

WEDDINGS



PHOTO COURTESY BY FRANK GIBSON



SOUTHERN ENCHANTMENT

Ashley Cook & Timothy John

Surrounded by blue skies and a scenic sweep of nature, Ashley Hickam Cook and Timothy Nicholas John were united in marriage Oct. 1, 2016, at Rustix Manor in Woodstock, professing their love in a beautiful ceremony held outside a hillside chapel.

“It was the perfect setting,” said Ashley, who walked down the grass aisle in an elegant lace gown by Love Marley, carrying a bouquet of yellow sunflowers and white roses, with her court of bridesmaids dressed in navy blue.

The ringing of the chapel bell announced the start of the service, which included a singing of the Lord’s Prayer and readings selected by the parents of the bride and groom. As the couple exchanged vows, doves were released in celebration.

A reception followed at the Barn on the property grounds,

where the newlyweds were formally announced with a balloon release – a wedding tradition from Germany. Postcards were attached to each balloon, with personalized notes from the 200 guests in attendance, promising everything from a home-cooked meal to a cross-country visit if the postcard was found and mailed back.

As the sun set, friends and family enjoyed a Southern feast of beef short ribs with a Coca-Cola demi-glaze, hand-carved prime rib, and Cajun-seasoned Gulf shrimp over Monterey Jack cheese grits, provided by Endive Atlanta Catering. Specialty bourbons from Kentucky paid tribute to the bride’s parents, Timothy and Nancy Cook, who met in the “Bluegrass State.” Miniature pies were served in the couple’s favorite flavors. A custom rock bar with all the fixings for s’mores became a gathering place as the bonfires were lit.





“We wanted to have some personal touches at the wedding that showcased our relationship,” said Ashley, singing the praises of Tony Brewer and Company and Susan Pando Events, who orchestrated the big day. The white-tiered wedding cake, by Cakehouse on Main, was topped with two soccer players to represent how they met. The “guestbook” was actually a bench that loved ones signed. “It’s something we can sit on together outside in our yard for years to come.”

The newlyweds departed with a sparkler send-off. They were whisked away, by canoe, for a fireworks extravaganza on the lake. The adventurous duo embarked on a South African safari for their honeymoon.

A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Ashley is an analyst at the American Academy of Dermatology. Tim, the son of Jeffrey and S. Jill John, earned his degree from James Madison University and is employed by CSRA. They reside in Arlington, Va.



