

Beth Eakin O'Neal bio interviewed by Becky Gross



Beth Eakin (now Beth O'Neill) was born in Baptist Hospital right here in Nashville, TN in the year 1977. Her parents were living in Lebanon, TN at the time and her father was a Southern Baptist minister. 19 months later Beth's sister was born, and when Beth turned two the family packed up and moved to Texas so that her father could attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After Beth's father received his doctorate at the seminary they moved to South Fulton, which is located in northwest TN, so that her father could pastor First Baptist Church.

Beth found her way back to the Nashville area when she enrolled at Belmont University in 1996. As a theater major she worked on campus in the School of Music. As a student of theater, Beth found herself working to build sets for the stage. Looking back, this was the starting point of Beth's involvement in construction. Beth's deep desire is to be a voice actor. She is a captivating speaker and actress. After she graduated from Belmont she went on to work for the TN Arts Academy, worked at several temporary jobs involving office positions and customer service, and bought a home in Antioch. While Beth was working a part time job at JoAnne's one day, a co-worker invited her to Brentwood Baptist Church. The thought of attending a large church appealed to Beth. Having grown up as a preacher's kid, she was used to being a focal point of the congregation. Never having been a member of a large church, she liked what she saw and experienced when she attended BBC.

About 3 years ago, Beth found herself working on a Habitat build and was painting the porch with several members of a BBC Sunday school class. They invited Beth to their class. Beth visited their class one Sunday and met a man named Daniel O'Neill. Beth and Daniel became friends and then started dating last year. In the spring of this year Beth and Daniel were married in Hawaii. So you see, Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County brought Daniel and Beth together!!! Daniel and Beth might be moving away in the near future. Daniel is an Army National Guard pilot and after he graduates in May with his aerospace science degree from MTSU he will most likely be sent to Alabama for training. But don't fear, they will return to Middle TN when his training is complete.

Beth loves to read, travel, visit amusement parks, and work on a variety of crafty things that allow her to use her hands. She's visited over half of the United States, England, Scotland, the Bahamas, Canada, and even studied abroad in London through Belmont. Beth is currently pursuing her voice acting passion, but is also about ready to start a contract job with the Christy Cookie Company as a corporate trainer.

You've probably seen Beth around the Habitat site in her pink work boots and pink tool belt. She is so appreciative of all the "remarkable Crew Leaders" that have been willing to teach her. Beth loves volunteering for Habitat because of the sense of

accomplishment that it brings. Beth said, "Most people won't ever build a house because it's such a huge task. To see that you had a part in it....that's an epic event in someone's life."

Beth has the pink tool belt and work boots on once again as she works as a Crew Leader on the Women Build. Thanks for all you bring to the Habitat team Beth!