

# *Weddings at Saint Peter's Church*

*Congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted when our members request the Church and staff for the wedding service that will mark the happy occasion. We look forward to walking alongside you as you prepare for this special day. This wedding booklet should answer many of your questions about getting married at Saint Peter's, but please contact the Church office (843.881.9003) if you have any questions that are not addressed here or need further explanation. The following information is a brief overview of our pre-marital process.*

## ***Membership***

In order to be married at Saint Peter's Church by one of our clergy, one of the parties should be an active member or in the process of becoming a member. Consideration is also given if parents or grandparents are current, active members. If a couple wants to consider marriage at Saint Peter's, and they are not currently members, they should complete the next Discover Saint Peter's class on the vision and values of Saint Peter's.

All other requests must be made to the Church office. Special permission for non-members is subject to Saint Peter's Leadership approval.

## ***Reserving Dates, Place and Cost***

Weddings are held in the Church Sanctuary and seats approximately 350 people.

A \$550 fee for the use of the facilities for members of Saint Peter's is required. For non-members, a \$1500 fee is required. *Additional fees for both members and non-members may apply.* None of the

proceeds collected for the use of the facilities is used for the general budget of Saint Peter's. Instead, all proceeds collected are used to cover facility usage costs. The remaining funds will support local missions.

To reserve your wedding date, the bride and groom should each complete the [Wedding Application](#). For additional questions, please contact the Church Administrator at [info@saintpeters.me](mailto:info@saintpeters.me) or call 843.881.9003.

### ***Premarital Preparation***

Saint Peter's has a 3 step process concerning premarital preparation for engaged couples:

1. Meet with Saint Peter's Pastor.
2. Select and see a premarital counselor at your discretion but in coordination with Saint Peter's Pastor.
3. Follow -up meeting with Saint Peter's Pastor (Ceremony planning).

### ***Remarriage after Divorce***

Provision for marriage of divorced persons is given after discussion with the Pastor.

### ***A suggested timeline for Wedding Plans:***

1. Contact the Church Administrator (843.881.9003) for date availability and to schedule an appointment to request permission for a marriage ceremony at Saint Peter's Church.
2. Complete the [Wedding Application](#).
3. Schedule the first meeting with the Pastor.
4. Contact the Worship Pastor to discuss availability and to discuss music selection and confirm fees.
5. Obtain a marriage license.
6. Submit the marriage license, Scripture reading selections, wedding bulletin and required fees to the Church Administrator at least 3 days before your rehearsal.

### ***What We Believe***

Your wedding is a worship service. In order to be married at Saint Peter's Church by one of our Pastors, one of the parties must be an active member or in the process of becoming a member. Consideration is also given if parents or grandparents are current, active members of Saint Peter's Church. All other requests must be made to the Lead Pastor. Special permission for non-members is subject to approval by the Lead Pastor.

According to the Book of Common Prayer,

*“Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. It is required that at least one 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.”*

The staff at Saint Peter's wants to help in every way to make your wedding a memorable and joyous occasion. If you have any

questions or concerns, please contact the Church Administrator at 843.881.9003 or [info@saintpeters.me](mailto:info@saintpeters.me).

### ***Setting the Date***

The Church Administrator will set the initial appointment with one of the Pastors and help to determine the availability of Church facilities for the dates being considered. However, only after the Clergy has granted permission for the ceremony will a date be reserved on the church calendar.

### ***Reservation of Church Facilities***

Reservations for the use of the Church facilities including when desired, the foyer and kitchen, for the rehearsal and wedding will be made through the Church Administrator upon the approval of the Lead Pastor. Weddings may take place at almost any time during the week; however, they are normally scheduled between the hours of 10am and 7pm on Saturdays. No more than one wedding will be scheduled on the same day in the same venue. Fees are listed in a separate section of this booklet.

Please note that reserving the Church facilities does not automatically reserve church staff. The Church office will handle that depending on each staff member's availability.

In preparation for the marriage service, the Pastor asked to lead the service may have a discussion with the man and woman concerning:

- The nature of their Christian commitment
- The legal requirements of the state
- The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage
- The nature and form of the marriage service
- The vows and commitments they will be asked to make

- The relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship
- The resources of the faith and the Christian community to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments

### ***Remarriage after Divorce***

Provision for marriage of divorced persons is given after discussing with the Pastor and receiving the written consent of the Diocesan Bishop. A divorce must have been final for one year prior to application to the Bishop and a copy of the final divorce decree must also be submitted. The Bishop requires at least 30 days to consider the application. Holy Matrimony is understood by Saint Peter's Church to be a lifelong union of husband and wife. The provision for remarriage after divorce is based on God's promise of grace and forgiveness to those whose sins are confessed and repented.

