

## Renters' spotlight: seeking cool(er) nights on the porch

When Abby Talbot talks about coming to Monteagle, there's a palpable excitement in her voice ... which belies the calm she's hoping to find while here this week. "There's something about driving through the gates," she muses. Maybe it's all the trees providing shade?

Or maybe the slower pace of life just takes her mind off the hustle and bustle of her family's life in Memphis.

Either way, Abby's sure about a few things: Her four-year-old daughter Winn loves the playground, the pool, and also the playground (did we mention the playground?). It's heaven to have someone else cook—and cook *really good food*, she emphasizes—her lunch every day. (The words "tomato pie" sound like a reverent prayer in her voice.) And renting a golf cart for the week is unequivocally a joy. "It's so fun to feel the breeze as you drive," she said.

Abby and her husband, Henry, remember coming to the Assembly in 2018 with Henry's family. His aunt was turning 70, his uncle was turning 75, and they were celebrating 50 years of marriage. The family used that fantastic collision of important milestones to bring everyone together for a reunion. "It was SO MUCH FUN," Abby remembers. At the time, Winn was six months old. Emily Frith's yummy catering surely had something to do with the rave reviews of that gathering.

They've come back for a week in the summers since then, loving the opportunity to see friends new and old. What they didn't expect was discovering family working right here in the Assembly.

It turns out, Abby is related to Hummingbirds director Isabelle Randolph, something they only realized once Abby was texting Isabelle for babysitting. Isabelle is her second cousin, once removed. Bonus points if you know what that means. (Abby can explain it.)

Abby grew up vaguely aware of Monteagle, and she credits her father's work as an Episcopal priest for that awareness. But for Henry and Abby, both Memphis natives, time in the Assembly is mostly filled with the parts none of us hope to take for granted: playing tennis, visiting Warren's Point, seeing movies, having a meal out at High Point... oh, and visiting the playground. Did we mention Winn is obsessed with it?!