

# WEDDINGS AT VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*Prepared Summer 2019*

Congratulations on your engagement! The life-long journey on which you and your future spouse are preparing to embark is so exciting. There are laughter and tears, moments of joy and sadness, and a lifetime of growing together, in the image of God. At Vauter's we celebrate the choice you have made in having a Christian marriage, and look forward to walking along side you.

Christian marriage is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. It is an outward sign of an inward grace: where two individuals choose to become one flesh, and love each other with the fullness of God's love. The marriage ceremony itself is a worship service. We are giving thanks to God for the mystery of love, as your new family is born by making vows to one another. It is awesome, humbling, and terrifying all at once. As *The Book of Common Prayer* says:

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of heart, body, and mind is intended by God for mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Marriage is a sacred mystery, and we are thrilled Vauter's is the place where you are considering making your vows.

In this packet is all of the nuts and bolts information you need for the wedding day, itself: the policies, procedures, and forms. Take your time in reading through it, and then fill out the forms at the end (there are eight pages ~ pgs. 21-28; some of the information is duplicate, but that's because these will get passed out to different people). Please be sure to send this into the church at least one month prior to your wedding date.

Thank you, and congratulations,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Parnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Scott D. Parnell  
Priest-in-Charge  
Vauter's Episcopal Church

## CHURCH POLICIES

All arrangements for a Wedding Service must be made with the Priest. Thirty days notice is required by the Episcopal Church's canon law.

In accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church [III.14.1(c)] in the Diocese of Virginia, the church and all other parish buildings with their appurtenances, as well as the grounds, are under the control of, and for the support of the ministry of, the Priest who must approve all usages. The church building may be used only for Services of the Episcopal Church and in accordance with The Book of Common Prayer. This means that only clergy of The Episcopal Church may preside but we are pleased to invite other clergy to assist in the Marriage Liturgy.

Vauter's Church is an appropriate place to celebrate the wedding of active members of the congregation and of those who have a pastoral relationship with the congregation.

An Active Member is one who is at least 18 years of age, regularly receives Holy Communion, has been known to the Treasurer as a regular contributor for at least one year, and whose Letter of Transfer has been received by this church. The adult children of active members, as defined, will be considered as active members for purposes of these guidelines. Those members who do not meet the requirements of active member status are considered inactive.

A pastoral relationship for non-members exists when a man and woman have become associated with Vauter's Church through the above-mentioned activities but have not transferred their memberships into this church. Also a pastoral relationship exists when the clergy here are assisting another Episcopal priest by conducting the marriage Service.

Marriage Services may not be scheduled from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday in Easter Week, nor two weeks before Christmas Day and one week after.

Pre-marital counseling is required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the bride and groom are requested to arrange for a conference as soon as possible with the Priest. Both parties must be present.

If either the bride or the groom has been married before (except for widows and widowers) they must receive permission from the Bishop of Virginia to remarry. (See Guidelines for Petitioning for Consent to Solemnize Marriages after Divorce or Annulment, pg. 7).

The Book of Common Prayer will be used for all Marriage Services with no variations in either the 1979 edition or 1928 edition.

The officiating priest conducts the rehearsal and the Altar Guild assists at both the rehearsal and the wedding. In addition to the Altar Guild representative, some brides choose to have a "Mistress of Ceremonies," to assist with the many details associated with the Marriage Service apart from the liturgy itself.

Arrangements for the musician are made through the clergy. Please confer with the Priest about the music to be used. (See Music for Weddings at Vauter's Church, pg. 9).

The use of still and video cameras is restricted. (Please see Photographs and Videos, pg. 10).

The Head of the Altar Guild will be glad to advise you concerning arrangements within the church. All altar flowers and chancel decorations are overseen by the Altar Guild. (See Altar Flowers and Chancel Decorations, pg. 11).

If another wedding is already scheduled for the day you want, permission is asked of the first bride to share the day. She has the choice of time for rehearsal and Service. There is a minimum of two and a half hours between Marriage Services.

The family/sponsor is responsible for having the Parish House and Church cleaned following the service.

The church can seat 210 people. 170 adults may be seated on the ground floor and no more than 20 adults may be seated in each balcony for safety purposes.

Because it creates a safety hazard both inside and out, we ask that nothing (rice, bird seed, confetti, etc.) be thrown on church property.

The Parish Hall is available for receptions. Talk with the Priest if you wish to have champagne, beer, or wine; hard liquor is not allowed. (See Guidelines for Use of Parish House and Grounds, pg. 12).

Parking: there must be a minimum of three parking attendants that you arrange. For large weddings, particularly if dismissal is after dark, Vauter's recommends hiring off-duty sheriff's deputies or policemen to direct the exit onto Route 17.

Leaflets with the Order of Service may be printed. If a leaflet is to be used, it must be done by the church. Please make arrangements through the Priest.

The Marriage License (and duplicate), return envelope, Certificate of Marriage, and donations for the sexton, musician, leaflets, and use of the church, should be delivered to the church office one week before the wedding.

The Prayer Book permits, at the request of the couple, the publishing of "The Banns of Marriage" on one to three Sundays preceding the wedding in the following form:

*I publish the Banns of Marriage between N.N. of and N.N. of. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.*

*This is the first (or second, or third) time of asking.*

## MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The following information sets forth the legal requirements that must be met by persons contemplating marriage in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The marriage statutes of this State are administered by the clerks of the circuit courts in the counties and the independent cities. Requests for any additional data not covered herein should be addressed to the clerk of the court of the area where the license is to be obtained.

