

INFORMATION FOR
BRIDES AND GROOMS



ST. STEPHEN'S-ON-THE-HILL
998 INDIAN ROAD
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO
L5H 1R5

**Getting Married
At
St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church
998 Indian Road,
Mississauga ON L5H 1R5
905-278-9245
905-278-9772 (FAX)
www.ststephensuc.ca**

Congratulations!

We at St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church wish to congratulate you on your decision to enter into marriage. The United Church of Canada affirms that marriage is a: *"Gift of God through which Christians make a covenant with one another and with God, and in which, a man and a woman give themselves to each other with the full intention of a lifelong commitment."*

It also affirms that this unity is a creation of God and is greater than the two individuals. Weddings at St. Stephen's are a pastoral and outreach ministry for participants in our congregational life and for those in our community seeking to have a Christian marriage service. Our hope is that your wedding at St. Stephen's will strengthen your relationship as life partners, and we hope a life of Christian discipleship that may involve St. Stephen's!

The wedding ceremony is simple, reverent and dignified. All that is said and done is to enhance the worship and celebration of your promises in the presence of God and your family and friends.

What's Involved?

The advice and interest of a minister who helps guide you through this very significant preparation and celebration by the following:

Two interviews (at least) in the months prior to the wedding, to enable the minister and couple to get to know one another, to provide opportunity for the couple to reflect on their relationship, and communicate well during this time of preparation. There is time for studying the wedding service and ensuring it is appropriate.

One rehearsal to ensure the wedding runs smoothly and includes the bride, groom, all members of the wedding party, ushers, and if desired, parents of the bride and groom.

Help in arranging for your participation in a marriage preparation course should you wish.

A marriage service that is Christian worship and celebration.

A unique sanctuary that is attractive and worshipful.

Music that is sacred and appropriate to the occasion.

Administrative services that ensure that documents are duly processed, that organization is effectively carried out.

What's Next?

Booking the Wedding

Please speak to the Wedding Co-ordinator in the Church office (278-9245) to establish the date and time of the wedding and the rehearsal as soon as possible. Any changes must always be made in consultation with the Church office.

Booking the Wedding Interviews

Please telephone the Minister to set up the first interview at your mutual convenience.

The Wedding

Music

Our Organist has an extensive repertoire of wedding music, sacred and classical and will provide titles of suitable selections. Please contact the Organist to make the final arrangements for your music (and hymn, if you wish) choices.

If you choose music other than what is offered here, you must consult with the Organist for permission. Where necessary, you will also provide the music.

Because a wedding is a service of worship, the Minister and the Organist reserve the right to judge the suitability of the music, both vocal and instrumental. The music is to be in keeping with the sense of worship throughout the entire ceremony. A musical selection suitable for a wedding reception may not necessarily be suitable for a worship service. In planning for the musical portion of your wedding, we ask you to keep this distinction in mind.

If you wish another Organist to play, the permission of both the Minister and the Organist must be obtained and the honorarium is paid in any event to our Organist. Because our Organist is familiar with the instrument and the wedding

ceremony, we recommend this to assure a harmony in the proceedings.

If you wish the Church to provide a soloist, or if you are arranging for a soloist, please advise the Organist so a rehearsal may be arranged at their mutual convenience.

If the Church is to provide a soloist, the cost is about \$75 (but may vary) and the fee is to be paid directly to the soloist before the wedding.

There is an additional charge of \$50.00 for the Organist if she is to be present at the rehearsal, or if there is an extra rehearsal with a guest soloist.

We Suggest this List of Appropriate Music:

Trumpet Tune in D+	- Clarke
Bridal March	- Lohengrin
Wedding March	- Mendelssohn
Praise to the Lord	- Stralsund 'Gesangbush'
Praise my Soul	- Goss
Bist du Bei mir	- Bach
Arioso	- Bach
O Perfect Love	
Ave Maria	- Schubert
Ave Maria	- Gounod

Hymns are best chosen from our Church hymnal, Voices United.

What does it cost? *(prices subject to change after 2006)*

Minister:	\$225.00
Organist:	175.00
Wedding Co-ordinator:	100.00
Use of Church:	350.00
Candelabra & Candles:	30.00
Use of silk flowers:	30.00

Small weddings, 20 persons or less, no organist, no rehearsal, or Wedding Co-ordinator: \$575, all-inclusive.

Please note: These amounts are to be placed in separate envelopes and given to the Minister or Wedding Co-ordinator at least one week before the ceremony, or wedding cannot take place.

Legal Requirements

The Provincial Government grants permission for the solemnization of a marriage by (a) obtaining a licence, or (b) publishing Banns. The licence must be obtained from the Clerk of a city, town or village (City Hall, Mississauga is the closest). Take along birth certificates, divorce decrees, as appropriate. It must be purchased at least three days before the wedding and is valid for three months. Please deliver the licence to the Church when the fees are delivered, at least one week before the wedding. The licence is required before the wedding takes place.

The legal age for marriage in Ontario is 18. Persons under that age must obtain the written consent of a parent or guardian.

Two witnesses sign the licence and church register following the ceremony.

Please note: The licence must be in the hands of the person solemnizing the marriage before the ceremony, or the wedding cannot take place. The minister has the right to decide whether or not to officiate at the wedding following the first interview.

Decorations

The Church has two copper flower containers, which hang on the back wall of the chancel. You may use these, or bring your own containers or baskets. If you wish to use the copper urns, the flowers are arranged in two 2 litre ice cream containers (you should provide your florist with the containers) and the arrangements are placed in the urns at the church. Please provide the florist with the telephone number of the church office to ensure that the church will

be open when the delivery is made. (Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30:am to 4:30:pm). Some couples like to leave the flowers for the Sunday service, after which they are taken to our sick and shut-ins. Should you wish, the church may provide for the use of silk flower arrangements for \$25.

Photographs

You will likely be arranging to have a photographer or friend take pictures at your wedding. Pictures of you entering and leaving the Church and Sanctuary, as well as signing the register, are easily arranged. **We request that no pictures be taken during the ceremony to preserve the sacred nature of the celebration.** Pictures taken at this time, either by professionals or guests, are an intrusion upon the spirit of worship. Please have the photographer talk to the Wedding Co-ordinator for instructions so the ceremony may proceed smoothly. Should you wish pictures of part of the ceremony itself, these may be staged after the service. Please ask the ushers to advise camera-carrying guests about the rule. If you wish to make a tape recording, or a video, arrangements for the setting up of equipment must be made with the Wedding Co-ordinator. By prior arrangement, a stationary video camera discreetly placed, may record the service.

A Final Note....

The Minister, Elders and members of St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill, wish you well in your new life together. It is our hope that your wedding will be a wonderful beginning for your life-long partnership. We hope too that you will want to enrich and nourish your relationship keeping God at the centre and including regular worship at St. Stephen's Church.

Wedding Staff (2007):

The Rev. Dale Skinner

Ms. Sunju Koh (Organist)

Ms. Pat Smith (Wedding Co-ordinator)