

Wedding dreams come true

• By Beth Owens

The Alexander-Hett Wedding

Wedding planner: Haylie Paige Events
Officiant: Pastor Mark Mangrem,
 Gospel City Church
Ceremony: First Presbyterian Church
Ceremony Music: Uptown Violins Trio
Reception: Levitt Pavilion Arlington
Tent: Sandone
Band: IDT

Caterer: Vestals
Cake: Crème de la Crème
Groom's Dessert: Val's Cheesecake
Floral Décor & Rentals: Jackson
 Durham
Photographer: Claire Casner
 Photography
Videographer: When It Clicks



Photos courtesy of Claire Casner Photography

"I met him my sophomore year at Baylor. He was a barista at Common Grounds and I'd see him getting my caffeine fix. There was definitely a spark between us. Pizza and a trip to Braum's in Hillsboro was how it all began," said Avery Alexander, daughter of long-time Arlington orthodontist "Dr. Moody" Alexander and wife Emily Alexander. "Soon we began pursuing each other, and I knew I had met the man I could spend a lifetime with," reminisces the bride.

Fast forward to Avery's senior year and Dr. Moody recalls Collin Hett seeking his permission to marry his daughter, the oldest daughter among seven Alexander children. "Emily and I were thrilled with Collin's request; you pray your daughter will find a soulmate who will honor and cherish her and we knew that Collin would do just that," said Dr. Moody. "It was important to Avery to get married in the community in which she grew up, so we quickly began investigating places in

Arlington to host this celebration," said the Alexanders. Emily's attention to detail coupled with Haylie Jackson, a former Martin High School graduate and wedding planner with Haylie Paige Events, were the perfect combination to plan this magical night. Avery wanted a church wedding, and First Presbyterian Church is both the house of God and steeped in tradition with a beautiful pipe organ and ornate stained glass windows. Soon, conversations turned to where to host a reception that would allow a big group to celebrate. After consulting with Levitt Executive Director Letatia Teykl, the Alexanders knew they had found the perfect location, particularly since they were involved as part of the steering committee to bring the Levitt Pavilion to Arlington some 13 years earlier. The bridesmaids lunched at The Sanford House; the rehearsal dinner was hosted at Arlington's favorite microbrewery, Legal Draft. As the big day finally arrived, Baylor classmates, friends

and family witnessed Avery and Collin exchange their vows. Then it was off to the Levitt to "get the party started." The tented reception space transformed the Levitt lawn in the heart of downtown Arlington into what could be described as a spectacular garden party designed to bring guests together, allowing opportunities to gather with outdoor seating areas, multiple food action stations and live music by the Dallas-based party band, IDT. Once inside the clear-span tent structure, the garden aesthetic continued with hanging vines and large florals. Twinkling string lights were suspended overhead, as well as greenery-embellished lanterns. Attendees found places to visit and eat at cocktail tables and rectangular tables decorated with ambient candlelight and blooms in muted colors of blush and ivory blossoms of hydrangeas, peonies and roses. To kick the evening off, the Alexanders also planned a surprise,

made possible in part by connections of Persis Ann Forster of Miss Persis Studio of Dance and Performing Arts, an Arlington tradition since 1954 and where Avery studied dance for 14 years. Avery loved the Broadway production of "Hamilton," and what could be more amazing than to have a cameo appearance by Thayne Jaspersen, from the original company of "Hamilton" on Broadway. The look of surprise on the bride's face was priceless, and she and the groom sang every word of his signature performance. Guests danced the night away under a star-filled night sky at the Levitt, and when things wrapped up, the wedding party and local friends migrated to the after-party at another downtown tradition, J. Gilligan's. It is appropriate that the DREAM sculpture, a public art exhibit adjacent to the Levitt, could be seen in the distance, as surely this was a night dreams came true in Arlington. **A**