

Holly & Joe

WEDDING: June 7, 2008

PHOTOGRAPHER: EyeSpy Photography

CEREMONY: St. John's Hospital, Maplewood

RECEPTION: Afton House Inn, Afton

HONEYMOON: Jamaica

While many brides pray for perfect weather, calm nerves or even clear skin, Holly Kuhlman had a single, more important wish: that her mother, who was battling terminal cancer, would live to see her big day. Joe Paulson had proposed in May 2007 during an overnight getaway celebrating Holly's college graduation, and the couple planned to wed in fall 2008. Four months before the wedding, Holly and Joe

learned that her mother had only days to live. They acted quickly, acquiring all new vendors and immediately finalizing their changes. Eight days later, Holly's mother was the honored guest at an intimate service in the St. John's Hospital chapel. In a wheelchair pushed by her husband, she escorted Holly down the aisle and performed the readings. Mother and daughter also shared a moment to Martina McBride's "In My Daughter's Eyes." En route to the reception at the Afton House Inn, Holly and Joe's limousine made a stop in Stillwater, where they had originally planned to be married. Despite the circumstances, the event was cause for celebration, and more than 130 family and friends dined and danced the night away.

