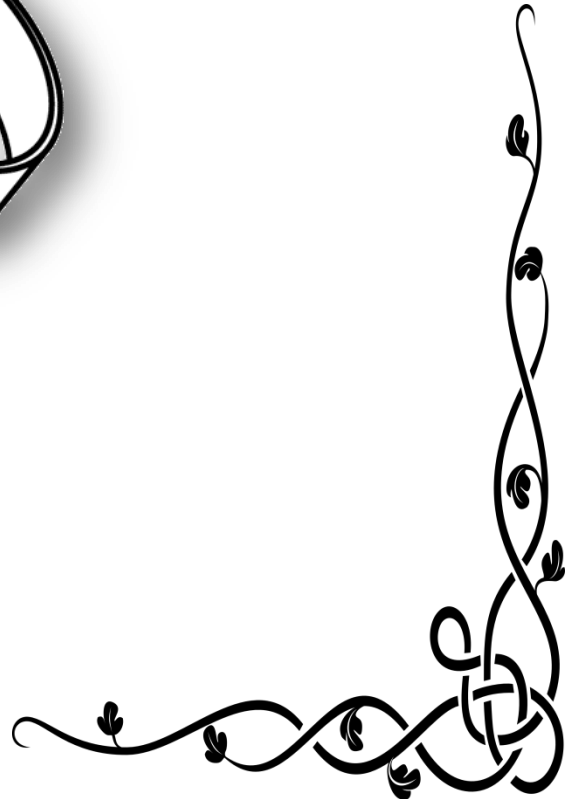
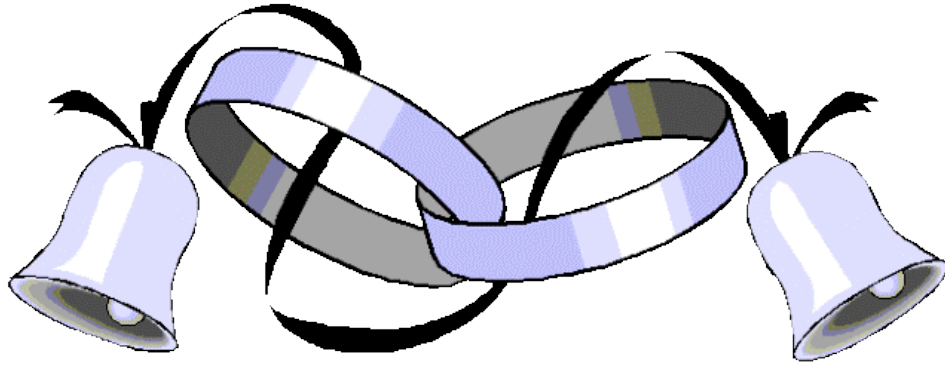




Guide to the Celebration and Blessing of Marriage

All Saints'
Episcopal Church
Concord, North Carolina





Celebration and Blessing of Marriage All Saints' Church

Congratulations on your engagement! We hope the information in this booklet will help make the planning of your wedding easier and more meaningful.

A marriage is a sacred ceremony which celebrates, through public witness, the sacred commitment a man and woman make to each other in Holy Matrimony. In the service, the couple sacramentally present to God their intended union and commitment. The minister receives the intentions of the couple in the name of the Church, prays for them and blesses their union in the name of God.

Since this is a service of the church, the Clergy will assist each couple plan and prepare for marriage. The marriage ceremony provides the liturgical framework which will help the couple express and celebrate publicly their union.

There are a number of procedures and customs of the Episcopal Church, generally, and All Saints' in particular, that you should have in mind as you make plans. We hope this booklet will help you understand the expectations at All Saints' and help ease planning the marriage ceremony.

After studying these guidelines, please call the church office (704-782-2024) to set up an appointment with the priest to discuss possible dates for the ceremony. Weddings are not officially scheduled or added to the church calendar until after the first meeting with the Clergy.

Preliminary Arrangements

Please call the church before making any contractual arrangements regarding your marriage ceremony. All Saints' Clergy must be notified at least ninety days prior to any proposed marriage. Either the bride, groom, or one of their parents or grandparents



must be a member of the All Saints' family. If one or both parties are divorced, it is

possible to be married in the church, but still, certain criteria must be met, including permission from the Bishop.

