

How would you describe your life in three words?

God blessed me

Where did you complete your training?

Meharry Medical College Nashville , TN
General Surgery, University of Louisville
Dept of Surgery Louisville, KY
Breast Surgical Oncology, Baylor Univ
Medical Center Dallas, TX

If you weren't a doctor, what would you be?

An actress or a dancer

What's the best advice you've ever received?

"There will always be a debt to pay"
- My mother

What was your first job?

Cashier, Neba's Roast Beef in
St Louis, MO

Are you superstitious?

Not at all.

If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you did?

Go to work Monday and get off all
insurance plans

Who is your hero?

My father.

What is the worst movie you've ever seen? The best?

Worst movie: Probably "Get Shorty"
Best movie: "Road to Perdition"

If you started a charity, what cause would you support?

Better education and mentorship in
urban communities

What has been the happiest moment of your life?

Too many to name: all involve my family,
immediate and extended

What is a goal you are currently working on?

To add a new skill set/hobby with
each birthday

How do you relax?

Tennis, tap dance, piano, reading

What would be your first action if you became president?

Resign

What book have you re-read the most?

I don't re-read books, there are too
many left unread

Favorite breakfast?

Monday through Friday: shredded
wheat (dry), generic Emergen-C, orange;

21 Questions

• with •

DR. TERRE MCGLOTHIN

Breast Cancer Surgeon



photo by Jim Moss

Weekends: made to order waffles,
crispy bacon, fried eggs, coffee.
Repeat.

What is a non-necessity that you would bring to a desert island?

Coke. Classic.

If you could choose any superpower, what would it be?

Flying

Who are three people you would invite to dinner?

Dr. LaSalle Leffall, President Barack
Obama, Daddy

Early mornings or late nights?

Definitely late nights!

Why did you become a doctor?

I made the decision to become a doctor
40 years ago when I was 18. The answer
to why has changed over those years.

Age 18 - I had to pick a major; I loved
biology - so I became biology major/
premed simply because I had no idea
what else to do. Being a doctor seemed
as far away as being an astronaut.

I needed a job someday; Around junior
year, I had no idea what to do with a
degree in biology other than medical
school and so that became my singular
goal.

Age 22-26 I needed to feel challenged;
Once in medical school, I was thrilled to
be challenged academically and with like
minded individuals around me - it was
full on competition - all for good test
performance and acquiring clinical skills.

Age 26-33 Surgical Residency These are
what I would consider my maturation
years as a physician and as a woman. Up
until this point, many of us were going
through the motions, grinding it out,
trying to get to the next level. Around
this time, however, we were no longer
in competition with each other, but with
illness and calamities associated with the
human condition. Now, the answer to
why I wanted to be a doctor, a surgeon in
particular, became more evident. I had a
developed a skill set that could redirect
the course of another's life - and that was
thrilling, and scary at the same time.

Age 34 to present: As I continue to
mature in practice, now my 24th, I have
seen and endured some of the same
maladies my patients have - bringing a
degree of empathy and compassion you
can not fully have in your early days of
medicine. It's clear to me now that I was
always coming to this point in my career,
unbeknownst to me. God had it for me to
be here, at this time, with this skill set, with
this heart for the people I take care of.