

Weddings

at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd





Marriage

The clergy and staff of the Church of the Good Shepherd is pleased to offer our facilities and assistance in helping to make your wedding a memorable and joyous occasion.

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this church. A wedding is, first and foremost, a worship service. Permission of the Rector is required for Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage or Blessing of a Civil Marriage.

Setting the Date and Reserving Facilities

Please contact the church office for date availability. Once the Rector has approved the date, additional appointments and a timeline will be issued for necessary paperwork. Until permission is received by the Rector, no plans should be made with staff or other parties concerning the ceremony. There is a requirement of 30 days notice for scheduling of a marriage ceremony.

Facility Options

Good Shepherd has a beautiful campus with various options for weddings of any size. The main church building, with its inspiring stained glass windows, is suitable for large or small ceremonies. We also have an attached smaller chapel for a more intimate service. Other settings include an outdoor Labyrinth Garden and a rustic outdoor chapel. Please keep in mind variable South Florida weather conditions when considering outdoor options.

Receptions may be held in our Parish Hall, based on availability, with regard to other functions on the church calendar.

Costs

Please see the separate Fee Schedule for all deposits, regular costs, additional fees, and a la carte services that are available.

Premarital Counseling

Premarital instruction covers the Christian understanding of marriage, the concept of family and the details of the marriage ceremony. Practically, its focus is on bringing two separate lives together to live as a new union of heart, body and mind.

All counseling will be conducted by the Clergy, usually in three sessions, although special arrangements may be made for extraordinary scheduling conflicts.

The “Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” as contained in the book of Common Prayer is used as the liturgical form for the service. At these meetings, the couple is asked to choose the scripture lessons, the readers of the lessons, the music (hymns, processional, recessional, soloist), whether or not they would like Holy Communion, and other particulars relating to the service.

Legal Documents

A marriage license is required by the State of Florida. This is obtained by application of both persons at the county clerk’s office. A discount will be given for proof of premarital counseling by the Clergy. A letter of course completion will be issued after the final session. Due to expiration date, the ceremony must take place within 60 days of obtaining the license. Please bring the license to the rehearsal.

If this is not a first marriage for either party, additional paperwork will be required. The Episcopal Church accepts the civil process for dissolution of marriage, but the consent of the bishop must be obtained before re-marriage in the church.

Music

Music selections should be discussed with the Music Director and are subject to the Rector’s approval. Soloists and additional musicians may participate with permission of the Rector and the Music Director. The organist fee is required even if another musician is brought in for the ceremony. Contact information for soloists and additional musicians is available through the church office and should be negotiated directly with them.

Decoration

Good Shepherd has a beautiful sanctuary and we encourage simplicity of decoration. Our Facilities Manager is pleased to assist with decoration and placement inquiries. Runners and pew decorations may be rented for an additional fee.

Flowers

Flowers should be purchased directly from a florist of your choice or you may instruct the Altar Guild to order for you with specific instructions. Any flowers used for the ceremony should be taken at the end of the service unless you have specified that the altar flowers will remain, in celebration of your marriage, for use at the Sunday service. Altar Guild requires 30 days notice of your



decision on flowers. Flower petals are permitted during the processional. Please refrain from the use of rice, birdseed and confetti inside or outside the church as the couple exits.

Candles

Altar Guild will place any and all candles used for the ceremony.

Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is usually held the day before the wedding, or as scheduled by the Rector, and includes the officiating clergy, musicians, parents and the entire wedding party. A rehearsal is necessary to enable participants to know where they are to stand and what they are to do during the ceremony.

Sound

The sanctuary at Good Shepherd is equipped with an excellent sound system to allow readers, the Clergy and musicians to be heard. Because it is a specialized system, we provide a sound technician.

Dressing for the Wedding Party

A limited-space room in the church building is available for dressing and last-minute details prior to the service. Please let the Facilities Manager know if you will require any special arrangements. Please make arrangements for the belongings of all attendants to be picked up as you leave for the reception.

Photography

We understand that a photographic record of your special day is an important part of the wedding. However, please remember that a marriage ceremony is a solemn ceremony in a sacred space. The following photography policy should be reviewed thoroughly with the photographer of your choice.

1. The empty, decorated church may be photographed before any guests are seated.
2. Photographs of the bridal party may be taken in the church, or outside, before the ceremony with permission of the Rector as long as it does not interfere with or delay the start of the wedding ceremony.
3. Professional videography and non-flash photography are permitted during the ceremony with the permission of the Rector.

The photographer's movement about the church during the ceremony should be kept to a minimum.



The Ceremony

An Altar Guild representative and/or Facilities Manager will serve as the Wedding director who will assist the ushers in the choreography of the ceremony. During the service, the Officiant will prompt the congregation about when to sit or stand.

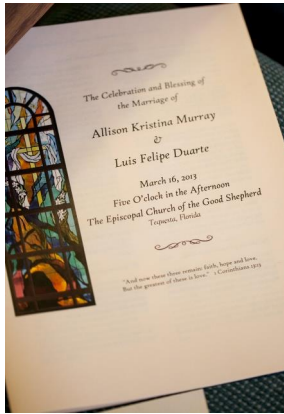


Lay Readers

During the Ministry of the Word, one or more passages from Holy Scripture is read. These readings are generally selected during the premarital sessions with the Clergy. You may provide readers or you may ask for readers to be provided for you. It is suggested that all readers attend the rehearsal.

Programs

Programs are not provided by Good Shepherd unless special arrangements are made through the office.



A general guideline for order of program will be provided by the Rector and you may have the final draft, that has been fully approved by the Rector, printed elsewhere.

Alternatively, you may have programs produced by Good Shepherd. An appointment should be made with the Parish Secretary at least 30 days prior to the ceremony for style selections and other creative options. There is an additional fee for this service.

After the Service

Because many weddings take place on Saturday, we ask that you make arrangements to have all personal belongings removed from the church including decorations, flowers and personal items such as purses, wraps, dresses, etc.

Wedding Checklist

6-12 months ahead

- Contact Church of the Good Shepherd for availability
- Submit deposit to reserve church
- Schedule and begin premarital counseling sessions

30-60 days ahead

- Complete all forms and paperwork
- Discuss music selection with Music Director
- Notify attendants of date and time of rehearsal
- Obtain marriage license (ceremony must be within 60 days)
- Contact Altar Guild representative about flower arrangements
- Complete premarital counseling sessions with clergy.

30 days ahead

- Have order of program approved by clergy
- Submit all required fees to church office

1-2 days ahead

- Submit license to clergy
- Attend rehearsal with all members of the wedding party



Notes



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
400 Seabrook Road
Tequesta, FL 33469
561-746-4674
www.goodsheponline.org

© 2013 The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Photos by Jamilah Photography