



A Wedding at St. Luke's

Dear Prospective Bride and Groom,

I am honoured and delighted that you are considering a wedding at St. Luke's and stand ready to assist in anyway I can.

This booklet has been put together to help ensure that your day is special and memorable. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call or make an appointment. May God's richest blessing be yours now and forever!

Faithfully,

The Rev. Victor H. Morgan
Rector

The Church and Marriage

The Episcopal Church (Anglican Communion) affirms, according to our Lord's teaching, that marriage is in its nature a union permanent and life-long, for better for worse, till death them do part, of one man with one woman to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affection, and for the mutual society, help, and comfort which the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Policies of St. Luke's Church Regarding Holy Matrimony

All provision of the canons of the Episcopal Church shall be met.

All provisions of the rubrics of the service, *The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony*, as printed in the Book of Common Prayer, shall be adhered to. At the discretion of the Rector, approved rites from other parts of the Anglican Communion may be used in whole or in part.

Except for weighty cause, the service shall be read in the church.

So far as communicant members of the parish are concerned there are no fees connected with the ceremony; an honorarium may be given to the organist, sexton and officiating priest.

In the case of others, the organist's fee is \$125 (includes rehearsal) and the sexton fee is \$100. Should the parish hall be used for a wedding reception, the fee for the sexton shall be \$150. An honorarium may be given to the priest.

The taking of flash photographs in the church while the service is in progress is forbidden. Videotaping of the ceremony is permitted from a stationary position using existing light.

All music used at the ceremony, before or after, shall be as directed by the organist (the organist being delegated by the Rector to exercise such authority). Operatic or popular music is not appropriate for weddings within the Church. A choir or soloist is always acceptable.

Remarriage of Divorced Persons

If one or both of those contemplating marriage has been divorced, a copy of the divorce decree should be brought to the initial interview. The Rector must include this in his letter to the Bishop requesting permission to solemnise the marriage. At least a year should have elapsed between the final decree and the marriage. Permission for a marriage after a second divorce is rarely given. The date of a proposed marriage may not be made until the Bishop's consent is given.

Time for the Wedding

Sunday or Lenten weddings are not in the best tradition of the Episcopal Church. Exceptions may be made in extreme causes.

Marriage License

No marriage can take place without a marriage license. This is obtained in the county of the bride's residence or the county where the marriage takes place if the bride is not a resident of Georgia. The license is delivered to the officiating clergyman at the rehearsal or the day before the wedding.

Rehearsals

Wedding rehearsals are normally held on the day before the wedding. The rehearsal lasts no more than 45 minutes.

The Clergy

The Rector customarily officiates at all weddings. In the event that the couple being married has an existing pastoral relationship with another clergyman, the Rector will issue him an invitation either to assist or officiate in his stead. A clergyman of a non-Episcopal or non-Anglican Church may be asked to assist, but not officiate. Decisions on such participation will be made by the Rector.

Pre-Marital Instruction

The Episcopal Church believes that adequate preparation is necessary to the success of a marriage, as in the case in any other life work. Therefore, before a priest officiates at a wedding, he is required to meet with the couple for instruction. At the discretion of the Rector, another clergyman may be appointed to give the instruction.

Holy Communion

A celebration of Holy Communion may follow the marriage rite. When this is done, it is customary for anyone in the congregation who wishes to receive communion to do so. The inclusion of Holy Communion is optional.

Dressing Rooms

Thomason Hall is available for the bride and her attendants to dress. Restrooms adjoin. The bridegroom and his party may use the Parish House next door for their headquarters.

Receptions

If it is desired to hold the reception in the Parish Hall, the Rector should be consulted and special

arrangements made with him concerning the work of the sexton. In accordance with the custom of this congregation and upon consultation with the Rector, wine and beer (no hard liquor) may be served in the Parish Hall, providing that alternate non-alcoholic beverages are offered, that an identifying card is placed at any bowl of punch containing alcohol, that there be no mention of alcoholic beverages in advertisements and publicity for the event, and that all state and local laws respecting alcoholic beverages are strictly adhered to.