

The

Wedding



Guide

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
Middletown, Delaware

When you as a couple want to get married in a church, you are seeking God's blessing on your life together and your love for each other, and you seek to receive that blessing in a building the Christian community has set apart as a place to worship God and to learn to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We invite everyone who wishes to be married at St. Anne's to take part in the life of our faith community prior to and following your marriage. In this, there is give and take. Being part of a community of faith is a source of nurture and strength for your commitment to each other. True love always overflows into a joy that seeks to love neighbors, strangers, and persons in need.

Non-members

If you are considering being married at St. Anne's, please be advised that:

- ✝ costs will include \$1,000 for the facility, \$200 for the priest, and \$250* for the organist,
- ✝ you are required to attend four marriage counseling sessions (i. e. Marriage Preparation), and
- ✝ the Book of Common Prayer is used for the marriage service.

Members

Fees for members are \$350 for the facility, \$100 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and \$250* for the organist.

- * If the organist is to be present at the rehearsal, there is an additional \$50 charge.

Who May Be Married at St. Anne's

The Episcopal Church requires that at least one of the two persons being married is a baptized Christian. While our service is very much a part of the Christian tradition, we are accustomed to and comfortable with performing weddings for persons in an interfaith relationship. This requires an open dialogue that takes place during the Marriage Preparation.

Members of Another Episcopal Congregation

If one or both persons are members of an Episcopal Church, we are happy to cooperate with the clergy from your congregation in planning participating in the wedding service.

In the case of divorce

The Episcopal Church believes in both forgiveness and responsibility. In the course of Marriage Preparation, questions about previous marriages are discussed in the hope that persons have learned from their pasts so that they can make healthy and lasting commitments in the future. If there are children from past relationships, parties are asked about their responsibility for the well being of those children.

When there has been one divorce, for either or both persons, the priest makes a *pro forma* request to the Bishop for permission to marry.

When there has been more than one divorce, for either or both persons, the priest must write a more detailed letter seeking the Bishop's permission. In either case, the goal is not to dwell on guilt or on the past but to prepare for the future.

Making the arrangements

First, telephone the Church Office (378-2401) and speak with the Rector. Weddings are usually planned three months to one year in advance.

Setting the Date

Check with the Rector that the date is open. Weddings are not usually conducted during Lent, Holy Week, or Advent. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the Rector.

Choosing the location

Discuss with the Rector where your wedding ceremony will be held.



The Town Church is available year-round.



The Chapel at the Town Church is appropriate for a small wedding.



Old St. Anne's Church can be used in the spring, summer, or fall.

Marriage Preparation

Marriage Preparation should begin more than three months prior to the wedding. There are usually four sessions during which the Rector will ask you many personal questions about your relationship. The goal of these sessions is to give you helpful feedback about the strengths and areas of growth in your relationship. It is during the Marriage Preparation that persons from different religious backgrounds can discuss how the service might incorporate aspects of their faith traditions. Marriage Preparation also includes instruction about the marriage service.

Music

Contact the Music Director/Organist to choose appropriate sacred music in keeping with the Episcopal tradition. Discuss with him if you intend to employ other musicians or a soloist.

Flowers

Contact the Director of the Altar Guild to discuss your plans for flowers. She can recommend a florist, if necessary.

Wedding Rehearsal

The rehearsal is intended to make you and all the participants more comfortable during the service. It usually takes place 24 hours before the wedding and lasts about an hour. All principal participants should be present: the wedding party, family members, persons reading lessons.

Remember to bring the marriage license with you to the rehearsal.

Wedding Day

The bride and groom and all participants should arrive at the church one hour in advance.

Note: We have facilities to dress at the Town Church, and you would need to arrive two hours in advance.

The length of a wedding ceremony depends on several factors, including whether or not the service includes the Eucharist and whether there is a desire for special music.

Photography

A wedding is a sacred service. We will work with amateur and professional photographers and videographers, however, we have set policies.

- ✝ We do not allow flash photography during the service. Videos may be taken during the service if additional lighting is not required.
- ✝ Photographers need to be aware of the designated locations in which they can stand during the service. They may not stand in the aisle during the procession.
- ✝ Prior to and following the service, the photographers may take posed pictures inside and outside of church.

Please Note

The Unity Candle is not a part of Episcopal Liturgy and, therefore, may not be used.

You are welcome to have your guests throw birdseed outside after the service, but they must refrain from throwing rice.

Suggested Readings

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

Tobit 8:5b-8

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4:7-16

Psalm 67

127

28

Matthew 5:1-10

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

John 15:9-12

Check List

- Call the Church Office.
- Schedule the wedding date.
- Pay the deposit (if not a member).
- Meet with the Rector.
- Contact the Music Director.
- Contact the Director of the Altar Guild.
- Take part in Marriage Preparation (four sessions).
- Attend the wedding rehearsal.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

15 East Green Street
(Mailing Address: P. O. Box 421)
Middletown, DE 19709

Office: 19 East Cochran Street

The Rev. Carl N. Kunz, Bishop's Vicar

302-378-2401
Office@st-annes-church.com

Fax: 302-378-3807

Web site: www.st-annes-church.com

Mission Statement

*St. Anne's nourishes God's family as we
welcome all to grow in Christ's love.*