Church marriage ceremonies at All Saints' are historically scheduled for Saturdays between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Marriage ceremonies during Lent must be held on Sundays, and are at the discretion of the Rector. Marriage ceremony rehearsals are generally scheduled for 4:00 pm the day before the marriage ceremony and normally last about one hour. It is very important that everyone be there on time. The marriage license and all fees must be presented at least four days before the rehearsal commences.

Premarital Preparation

The purpose of the premarital preparation is to help the couple recognize the presence of God in their relationship and to celebrate the strengths of their relationship and address specific concerns. We also emphasize the importance of good communication skills in the nurturing of a lifelong marriage. At this time we also review the authorized marriage liturgies of the Episcopal Church. The number of premarital preparation sessions vary with each couple but generally four to six sessions are adequate. During the

premarital preparation period, the couple will meet with a member of the parish wedding committee and will, together, review the wedding manual and answer any questions that may arise.

The Order of Service

"The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" is found on page 423 of the Book of Common Prayer. The bride and groom read the service, consult with the Clergy, and then jointly make decisions about such things as which Biblical readings will be used and whether a family member, one of the wedding party, or another person will read one or two of the Lessons.

The marriage service generally is celebrated in the context of Holy Eucharist.

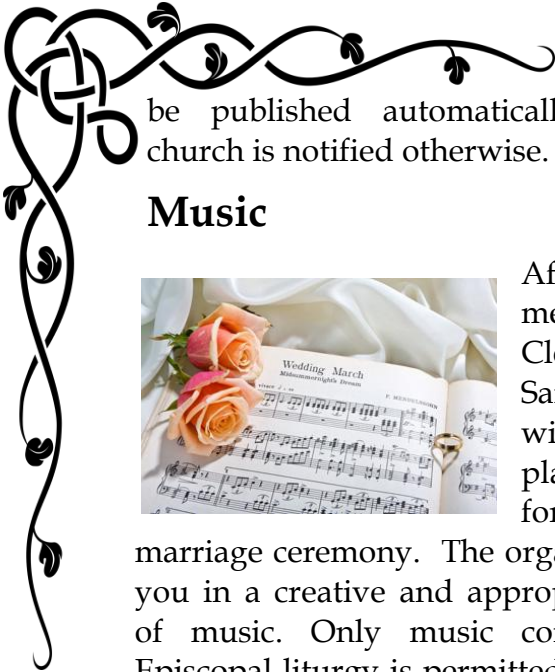


When the Eucharist is celebrated, all persons in the congregation are invited to receive Holy Communion. Holy Eucharist for the families and/or wedding party may be celebrated at a separate time such as before or after the rehearsal. Chalice bearers will be provided by the church and will be assigned if the bridal couple has no other preference.

Banns

There is an old English custom of "Publishing the Banns" of a marriage. During the three weeks before a marriage ceremony the following announcement may be made in the church bulletin: "We publish the Banns of Marriage between _____ and _____. "If any of you know

just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it." This statement will



be published automatically unless the church is notified otherwise.

Music



After the first meeting with Clergy, the All Saints' organist will help you plan the music for your

marriage ceremony. The organist will assist you in a creative and appropriate selection of music. Only music compatible with Episcopal liturgy is permitted in the church. Selection of organ and other instrumental pieces, and hymns or pieces to be sung, should be made with this in mind. Use of an organist, singers, or instrumentalists not affiliated with All Saints' is at the discretion of our organist who will issue the invitation.

Attendants

Bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, and other participants in the marriage ceremony should be persons who can in good conscience commit themselves to a religious ceremony. Because of limited space at the altar rail, it is recommended that a maximum of eight bridesmaids and eight groomsmen participate in the marriage ceremony. It is advised that children less than 5 years old are too young to serve as ring bearers and flower girls. Flower girls may carry a basket of flowers or petals, but may not scatter them down the aisle. Dress for the attendants should be appropriate for worship in the church. Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages permitted before the marriage ceremony.

All Saints' Wedding Committee

As with all worship services at the church, the priest is in charge. At the rehearsal and the marriage ceremony, he or she will be assisted by members of the All Saints'

Wedding Committee, one of whom will be appointed as "director". No bridal consultant, florist, or other person is allowed to perform this service. The bride and groom must meet with their appointed wedding director prior to the rehearsal. The director will assist the Priest at the rehearsal and the marriage ceremony. Our Wedding Committee will arrive at a prearranged time to assist you in dressing, distributing flowers and all the details of the service; i.e. alert ushers, set watches, line up the procession, etc. The Committee's responsibility ends after the marriage ceremony.

