

WEDDING GUIDELINES AT  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA



The following guidelines are made available directly to every couple inquiring about, or desiring, a wedding at Christ Church. We're glad you're considering a wedding at Christ Church. We hope you find them helpful.

WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT CHRIST CHURCH

In the Episcopal Church, it is required that one of the parties be a baptized Christian. If either or both persons have had a previous marriage, the priest needs to know this at the first interview. Divorce is not in itself a barrier to remarriage but the Church requires certain steps to be followed.

PRE-MARITAL INSTRUCTION

Pre-marital instruction is a requirement in the Episcopal Church. In order that adequate instruction may be given, the man and the woman to be married should, if possible, make arrangements for pre-marital instruction well in advance of the wedding date. This allows adequate time in which to give prayer and thought to what has been learned in the instruction.

WHO MAY OFFICIATE

The officiating priest is normally one of the parish priests, although, other clergy may be included as well.

CONCERNING THE LITURGY

The Episcopal Church treats the marriage liturgy as any liturgy of the church, as a praise to God from the Book of Common Prayer.

OTHER DETAILS

Christ Church has a trained marriage facilitator to help with the details of the wedding. (Merry Thomasson 977-3552) In the case she is unable to be present at the wedding, a trained member of our Altar Guild will facilitate the details of the wedding. The church will also provide an acolyte for your wedding.

## CONCERNING MUSIC

All musicians and musical selections must be run by our music minister. Secular music would be more appropriate at your reception. Please do not “book” any musicians until you have had a discussion with Paul M(usic) Walker. In the event that a solo of an acceptable nature is to be sung, it may be part of the pre-service music. You might consider having the carillon played after the service.

## CONCERNING DECORATIONS

Remembering that the wedding is a service of the Church, the normal canons of good taste concerning the decorations of the Church should be observed. The wedding couple is responsible for ordering an arrangement of flowers. The Altar flowers normally remain on the altar for the following Sunday services as a reminder to the congregation of the Wedding that has taken place. Dropping of flower petals, runners, floral arches and candles on pews are not allowed.

## ABOUT THE REHEARSAL

A wedding is a service of the Church taking place in the Church building. The rehearsal for this service is therefore always under the direction of the officiating priest.

Those participating in the rehearsal should be present 15 minutes ahead. Only the wedding party and immediate members of the family need to be present at the rehearsal. In this regard, it should be kept in mind that dresses of the bridesmaids should be of modest design and good taste. A normal rehearsal should last 45 minutes to an hour.

## CONCERNING PHOTOGRAPHS

In order to preserve the dignity of the service, photographs shall not be taken during the wedding itself. Please provide us with your photographer's contact information, and we will send our photography guidelines to him/her and copy you.

## FEEES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- For members, there is no fee for the use of the church. Nor is there any fee for the Officiant, although an honorarium is suggested.
- Non-members and non-active members will be charged \$1,000 for the use of the building, and \$500 for the clergy's time in pre-marital instruction, the rehearsal and the officiating.
- A \$250 fee to the Organist, a \$150 fee to the Sexton, a \$20 fee to the acolyte and a \$250 fee to the Church's marriage facilitator will be paid by all couples.
- If you wish to have our carillon played before or after the service we ask that \$75 be paid to the carillonneur. All fees are due at the rehearsal.
- The latest time of day for a wedding is 6 p.m.
- The regular organist of the Church plays for all weddings, unless other arrangements have been made with the Organist.
- All musical participants need to be approved by the Music Minister, Paul M(usic) Walker (293-5339 or 293-2347 x. 110).

## FEES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The Church provides a Wedding Bulletin, the cost of which is the responsibility of the couple. Examples are available upon request. The Wedding Bulletin must be approved at least two weeks prior to the wedding.
- No outside facilitator/director is permitted.
- **Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal.**

Revised July 2010

## WEDDING PREPARATION TIMELINE

Make appointment with Christ Church Clergy to discuss potential wedding.

With clergy approval, set wedding date. Make appointment for follow up instructional meeting with clergy.

Complete Wedding Information Sheet.

Contact Merry Thomasson (977-3552) and Paul M(usic) Walker (293-5339 or 293-2347 x. 110) to get on their calendars and set up planning meetings with each.

Two months prior to wedding, send completed Bulletin Prep page to Marcy Hooker (marcy@christchurchville.org).

One month prior to wedding, review bulletin and make arrangements to print bulletin.

Day before wedding, bring marriage license, bulletins and all fees to rehearsal.