

THE STROCKS: Think It, Dream It, Do It!

BY NATALIE LERNER

Photos Courtesy of the Strock Family



Family Hike

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together,” reads a framed quote by Vincent Van Gogh in the Strock family kitchen. With neighbors like Matt and Christi Strock, it’s no wonder these words grace their wall. The Strocks built their life together by being intentional in their steps to get there. They don’t think it or dream it. They do it.

This make-it-happen mentality brought them together in the first place. Matt had just graduated from Washington and Lee University with a Bachelor of Arts and was in Austin searching for a place to live for law school at the University of Texas at Austin. Christi was in her senior year there. While both were out to dinner with

friends, Christi caught sight of Matt and declared, “I want my husband to look like that.” Her friend said, “That’s Matt Strock. I went to high school with him.” Matt and this friend attended Highland Park High School in Dallas. Matt was sitting with several friends with whom he had worked with as a counselor at Camp Longhorn. Christi recognized her friend from Brenham High School sitting with them. Christi decided to say hello (and to of course get a better glimpse of Matt). One month later, they started dating, and by Christmas they were engaged. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year!

Matt joined Vinson & Elkins LLP after graduating from Texas law and now is the

co-head of the corporate department. He has been there over 20 years. Christi earned her business degree from McCombs and worked for JP Morgan Chase and Bank of America before choosing to become a full time mom to three boys, John (19), Robert (17) and Will (14). She and Matt help run her family’s ranch, Oak Creek Farms, actively working alongside her parents managing their herd of over 1,000 Brangus cattle. Christi also consults with her family’s restaurant, Chappell Hill Bakery & Deli, in Washington County.

The Strocks are not all work and no play though. Matt loves hunting, fishing, playing golf, working on the ranch and cooking to relax. Additionally, he serves on the board

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Colorado Mountain Trip



Golfing with the Strock Boys



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of St. Charles Bay Hunting and Fishing Club, and has been a scuba diver ever since high school. Christi loves fishing, dancing, tagging along for hunts and watching wildlife, long walks with friends on the beautiful Memorial area paths, and is always ready for a fun girl's backyard happy hour. As for other adventures, Christi fondly stated, "Our family often visits the ranch in Chappell Hill, Texas; Rockport, Texas; Santa Fe, New Mexico and any part of Colorado with great fly fishing!"

The Strocks have been residents of Bunker Hill Village ever since their oldest son started kindergarten. "Memorial's beautiful neighborhoods, trees, walk paths and schools brought us to the area," shared Christi. Both Matt and Christi attended public school and wanted the same opportunity for their boys. All of their boys attended area public schools until 8th grade. Christi added, "Our family has found and made life-long friends in this friendly community."

Their oldest son, John, graduated from Strake Jesuit (Strake) in 2021 and is finishing his freshman year in the Business Honors program at Texas A&M, majoring in business honors and finance. He likes to hunt, fish, scuba dive and play golf. John has enjoyed volunteering at Western Academy and working at Camp Longhorn over the summers.

Their middle son, Robert, is a junior at Strake where he played football and lacrosse, and he is now involved with the school newspaper as a writer and editor. Robert is president of the Young Men's Service League and enjoys volunteering with the Houston Food Bank, BEAR (Be a Resource for kids), the Belmont, and Western Academy. He is looking forward

to volunteering at Camp Blessing this summer and representing Strake as a Washington Scholar at the Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University in Washington, D.C. this July. Robert loves to fish, hunt, play golf and scuba dive.

Will, an 8th grader at Memorial Middle School, loves to fish, hunt, scuba dive, play football and lacrosse, and be outdoors as much as possible. Will enjoys volunteering alongside his family in the community. He helps maintain the fields at the ranch and can often be found raking or baling hay in the summers. "Will is deciding whether he will follow in his brothers' footsteps and go to Strake or if he will attend Memorial High School," explained Christi. "Either way, we feel fortunate to have great options."

All boys work at the ranch and the restaurant over the holidays and summer breaks. Helping run a family business involves the entire family pitching in year round.

The Strocks have enjoyed every bit of parenthood. Matt enjoyed watching all three boys play sports, has served on many Spring Branch Memorial Sports Association (SBMSA) boards, and coached just about every sport. More recently he has served on the SBMSA lacrosse board for the past five years.



Matt and the Boys, circa 2013

Christi had been active in her children's Parent Teacher Associations and Mother Clubs serving in roles such as treasurer, graduation party chair, senior prom chair, concession stand chair, and more. More recently, she and her three boys became founding members of the Young Men's Service League in Memorial, where she has served as president. "I have felt," stated Christi, "so fortunate to have been able to build this chapter alongside so many hardworking Memorial moms."

As members of Chapelwood United Methodist, the family carries their faith home with them, focusing daily on Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." They leave our readers with this quote from Abraham Lincoln however, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Take it from the Strocks. If you can think it or dream it, do it!



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