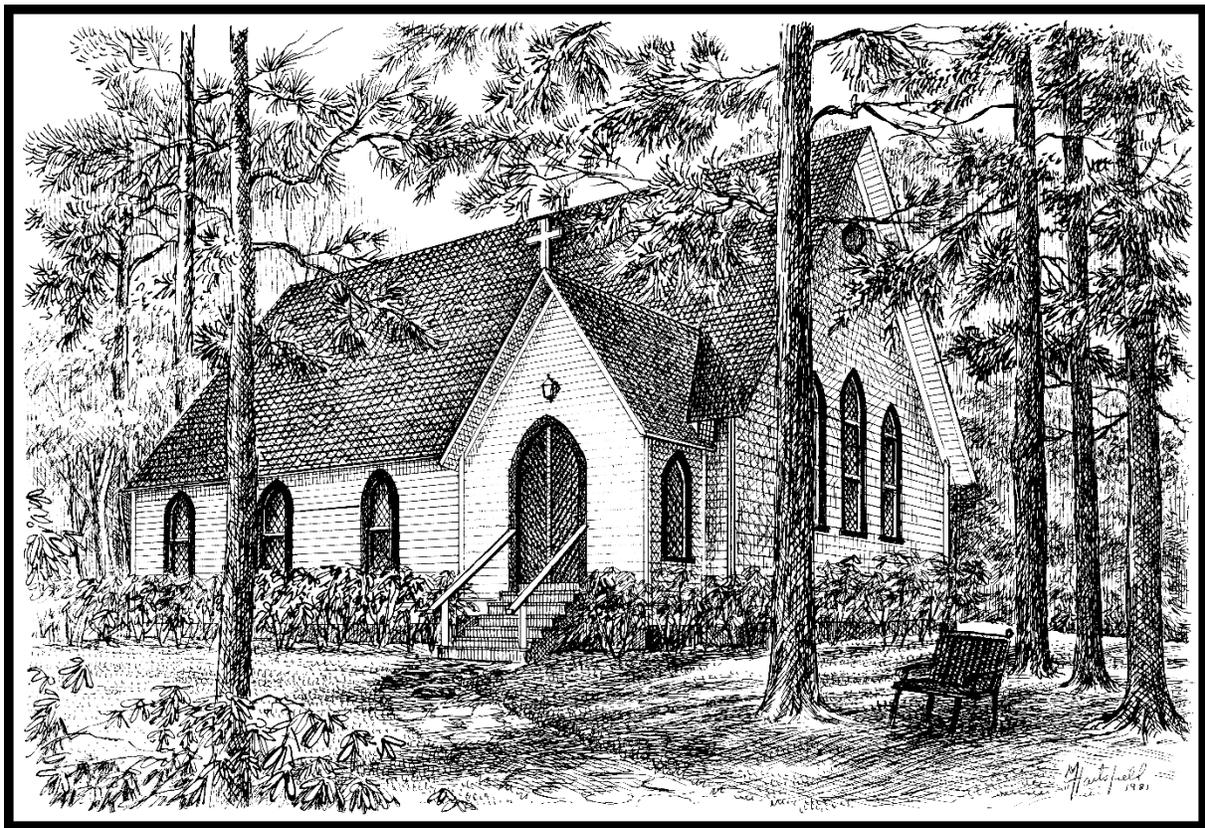


Wedding Customary



*The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina*

The Church of the Good Shepherd Cashiers, North Carolina

Wedding Guide

Prayer for the couple:

O gracious God, look mercifully on this couple. Grant them your blessing, assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows on the day of their marriage. Amen.

The Covenant of Christian Marriage

Christian marriage includes not only a legal contract but also a spiritual covenant established and sealed by a sacramental rite of the Church. In Holy Matrimony, “The union of husband and wife in heart, body and soul is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity.” (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 423)

Wedding Overview

A marriage service is first and foremost a service of worship. The service is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace of God’s blessing, and the words and actions of the manifest the grace of God that has brought the couple together—and that will hold the couple together. All aspects of the service, words, music and floral arrangements should support and enhance the spiritual nature of the ceremony and of marriage itself.

Concerning the ceremony and clergy

As in all worship services of the Church, the rector is charged by canon law with the responsibility for determining appropriateness of details and arrangement. Therefore, a wedding at Church of the Good Shepherd must be an Episcopal service with an Episcopal priest officiating. If it is desired that another Episcopal priest officiate, or clergy of other denominations assist, permission from the rector of Good Shepherd must be obtained in advance.

