

## The bride and groom met where? Sharing a ride to work on a vanpool?

This story begins over 20 years ago when as children, Heather and Mike attended the same church. But being different ages and attending different schools they never really knew each other. Then, just over 3 years ago, Heather started working in downtown Pittsburgh and decided to start riding a vanpool.

At that point, Mike had already been riding the van for 3 years and did not even recognize Heather her first day. Heather had remained active in the church and through that, got reacquainted with Mike's family. Heather and Mike shared a seat on the van.

Over the years, as happens on most vans, the vanpool participants shared stories and got to learn much more about each other's lives. In February of 2005, the group decided to go out to celebrate Mike's birthday and that is when Mike and Heather started dating. "We spend two hours a day commuting to and from downtown Pittsburgh. It's nice to be able to share that time together" Mike said.

Less than a year later, the couple was engaged and less than 2 weeks ago on October 14<sup>th</sup>, they got married. "I never expected to find my husband on the vanpool!" Heather said.



**The happy couple on their wedding day.**

**Photo: Bruce Duncan**

Believe it or not, this is not the first time this has happened. Over the 30 years the CommuteInfo vanpool program has been in existence there have been other marriages and many, many friendships formed.

CommuteInfo is a program of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, operated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout Southwestern PA. The CommuteInfo program is designed to serve commuters and employers as a clearinghouse for information about transit, carpooling, and vanpooling. The program serves employers and commuters in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

For more information about CommuteInfo and commuter alternatives, please visit [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org), or call toll free 1-888-819-6110. For more information, please call Lisa Kay Schweyer, SPC CommuteInfo Program Developer, at 412.391.5590 x375.