



Photo by Alice Keeney

Jimmy and Tommye Priest had an “I do” re-do.

When Jimmy and Tommye met as blind dates for a fraternity formal, they didn't know they would take their vows twice before mastering their marriage. “We had fun. We were partiers.” They got engaged after a month and were wed two years later. But Tommye, an operations manager at Beacon Communications, and Jimmy, a dining facility manager at College of Charleston, broke apart after 24 years, two children and phases of counseling. “We just were not happy together.” They found friendship for four years, even attempting to act like a couple at family functions. “We both made an oath that our kids would not suffer from our problems.” After a church retreat, Tommye suddenly called Jimmy, realizing she was still in love. “Every friend and every family member was saying, ‘Go for it.’” So they said their vows during a summer wedding and are still strong after four more years. “We look for the good now. That's the difference.”