

Weddings

AT ST. PAUL'S

Congratulations!

You are planning to be married and there are, no doubt, many things going on in your head. We want this to be your day, however, we have customs and guidelines which you should understand.

All services of Holy Matrimony at St. Paul's are usually conducted by Episcopal bishops or priests in accordance with the Canons (Laws) of the Episcopal Church and with the liturgies established by the Episcopal Church in The Book of Common Prayer and supplemental liturgies.

Holy Matrimony is a sacrament of the Church and is considered a service of worship. Reverence and aesthetic attention are to be honored. Therefore, the priest is responsible for the conduct and design of the service.

Episcopal clergy of the Diocese of East Carolina may officiate at St. Paul's with the Rector's consent. The Bishop's consent is required for clergy outside diocese.

In the Episcopal Church, it is required that:

- At least one of the parties be a baptized Christian
- The ceremony be attested to by at least two witnesses
- The marriage conforms to the Laws of the State of NC
- The marriage conforms to the Canons of the Church.

In addition to these requirements, both persons who seek to be married in the Episcopal Church must consent to the Church's expectation as stated in the Declaration of Intention which must be signed by the couple. It reads:

We understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community.

If either of the persons desiring to be married is divorced, counsel with the priest must be sought before any arrangements are made. The Episcopal Church requires its priests to obtain permission from the Bishop before performing marriages for persons who have been divorced. If this is the third or more marriage for either party, counseling is required by a professional counselor.

The divorce must have been finalized and on public record for at least one year.

NOTE: You will be required to show the officiating minister a copy of the divorce decree.

A license from the State of North Carolina is required. In North Carolina, applicants for marriage licenses must apply to the Register of Deeds in the County where the ceremony is to take place. Application must be made within thirty-days (30) of the wedding.

- A physical examination is no longer required.
- Proof of Age: If one of the parties is under 18, a parent's signed consent is required.

Canon Law in the Episcopal Church requires pre-marital counseling sessions. These range from two to four sessions depending on the couple's circumstances. Both parties must be available for these sessions. If the couple is too far away, arrangements for the counseling can be made with an Episcopal priest nearer to them.

Holy Communion is an appropriate part of the wedding, but is optional.

It is customary for an acolyte to light the candles prior to the service and lead the procession. If you do not have someone you want to serve in this capacity, please let the Wedding Coordinator know and one will be provided.

A sexton is required to be present.

A Wedding Coordinator is supplied by St. Paul's to assist you as you prepare for your wedding.

- You should contact her with any questions you may have with regard to the rehearsal and wedding.
- She will be available to show the facilities to your florist or others involved in the rehearsal, wedding, and, if applicable, the reception.
- On the day of the ceremony, she or the sexton will open the facilities one and a half hours prior to the ceremony and will remain available until the conclusion of the ceremony and the departure of you and your guests.
- Among other duties, they will coordinate the seating of grandparents and parents, and the processional.



SETTING A DATE

The first step is for the couple to have an introductory meeting with the rector. If the rector agrees to marry the couple, a date can be set for the ceremony.

Once your wedding date has been confirmed, you will meet with St. Paul's wedding coordinator to reserve any other facilities at St. Paul's you will require such as dressing room, Parish Hall, kitchen, etc.

Upon the confirmation of your wedding date, the wedding coordinator will connect you with the Director of Music to discuss music for your wedding. (Please see the Music section of this booklet for more information.)

For non-members:

Once your date has been confirmed, you will be required to pay a non-refundable security deposit as outlined in the fees schedule included with this packet.

THE REHEARSAL

For a wedding involving two or more attendants, a rehearsal on the evening prior to the wedding should be held. Normally this should be scheduled to allow for any desired rehearsal dinner. The bride, groom, all attendants, ushers, groomsmen, readers, acolytes, and parents should be present. The organist will also be on hand. The rehearsal will start on time regardless of late attendees. The rehearsal shall take no longer than 40 minutes so that you may plan for a rehearsal dinner.

If a rehearsal dinner is held, it is appropriate to invite the officiating clergy. They may not always be available to attend, but if they can, this allows them to get to know the families on a more personal and informal basis.

REHEARSAL DINNER AND/OR RECEPTION AT ST. PAUL'S

If the Parish Hall is desired for a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, reservations are made in conjunction with the date of the ceremony. The wedding coordinator (or church office) will provide you with the appropriate information concerning the use of the Parish Hall and kitchen.

GUEST REGISTER

Many couples wish to have guests register as they enter the church. A table will be provided for this if desired. The couple is responsible for someone to tend the guest book.



PHOTOGRAPHS

While it is understood that pictures provide a life-long memory of your wedding day, the taking of pictures and video may, in no way, interfere with the actual ceremony. This applies to your guests as well as your photographer.

Flash pictures may be taken in any part of the building before or after (but not during) the service. Thirty minutes is allowed for photographs may be taken after the service. Cell phones and cell cameras are to be off during the service.

Your photographer may take pictures during the wedding provided he or she remains in the balcony of the church and uses no electronic flash. This is also true of those who wish to videotape the wedding. There will be an opportunity following the service to take whatever pictures you desire.

