

It was Friday November 11, 2011, the end of my first week as the new Director of Stone UMC Children's Center. After going out for our weekly 6:30-7:30am breakfast before work, I pulled up to C&J Industries to drop off my fiancé Adam, when he opened the door and closed it saying "I don't want to go to work today." Very shocked, I asked if he had told his boss and he replied, "You're not going to work today either." I strongly reiterated that I *had* to go to work! He informed me that he had already arranged this with my new boss and I was not going. This was unknown to me, including the bags that were already packed and hidden in the back of our car in a closed bin.

We passed through Buffalo, NY and two and a half hours later we arrived at the border of Canada and Adam passed me my passport. The border patrol grilled Adam on where we were headed, staying, and going to do in Canada. Adam replied that we were headed to London, Ontario, staying at The Armory, and going to a hockey game.

Two hours later we pulled up to what looked like an abandoned building! No cars in the parking lot, just the name Forest City Velodrome. I said to Adam, "Please don't make me do anything I don't want to!" as I still had no idea what we were doing. An elderly gentleman arrived, unlocked the building and led us inside. There were bicycle-racing posters and jerseys lining the hallway we entered as we were led into an empty arena that had an enormous steeply banked indoor cycling track going up at a 52-degree angle.

Our guide exited and Adam walked us to the center beneath large stage lights, which he proceeded to point out along with the pulleys that at one time held the curtains for a concert. On February 22, 1968, this was the exact location Johnny Cash proposed to June Carter in the middle of a concert during their duet "Jackson," and she finally said yes. Adam got down on his knee and pulled a ring out of his pocket and asked me, and with tears streaming down my face as I cried during his speech, I replied, "Yes, I would love to!" I did not look down at the ring until we left the building over 25 minutes later as I was too entranced with my happiness about being engaged to marry this wonderful man.

Our first date six years ago was on Thanksgiving Day to see the movie "Walk the Line", which chronicled Johnny Cash's life and long marriage to June Carter. After being together for six years, we still get excited to see each other when we get home from a long day at work. We have worked harder on our relationship than anything else in our lives and should win this wedding because no couple is more deserving.