

GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
BOWIE, TEXAS

Our Church family desires to render spiritual service at this very important and sacred time in your life. Since it is our desire to be of the greatest assistance possible, the following guidelines are given. It is the responsibility of the parties being married to convey the appropriate guidelines to the appropriate parties involved in the wedding.

1. Keeping in mind the holiness and sanctity of God's house, there will be no smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or desecration to the building. Throwing of birdseed (not rice) will be delayed until the bridal party has left the building.
2. The florist will be instructed to:
  - A. Use drip-proof candles, candle cups or take other necessary measures to insure no candle wax is dropped onto the carpet.
  - B. Refrain from defacing the building in any manner –i.e. thumb tacks, scotch tape, etc. and will be reminded of his liability for any damage incurred in his work in the sanctuary.
  - C. Flowers, flower holders, candle arbors, etc. are to be removed from the sanctuary building immediately following the wedding ceremony. These items will not be left in classrooms or hallways over night after the wedding.
3. Music Considerations:
  - A. All vocal and instrumental music will be in keeping with the sacredness and holiness of the marriage ceremony.
  - B. If the minister of music or church pianist and/or organist is used, it will be necessary to secure the dates well in advance with them. An honorarium in keeping with their time spent in the rehearsal and the wedding will be an appropriate expression of appreciation.
  - C. Other instrumentalists and vocalists will be aware of the type of music expected and the proper use and care of the instruments.
4. The dates for the rehearsal and wedding should be **first cleared through the pastor** if you desire him to officiate, before a definite date is set and wedding invitations are printed in order to insure he can officiate on that date. (Please read **“Pastor Mike’s Wedding Information”**.) If the pastor will not be asked to officiate, the dates and the guest minister must be cleared through the church office and the guest minister must be made aware of these building guidelines.
5. The pastor charges no set fee for officiating at weddings, although an honorarium in keeping with his time spent in rehearsal and the wedding would be appropriate expressions of appreciation.

6. All members of the wedding party will be advised as to the exact hour of rehearsal and are urged to be punctual.

7. The photographer will be advised that no flash pictures are to be taken during the actual ceremony at the altar. Time exposure pictures may be taken from an inconspicuous place that will not detract from the sacredness of the service. The photographer may take flash pictures of the bride as she comes down the aisle with her father and as the bride and groom leaves.

8. If you will be using more than just one microphone or if you will be playing CD's or tapes you will be required to have the church's sound personnel present. A fee of \$25 will be paid by the wedding party to the sound person.

9. No furnishing (furniture, décor, etc.) can be moved/re-arranged from any area of the church or grounds. If it is felt necessary to move an item, permission must be gained from a pastor of First Baptist Church, and the custodian on hand is the only person allowed to move such item.