Crucifer/Acolytes

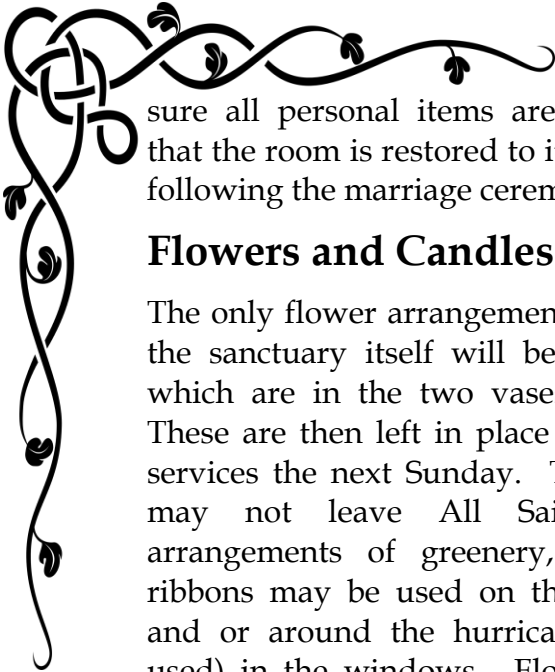
Acolytes light and extinguish the candles and carry the Cross. You may choose a trained All Saints' acolyte to perform this service. Please let the officiating Clergy know, as well as marking the person's name on the information sheet given to you. If you have no preference, we will provide a list of acolytes.

Reserved Seating

Pew markers are available for use on reserved seating and are placed on either side of the center aisle. The wedding couple should let those people know they are invited to sit in special pews and alert the ushers. It is the responsibility of those who are to be seated in special places to arrive early and to inform the ushers as they enter the church.

Dressing Arrangements

If the bride and attendants decide to dress at the church, they will dress in a room designated by the wedding director. Doors to the changing room will be locked during the marriage ceremony, but the director or the designated key bearer will unlock them before she leaves. The bride should ask someone outside the wedding party to be



sure all personal items are removed and that the room is restored to its original state following the marriage ceremony.

Flowers and Candles

The only flower arrangements permitted in the sanctuary itself will be those flowers which are in the two vases on the altar. These are then left in place for the church services the next Sunday. The altar vases may not leave All Saints'. Small arrangements of greenery, flowers, and ribbons may be used on the family pews and or around the hurricane lanterns (if used) in the windows. Flowers/greenery symbolize the beauty of God's creation, therefore no artificial flowers are permitted. You may check with the church office for the name of a florist familiar with our church or you may choose another florist.



Please let the church office know which florist you will be using. If you choose a florist unfamiliar with All Saints', please arrange for your florist to meet with the Altar Guild Chairperson before you order the flowers. Altar flowers should be delivered as per arrangements with the Altar Guild. The florist should see that the bride's flowers, attendants' flowers, and boutonnieres are delivered to the church at least two hours before the ceremony. All flowers must be marked by the florist for persons included in the marriage ceremony, i.e. bride, groom, mothers, etc.

White hangings are used on the altar for all marriage ceremonies. The candleholders used for regular or festive church services will be used for marriage ceremonies.

Wedding Pictures Policy

Pictures make an important contribution to the memories of this glorious day in the life of a couple. The purpose of the following policy is not to detract from that day, but to add to it. No photographs are to be taken during the service—flash or no flash. The clicking of shutters, flashing of bulbs, and movement of the photographer is distracting and not conducive to worship.

The bride is responsible for informing the



photographer

of this rule. Photographs may be taken of the wedding party BEFORE the services, as they are getting ready. Photographs of the wedding party may be taken in the nave following the service. It is expected that you will consult with your photographer well in advance, listing the persons and group of persons - family, etc. you want photographed to save time after the marriage ceremony and during the reception. If you are considering videotaping the ceremony, please discuss this with the Clergy. The video camera may be set up in the choir loft and must be stationary.

