

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to celebrating with you as you plan your service and your marriage together. Our hope is that this booklet will serve as a guideline for the next several months as you prepare for a wedding. The Christian marriage service is a solemn and public covenant in the presence of God, and it will mark the beginning of your journey of Christian life together as a family.

## Weddings at St. George's

St. George's is pleased to prepare for the weddings of our active members in good standing and for their children. An active member is one who has been faithful in attending worship and is also contributing to the shared life of St. George's through regular worship, service, and with financial giving.

**A Note Regarding New Members** | We are aware that couples are often looking for a church home and a wedding locale simultaneously. Our primary desire as a parish is to help new members of our community pursue our stated mission to "receive, live, and share the abundant life of Jesus Christ." Therefore, we are delighted to work with new couples who wish to join us in that holy calling.

In order to give the church and the couple time to grow in relationship together, we require that the bride and groom participate in the following aspects of the church *before* requesting a wedding date with the church office:

- Become active members of the parish by making a formal commitment of **membership** and participating regularly in worship and financial giving for at least six months.
- Attend the next offering of **St. George's 101**, a class to introduce new members to the vision of our life together at St. George's and to help you take the next steps of becoming a deeper part of our community.
- Agree to participate in the next offering of our **Adult Confirmation** class, if either person is not already confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Adult Confirmation class occurs annually on Sundays January through April.

## Scheduling a Wedding

At St. George's, we ask for a minimum of three months between the request and the desired wedding date in order for all parties to be able to thoroughly prepare for the service. By long tradition we schedule weddings on Saturdays between 11:00am and 7:00pm throughout the year, excluding the following holidays and liturgical seasons: Advent, Lent, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Outside of the previously mentioned days in the year, every effort possible will be made to accommodate your preferred wedding date. When you are ready to plan the wedding, please contact Claudia Taylor in the church office. If the date is available, she will send your request to the Rector who will approve the scheduling and assign a member of the clergy. ***The date will then be temporarily held for you while you have a chance to read over the materials and return the initial forms and fee to finalize the date.***

If your wedding is taking place at St. George's, the wedding rehearsal will be scheduled for you the Friday before the wedding at 5:30pm. All members of the wedding party are expected to attend.

**Weddings in the Church** | The Church is our main worship space at St. George's and is where larger weddings take place, accommodating 100 to 500 people. Weddings in the Church are \$750. The fee is distributed by the church staff among the organist, sexton(s), and audio technician.

**Weddings in the Chapel** | The Jane Tompkins Weeks Chapel is an intimate worship space for smaller weddings, allowing for up to 60 guests. There is a small organ for congregational hymns or special music. Weddings in the Chapel are \$450. The fee is distributed by the church staff among the organist and sexton.

**Weddings Offsite** | St. George's is delighted to work with you for an offsite wedding service. Since it is not on St. George's grounds, there are no fees paid directly to the church. A priest will work with you as usual to plan an Episcopal wedding service from *The Book of the Common Prayer*.

**Clergy Honorarium** | As always, our clergy do not charge a fee for officiating weddings. Whether your wedding is at St. George's or offsite, it is customary to offer the priest(s) an honorarium for his or her leadership in the service, rehearsal, and preparation. If you have any questions about making an appropriate honorarium to your wedding officiant, please feel free to be in touch with Lynn Terry, Chair of the Altar Guild Wedding Committee (see the end of this booklet for contact information).

**Marriage of Divorced Persons** | When one of the couple has been divorced, Canon Law requires that the officiating priest assist the couple in asking for consent to remarry from the Bishop of Tennessee. The priest will set up a meeting with you to learn more about the circumstances of your previous marriage. At least one year should have elapsed between the date of the final divorce decree and this meeting with your officiating priest.