Concerning the Service

The service for The Celebration and blessing of a Marriage can be found in *The Book of Common a Prayer*, pages 423-432. The service offers several choices of readings, prayers and blessings. Suggestions for appropriate places to insert psalms, hymns or other instrumental music are included. The couple is encouraged to select readings and hymns which are particularly significant. All choices are to be discussed with and approved by the clergy prior to the draft bulletin being printed.

The couple and/or a member of their family must meet with the rector and the wedding coordinator to discuss details of the ceremony and become familiar with the physical layout of the church and grounds.

Outside wedding consultants are not needed (or permitted). We have a great wedding guild to help you.

The Holy Eucharist may be a part of the service if desired. If preferred, a pre-nuptial Eucharist attended by family and members of the wedding party can be scheduled either prior to or following rehearsal.

A service bulletin is recommended. Good Shepherd has a bulletin template that we are happy to share. A proof must be submitted to the officiating priest at least 3 weeks prior to the wedding. Generally, the bulletin is the responsibility of the couple, but Good Shepherd's parish administrator can assist with a simple bulletin for a fee of \$50. Bulletins are to be brought to the rehearsal.

The church seating capacity is one hundred and twenty-five. **Please adhere to the 125 number when inviting guests.** Due to fire regulations, no extra chairs may be placed in the church. Additional seating in Hines Hall is an option. The service can be streamed live into Hines Hall for overflow seating and also to the church's YouTube channel upon request.

Due to the limited space, **the bride's attendants are limited to a total number of five**; this includes bride's maid/matron and honor attendants. **The groom's attendants are limited to a total number of five**; this includes the groomsmen and the best man.

Family members and friends can be asked to read a lesson and/or read the prayers for the couple. After the service, an appointed family member or friend can toll the church bell in celebration of the marriage. Groomsmen can serve as ushers, or other appointed ushers can help to seat guests. The couple may choose a crucifer, who must be familiar with the Episcopal service, or the church will provide one.

The participation of children in the service must be discussed with the officiating priest.

Marriage and Remarriage Policy

At least one party of the proposed marriage:

- must be a baptized Christian. (Arrangements for baptism can be made.)
- have a pastoral relationship with the Good Shepherd, or
- have relatives who have a pastoral relationship with the church. (A pastoral relationship is defined as attending worship services and supporting the work of the Lord through Good Shepherd by the giving of time, talents and money) or
- in consultation with Good Shepherd's rector, it may be determined that one or the other of the applicant couple has an active pastoral relationship with another

Episcopal Church. Clergy of Good Shepherd and one's home church will communicate to confirm activity and eligibility.

- Exceptions to these requirements are explained in the accompanying fee schedule.

Remarriage: If either person is divorced, the couple must inform the officiating clergy at the time of application. The officiating clergy will have a conversation with the couple about the reasons that led to divorce, the care of any children from the previous marriage, and the dynamics of remarriage. This information, by canon law, is passed on to the bishop in written form for the bishop's approval to proceed. Note: the divorce must have been final for a year. Legal documents such as divorce decrees must be submitted to the officiating clergy and bishop ninety days prior to the proposed wedding date. Permission for a third marriage will undergo more thorough evaluation by the officiating clergy and the bishop.

Application and Scheduling

The Application for Marriage, the signed Declaration of Intention (at the end of this document), and the \$500 down payment should be returned as soon as possible and at least ninety days prior to the ceremony. The application will be reviewed by the clergy and the wedding committee and the couple will be notified within a short period of time. Note: Do not make definite plans for the service until the rector gives final approval.

By tradition, marriages are not solemnized on certain Holy Days and during certain seasons of the Church year: Advent, Christmas Day, the Season of Lent, Palm Sunday through Easter Day. Church of the Good Shepherd can accommodate one wedding on any given day, and the service must not conflict with services of the parish.

After the application has been approved, one of the wedding coordinators will discuss the details of the wedding. One of the wedding coordinators will be at the rehearsal, along with members of the wedding guild, and will assist on the day of the wedding.

Scheduling pre-marital counseling and a consultation with the musician (per following details) should be done within two weeks of the application approval.

Pre-marital Counseling

The Church requires that a couple receive counseling prior to being married. A minimum of four sessions are recommended. Counseling may be done by the rector, a professional counselor, or another priest or counselor as distance from Good Shepherd may dictate. Options are to be discussed and agreed upon with the rector. If the rector does not do the counseling, written recommendation by the priest or counselor must be given to the rector at least sixty days prior to the ceremony.