FLOWERS, DECORATIONS AND CANDLES

All arrangements for flowers, pew bows, etc. are to be made directly with the florist of your choice.

It is appropriate for the floral arrangements at the altar to be given to the glory of God and used for the Sunday services with an acknowledgment of the wedding in the bulletin.

Rice, flower petals, bubbles, and decorations that will distract from the sacred space are not permitted in the church.

During Lent, other than corsages, boutonnieres, and carried bouquets, flowers are not allowed in the church. Greenery may be used.

During Lent, the altar hangings will not be changed to white. The purple hangings will remain in place.

The use of live flowers and/or greenery is permitted in the following locations:

- Credence tables (on wall behind altar)
- Reredos (shelf behind altar)
- Chancel steps and stands behind chancel steps
- As pew markers
- Window boxes
- Entry ways

For the altar area (credence tables and/or reredos) the church can provide two round, brass vases. The vases require a liner that you can get from the church or you may substitute a 64 ounce plastic drink cup for the liners. The vases measure 4 inches in diameter and 16 inches in height.

If you do not elect to use these brass vases, please ensure that your containers are water-tight and will not leak. There is no height limit for the flower arrangements. If the flowers will be on the reredos, the arrangements should not be more than 36 inches wide (to allow room for the office candles) or more than 18 inches deep (so that they will not fall or interfere with the celebrant's activities behind the altar).

The church has other flower containers that it can provide upon request. All containers provided by SPE should remain at SPE. Liners provided by SPE should be returned to SPE.

The use of an aisle cloth is not permitted

No lit candles are permitted on the ends of the pews, but can be used in window arrangements.

No decorations may be placed on the top of the columns and no nails may be used to hang any decorations.

Seasonal decorations in the church may not be removed.

Don Baker is a member of our parish and the owner of Brunswick Town Florist and he is most familiar with requirements for flower placement in our parish. You can reach him at (910) 457-1144 or (877) 230-1144 e-mail donhbaker@yahoo.com. The wedding coordinator has a list of available florists.

All decorations must be removed from the sanctuary following the wedding ceremony, unless they are being donated to the church for Sunday morning services.

Two seven-branch candelabras are provided by St. Paul's. Unity candles are not used as part of the service.

WEDDING BULLETINS

Wedding bulletins can be very helpful to the guests attending your wedding. In addition to listing the participants in your wedding, service leaflets typically include musical selections, hymns, page numbers from The Book of Common Prayer, and other information to help guide guests through your celebration of Holy Matrimony. A template is available to guide you in producing a bulletin.

The final design and content of the service leaflet is subject to the approval and editing by the priest officiating at your wedding. Please provide final drafts of the service leaflet to the priest of St. Paul's or officiating clergy person two weeks prior to going to press.



MUSIC

As soon as your wedding date has been confirmed, you should visit with the wedding coordinator and talk with the Organist/Choir Director to discuss music for your wedding. If he is unable to play for your wedding, he will arrange for another organist. Organists are allowed to use the organ at the discretion of the Clergy and/or Organist/Choir Director.

If you plan to have musicians in addition to the organist, this must be discussed with the organist and approved by the Rector.

The organist and any other musicians will be expected to rehearse the processional and recessional and to rehearse with any soloists. The choice for prelude music to be played before the wedding can be made by the organist with your suggestions for particular sacred pieces. The priest or Director of Music must approve music chosen. A rule of thumb is that music must be reflective of a sacred occasion.

No recorded music.

Weddings begin with a 30 minute musical prelude with music for organ, organ and voice, or other instruments. .

OTHER MATTERS

Dressing rooms will be available for the wedding party. Water will be provided.

Unless otherwise requested, the Church is opened and these rooms are available one and a half hours before the stated time of the wedding.

St. Paul's nursery may be used. You will need to provide your own sitter.

Smoking is not allowed inside any of St. Paul's buildings.

Alcohol is not allowed at the rehearsal or on the wedding day.

Andrews Mortuary will be notified that there may be an overflow of parking on the day of the ceremony. They will leave their parking lot lights on if requested for the safety of your family and guests.

WEDDING FEES

	Active Member	Non-Active Member	Non-Members
Reservation/Non-Refundable Fee	-0-	<u>Date of reservation</u> \$400	<u>Date of reservation</u> \$700
Church			
Inside Chapel		Six weeks prior \$200	Six weeks prior \$400
Reception – Parish Hall per use		Two weeks prior \$200	Two weeks prior \$400
Rehearsal Dinner – Kitchen			
Sexton *Required cleaning fee of \$60 * Separate \$60 check payable to Sexton	\$60	Date of reservation \$60	Date of reservation \$60
Wedding Director *Required for assistance in parish *Separate check payable at reservation			
Organist -Wedding only -Wedding and rehearsal -Wedding with instrument(s) (Music fees are paid directly to musicians.) Music Director/Organist: Ronnie Wise Asst. Music Director/Organist Richard Rhoads *Separate checks payable to organist	\$200 \$300 TBD	\$200 \$300 TBD	\$200 \$300 TBD
Clergy	-0-	\$300	\$300

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