



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“For a lasting marriage, you need a lasting prayer life.”

Marrying Mayor

Just after college, my sister and I visited a local church. We stood up and introduced ourselves as Charles and Karen Stambaugh. Afterwards, they came to us and asked if we had any children. We relied, “No. We are not married. We just live together.”

“Marriages are becoming less common. In many countries marriage rates are declining. Since 1972, marriage rates in the US have fallen by almost 50%, and are currently at the lowest point in recorded history. Over the period 1990 – 2010 there was a decline in marriage rates in the majority of countries around the world...Of those men who were born in 1940, about 83% were married by age 30. Among those born in 1980 only about 25% were married by age 30...The US Census Bureau estimates that the share of young adults between the age of 18 and 24 living with an unmarried partner went up from 0.1% to 9.4% over the period 1968-2018...In the UK, 85% of people who get married cohabited first.”¹

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Matt 19:4-6

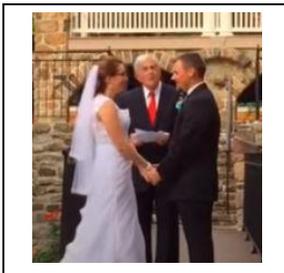
Forty years ago, on February 14 (Valentine’s Day and my birthday), after five months of dating, I gave my then girlfriend Susan E Humphries a card. In it were those magic words “Will you marry me?” We have been together ever since. A neighbor of ours has been married 77 years now.

I recently met Robb Green age 73. He served as mayor in the Borough of Jefferson in my home County of York Pa from 1994 to 2010. A mayor or former mayor, is permitted by law to perform marriages. I met him performing a wedding in my neighbor’s backyard. I was very impressed with him.

Robb officiated his first wedding in September 1996. Then in September 2020, he had performed his 4,000th weddings. Doing the math that is 286 a year. On Valentine’s Day in 2001, he officiated at nine weddings.

“Robb said he has officiated weddings in various places, including next to a Ferris wheel, next to a hot air balloon, in a junkyard and on a lake, just to name a few.... “My weddings are done mostly through word of mouth,” said Robb of his marketing. “It’s a great opportunity to meet people...I always tell couples there is no set fee for me. I really depend on the generosity of the people.”² He has his own website: marryingmayor.com, Facebook page and a [video](#).

This Valentine’s Day, do the right thing and ask your most sufficient other to marry you. I know a Marrying Mayor that will officiate for you.



*Charles L Stambaugh
Mount Wolf PA*

I, take thee to be my wedded spouse, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance;
You may kiss the bride.



¹ourworldindata.org/marriages-and-divorces ²www.yorkdispatch.com/story/news/local/2020/09/28/york-countys-marrying-mayor-officiates-4-000th-wedding/3517036001/

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