

## **Dr. Belinda Chen**

So many of us at New Song have had our lives enriched and blessed by Dr. Belinda Chen, so it's nice to have an opportunity to get to know her a little better. Both she and her husband Gabe live lives characterized by generosity and love.

Belinda was born (1966) and raised just outside of Philadelphia to first-generation immigrants; both of her parents were born in China. She attended a two-room schoolhouse, St. Timothy's Episcopal Day School, from 1st through 7th grades where she received a strong education in the basics and had no homework! Finishing out her middle and high school years in public schools, she attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York where she met a handsome young man named Gabriel Chen. They became involved in a Chinese Bible study group together, they enjoyed singing a capella together, but they never dated!

Upon graduating from Cornell, Belinda came to Baltimore to Johns Hopkins for medical school and Gabe accepted a job here with Westinghouse (eventually became Atmel where he still works today). When Belinda went back to Philly for internship and residency, she and Gabe realized, now being apart in two different cities, that they indeed wanted to be together for the rest of their lives...so they were engaged in 1992 and married in 1993. Daughter Kaela came along in 2000 and son Josiah in 2003. Belinda has one sister and one brother, and both she and Gabe have large extended families. They travel often, almost always to attend family gatherings.

Dr. Chen has always viewed medicine as a ministry. Having spoken to both Dr. Dave Thomas and Pastor Mark Gornik, she agreed to begin volunteering at the health center when she and Gabe returned to Baltimore. Inspired by the model of Christian Community Development, they committed to attending New Song Community Church for one year (more than 11 years ago!) and have been increasingly drawn in ever since. Belinda grew up in an American Baptist church and Gabe in a Chinese church, and she says they enjoy New Song where the diversity has given them "more understanding of what God's people and kingdom are about."

Some things Belinda likes: eating mint chocolate chip ice cream, playing the piano, singing, practicing medicine, teaching (obviously given the brilliance of her children), swimming (she worked as a lifeguard in high school) and getting back rubs. She does not like eating mushrooms, drinking coffee or sodas, and riding roller coasters, boats, or anything that causes motion sickness...