### ***Legal Documents***

A marriage license must be obtained from one of the County Clerk's offices in the State of South Carolina. Couples must contact one of these offices regarding fees and requirements. Couples must also apply together. Please note that there is a 24-hour waiting period before the license may be picked up. The license (all 3 copies received, as well as the return envelope) should be brought to Saint Peter's at least 3 days prior to the rehearsal. This ensures that all of the proper documents are completed and at the church prior to the wedding. At the rehearsal, the bride, bridegroom, Pastor and two witnesses are required to sign the official documents. This includes the license and the Church marriage register. A copy of the license is given to the couple and the Church will mail the other two copies to the Probate Office.

### ***Clergy***

Normally, one of the Pastors of Saint Peter's will officiate at the ceremony. The Pastor will attempt to honor any specific request to officiate; however, that request is subject to prior commitments. If another Pastor that is not a member of Saint Peter's staff is desired, it must be discussed and an invitation must be extended by the Lead Pastor of Saint Peter's. Non-members should have their Clergy write a letter to the Lead Pastor requesting permission to perform the ceremony and indicate that premarital counseling is being done. (Exceptions can be made based on request by Lead Pastor.)

### ***Music***

Please contact the Worship Pastor for availability, song selections and fees.

### ***Sexton***

The Sexton is responsible for providing access to the Church for the rehearsal, opening the Church facilities two hours before the service, having the Church ready, and cleaning up afterwards. Any special needs may be discussed the week before the wedding. The Sexton's fees are included in the facility fee. Please note that an additional fee is required for complete rearrangement of the Sanctuary.

### ***Rehearsals***

If there will be more than two attendants for the bride and groom, a rehearsal is advised. Usually, the rehearsal is held the evening before the wedding. All those in the wedding party should attend the rehearsal.

It is a good idea to allow 60 minutes for the run-through. Please do everything possible to assure prompt arrival at the rehearsal since other Church events may be scheduled that same evening.

### ***Decoration of the Church Facilities***

Saint Peter's encourages simplicity of decoration. Flowers, decorations, and other appointments should be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshiper's consciousness of the reality of God, and reflect the integrity and simplicity of Christian life. Reputable florists will respect and protect our Worship Center and its furnishings by preventing damage, staining or marring to the furniture, carpet and floor from candles, potted plants and flowers. No nails or tape are allowed to affix anything to the structure of the Church inside or outside. Bows should be affixed with an oasis hook on furnishings. If there is a question about the permissibility or appropriateness of any decoration, consult the Church Administrator. Neither artificial flowers nor artificial greenery are permitted. The throwing of flower petals, rice, bird seed, or confetti is not permitted inside or outside the Church.

Answers to many frequently asked questions are below:

- Flowers - Any florist may be used; however, the Wedding Guild must be consulted with regard to florist selection. Additionally, the Wedding Guild must approve all arrangements, vases, any window treatments and any other decorations. When more than one wedding takes place on a given day, it may be possible to coordinate the floral decoration of the Church with the other couple. The Wedding Guild will assist in this process.

*Please note:* Flowers placed in the altar area of the Church or Sanctuary are an offering to God and therefore, are left for the regular Sunday services as the bride's gift to the Church. Florists must remove any equipment used as soon after the service as possible prior to the Sunday Worship Service.

- Hangings - Saint Peter's provides white silk damask hangings on the altar, reading desk, pulpit, etc., for weddings. No other hangings may be used in the Church.
- Candles - The Wedding Guild will place the three branch candelabras on the altar. Nothing may be attached to these. There are also brass stands for candles at the end of some of the rows of chairs. Please contact the Wedding Guild if you are interested in using these candle stands. No other candles should be used behind the altar rail, on the chairs or in the windows. The fire marshal prohibits the use of any additional candles. If a Unity candle is desired, it should be a part of the reception, not the marriage ceremony. Dripless candles only.
- Accessibility - The Church staff will open the Church two hours prior to the service. Please note: The Church is not staffed or open on Saturdays unless prior arrangements have been made with the Church Administrator.
- Sound - Amplification in the Sanctuary may be needed. If artificial amplification is needed, a sound technician is required to operate the sound systems and must attend the rehearsals as well as the wedding. The sound technician fee is listed under the "Fees" section.
- Alcohol/Smoking - No alcoholic beverages may be consumed and no smoking is allowed anywhere on the Church campus, including the parking lots, restrooms, altar room and office building. No one under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be allowed to participate in the rehearsal or wedding.

