

WEDDINGS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to helping you in this most exciting time of your life. The experienced Morrison Height Baptist Church staff offers their support in helping you to make your wedding ceremony beautiful and worshipful. A wedding is a sacred, holy and serious occasion where solemn promises are made to God and to each other. It is sacred and holy because it was established by God Himself, serious because it will bind you together for life.

Below are some frequently asked questions and answers that will help you decide if Morrison Heights Baptist Church can meet your needs and create the wedding you have always wanted. More information is included in our *Wedding Policy Booklet* which is available on this website.

Q: Is membership required to schedule a wedding at Morrison Heights Baptist Church?

A: No. Membership is not required to schedule a wedding.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: The cost depends on the location of the ceremony and if a reception is held at MHBC. The fees are outlined in our *Wedding Policy Booklet*.

Q: Is a deposit required to reserve the church?

A: The \$250 deposit is not required to begin the date reservation process. Once the wedding is calendared, the deposit is due within two (2) weeks.

Q: Does the deposit go toward the fees?

A: The deposit does not go toward the fees but is returned one (1) month after the ceremony as long as all policies are followed.

Q: What is included in the cost?

A: Use of facilities for the rehearsal and ceremony; housekeeping and maintenance services; wedding director services and technical services.

Q: How do I schedule a wedding at MHBC?

A: Download from our website and complete the *Wedding Date Request* form. Send it to the Pastor's Assistant for Weddings. The process for approval on the church calendar takes seven (7) to ten (10) days.

Q: How far in advance can a wedding date be reserved?

A: We do not schedule weddings more than one (1) year in advance for church members and six (6) months in advance for non-members. Also, to allow time for premarital

counseling, we do not recommend scheduling in less than three (3) months from your desired wedding date.

Q: How long in advance must I provide the rehearsal times and other wedding information?

A: Deadlines vary. Some information is required as far in advance of the weddings as eight (8) weeks and some only two (2) weeks in advance of the wedding. A *Wedding Countdown Sheet* has been provided in the *Wedding Planning Packet* to help you to meet the necessary deadlines.

Q: When do weddings take place?

A: On Saturdays, between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Q: What are the policies of MHBC?

A: The policies are in our *Wedding Policy Booklet*. This booklet can be viewed and printed from our website @ morrisonheights.org.

Q: Who is responsible for obtaining the services of the pastor, musicians and technicians?

A: The bride's family is fully responsible for the services of the pastor and musicians. A MHBC wedding director and the needed technicians will be assigned for you.

Q: Can an outside minister perform the ceremony?

A: Yes, outside ministers are welcome to officiate at MHBC weddings. Each minister who will be participating in the wedding ceremony that is not on our staff will need to complete a *Guest Minister Form* (found in the *Wedding Planning Packet*) confirming that he is licensed and ordained, and submit it to the Pastor's Assistant for Weddings for approval.

Q: How much should I pay the minister?

A: An honorarium is simply that and not a fee for services. It is a thoughtful gift for sharing in the occasion. Evaluate the amount of time and heart your minister spends in preparation for your wedding and then honor him accordingly. Let your heart be your guide.

Q: Do I have to use the MHBC organist and pianist?

A: No. You may choose the musicians you wish to use. However, if you choose another organist, they must meet with the MHBC organist for instructions regarding the MHBC organ. All music selected for the ceremony must be reviewed and approved by the MHBC Minister of Music. (Forms are provided in the *Wedding Planning Packet*.)

Q: Do I have to use a MHBC wedding director?

A: Yes. Our trained Wedding Director will be of invaluable assistance in planning your wedding. She directs the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. She also ensures that all forms are completed and returned in a timely manner as well as that the wedding party understands and complies with the guidelines set forth in the *Wedding Policy Booklet*. She works with the maintenance staff person assigned to the event to ensure that the wedding party, florist, caterer, etc. have access to the Worship Center, Fellowship Hall, etc., as needed. She contacts the maintenance staff or appropriate staff

person in the event of an unexpected need or emergency that arises during the rehearsal or on the day of the ceremony.

Q: May real flower petals be thrown?

A: Yes. The aisles should not be covered in petals until the guests are seated and may be thrown by the flower girl.

Q: Can a video be shown?

A: Yes but only during the pre-ceremony music. The ceremony begins with the seating of the mothers.

Q: Can poetry be used for a reading?

A: Subject to the MHBC Minister of Music's approval, readings, other than scripture, and poetry may be used. (*Forms are provided in the Wedding Planning Packet.*)

Q: What is the policy regarding premarital counseling?

A: All couples marrying at MHBC are encouraged to go through Biblically based premarital counseling. This counseling may be obtained through our counseling ministry or through another Biblically based counseling service.

Q: May existing church greenery be used for my ceremony? my reception?

A: Yes. The greenery in the Worship Center or Chapel may be used for the ceremony but cannot be taken out of the Worship Center or Chapel. **my reception?** No. There is no greenery in the Fellowship Hall.

Q: May the wedding gown be left at the church Friday evening?

A: No. Nothing should be left at the church after the rehearsal except florist hardware.

Q: Is childcare available?

A: No. Arrangements for childcare should be made away from the church.

Q: Is the church video equipment available for use?

A: No.

Q: Is there a reception facility?

A: The Fellowship Hall on Morrison Drive may be used for receptions. If you choose to use it, the bridal party is subject to the policies which govern use of the facility. Reservations for receptions in the Fellowship Hall are requested on the *Wedding Date Request* form. Receptions are scheduled no later than 6:00 p.m. on the day of the wedding.

Q: Can a wedding reception only be scheduled?

A: No. Only wedding receptions following an on-site ceremony are allowed.

Q: Are we required to use the food service of MHBC for the reception?

A: No. Outside caterers may provide the food for your reception. (*See Outside Caterer Guidelines in the Wedding Policy Booklet.*)