

Sara Harmon & Trey Duncan  
December 23, 2006

Written by Anne DeMarsh  
Photography by Goen South Photography

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." -John 15:5

Sara Harmon had this verse, her favorite, on her refrigerator for several years. She never imagined how her wedding seemed predestined to match it.

Sara Harmon and Trey Duncan first met in 2001 when they were doing a summer course to get their teacher certification. Both ended up getting hired by the same school district and saw each other again at orientation. But Sara was teaching elementary school and Trey middle school so Sara had a mutual friend set them up on a date. They went out a few times but ended up just friends. In 2005, though, the timing was right and they began dating seriously.

In June 2006 they had a trip to Las Vegas planned and Sara was sure that this was when Trey would pop the question. So a week before when he claimed they were meeting his sister and her husband for dinner at the Gaylord Texan resort, in Grapevine, Texas, she was completely caught off guard when instead he guided her towards the resort's vineyard for a "walk". Initially when he got on his knee, she thought he was practicing because she was so sure that he was going to do it in Las Vegas.

Once she accepted that it had really happened, they began discussing when they would get married. Since Sara teaches second grade and Trey is a special education science teacher, head track coach, and assistant football and basketball coach, their schedules are complex to say the least. Their choice was either to wait until summer 2007 or get married two days before Christmas. After a lot of back and forth they decided on a Christmas wedding.

Getting married at Becker Vineyard, in Fredericksburg, Texas, only seemed fitting. They planned their ceremony on the porch of the vineyard. Knowing it would be chilly, they rented space heaters and had Marquee Tents put side panels up, essentially enclosing the area.

Then the morning of the wedding it began to rain. Relentlessly. Sara was understandably upset but a bridesmaid changed her mood by telling her of another friend who had a rainy wedding day. They caught some rain in a jar, froze it, and used that thawed out water when they christened their first-born. Sara loved this idea and they caught rain in a water bottle, writing "Rainwater 12/23/06" on it. >>



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While their first reaction was fear that this would somehow ruin their wedding, it ended up being a blessing. Their wedding consultant, Maureen Riebel, says most couples would be upset but Sara and Trey took it in stride. "They were so relaxed about everything and just wanted it still to be special, which it was," Maureen says. To avoid getting her dress wet during the walk from the usual bridal dressing area, Sara ended up dressing in the aging room, surrounded by barrels of wine, making for some unique photos.

Her mother had fastened a little sign on the end of every row with Sara's favorite verse written on it. When Sara walked up the aisle, the combination of candlelight, twinkling Christmas lights, and rain pitter-pattering on the tin roof made for an intimate setting that could not have been planned so perfectly. "It was so romantic and cozy. We were both crying, even though Trey says he wasn't," laughs Sara.

With that everyone made it over to the hall, mostly dry. Their wedding colors, gold and buttercream, were generously used on stockings personalized for Sara and Trey and on Christmas ornaments on the two large trees on either side of the main doors. A large, stone fireplace helped keep the cozy, festive mood. Considering it was two days before Christmas, the couple was amazed at the turn out of 120 guests. "We couldn't believe how many people came from all over Texas to be at our wedding," says Sara.

After a heartfelt toast from the groom to his bride, which Sara cites as her favorite part, they had their first dance, "Now I Know How the River Feels" by Diamond Rio, a song that touched them so much they had some of the lyrics written around the tiers of their cake.

Jingle bells were on-hand for the guests to shake while they left to Frank Sinatra's version of "Jingle Bells" but most of the guests chose the

sparklers instead. And by this time the rain had let up so they could have a proper send-off.

Sara and Trey opted to wait until Monday, Christmas Day, to leave for their Cancun, Mexico honeymoon. Sara says it was strange to be at the airport since it was basically empty but that it was very special to be on the beach on Christmas Day.

And that bottle marked "Rainwater 12/23/06" tucked away in their freezer? They'll get to christen their daughter with it after she is born later this year. ♦

**Ceremony & Reception Location: Becker Vineyards**  
830 644-2681 | [www.BeckerVineyards.com](http://www.BeckerVineyards.com)  
**Photographer: Goen South Photography**  
210 736-5006 | [www.GoenSouth.com](http://www.GoenSouth.com)  
**Flowers: Botanika**  
210 733-8120 | [www.Botanika.com](http://www.Botanika.com)  
**Invitations: Petite Folie**  
972 304-4373 | [www.PetiteFolieInc.com](http://www.PetiteFolieInc.com)  
**Catering: Absolutely Delicious**  
210 677-0655 | [www.AbsolutelyDelicious.com](http://www.AbsolutelyDelicious.com)  
**Ceremony Music: Sterling Music.Net**  
210 771-7377 | [www.StringMusic.net](http://www.StringMusic.net)  
**Reception Music: Future Sounds**  
210 945-9601 | [www.Future-Sounds.com](http://www.Future-Sounds.com)  
**Cake: Sophie's Choice Bakery**  
830-997-5873 | [www.SophiesChoiceBakery.com](http://www.SophiesChoiceBakery.com)  
**Officiant: Father Phillip Stevenson**  
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**Hair: Madame Makeup**  
210 826-0138 | [www.MadameMakeUp.com](http://www.MadameMakeUp.com)  
**Gown Designer: Anjolie**  
[www.anjolie.com](http://www.anjolie.com)  
**Purchased at: Bridal Galleria of San Antonio**  
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**Bridesmaid dresses: Jim Hjelm Occasions**  
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**Purchased at: The Bridal Salon at Stardust**  
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**Men's Formal Wear: Ascot Formal Wear**  
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