

**MARRIAGE AT  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
CHELAN, WASHINGTON**

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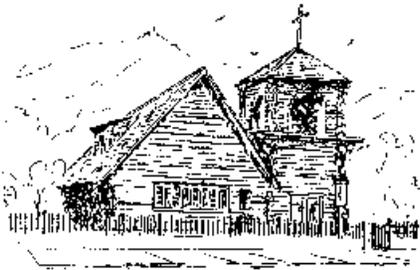
*Marriage*

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*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Chelan, WA*



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**INTRODUCTION**

This brochure is designed to assist the bride and groom in preparing for the celebration of their marriage in the Church. Planning for a marriage includes not only schedules and countless details but also a set of convictions about marriage and hopes. The following paragraphs describe beliefs and procedures for Christian marriage that are customary in our church.

You are encouraged to read this brochure as it will answer many questions and serve as a reliable guide to aid in your understanding and preparation for marriage. We at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church wish to help make your wedding the spiritual and special event you, with God's help, desire it to be.

**WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT ST. ANDREW'S**

The Church desires to engage in serious conversations about wedding arrangements with those persons who are:

- Seriously seeking to make Christ and the Church a part of their marriage relationship.
- Active worshipping members of the congregation or seeking to become members of the Church.
- Members of active families of the congregation.
- Members of other congregations whose pastors are in communication concerning the arrangements of the wedding.
- Other couples at the discretion of the priest.

**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

"Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. The Episcopal Church requires that at least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the cere-

mony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the state and the canons (laws) of the Church. A priest or a bishop normally presides at the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, because such ministers alone have the function of pronouncing the nuptial blessing, and of celebrating the Holy Eucharist."

There are further instructions in the Book of Common Prayer. The priest or wedding consultant can explain these to you.

**CANONICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The canons of the Episcopal Church require at least 30 days notice be given prior to the wedding and that the clergy concerned ascertain: "The right of the parties to contract a marriage according to the laws of the state. Holy Matrimony is understood to be a physical and spiritual union of a man and woman, entered into with the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will and with intent that it be lifelong. That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner or mental reservation. That at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism." These determinations necessitate some responsible level of pre-marital conversation and are coupled with the requirement that clergy instruct both parties as to the nature, meaning and purpose of Holy Matrimony or ascertain that they have both received such instruction from persons known by him or her to be competent and responsible."

**REMARRIAGE**

Remarriage following divorce or annulment requires that the officiating priest procure both evidence of the divorce action and the consent

of the Bishop or officiate. In the Diocese of Spokane this consent is based upon written response made by the divorced party to a series of questions posed by the Bishop. The intention of this process is to prevent a recurrence of issues involved in the prior marriage.

**WHAT MAKES A MARRIAGE CHRISTIAN**  
Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament of the Church. As such, it expresses certain inward and spiritual realities. These include the conviction that God created humans to make the lifelong commitment of male and female desirable and fulfilling, and that in this relationship, God's involvement is the necessary sustaining force.

#### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

It is suggested that you contact the St. Andrew's clergy at least 60 days prior to the wedding. As your spiritual leader, he or she will work with you in setting dates for the pre-wedding preparation, rehearsal, and wedding. Visiting Episcopal clergy are allowed to officiate and clergy of other denominations may assist if approved by the presiding priest. The policies and practices of St. Andrew's Church will be followed by those who officiate here. Your clergy will go over the requirements for marriage in the Episcopal Church including the choices regarding the service music and the scriptures.

Soon after meeting with the clergy, contact the wedding consultant who will work with you on details pertaining to your wedding. You will be given a form to be completed in duplicate, one for you to keep for reference and one to be returned to the wedding consultant.

Note: Marriages are not usually solemnized during Lent, the 40 days before Easter.

#### **GUIDELINES**

1. Rehearsals and the wedding service start on time.
2. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted at the rehearsal.
3. Decorating: The wedding consultant will be happy to give you suggestions as to what is acceptable in the church and will help you carry out your desires in a pleasing manner. Our log church with its beautiful stained-glass windows and rich logs call for elegant simplicity. Keep in mind the wedding party is the focal point at the front of the church. Our alter will be in white and is a place for the Holy Sacraments, therefore only candles will be placed on it. All decorations must be cleared with the wedding consultant and/or clergy.
4. If you desire to have a receiving line it is wise to form one as soon as possible following the service.
5. Rice is not allowed to be thrown, however, bird seed is acceptable.
6. Regarding photographs and/or videos, please consult the priest and/or wedding consultant.

#### **MINIMUM FEES**

Minimum fees for both members and non-members are established as follows:

1. **CLERGY:** While there is no requirement for reimbursement for clergy pre-marital conversation or officiating at the wedding, tradition suggests an honorarium that bears an appropriate relationship to the cost of the wedding. Such honorarium are given to the clergy discretionary fund.
2. **ORGANIST:** \$75.00 The organist will be present at the rehearsal and will play twenty to twenty-five minutes of prelude

and postlude music at the wedding. He or she will be available for consultation with the bride and groom prior to the rehearsal. Certain musical selections are traditionally used and will be part of the organist's recommendation. All music must be approved by the clergy and/or the organist.

3. **USE OF THE CHURCH:** \$75.00
4. **WEDDING CONSULTANT:** \$50.00 The wedding consultant will be available for consultation with the bride and will be present at the rehearsal.
5. **RECEPTIONS:** ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will be happy to assist you. Service charge for the first 50 to 100 guests is \$125.00 and an additional \$25.00 charge for every 50 additional guests or fraction thereof. ECW will provide the table clothes, silver tea and coffee service, punch bowl and cups, ice for punch, tea, coffee, cream, sugar, and will set up and clean up. The wedding party is responsible for the cake, punch, napkins, nuts, mints, candles, flowers, or any other special needs. Reception payment shall be made payable to ECW. If ECW does the reception there should be two cake servers, one coffee and tea server and one punch server. ECW can furnish these persons or the bride can honor family or friends with these tasks.

Use of wine, champagne, or spiked punch is allowed if non-alcoholic refreshments are also offered. Under no circumstances will an open bar be allowed on Church property.

Any flowers, etc., supplied by the wedding party must be removed from the church following the service. The church will not be responsible for ANYTHING left at the church.