### *Wedding Programs* (optional)

Programs are not provided by Saint Peter's. However, the Communications Director may be contracted to produce a bulletin. Cost is dependent on the complexity and the size of the desired program. If an outside agency prepares the program, a draft copy



should be presented to the officiating Pastor and the Worship Pastor for prior approval. Additionally, several copies should be brought to the rehearsal for distribution.

### ***Dressing rooms for the Wedding***

Saint Peter's has limited space for dressing. If the bride and attendants plan to dress at Saint Peter's, the Church staff will open room 2 two hours prior to the wedding.

It is suggested that the bridegroom and his party dress elsewhere and arrive an hour before the ceremony; however, the Church staff will make every effort to reserve a space for dressing if needed.

Please be advised that the Church cannot be responsible for any articles left at the Church or in the dressing rooms. The Wedding Party is responsible for leaving the room in order.

*This page is intended for you to forward to your florist so that they are aware of Saint Peter's policies concerning flowers. They must also work with the Wedding Guild, as stated in the previous section concerning flowers.*

### ***Instructions to Florists***

The amount of floral decoration in the Church sanctuary will naturally vary with each wedding. The florist should call the Church Administrator as to the best time to set up and remove decorations so as to avoid conflict with Church programs. *It is the florist's responsibility to remove all decorations from the Church immediately after the ceremony.* Additional guidelines are as follows:

- All decorating must be completed one hour before the service is scheduled to begin.
- All fresh greenery should be prepared prior to arriving at the Church.
- No nails, tacks, screws, staples, pins, or tape are to be used in any part of the building or on any furniture. Only ribbon or specially designed chair clips may be used to secure bows and flowers to row ends.
- Only dripless, mechanical candles may be used. The candles on the altar are the only open flames that may be used. Electric candles may be used in the window sills.
- Flowers need to be placed where there will be no water damage or other stains. No flowers shall be placed on the musical instruments.
- No furniture shall be moved or rearranged without specific permission and additional fees will apply.
- Removal of all decorations must begin no more than 30 minutes after the service. A crew sufficient to adequately remove decorations must be provided by the florist.

*This page is intended for you to forward to your ushers.*

### ***Recommended Notes for Ushers***

- Be present at least one hour before the service begins.
- Be sure your attire is complete (cufflinks, tie, etc.) and your boutonniere is pinned on.
- Designated ushers light the candles 30 minutes before the service.
- Reserve the correct number of chairs for the bride and groom's families.
- Always usher each woman on your right arm. If two women are together, use two ushers to seat them.
- An usher does not offer his arm to a man unless he is very feeble and needs help. The usher does walk in front of a male guest as he shows him to his seat.
- If several couples arrive together and there is a shortage of ushers at the time, an usher offers his right arm to the eldest woman and the other couples follow, women walking first. The usher then seats the couples together.
- Usher teenage girls but not small children who walk behind their parents.
- Line up on the left in the foyer so that you can offer your right arm to each female guest as she appears.
- Ushers should talk to guests in a very low voice.
- Make sure you know your assignment in seating the mothers. The groom's mother is the first mother to be escorted to a seat before the wedding begins, and the last mother to be escorted out after the wedding. The bride's mother is the last person to be escorted to her seat before the ceremony begins, and the first escorted out after the wedding. No other person is escorted to a seat after the mothers are seated. Any late arrivals should take their seats at the back of the Church.

## ***Fees***

The Church Use Fee is due 1 month prior to your wedding date and should be made payable to Saint Peter's Church.

All other payments, as well as the marriage license, are due no later than one week prior to your wedding date and should be delivered to the Church Administrator by hand or mail to 1287 Porchers Bluff Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29466. Separate checks should be made payable to each individual.

*Please note: The rehearsal and wedding will not take place if payments have not been received.*

	Member	Non-Member
Church Use	\$550	\$1500
Pastor Honorarium (suggested) (made payable direct to Officiant)	\$300 - \$500	
Special Setup Needs/Considerations	Varies	Varies
Sound Technician (made payable directly to Technician)	\$150	\$250
Wedding Program	Available upon request.	
Reception	\$600	\$1000