

# *A Wedding at St. Thomas'*

## **Congratulations on your upcoming celebration!**

The Church requires at least three months notice so that adequate arrangements can be made. Marriage preparation is mandatory, where the rector (priest) meets with the couple for 4 or 5 sessions. Marriage preparation is a time to reflect soberly on the commitment of Christian marriage, to strengthen your relationship, and plan the service itself.

The rector will need all the provincial paperwork several weeks before the wedding. An extra month or so will be required to go through the Matrimonial Commission, if either party has been divorced, or the former spouse is still living.

Wedding music should express a Christian understanding of life. Appropriate wedding music is addressed to God in acts of prayer and praise. The organist, who is an employee of the church, will meet with you to select music and arrange a time to play for the service. There is an extra fee if there is to be a soloist, and arrangements have to be made for them to practice.

The altar guild prepares the church for the service. This includes changing the hangings, arranging pew decorations and flowers, and changing them back for the next service. Flowers are usually arranged in church vases. If a unity candle is desired, it is to be furnished by the bride and groom.

The caretaker looks after cleaning up before and after the wedding. The use of confetti or rice is not allowed either inside or outside the building.

There is a wedding rehearsal, a day or so prior to the actual wedding,

which lasts approximately 1-1/2 hours. All wedding service participants are encouraged to be in attendance at the rehearsal. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a service of the Church. People are asked not to take pictures during the service. The bride and groom may wish to return for pictures after the service.

Video cameras are discouraged but may be used and set to run automatically, if they are placed unobtrusively (out of direct sight). All pictures can be staged before or after the ceremony. The clergy and the altar guild are happy to co-operate.

## **Fee & Donation Schedule**

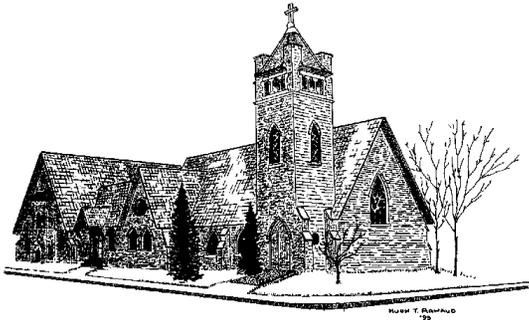
There is not a set fee for the use of the church. Each couple, whether you are a parishioner or non-parishioner of St. Thomas', is expected to make a donation to the ongoing costs of the parish as a way of acknowledging the interest and involvement of the parish in their new life together. These fees and donations should be placed in separate envelopes and given out on the evening of the rehearsal, avoiding problems on the wedding day.

Church	A donation of \$400 is suggested
Clergy	Monetary Gift (no specific amount set)
Organist	\$150.00
Altar Guild	\$40.00
Caretaker	\$40.00
Wedding Service Bulletin	Negotiable

## **Contact Persons**

The Rev. Kelly Baetz	705-645-3486
Connie Knighton, Organist	705-645-3486
Edie Thurston, Altar Guild	705-645-3486
Church Office	705-645-3486

## *About the Church*



*St. Thomas' Anglican Church is an active, worshipping community in Bracebridge. Our beautiful building is over 117 years old and serves as the centre of our life together as we seek to follow Jesus Christ.*

*The Anglican sacraments are celebrated here, as are births, deaths, marriages and all the significant events of any community's life. The facilities are maintained by love, care and support of the members of that community. You are welcome to be or become part of that community.*

St. Thomas' Anglican Church  
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## *Matrimonial* *Enquiries*

St. Thomas' Anglican Church  
Bracebridge, Ontario