

WEDDING POLICY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of ATMORE

Effective : April 26, 2015

MARRIAGE

Marriage was the first, most foundational, and still the most important of the institutions of God. Before government, before the church—even before the fall of man, God established the home—marriage. (Genesis 2:24)

God's ideal for marriage is one man and one woman united together for life. (Mark 10:9) It is our desire that all the requirements of this policy contribute to a godly, healthy marriage.

The sole authority for the New Testament church, the Bible, God's Holy Word, states that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:19-24; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:18-27; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore we believe that God sanctions only the union in marriage of a man to a woman, and this church sanctions only a ceremony compatible with those standards.

Due to our belief in the biblical teachings about marriage, same sex couples will not be married in any facilities or on any properties owned by First Baptist Church, of Atmore, Alabama.

BUILDINGS

The buildings of First Baptist Church are to be used to glorify our Savior, to facilitate the church's obedience to Christ's Great Commission, and Great Commandment. Buildings are not "rented out," but are ministry tools to assist the church in its mission of making disciples.

The buildings are God-owned, but the church is charged with the proper stewardship of all its facilities. The church expects all who utilize its buildings to treat them with care and respect.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Personal experience and careful observation has led our church to a deep conviction that most couples enter into marriage unprepared. Generally, expectations are unrealistic, roles are ill-defined, responsibilities confused, goals are undetermined-- which all or part allow the couple to enter marriage without the proper tools or an adequate foundation.

Statistics show that proper preparation for marriage, (i.e., counseling, etc.), results in healthier marriages. Because of this, pre-marital counseling is a prerequisite of using the church's buildings for a wedding. The pastor of First Baptist Church will establish pre-marital counseling requirements.

APPLICATION

The first step is to complete the form: *Application for Scheduling a Wedding*. An appointment should be made at this point to meet with the pastor for review and approval. After approval by both the First Baptist Pastor and the assigned Wedding Committee member, the dates will be placed on the church calendar.

Before having wedding invitations printed, final arrangements should be double checked with the church as to reservation forms turned in, fees paid, etc.

FACILITIES SCHEDULING

The **sanctuary**, **chapel**, and **fellowship hall** are available and will be scheduled according to the amount of time needed for the wedding activities. In order for the church facilities to be prepared for Sunday service, a Saturday wedding will not be schedule to begin later than 6:00 p.m. When the fel-

lowship hall is used for a reception on Saturday, plans should be made to complete the reception by 9:00 p.m.

The **nursery** facilities are available. Nursery workers must be approved by the wedding committee. (See schedule of fees.)

MUSIC

Since marriage is a sacred institution, the music should serve to reflect and intensify the mood and meaning of the service. The planned music should be discussed with the pastor.

AUDIO/VISUAL

An audio copy (CD) of the services will be provided by the church, if requested. An approved member of the First Baptist Audio/Visual Committee will be responsible for operation of all audio/visual equipment.

DECORATIONS

So that defacing of the facilities will not occur, no nails, tape or tacks will be permitted in any of the First Baptist Church facilities. The only pew-markers that may be used must be free standing.

CANDLES

Please take special precautions in the placement of candles to prevent the possibility of a fire. More specifically, candles should not be placed within a foot, or the length of the candle, whichever is greater, of any draperies or fabric. Mechanical candles (permanent drip-less tube candles) are required, and this includes the unity candle. Also, the carpet must be protected under all fixtures with candles.

FLORALS/GREENERY

Live and/or artificial plants belonging to the church are not to be removed. A liner must be placed under the pot of any live plant used.

The wedding party is responsible for all decorations and their clean-up and will be required to remove these from the church building immediately following the wedding ceremony, unless the flowers are to remain in the sanctuary for the following Sunday. The wedding party is responsible for any damage caused by the decorations. Times to decorate the facilities should be scheduled with the wedding committee.

EQUIPMENT

Church-owned wedding equipment is available free of charge.

CHURCH FURNISHINGS

Only members of the wedding committee, church custodian, or church staff are permitted to supervise the movement of the pulpit furniture. The Pulpit and Remembrance Table cannot be moved out of the Sanctuary (moved to the side aisle only). Hymnals are not to be removed from the pew racks. No furnishings are to be removed from any facility of First Baptist Church.

