

The New Guy

When you live in Hope, it seems to take a little while before people stop calling you 'the new guy'. I've worked here for more than six months now, but that isn't nearly enough time. In order to get to know me a little faster, I've decided to tell you a little about myself in this column.

Being a librarian in a small community like this is a very interesting, and at times, a very strange job. From moment to moment, I may be required to act goofy and make up puppet voices, then help someone find resources for dealing with a very serious subject like tax forms or medical terminology. Most librarians focus on a discipline. I'm one of the lucky ones who get to do a little of everything. No matter the interaction, though, it is a rewarding career. I think of myself as a problem solver. It's a refreshingly honest way to approach a career. I have a good career and I enjoy it, but like any job, it's not for everyone.

I am originally from a little town in the northern end of the state called Bluffton. It's south of Fort Wayne, and while it's bigger than Hope, it's still a small town. Graduating from high school, I turned my eye toward college. I decided to attend Butler University, and majored in Elementary Education. I graduated in 1996, but by then the desire to become a teacher had kind of fizzled out. By chance, I got a job at the Broad Ripple Library in Indianapolis and it clicked with me. Eventually I moved to the Main Library downtown, and decided to get my Masters' degree in Library Science. I attended IUPUI while I worked and finished my degree in the year 2000. While I was working in Indianapolis, I met the woman who would eventually become my wife, Emily Dill.

After I graduated, I got a librarian position with the Johnson County Public Library and worked at their White River Library for several years while Emily completed her coursework at IUPUI. After she graduated, she was offered a position at IUPUC, so she started driving back and forth to Columbus every day. We decided to start looking for a place between our two jobs, and we looked and looked and looked. We finally found the house of our dreams just south of Hope, but then I was the one that was driving back and forth all the time. Luckily, in January 2006 I was hired by the Bartholomew County Public Library, and that was our situation until two big things happened simultaneously at the end of last year.

The first was that Karen Alvis was planning to retire from the Hope Library and her position was available. The second is that my wife gave birth to our first baby, Max, on December 19th. Both the baby and the job have turned out better than I could have ever imagined.

Dave Miller is Supervisor of Hope Branch, Bartholomew County Public Library