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The 20 acre property includes a pool and pool house, tennis courts, a gazebo for the ceremony and Abbeydell Hall, a five car garage converted into a convention hall with seating for 350, along with a boutique hotel complete with six luxury suites.

This was it — the place they would begin their lives as a married couple.

The venue had two open dates in June of 2017.

Why June?

“We wanted to wait until school was out,” Corie explains. “We wanted the ceremony to be outside, but not when it was too hot. There were a few other events we didn’t want to conflict with and we wanted to pick a day when we had Maddy.

All the planets aligned and they set their wedding day for Saturday, June 3.

As their officiant, they chose Drew Thurman, pastor at Redemption Christian Church in Jasper, where they also took their pre-wedding classes. “We really liked the message he shared,” Ryan explains.

“He did a wonderful job at our wedding,” adds Corie. “He was phenomenal!”

But that’s putting the cart before the horse, so to speak. There was much to plan before the big day arrived.

Selecting the wedding party came next. They wanted to choose friends from different groups in their lives.

Corie made cards, putting her friends’ heads on them with the request they honor her by standing up with her on this most important day in her life. There was Jenna,

her dear friend from sixth-grade-on who would serve as her maid of honor; Jess, a friend she made when she moved back to town after college; Leah, who is younger and has become like a sister; her sister-in-law, Ashley Eckerle; Jerilynn, the music teacher at Nancy Hanks; Ashley Becher, with whom she started her teaching career at Nancy Hanks, “we grew up as teachers together,” and Ryan’s sister, Nicole.

Ryan chose Nathan, a school chum, along with Drake, Brad, Jason and Jess; John Eckerle, Corie’s brother; and TJ, a co-worker who took Ryan under his wing and mentored him through a job change after 12.5 years, the purchase of a house, Ryan’s father passing away, and his engagement and marriage.

Of course Madilyn would serve as flower girl and six-year-old Jacob Scott would handle ring bearer duties. “Jacob is my best friend,” Ryan explains with a smile. “I got to know him through Nathan and I wish everyone I saw was as excited to see me as Jacob is.”

Say yes to the dress

I think most women would admit it, finding the gown in which to say “I do” is one of the most entertaining components of planning a wedding. Fun, but also daunting.

Corie had been looking around locally but had not seen it. “I pushed it off-ish,” she laughs. But finally she planned a day-long wedding gown shopping excursion to Newburgh and Evansville with her mother and bridesmaids during her October birthday weekend. They set off with a planned itinerary and decided to stop at David’s Bridal just to kill time.

“We walked in and everyone decided to

choose a dress for me to try on — one they hated or one they loved.”

Corie does not remember who brought it to her, but, “I was in love! It [her gown] has **POCKETS** [with heavy emphasis on pockets]!”

The dress featured 33 bustle points, which Corie found a wee bit ironic because the ceremony and reception would be held at what

was once Larry Bird’s home and the retired Celtic forward’s uniform bore the number 33.

She opted to alter her paternal grandma Leona Eckerle’s veil and headpiece to go with her gown. She also wore one of Grandma Eckerle’s bracelets, as well as her maternal

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The ladies in the wedding party, celebrating during their bachelorette weekend in Nashville and below, during the wedding. Pictured with the bride (but not in order): Matron of Honor Jenna Seng, Maid of Honor Hess Wright, Leah Luebbehusen, Ashlee Eckerle, Ashley Becher, Nicole Schwartz, Jerilynn Klueh and Miniature Bride/Flower Girl Madilyn Ryan Schwartz.



The men (also not in order): Best Man Nathan Seifert, Brad Beadles, Jason Beadles, TJ Clark, John Eckerle, Drake Rogers, Jeff “Chipper” Lanman and Ring Bearer Jacob Scott with Ryan. Right: Showing off their America socks.