FOOD/DRINKS

Food and Drinks are allowed in the Fellowship Hall only. No food or drink is permitted in the Sanctuary, Educational Rooms, or the Patterson Chapel.

The wedding party is responsible for leaving dressing areas in good condition.

RECEPTION

The fellowship hall and kitchen may be used for wedding receptions. Clean up must be pre-arranged. The church prefers that you to contract with the church custodian for clean up. Heating only of pre-cooked food will be permitted in the church kitchen.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is usually held the evening before the wedding. It is expedient that the wedding party plan the wedding ceremony before the rehearsal. Rehearsals should be limited to one hour, if possible.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. No tobacco or alcoholic products are permitted at any time in the buildings or on the grounds of First Baptist Church.
2. The use of video cameras and flash photography should be left to the discretion of the wedding party and/or the officiating minister.
3. No rice, bird seed, or confetti may be thrown anywhere in the church buildings.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

The First Baptist Church Wedding Coordinator will arrange scheduling and provide other related services regarding the wedding and use of church facilities. The fee for the wedding coordinator is included in the usage fees stated below for non-members and inactive members. Active church members will pay \$150 for this service.

FACILITY FEES

Sanctuary Usage Fee – non-refundable -\$350.00
 (Non-members, and inactive members)
 Patterson Chapel Usage Fee-non-refundable-..... \$200.00
 (Non-members, and inactive members)

FBC Fellowship Hall Usage Fee per use – non-refundable - \$100.00
 (Non-members, and inactive members)

Damage Deposit (Members and Non-members) – refundable - \$250.00.

If this amount does not cover the amount of damage, the responsible parties will cover the additional cost.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Multi-media Fee (sound) - \$50.00 for wedding plus \$10.00 per hour for rehearsal
 Nursery Staff - \$30.00 p/hr. Limit five children per worker.
 Clean up for Sanctuary or Chapel \$100.00
 Clean up for Fellowship Hall \$100.00

PERSONAL SERVICES AND FEES

There are no set fees for the service of the ministers. The wedding party is responsible for remuneration of the musicians, custodian, sound, and nursery staff fees. The wedding party should make separate financial arrangements with those in charge of directing, decorating, and/or reception services.

NOTICE: The wedding date is not placed on the FBC calendar until the wedding application has been approved.

Application for Scheduling a Wedding

First Baptist Church Atmore, AL

(NOTE: The wedding date is not placed on the FBC calendar until the FBC pastor and FBC Wedding Committee have approved this application and the FBC Wedding policies have been reviewed.)

Rehearsal Date _____
Time....._____

Wedding Date _____
Time....._____

(Saturday weddings not to be scheduled later than 6:00 PM. Receptions in the fellowship hall should be complete by 9:00 PM.)

BRIDE ELECT

Name _____ Age _____

Present Address _____

Couple's Future Address _____

Contact #'s _____

Church Membership _____

Previous Marriage? No _____ Yes _____

Bride Parents _____

BRIDEGROOM ELECT

Name _____ Age _____

Present Address _____

Contact #'s _____

Church Membership _____

Previous Marriage? No _____ Yes _____

Bridegroom Parents _____

CEREMONY PLANS

Facilities Requested: Sanctuary Patterson Chapel Fellowship Hall

Wedding Director _____ Director Contact # _____

Officiating Minister/s _____

Florist _____ Contact # _____

Photographer _____ Contact # _____

Musicians - Pianist _____ Contact # _____

Organist _____ Contact # _____

Other _____ Contact # _____

Caterer (If reception is at First Baptist) _____ Contact # _____

If approved, I agree to abide by the conditions provided in the wedding policies. I agree also to make every effort to insure that my guests do likewise. I take full monetary responsibility for any damage to FBC facility and property by myself, the groom, the wedding party and any guests.

Date: _____ Applicant's Signature: _____

(NO WEDDING CAN BE SCHEDULED UNTIL FIRST APPROVED BY THE PASTOR)

Approved by: _____ Assigned to and Approved by: _____
(Date/Pastor) (Date/Wedding Committee Member)

(After approval by pastor make 3 Copies:
one to Bride, one filed in FBC Wedding Book, and one to Assigned Wedding Committee Member)