

*Celebrating the Holy Matrimony of
Charles Drake Jackson & Amanda Nicole Farmsworth
Saturday October 2nd 2012 @ 3 p.m.*

Lighting of Unity Candles

WELCOME

Good afternoon! My name is Amanda McCullough and may I say "it is wonderful to be with you on this happy occasion". Welcome to Luola's Chapel in Historic (and Romantic) Orton Plantation, chosen by Charles & Amanda to celebrate their love for each other and to ask God's blessing on their life together.

By virtue of what happens here among us and before God, this becomes a special place for them, and for all of us who gather here to offer our respect and support for what they have found together. In the new journey that goes on from here, our hope is that they find strength and joy recalling this place and all that it comes to mean.

Friends and family of the Bride and Groom, we are here today because love has gathered us together. On this day Charles Jackson and Amanda Farmsworth will pledge their lives as one, and commit themselves to each other forever in marriage.

Today we are here to celebrate this love.

Processional: -Bridal Party.....

This is the union of two people in heart, body, mind and spirit.
Into this holy estate, Charles & Amanda now come to be joined.

Entrance: The Bride & Father of the Bride

Who presents Amanda Nicole Farmsworth to be married to Charles Drake Jackson?

(Todd): Her Mother and I or I do.

“Todd & Susan -do you bless your daughter into this marriage?”
“Drake & Kelly - do you bless your son into this marriage?” .

Today Charles & Amanda proclaim their love and commitment, and we gather here to rejoice, with and for them, in the new life they now undertake together.

And so I invite you ALL to really *experience* this ceremony, to understand that we are each one here, not by accident but by design.

Let us participate fully with our thoughts and prayers, asking God to bless this couple and their married life.

Let us pray..... (Opening Prayer)

Loving God, we give you thanks for the safe arrival of everybody here, and we acknowledge the spiritual presence of all those who couldn't be here in body today (Especially we remember Charles and Shelby). In body and Spirit together, we ask You to help us see the sacred and spiritual dimensions of all that life is and can be. Continue to guide Charles & Amanda to the source of all our blessings. May they always rejoice in their love, and may the meditations in everybody's hearts here today be lifted and placed around them, that they may wear these good wishes and be strengthened by them. In Jesus Name we pray .Amen

READINGS

“Love”

I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am
with you.

I love you, not only for what you have made of yourself, but for
what you

are making of me.

I love you for the special part of me that only you bring out.

I love you for putting your hand into my heart and passing
over all the frivolous and weak things that you cannot help seeing
there, and drawing out into the light all the beautiful, radiant things

that no one else has looked quite far enough to find.

I love you for ignoring the possibilities of the fool in me and for taking firm hold of the possibilities of good in me.

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*Kahil Gibran, from his book: The Prophet, has written these words about marriage:*

*"... Let there be spaces in your togetherness. And let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another, but make not a bond of love: Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each others cup but drink not from one cup. Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts. And stand together yet not too near together: For the pillars of the temple stand apart. And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow..."*

### Homily

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and

takes a lifetime to fulfill.

WITNESS QUESTIONING AND STATEMENT:

**Stephanie/ Drake.** Will you speak for Amanda/ Charles, stand witness for her /him, and support Amanda & Clint in their life together?  
(Response: I will)

Bride/Groom Attendants, Do you now entrust them to each other in the prayer that their relationship will be enduring and fulfilling?

Charles & Amanda, there are no obligations on earth more sweet or tender that you are about to assume. There are no vows more solemn than those you are about to make. There is no human institution more sacred than that of the home you are about to establish. Marriage is the holiest of all earthly relationships. Yes, marriages are made in heaven, but they have to be maintained here on earth. May you see that your love is a truly a gift from God. And may your marriage be such that all will know of your deep love for one another, as well as for God.

**DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

Charles Drake Jackson, will you have Amanda Nicole Farmsworth to be your wife, to live together in the bonds of marriage? Will you commit yourself completely to her and her alone? And will you promise to love her, and stand by her through all that life may bring, as long as you both shall live?

And Amanda Nicole Farmsworth, will you have Charles Drake Johnson to be your husband, to live together in the bonds of marriage? Will you commit yourself completely to him and him alone? And will you promise to love him, and stand by him through all that life may bring, as long as you both shall live?

*... My hope for you is this: That you will always remember the qualities*

*that attracted you to each other when you first met and how you felt as your feelings of attraction turned into feelings of respect, admiration, and finally love.*

*That you will work hard to turn your feelings of love into acts of love so that nothing and no one can divide you.*

*That you will always have kind and loving hearts that are quick to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong, as well as to forgive when your partner is wrong. That your love might grow to bear all things, hope for all things, and endure all things.*

### SHARING OF VOWS

Charles/Amanda, repeat after me

I come here today to join my life to yours, not only as your Husband, but as your friend, your lover and your confidant.

I vow to be true to you, to respect you and to grow with you.

Wherever you go, I will go

Whatever you face, I will face

I promise to be your loyal and loving husband and will share with you

And support you in all of life's joys and sorrows. This is my solemn vow.

### Family/Friends STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power, with the help of God, to support Amanda & Charles in the living out of these promises today? If so, please respond We will

### THE BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

These rings are an outward & visible sign of an inward & spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of Charles & Amanda in holy union.

Bless, O God, the giving & receiving of these rings, that they who wear them may live in your peace & continue in your favor all the days of

their lives. Amen.

As often as you see these rings upon your fingers, may you remember the vows you have made today, and may you renew your determination to make your love last and your relationship grow - may these rings serve to remind us that though we may fail, love never does.

Charles/Amanda, would you place this ring on Amanda/Clint's finger & repeat:

Amanda, you have taken my heart into yours. You are my best friend. I can think of no better person or soul to spend my life with. For this, I offer you my love in hopes that I can make your life a happy and joyous one... I give you this ring /as a constant reminder of my love and commitment.

Charles, you have been my best friend *and my greatest challenge!!!* But most importantly, you are the love of my life and you make me happier than I could ever imagine and more loved than I ever thought possible I give you this ring /as a constant reminder of my love and commitment

### Lighting of The Union Candle

### Marriage Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;  
May the sun of many days and years shine upon you;  
May the love you have for one another grow and hold you close;

May the good true light within you guide your way on together;

May your dreams come true, and when they don't, may new dreams arise.

And long, long years from now, may you look at one another  
and be able to say,

“Because of you, I have lived the life I always wanted to live -  
because of you I have become the person I longed to be.”

God bless, God bless, God bless

### PRONOUNCEMENT

Charles & Amanda, today before your family and friends, you have  
openly declared your love for each other. You have joined your  
hands, spoken your promised, and given these rings, a symbol of your  
lifelong commitment to each other. And so, I now bestow upon you the  
most honorable titles that may exist between a man and woman: I  
pronounce you husband and wife.

### THE KISS

You may now kiss the bride!

### INTRODUCTION

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the very  
first time

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jackson

### RECESSIONAL