

Karen & Paul Pratt

August 22,
2003



Wedding Photo By Sheri's Studio

Mr. & Mrs. Pratt on August 22, 2003.



Paul & Karen Today!



The 3 wedding cakes

How did you meet?

Karen says I fell into her mailbox. It's kind of a long story. Karen and my first wife, Beverly, were best friends in Robbinsdale High School. They kept in contact with each other over the years. There were many miles and many states between us. Paul and Karen never met. Karen's husband Don, died November 28, 2000 after 48 years of marriage. Bev died February 21, 2001 after 45 years of marriage. After Bev's funeral there was a large stack of 'get well' cards to deal with so Paul went through them and sent letters and memorial folders to all who wrote her. Here's when I fell into Karen's mailbox. She saw my letter and knew it was not good news. Karen wrote a nice letter back wanting to know more about Bev. Now Karen had no interest in meeting a 'minister', especially on friendly terms. She was not bashful about writing. Many letters went between Paynesville and Crystal, Minnesota, from March to August. It was about time Paul met the one he was spending so much time writing with. He asked for a time to meet. You see Paul's daughter lived just a mile from Karen's house. Simple right? Not for Karen! A couple friends asked if she was still writing to that 'preacher guy'. "Yes, and he wants to meet me, but I don't want to meet him." "Why not? What do you got to lose." "When he sees me he won't like me, and he'll stop writing to me." (She is often positive about the negative.) And she was right— I stopped writing to her— we started calling each other. August 14, 2001 was the date set. I walked up on to her porch with a bouquet of flowers in my hand. She was watching for me and met me at the door and invited me in. We went to the Old Country Buffet for dinner. It was so easy to talk to each other like we had known each other for years. We visited a couple hours. That's how we met.

Who proposed and how?

That's another story. We went for a ride, stopped in a wild flower garden, and there Paul popped the question. There was no hesitation!

How long were you engaged?

Paul proposed on June 8, 2003 – 2 ½ months.

Date of marriage:

August 22, 2003.

Place of marriage

WayCross Evangelical Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

How large was the wedding?

Approximately 200 people. We wanted a small wedding, but when our daughters got through with it, WOW!!

What food was served?

Can't remember, but we did have three wedding cakes. #1— a traditional wedding cake, #2— A small cake with a picture of an old toothless groom. And #3— A small cake with a picture of a wrinkled old bride.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?

#1— Karen's mother, 95 years old was in attendance (was at both of her weddings) #2— Paul's granddaughter, Sara, flower girl, four years old, standing on the platform rocking on her heels and fanning herself with her hands and mouthing "I'm hot!" over and over again. (It was 90 degrees that day.) This was quite amusing to the wedding guests.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?

Several gift cards for "Red Lobster." Putting two housefuls together we had everything (including eight potato peelers). We were very thankful for the number of gift cards.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?

The plaque on our headboard.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?

Karen did not carry a bouquet. Don gave Karen a Bible as a wedding gift and she carried it in both weddings.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?

Those who had movie cameras. The ring bearer and the flower girl — were finally on the loose.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?

We drove around Lake Superior. From Paynesville, to Duluth, into Canada, into Michigan and Wisconsin and back Duluth and down to Paynesville. It was a week of a very enjoyable trip.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?

#1— One of our wedding gifts was a plaque that is on headboard of our bed that says, "Always Kiss Me Goodnight". We haven't missed a kiss yet. #2— The past two Valentine's Days we have spent in New York Mills, at a bed and breakfast in a 1906 refurbished train car (they have three of them). Fun!! We enjoy traveling and the change of scenery is good for us every now and then. We have been to Alaska three times, a most beautiful and exciting state.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?

Let God be your Guide! We give him the credit and praise for bringing us together. Two people living ninety miles apart, not really looking for a partner, had never met otherwise, and yet it just seemed to be the right thing to do. God cleared any barriers we had between us and allowed us to find each other in love. God made it so easy.

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