Music

Good Shepherd's organist, Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, provides music for weddings unless other arrangements are approved well in advance. Please schedule a meeting with her as soon as possible to be held three to four months prior to the wedding. A list of wedding music is available for you to choose from, and hymns from the 1982 Episcopal hymnal are appropriate choices as well. If you wish to include any selections other than those found on the list or in the hymnal, they must be approved by both the officiating priest and the organist. No recorded music is allowed. Vocal or instrumental soloists may perform during the prelude, postlude, at certain points of the service or during communion. The church has a list of soloists available upon request. If one or more soloists will be performing at your wedding, there will be an additional fee (\$50) for rehearsal time; please consult with the officiating priest and the organist. Due to the lack of space in the church, large harps such as pedal harps are not permitted.

The Marriage License

For a wedding at Good Shepherd, the license may be obtained in any North Carolina county. The license is valid for sixty days from issue date. A fee is required, as is a valid driver's license or picture I.D. and proof of social security number. **The license must be brought to the rehearsal. Without a license the marriage ceremony cannot take place.** For further information, contact the Register of Deeds in any of the following: Sylva- 828-586-7530; Franklin- 828-349-2095; Brevard- 828-884-3162

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is usually held in the early evening the day before the wedding. If Holy Eucharist will not be a part of the ceremony, this is the time for a pre-nuptial Eucharist, if desired.

All members of the wedding party are expected to attend the rehearsal and are urged to be on time. A timely rehearsal means you get to the rehearsal dinner in time. The bride and groom will participate fully in the rehearsal.

The parish register is signed by the bride and groom and witnesses at the rehearsal. It's a great picture opportunity!

Bring marriage license and wedding bulletins to the rehearsal. (Two less things to do on the wedding day!)

Photography

Please have the photographer speak to the clergy so that he or she can be familiar with Good Shepherd wedding customs. In particular, **no pictures are permitted during the ceremony. Please make sure that the photographer and all guests are aware of this rule.** In addition, one flash photograph is allowed as the couple processes down the aisle after the ceremony. Videotaping of the ceremony is permitted from an unobtrusive stationary position using natural light. It is recommended that the photographer be scheduled one or two hours prior to the ceremony. Photographs may be taken until thirty minutes before the ceremony and after the ceremony.

Our church is equipped to stream services live to our YouTube channel. If you would like to have the service streamed then a link can be sent to you prior to the service for you to distribute to any friends or family not able to attend the service in person.

Decorations

The Church of the Good Shepherd is uniquely beautiful and requires no elaborate decorations. Altar appointments and church furnishings may not be removed. Only church-owned furnishings (vases, candlesticks, candelabra, etc.) may be used. Candles are furnished by the church. All floral decorations and arrangements must be discussed with the wedding guild coordinator well in advance of the wedding.

The wedding guild chairperson will discuss the specific floral guidelines, which include:

- Flowers near the altar are limited to one arrangement on each side.
- There is a shelf under the windows at the back of the church where an arrangement may be placed.
- Small, appropriate floral arrangements may be used on each pew.
- No real or artificial flowers or rose petals may be strewn on the carpet.
- Bird seed may be thrown outside the church; rice or confetti or flower petals are not allowed.
- If a garland is used on the exterior, it must be confined to the door. No garland or other objects may be placed on the railings. During the summer when bees are pollinating, it is strongly advised that simple greens and ribbons be used.
- Unity candles are not part of the Episcopal service.
- Aisle runners are not permitted.
- Due to space limitations, a guest registry is not permitted at the entrance of the church.

Hines Hall, Our Parish Hall

The parish hall may be used prior to the service as a waiting area and place of preparation (like the bride's room). It's a great place for simple refreshments for the wedding party and immediate family. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted. Please designate someone to remove all personal belongings promptly following the service.

When available Hines Hall may be used for the reception. (See the parish hall fee schedule below.)

Fee Schedule –

We are thankful to have a beautiful, historic church in which people may make their wedding vows and begin their new life together. These fees help us care for the church and to share the gospel with generations to come. If you have questions or concerns, you may speak to the rector about the fees.

