

We are privileged to be here today to speak about marriage. Steve and I both do speaking around the community, but this is special. This is the first time we are speaking together. Steve is such an eloquent speaker that I wanted to speak first.

Faith, hope and love...and the greatest of these is love. 1st
Corinthians, chapter 13: verse 13

Steve and I met in high school at the age of 14. I knew in my heart, he was the one. We dated through high school, broke up 2 years during college, but still remained close friends. He unexpectedly asked me out on a date. I knew if he ever asked me out again, we would get married. During that date, we talked until 5:30 am in my parent's living room. I asked Steve why he broke up with me and what kind of relationship he wanted with me now. He answered, "I have been looking all these years for the right woman. Then I realized that all along I was looking for you. I want to spend time with you, get to know you more, and learn to take care of you." We were engaged 2 months later and married a year after that.

What makes our marriage work? Faith, hope and love.

Faith. Steve and I have the odds against us. Most marriages where a spouse has a disability, the marriage does not last. Marriage is hard work, and even more challenging when one spouse becomes a caregiver. But Steve and I have been blessed with the gift of Faith. Our faith keeps us stable and gives us Hope for a bright future.

Hope. We are optimists looking at the future with hope. At times life becomes difficult and puts challenges on a marriage. With hope, those rough times become short and are soon forgotten.

Steve and I trust and rely on each other to get through those times. In the end, the reward is that we have grown closer.

Love. I have been blessed with a wonderful man who truly loves me. Unconditionally. He sacrifices for me, supports my endeavors, and tolerates my whining. And in turn, I do the same for him. I am always thinking about him, how I can relieve some of his burdens and how I can surprise him.

We think a lot alike. I will surprise Steve by buying him a DVD he wanted, only to find the exact DVD on my desk when I arrive home. He does special little things for no reason like buying me flowers.

Our love is filled with trust, admiration and respect. I thank God every day for giving me Steve as my life partner.

What makes our marriage work? Faith, hope and love. ...and the greatest of these is love.