



## **Congratulations!**

If you are reading this, you and your fiancé are probably making plans to celebrate the beginning of married life together. This brochure is designed to help you understand both the meaning and the process of celebrating your wedding at St. Paul's. If you have any questions we look forward to speaking with you in person.

### **A Christian Marriage**

In the Episcopal Church marriage is a sacrament. The commitment two people make to each other in marriage reflects God's deep faithfulness for them and for the world. In a Christian marriage the partners seek to know and reflect the presence of Christ in their life together.

### **Preparation for Marriage**

At St. Paul's we take preparation for marriage very seriously, and we expect those married here to prepare themselves for the commitments they are about to make. Couples seeking to be married at St. Paul's agree to do three things to prepare for their marriage.

1. All couples must attend worship regularly while preparing for marriage. Since marriage is a spiritual as well as a social commitment, regular attendance at worship allows couples to both explore the place of the Spirit in their lives.
2. All couples preparing for marriage will meet with one of St. Paul's clergy to discuss the issues that all couples face in marriage and to prepare the wedding itself. St. Paul's uses the premarital inventory as a basis for these conversations. It is common for the couple to meet with the clergy four or five times before the ceremony.
3. Consider participating in an Engaged Encounter overnight. These overnights teach skills and allow the couple to speak with each other about important issues.

## **The Wedding Celebration**

### **Planning the Wedding**

St. Paul's celebrates weddings according to the Book of Common Prayer. It is important to realize a wedding is also a worship service. The selection of readings, prayers and music is done in consultation with the clergy and parish director of music.

Other details such as flowers, decorations etc. are coordinated with the parish wedding coordinator, with whom the couple works closely.

A wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening preceding the wedding. Weddings are not generally celebrated during the season of Lent.

### **Photographs**

Since the wedding is a worship service, no photographs are allowed during the wedding itself, as it tends to distract from the service. Video-taping is allowed from selected locations in the church. All equipment must be set up and ready no later than 20 minutes before the service.

### **Cost**

St. Paul's wedding fees are \$900 for pledging members of the church and \$1,400 for non-members of the church. A 50% deposit is required to reserve the date of your wedding. The balance is due two weeks prior to the celebration.

### **St. Paul's Clergy**

Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector  
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Rev. Lynne Sharp, Assoc. Rector  
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Rev. Julie Graham, Assoc. Rector for Children's Ministry  
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