

Weddings

The Church of the Good Shepherd

To Begin

To begin planning your wedding at The Church of the Good Shepherd, please contact our Wedding Coordinator who is delighted to begin planning with you.

Our Wedding Coordinator can answer any questions you may have about being married at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Weddings In The Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal church, a wedding is first and foremost a worship service. Because Holy Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments of the church and appears with all other sacramental rites of the church in the Book of Common Prayer, weddings are subject to the same rules and expectations as other services in the church.

In addition, weddings at The Church of the Good Shepherd are subject to the canons, laws, and policies of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese of North Carolina, and local and state laws.

Same gender marriages are joyfully celebrated at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Occasionally, a couple married in a civil ceremony or married in another Christian denomination will request a marriage blessing. Marriage blessings are welcome at The Church of the Good Shepherd and are subject to the same guidelines and principles as weddings.

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Weddings At Good Shepherd

All weddings held at Good Shepherd are planned and conducted according to the following principles:

The wedding ceremony is a reverent and joyful Episcopal worship service that is intended to be meaningful to you, your families, and your guests.

Weddings are performed according to the Marriage Rite of the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 or one of the gender-neutral marriage liturgies approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Weddings are performed by and under the direction of the clergy of The Church of the Good Shepherd.

At least two witnesses must be present at the wedding ceremony.

You both are expected to meet with the Rector (or an appointed delegate) for premarital counseling at least three times prior to the wedding.

No weddings are permitted during the penitential seasons of Advent or Lent or on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving).

If either of you is divorced, your wedding can be celebrated at the church with the approval of the Rector and the Diocesan Bishop. The wedding coordinator can assist you with the process to secure the necessary approvals.