

WEDDING GUIDE

Village Baptist Church
1950 Mitchellville Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716
(301) 249-6448

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Salmon, Pastor
Rev. Starlette McNeill, Associate Pastor

Your wedding is one of the most important events you will ever experience. The wedding ceremony expresses the commitment you are making to one another. This wedding guide is intended to enhance your preparations for marriage. Please read the guidelines and complete the Wedding Information Sheet.

Counseling Sessions. The minister will meet with the couple prior to the wedding to discuss plans for the ceremony. The minister will explain the various aspects of the ceremony and discuss with the couple their particular wishes. They also will discuss the marriage relationship and Christian ideals for a happy marriage.

The Wedding Rehearsal. For a smaller wedding a rehearsal may or may not be necessary. For a wedding with more participants a rehearsal is essential. All attendants, musicians, ushers, and other participants should be present. Parents, relatives, and friends are welcome to attend. Children must be supervised at all times. The minister will conduct the rehearsal according to the plans discussed. The usual time frame is about an hour.

The Music. Music should be appropriate to the occasion. You may supply your own qualified organist, pianist, or other musician, or you may contact a musician recommended by the minister. Discuss with any musician your music preferences and the fee. Vocal selections by soloists, if desired, should also be appropriate. Recorded music may be played through the church sound system if a qualified operator is available.

Photography and Videography. Photography and/or videography are permitted during the ceremony. Photographers and videographers should exercise discretion so as not to distract from the proceedings. Formal and informal pictures of the bridal party and family members also may be taken following the ceremony.

Throwing of Rice. Rice may not be thrown in the church building or on church grounds.

Flowers and Other Decorations. You may provide your own floral arrangements. Bows may be affixed to pews with clips, ribbon, or string, but cannot be taped and must not damage the furniture or finish. An aisle runner (50 feet) and other decorations are optional. Delivery of flowers to the church must be coordinated with the minister. Pulpit furniture removed before the rehearsal must be replaced after the ceremony.

The Marriage License. A Prince George's County marriage license is required. Applications must be made at the Administration Building in Upper Marlboro at least 3 working days before the wedding, earlier if possible.

The Wedding Reception. You may secure your own venue for the Wedding Reception. The Village Baptist Fellowship Hall is available for an additional fee. No alcoholic beverages may be served in the church building. The church kitchen may be used as a staging area, though not for food preparation. No smoking is permitted in the church building.

Expenses of a Church Wedding.

- (a) Use of Sanctuary: \$800 (cash or check payable to Village Baptist Church);
- (b) Use of Fellowship Hall & Kitchen: \$800 (cash or check payable to Village Baptist Church);
- (c) Services of the Minister: \$400 honorarium (cash or check payable to the minister);
- (d) Musicians: fee as negotiated.

VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
1950 Mitchellville Road
Bowie, MD 20716
Bruce C. Salmon, Pastor

WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

Wedding of _____ and _____
(Full name of groom) (Full name of bride)

Bride's address _____ Phone _____

Groom's address _____ Phone _____

Church affiliation: Bride _____ Groom _____
(if any)

Address following marriage _____

Date of wedding _____ Time _____

Date of rehearsal _____ Time _____

Facilities required: Sanctuary _____ Number of dressing rooms _____

Fellowship Hall _____ Kitchen _____

Ceremony: Best Man _____ Maid of Honor _____

Number of: Bridesmaids _____ Groomsman _____ Ushers _____

Ring Bearers _____ Flower Girls _____ Other Participants _____

Soloist _____ Name _____

Organist _____ Name _____ Fee \$ _____

Church Sanctuary for rehearsal and ceremony _____ Fee \$ 800

Fellowship Hall & Kitchen for reception _____ Fee \$ 800

Minister (includes premarital counseling, rehearsal, ceremony) Fee \$ 400

Total Fees \$ _____

*Make out separate checks (or cash) for each and bring to rehearsal.

Date _____ Bride _____ Groom _____

Your signatures indicate that you understand the fees and policies in the Wedding Guide and your willingness to abide by them. If you have any questions, call 301-249-6448.