License

The marriage license is obtained from the Court House in the office of the Register of Deeds. The license must be delivered to the church office at least four days prior to the marriage ceremony so that the license, marriage book, and church register can be completed and ready by rehearsal day. Please also bring the fees for the organist and cleaning service at this time.



Wedding Reception at All Saints'

In most cases the Parish Hall is available for a reception. Please check with the church secretary before scheduling your marriage ceremony date if you wish to use it. All

arrangements, flowers, decorations, and refreshments are the responsibility of the wedding party. All arrangements must be worked out well in advance. The caterer should contact the church office to set up an appointment with our Kitchen Chairperson well in advance of the marriage ceremony.

The serving of alcoholic beverages must be in accordance with All Saints' Episcopal Church Policy. Additional information is available in the church office upon request. Alcohol insurance is a requirement.

Miscellaneous

Guest Registry

The guest registry will be set up outside under the covered walkway or in the hall. It will be removed 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service so that all last minute arrivals may be seated.

Rice or Birdseed Are Not Permitted

In lieu of rice or birdseed, bubbles may be



used outside after the marriage ceremony, if desired.

Be on time!

It is very important for the wedding party to arrive at the rehearsal and the wedding on time. Traffic here is often very difficult in late afternoon so this should be allowed for in planning.

Bible

The edition of the Bible used normally at All Saints' is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Lay readers should prepare readings using this translation.

Clergy

Use of Clergy not affiliated with All Saints' is at the discretion of our priests who will issue the invitation.

Bulletins

the printing of the wedding bulletin is your responsibility after it has been approved by the Clergy. A proper format will be provided by the church. The printer's proof must be approved through the church office before going to print (at least one month before the marriage ceremony). Please be sure to bring all copies of the bulletin to the wedding rehearsal.

Cleaning Service

Our cleaning service will ensure that the building is ready for Sunday worship, (cleaning bathroom, vacuuming, etc.). This does not preempt the necessity of cleaning up after your party. Fees will be charged accordingly.





Wedding Fees at All Saints' Church

Following is a fee schedule for the marriage ceremony:

Cleaning Service Main Church	\$75.00
Cleaning Service Parish Hall	\$75.00
Parish Hall (reception)	\$300.00
Organist	
Wedding Service	\$200.00
Wedding Rehearsal with Bridal Party:	\$50/hr
Additional Rehearsals with Musicians:	\$40/hr
Contracting of Additional Singers/Musicians:	\$20/person hired

Priest The Clergy of All Saints' have no set fee for marriage ceremonies, but it is customary to give an honorarium. Check with the church secretary for guidelines.

Please make checks payable by name to the Organist, Cleaning Service, etc., and bring them to the church office, along with the license, no later than four days before the rehearsal. The above fees are minimal fees, so there may be additional charges for a substantially increased time for the Cleaning Services.

In no case does All Saints' desire to have these fees create an undue burden for any person. Any financial needs should be discussed with the officiating Clergy person, and we will do our best to be of assistance.

Important Notes & Checklist

Read the information in this booklet carefully and share with your families as appropriate.

- Set an appointment with the Clergy to discuss date/times of the marriage ceremony and to arrange the premarital preparation sessions.
- Meet with organist.
- Complete Form #1 after the first meeting with Clergy, and return to the Parish Administrator immediately.
- Meet with wedding director.
- If reception is at All Saints', meet with kitchen leadership.
- Complete Form 2 with the assistance of the Rector and return to the Parish Administrator one month prior to the marriage ceremony. Let the office know of any reserved seating, Fees and the marriage license should be brought to the church office by Tuesday of the week prior to the marriage ceremony. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Summer office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Bring the wedding bulletins to rehearsal.



The Rev. Nancy L. J. Cox, Rector
ncox@allsaintsconcord.org

Brian Sapp, Music Director/Organist
bsapp@allsaintsconcord.org

Jennifer Cobb, Interim Parish Administrator
admin@allsaintsconcord.org

Mrs. Gwen King, Wedding Committee Co-Chair
(704) 786-6673

Mrs. Beth Simpson, Wedding Committee Co-Chair
(704) 786-9208

Mrs. Susan Yelton, Kitchen Chair
(704) 786-4517

Mrs. Brenda Trott, Altar Guild Chair
(704) 701-6343

Church Office
(704) 782-2024

Fax Number
(704) 782-2019

