

Decoration/Flowers

Candles and flowers are the responsibility of the wedding couple. Flower delivery can be done one hour before the ceremony or by special arrangement with the church office. It may be possible for decorations to be placed at the rehearsal time. Any seasonal decorations will remain in place – e.g. Christmas, Thanksgiving. **Please note** that the use of confetti, rice, bubbles or any other scatterings are not permitted on the Church property.

Photography

Video cameras may be set up in the balcony. Guests may take pictures during the processional and recessional only. A designated photographer may take pictures during the ceremony but must be discreet. Many find the balcony a good place to be.

Please note:

- a) Flash is not preferred.
- b) Photographers should not be between the bridal party and the congregation. It is possible to have some pictures taken in the church after the ceremony.

All photographers must consult with the minister before the ceremony begins.

<u>Fees</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>	<u>Chapel</u>
Minister	\$200	\$200
Use of Facilities	\$300	\$150
<i>*Please note that the Use of Facilities includes the services of the caretaker.</i>		
TOTAL	\$500	\$350
<i>Optional Services:</i>		
Church Musician	\$175	\$175
Sound Person	\$ 40	\$N/A

(Revised: August/2015)
Ref: WEDDINGS/Brochure



PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

at

St. Andrew's United Church
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Chatham, ON N7M 4S5

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Our Church Staff

Devon Hansen, Director of Music Ministry
Gabriella Cutler, Pastoral Care Coordinator
Brittany Borges, Children's Coordinator
Victoria Bechard, Secretary
Barbara Robbins, Treasurer
Harold Baughman, Caretaker

When you come to St. Andrew's United Church to celebrate your marriage you are coming not to a building, but a community of faith. The building, and particularly the sanctuary and chapel, is one expression of the community's faith.

The wedding ceremony, simple or elaborate, is set in the context of Christian worship.

The role of the community of faith is to offer a service of prayers and blessings to accompany your promises to one another.

You will be making your vows not only in the presence of your family and friends, but also in the presence of God.

As a community of faith we will extend pastoral care to you in this time leading up to your wedding.

Your relationship with the community through this time will include:

1. Initial interview with the minister – As soon as possible

This is to determine if a Christian marriage is your true desire. Book early at the church office. This meeting will typically last between one and one and a half hours and will involve some pre-marriage conversation.

Both partners must be present. You will obtain a *Marriage Information Form*, complete it and return it to the church office as soon as possible, along with a \$125 non-refundable deposit (cash or cheque payable to "St. Andrew's United Church"). No wedding date will be set until after we receive this form and deposit.

2. **Marriage Preparation**

You are strongly encouraged to participate in a pre-marriage course. There are several options. The minister will provide you with details at the interview.

3. **Music Consultation – One month before the ceremony**

If you have special musical requests, please let the minister know. Otherwise, traditional wedding music will be played by the Church musician.

4. **Ceremony Resource Choices – One month before the Ceremony.** As a couple you have the opportunity to customize your wedding ceremony. The many options are contained in the *Wedding Ceremony Resources* book, which you are to borrow from the church office. Bring the completed "Marriage Ceremony Choices" form (yellow) to your final meeting with the minister.

5. **Appointment to finalize ceremony details with the minister – Two weeks before the ceremony**

At this brief meeting, the minister will discuss with you the ceremony choices you have made, and may also check about your pre-marriage work and answer questions you may have. You are to bring your **completed marriage license** to this meeting. (Please ensure that all the information on your marriage license is correct.)

6. **Rehearsal (see following notes) – One or two days before the Ceremony.**

7. **Wedding Ceremony**

8. **Follow up**

Following the marriage we will continue to hold you in our prayers and offer you support as appropriate and possible. We encourage you, when possible, to participate in worship so that you come to a greater awareness of the ways God is present in our lives and to develop a better understanding of the marriage ceremony itself. Our Sunday morning community worship services are at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted.

Details...Details...Details

License

You are to secure a license from the Municipal Office. Bring it to your final meeting with the minister, or leave it in the church office **at least two weeks before** the wedding day, along with the balance of the fees in cash.

Publication of Banns

This can be requested **instead of a marriage license** for those couples who worship regularly at St. Andrew's. Discuss this possibility with the minister.

Music

The church musician is available to play in the church. The regular fee for this service is \$175. This includes:

- a) Initial consultation about the music desired.
- b) One rehearsal (if required) with any soloist or instrumentalist.
- c) Playing for the ceremony; prelude, processional, hymns (if any), music at the signing of the register, accompaniment to any solos, recessional.

Music chosen for the ceremony must be suitable for Christian worship. The music (and lyrics for songs that will be sung) is to give glory and praise to God. Some "love songs" are fitting; others are best used at the reception. Soloists/instrumentalists can arrange practice times with the church musician or, if not using their services, can arrange a suitable time with the church office. If the services of our Music Director are not required, and you wish to have your own pianist or organist engaged, there is a bench fee of \$100.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually set the day or two before the ceremony at a time when most participants in the wedding party can be present. Depending on the size of the wedding party, the rehearsal takes about 45 minutes. The Church Caretaker will be involved in all church weddings to assist the bridal entourage.