FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MYRTLE BEACH

WEDDING DETAILS

WEDDING PREPARATIONS

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ACCOMMODATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

A wedding in the First Presbyterian Church is intended to be an act of worship, a religious covenant made between two persons and God. When a couple expresses their desire for their marriage to be a church wedding, the church immediately becomes a party to the wedding and a participant in the formulation of the plans affecting the wedding.

To inquire about an available date, please submit a wedding application to the church office. Non-Members will need to provide a deposit of $300 that will be applied to their total facility cost. A member of the wedding committee will get back to you on the status of your application. The date for the wedding should be announced only after Session approval.

One of the Ministers of First Presbyterian Church will perform the ceremony. If a couple desires to have a minister of another church assist in the wedding, the request is to be properly made to the officiating Minister of First Presbyterian Church at the time of the reservation, who will then extend the invitation to the guest minister.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

As soon as the wedding date has been announced, the couple should arrange for a counseling conference with the officiating minister. Premarital counseling is considered a requirement by the Ministers of First Presbyterian Church. The major concern is that the couple be prepared to take their vows meaningfully and with a sense of genuine commitment to each other and to God. The Ministers of First Presbyterian Church are ever mindful of the obligations to the church that has ordained them to emphasize the religious significance of the marriage ceremony and of the importance of God's continuing presence within the marriage relationship.

ELIGIBILITY

We wish we could marry everyone interested but at this time, we can only accommodate FPC members and couples with close connections to our church. We will accept all applications but the wedding committee reserves the right to choose who is recommended for Session approval.

WEDDING DIRECTOR

One of the church's Wedding Directors will direct the wedding at First Presbyterian Church. The Wedding Director of First Presbyterian Church will call upon the approval of your application and start working with you to plan your special day. The Wedding Director will be in charge of rehearsals and weddings to ensure that all rules and procedures of our church are followed. Members and non-members using the church are required to consult with the church's Wedding Director on all questions or concerns.

MUSIC

As an integral part of the wedding ceremony, appropriate musical selections can help direct attention to God and express the faith of the church. The organist/music director should be scheduled as soon as possible. Any guest musicians must be appproved. The organist/music director will aid in the selection of music to ensure that the music used will enhance the worship service. String, brass and wind instruments may be used in the worship service. Instruments using electronic amplification will be left to the discretion of the organist/music director.

REHEARSAL

If there are to be any attendants, it is necessary to schedule a rehearsal; even the simplest ceremony requires planning and preparation. The rehearsal time should be arranged when facilities for wedding are initially reserved, in order that various members of the wedding party can structure their schedules accordingly. The rehearsal must begin promptly as scheduled and should proceed without unnecessary delay. At the rehearsal, the Wedding Director will give the time schedule for members of the wedding party to arrive for the ceremony. Areas for the bride and her attendants will be assigned at this time. The marriage license should be given to the Minister's Assistant no later than the week of the wedding.

CEREMONY

Since the Presbyterian wedding seeks to place marriage in the context of worship, the heart of the ceremony consists of the vows that the couple affirms to each other and to God. The ceremony acknowledges God as a partner in the marriage, and prepares the couple for the blessedness of their shared life.

The historic Presbyterian Wedding Ceremony is used at First Presbyterian Church. The Session has approved the wedding services found in the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship. The Ministers of First Presbyterian Church will be happy to discuss these services with you.

Communion may be available upon request after discussion with the minister.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license should be turned into the church office a week before the wedding. The minister will have the documents to sign immediately after your ceremony. Please choose a responsible person to be in charge of the license after the wedding.

CHURCH FACILITY

The sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church is a place of reverence and of dignified beauty for worship. It does not require decorations to make it a place perfectly suitable for a beautiful worship service such as a wedding. Elaborate decorations only mar the effect of this sacred place. Flowers, decorations and other appointments should be appropriate for worship, enhancing the worshipers' consciousness of the presence of God. The church sanctuary is available for the wedding ceremony.

SPACES AVAILABLE	ACCOMODATES	EVENT TYPE
FPC Sanctuary	600 downstairs (150 balcony)	Ceremony

- Arrangements for floral decorations will be made by the wedding party. Those responsible for the flower arrangements must abide by the regulations. Placement of flowers, greenery and other appointments must be approved by the church's Wedding Director. If the bride desires that her floral arrangements be left for use in the following Sunday worship service, this request is to be made to the Wedding Director after the church has been reserved. If not, all properties of florists must be removed immediately after the wedding.

- No pews, furnishings or furniture other than the Communion Table, chairs, and Baptismal Font may be moved. Tape, nails, tacks, screws, wire, and instruments of any type may not be used in fastening flowers and/or greenery to the pews and church furniture. Flowers and/or greenery may be used to designate reserved pews for the family.

- Aisle cloths and the dropping of flower petals are not allowed.

CHURCH FACILITIES CONTINUED

- Children taking part in the ceremony who are the age of five (5) or older may stand with the wedding party. Children under five will be asked to sit with their family after their involvement.

- The wedding party, including the minster, should normally not exceed 25 people.

- Photographs may be taken from the balcony. Following the ceremony, photographs may be taken in the sanctuary. The bride is responsible for telling her photographers these guidelines. The bride is requested to work with the photographer for the desired groupings for pictures to be taken following the wedding ceremony; this will help to assure the prompt arrival of the wedding party at the reception. Video cameras may be used as long as they are in a stationary position on a tripod and placed either in the balcony or designated areas. The persons operating the cameras must do so in a manner that does not interfere with or disrupt the worship service.

- First Presbyterian Church is a smoke-free and alchol-free facility.

- Because of the hazard they pose, no confetti, rice or bird seed may be thrown in the builidings or on the steps of the buildings.

- Any variation from these policies must be submitted to the wedding committee for consideration and approval. Request must be submitted one (1) month prior to the wedding date.

FPC WEDDING CHECKLIST

- [ ] Submit an application to the church office
- [ ] Get approval on your wedding date
- [ ] Meet with Wedding Director to fill out your wedding worksheets
- [ ] Meet with Minister
- [ ] Contact Organist/Music Director to plan ceremony music
- [ ] Obtain the Marriage License and bring to the church office a week before the wedding
- [ ] Gather payments to bring to the rehearsal
- [ ] Attend Rehearsal the day before wedding
- [ ] HAPPY WEDDING DAY!

EXPENSE POLICY

The FPC Sanctuary is available for families of the church at no charge. Requests for use of the church's facilities by those who are not members of First Presbyterian Church must be approved by the Session. The Wedding Director will explain the customary fees for weddings at First Presbyterian Church. The fees are to be paid at or the week before the rehearsal to the Wedding Director. Separate checks should be made out to each individual assisting in the ceremony. Non-members must submit a $300 deposit when turning in their wedding application. If approved, this fee will go toward the final facility cost. The deposit will be returned if the wedding is not approved.

NOTES

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