Fee	Amount	Personal worksheet
1. Use of Church for Parishioners (due at time of application)	\$100	\$
2. Use of Church for persons directly related to parishioners (due at time of application)	\$500	\$
3. Use of Church for Episcopalians active in other Episcopal Churches (due at time of application)	\$1,500	\$
4. Use of Hines Hall for receptions (\$100 per hour, including setup and clean up)	\$100 per hour	\$
5. Additional donation / thank offering	<i>At your discretion</i>	\$
6. Good Shepherd Organist (<i>includes rehearsal; paid directly to organist</i>)	\$400 <i>(\$50 - rehearsal per soloist)</i>	\$
7. Crucifer (if desired from Good Shepherd, paid directly to crucifer)	\$25 cash	\$
8. Bulletin made by parish administrator	\$50	\$
9. Honorarium for clergy (<i>optional but customary; given directly to clergy</i>)		
10. Flowers (paid directly to florist)		
Total		

Your Wedding Checklist

As soon as possible:

- ___ Complete and return wedding application, declaration of intent (back page), and appropriate payment to the church office as soon as possible to finalize the reservation and date.
- ___ Discuss and create a premarital counseling plan with the clergy. When counseling is completed by outside counsel, email or mail a letter of recommendation 60 days prior to the ceremony.
- ___ Arrange meeting with the officiating clergy and the Wedding Guild coordinator to meet person-to-person (or on Zoom),
- ___ Contact the florist, photographer, caterer. (Suggestions provided below)
- ___ schedule a meeting with the organist to be held three to four months prior to the wedding discuss music and any additional musicians desired.

3-6 months prior to Wedding date:

- ___ Get wedding service booklet from the clergy, and finalize service options related to readings, prayers, and Holy Eucharist.
- ___ Consult with officiating clergy and parish administrator about the bulletin. Send a proof of the bulletin to the clergy and musician at least three weeks prior to the ceremony.
- ___ meet with the organist to discuss music and any additional musicians desired.

1 month prior to Wedding date:

- ___ Payments to the church for the use of Hines Hall (if applicable) are due at least 10 days prior to the reception. Send to the attention of Ellen Albright.
- ___ Obtain marriage license from any county in North Carolina.
- ___ Communicate to the wedding party all pertinent dates and times.

Week of Wedding:

- ___ Bring marriage license and bulletins to the rehearsal.
- ___ Bring payments for the organist, crucifer, musicians, clergy on the wedding day.

Contact information

Rector

The Rev. Robert Wood

Office 828-743-2359, rwood.gs@gmail.com

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Alison Schultz

Office 828-743-2359, aschultz.gs@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator

Sandra Swartzfager

Home 828-743-9340, sanjoh@frontier.com

Organist

Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett

828-575-3244, lynellenburkett@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Ellen Albright

828-743-2359, goodshepadmin@frontier.com

Mailing Address

The Church of the Good Shepherd
P.O. Box 32, Cashiers, NC 28717

Physical Address (GPS)

1448 Highway 107 South
Cashiers, NC 28717

Local Florists

Fiddlehead Designs
OakLeaf

828-743-5362, fiddleheaddesigns@live.com
828-526-8000, kirk@oakleafstyle.com

Photographer

Sposa & Bella
www.sposabellaphotography.com

Craig & Lindsey Mahaffey, 864-903-1269

Caterers

The Kitchen
Truly Scrumptious Treats

828-526-2110, thekitchenofhighlands@gmail.com
205-999-7297, truly_scrumptious_treats@yahoo.com

**Application for Marriage at
Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina**

Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a reply within a short period of time. Further marriage plans should not be made until you receive a reply. At least ninety days notice should be given to the rector prior to the wedding date.

Bride's biographical information

Full name _____

Name called _____

Address _____

Telephone numbers: Home _____ Office _____ cell _____

Email: _____

Birth date _____ Age on Wedding Day _____

Father's full name _____

Mother's full name _____

Are you baptized? _____ In what denomination? _____

Are you confirmed? _____ In what denomination? _____

Do you presently attend church? _____

If so, where? _____

Do you or other members of your family have a pastoral relationship with Good Shepherd? Please explain.

Why do you want to be married at Good Shepherd?

Signature _____

Groom's information

Full name _____

Name called _____

Address _____

Telephone numbers: Home _____ Office _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Birth date _____ Age on Wedding Day _____

Father's full name _____

Mother's full name _____

Are you baptized? _____ In what denomination? _____

Are you confirmed? _____ In what denomination? _____

Do you presently attend church? _____

If so, where? _____

Do you or other members of your family have a pastoral relationship with Good Shepherd? Please explain.

Why do you want to be married at Good Shepherd?

Signature _____

Section II

Desired Wedding Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Desired Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Has either of you previously been married? Bride _____ Groom _____

If divorced, on what date was divorce final?

Bride _____ Groom _____

If yes, do you have children? Please give ages. Bride _____ Groom _____

Comments _____

Please mail or email this completed application and Declaration of Intention (below) to:

The Church of the Good Shepherd
P.O. Box 32, Cashiers, NC 28717
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
If you have questions, please call 828-743-2359

Declaration of Intention

We, _____ and _____, desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union as is set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, as far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

(signature)

(signature)

(date)