

## Getting to know

### Laura LaHaye



Laura LaHaye has a packed schedule. She's a full-time veterinary technician and she and her husband, Kevin, a communications officer with the Hanover Police Department, also keep busy with family activities with their two children, Tanner and Eila, both in elementary school. In addition, Kevin and Laura own On Demand Property Maintenance, a commercial cleaning and landscaping business.

But Laura makes time for volunteering, too. She and Kevin are active parent volunteers for their children's 4-H club. Laura's lovely soprano voice also can be heard in the church choir – where she's often a soloist -- and the Gospel Group, which plays at church and at local assisted living centers.

Laura grew up in Lebanon and went to high school in Thetford. She attended Vermont Technical College (VTC), where she earned an A.A.S. as a veterinary technician and a B.S. in Equine Studies. Since 2014, she's worked as a veterinary technician at Lyme Veterinary Hospital.

We talked with Laura to get to know her better – here's an edited version of our conversation.

*Tell us something about yourself that most people probably don't know...*

(She laughs) Well, in school I competed in gymnastics. I got first in the State of Vermont in my age group.

*Why did you decide to become a veterinary technician?*

When I was growing up, my Grandfather lived by a dairy farm. I loved seeing the animals – and from the time I was little I always knew that I wanted to work with animals.

*Do you have pets now?*

Two dogs – a lab and a rescue from Puerto Rico.

*How did you become active in the church?*

I was involved in this church as a kid -- every year, for as long as I can remember, we made a float in the Hanover Center Parade, too. During college, I took a hiatus, but later I came back.

*Have you always been involved in music?*

Yes, in school I always sang in chorus and played in the band. I've played saxophone, clarinet, bass clarinet, and guitar – and now we play music at home with the kids.

*What is something that you think the church does really well?*

I like that it's my second family. I can walk in here and ask a favor of anyone, even if I don't know them well. It warms my heart. If I don't make it to church, I feel like I've missed something.

*What do you think we need to work on?*

We need to do a better job of getting our word out and reaching out to the younger generation to keep the church alive.

*What's the biggest impact the church has had on your life?*

Every other Monday night, the Gospel Group sings with residents at either Genesis or Hanover Terrace. Even if the residents have memory problems, their faces light up when we sing songs like "How Great Thou Art," "In the Garden," and "Amazing Grace," and they sing along. It's definitely one of the most rewarding things I do.

*Interview by Sarah Buckley*

