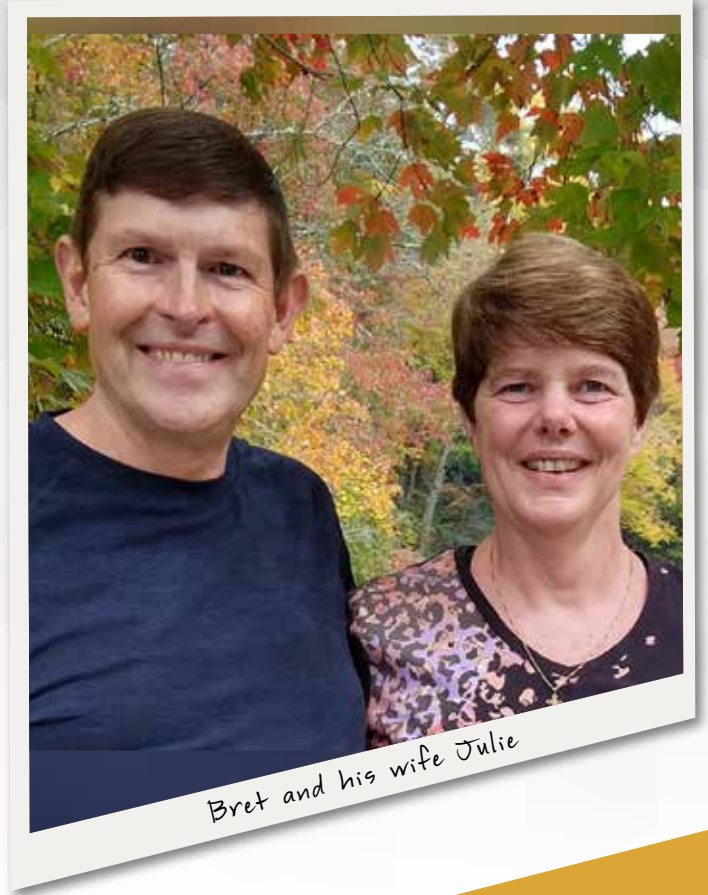
I started coming with my parents.

What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?

One of the most effective ways to reach people with the gospel is by them experiencing the love of Jesus through people. I believe in and support GCI's vision of healthy churches that are rooted in their community and demonstrate love to their community without expecting anything in return.

What makes you choose to give your time and energy to this ministry?

I feel it's a calling. God wants me here, and I want to do what he wants. He has gifted me in the ability to understand technical things more naturally than most. Even when I have to dig to find ways to make things work, I usually can.



Bret and his wife Julie

Get to Know Bret

1.

Where do you go to have fun where you live?

My wife and I like to hike in the mountains, especially to waterfalls and in the fall when the tree colors are so wonderful.

2.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a gardener. We have a much smaller area now than we did in California, but we still grow a lot: tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, spinach, swiss chard, cucumbers, carrots, and a variety of other things that vary from season to season.

3.

Do you have pets?

I love our two dogs. They are both rescues. Both go hiking with us. Sparky loves to run with other dogs. He can run up and down our fence with a 2-year-old dog until the other dog quits. And he will continually try to get the other dog to reengage.

4.

Struggle or life lesson you would like to share?

My health has been an ongoing struggle with many ups and downs in the last seven years.

It started with being diagnosed with cancer, multiple myeloma. It's one of those considered to be incurable. But it is manageable with a number of treatment options. My oncologists treated the cancer aggressively and, in the process, destroyed a lot of the muscles in my back.

By 2016 another health issue was discovered, and cancer treatment was paused. And then we had to make a move to North Carolina eight months later. God kept the cancer stable for the next couple of years while we adjusted to our new environment.

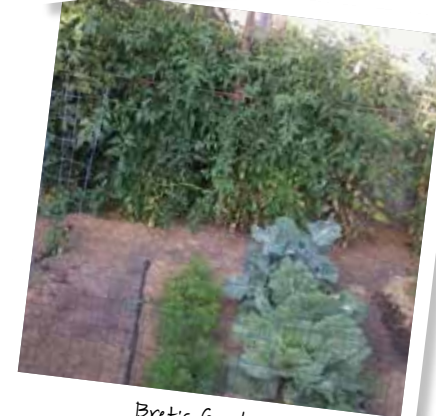
But then I developed neuropathy in the lower half of my body. So far, none of the medications I've tried have helped much. The latest one does eliminate more of my "bad days".

And then the cancer started growing again. This led to more treatment, but this time my oncologist balanced the treatment with the side effects so that it doesn't impact life as much.

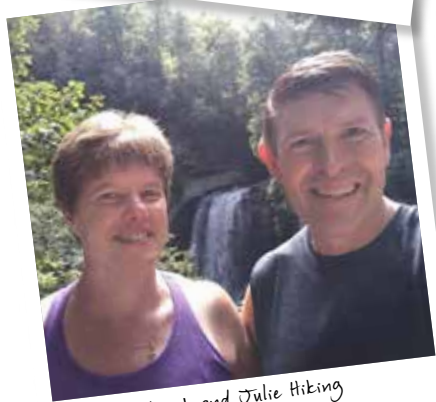
I'll admit I've had emotional ups and downs. But at some point, I began focusing on the blessings and not the health issues. I can still work every day. I can still hike. I can still serve God and my church. God is good. He never stopped loving me and blessing me.



Bret with Sandi and Sparky



Bret's Garden



Bret and Julie Hiking

"I am grateful for the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus."



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