### **Age Requirements and Consent**

The minimum age for marriage in the Commonwealth of Virginia is sixteen (16) years for both parties; however, if either party is under eighteen (18), consent to the marriage must be given by the father, mother or legal guardian. This may be done in person by the parent or legal guardian before the person issuing the license or by written consent properly sworn to before a notary public. Special provisions are made in Virginia law to allow marriage for under age parties when the female is pregnant and for situations in which under age applicants have no parent or legal guardian.

### **Prohibited Marriages**

- A marriage entered into prior to the dissolution of an earlier marriage of one or both parties.
- A marriage between an ancestor and or descendant; or between a brother and a sister; or between an uncle and a niece; or between an aunt and a nephew; whether the relationship is by half or the whole blood or adoption.
- When either of the parties lacks capacity to consent to the marriage because of mental incapacity or infirmity.
- “Common Law” marriages are not valid if entered into in Virginia or any other jurisdiction, which does not permit them for its residents.

### **License Requirements**

- Blood Test – There is no blood test requirement for marriage in Virginia.
- Where to obtain license – A license for marriage in Virginia is issued by the clerk or his/her deputy clerk of a circuit court in any county or city in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The ceremony may be performed anywhere in the State. Applicants must, under oath, furnish information required to complete the marriage record. These items are material and the applicant may be subject to prosecution for perjury for violation of the portion of the statutes which requires this information. For divorced persons, there is no statutory waiting period before marriage after the divorce is granted unless remarriage is specifically prohibited by a court. In some cases, clerks may require documentary proof of age or termination of previous marriage. Most of the offices of the clerks of court are closed on Saturdays.
- Time Limitations – The marriage must be performed within sixty (60) days after the license is issued. There is no waiting period required between application and issuance of the license and a couple may be married immediately after the issuance of a license.
- Fees – Any person authorized to celebrate the rites of marriage shall be permitted to charge a fee not to exceed \$50, **Section 20-27, Code of Virginia, Domestic Relations**. This

information should be confirmed with the court as we may not always be notified of changes that occur.

- Virginia issued license – The marriage license issued in Virginia is for marriages to be performed in Virginia ONLY.
- Marriages performed outside of Virginia – Marriages performed outside of Virginia are filed in the state or country in which the marriage was performed. You must contact the state or country you were married in to obtain a copy of the marriage record.

### **Marriage Ceremony**

- Who may perform? – A minister of any religious denomination must be authorized by a circuit court to celebrate the rites of matrimony. To obtain such authorization, the minister must produce proof of his ordination and regular communion with the religious society of which he is a reputed member. In addition, the court in each city and county has appointed persons who are eligible to perform civil marriage ceremonies. For marriages between persons belonging to any religious society which has no ordained minister, refer to Section 20-26, Code of Virginia, Domestic Relations.
- Witnesses – There is no statutory requirement that witnesses be present at the marriage ceremony.
- Marriage Record – The minister or other person officiating at the marriage must complete and sign the Marriage Register and the Marriage Return and forward both forms to the clerk of the court who issued the license within five (5) days after the ceremony is performed. The Marriage Return is forwarded by the clerk of the court to the State Division of Vital Records. In addition to the forms to be returned to the clerk, the officiate may also prepared a certificate to be given to the newly married couple. If the minister or person who performs the marriage ceremony does not return the Marriage Register and the Marriage Return to the clerk of the court who issued the license, there will be no record of the marriage in the courts or with the state.

### **Certified Copies**

If a certified copy of the marriage is required, it may be obtained from the office of the clerk of court who issued the license (contact the court for the cost) or from the Virginia Division of Vital Records in Richmond, Virginia, for a fee of \$12.00 for each copy. When application is made for a copy of a marriage record from the Division of Vital Records, the following information should be included: full name of groom, full maiden name of bride, date and place of marriage and the name of the circuit court that issued the marriage license.

## GUIDELINES FOR PETITIONING FOR CONSENT TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES AFTER DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT

1. The member of the clergy seeking the Bishop's consent to solemnize such a marriage petitions the Bishop using the Diocesan Petition. (The Petition is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the requirements of the Canons.) No date for marriage should be firmly set and none announced until consent has been received.

The Bishop must be notified immediately following the solemnization of such a marriage.

2. Where one or both of the parties has been divorced (or his or her marriage(s) annulled) more than once, the member of the clergy is expected to refer them to a licensed professional counselor or a certified pastoral counselor (e.g., a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or a pastoral counselor accredited by a professional association), such counselor to be satisfactory to the member of the clergy, for consultation at the expense of the couple. The consultation is to be considered a source of an additional opinion to support the member of the clergy in the exercise of pastoral judgment.

After such consultation and counseling as the professional counselor may require, the member of the clergy should receive a written statement from the counselor, together with a release from the couple authorizing release of the statement. The counselor's statement should express his or her opinion that whatever issues were involved in the dissolution of the former marriages appear to be sufficiently resolved and that, in the counselor's opinion, the couple has a reasonable chance to establish a lifetime union of mature intimacy. A copy of that report must be attached to the Petition.

In situations where the person married more than once received professional counseling at the time of or subsequent to the dissolution of the former marriages, a statement from that counselor to the effect that the person involved has adequately resolved the issues related to the former marriages and is prepared for a lifelong commitment may be sufficient.

3. Holy Matrimony is entered into within the community of faith and the liturgy for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage emphasizes the congregation's responsibility in upholding the couple in their marriage. It is a reasonable expectation, therefore, that the couple, or at least one party with the support of the other, intends to live out their marriage in the community of faith as members of some congregation. The officiant is most appropriately a member of the clergy of that congregation or one who is acting on behalf of and with the consent the couple's pastor.

Pastoral concerns may make it appropriate for another member of the clergy to submit the Petition.

4. All questions in Section A of the Petition are normally answered "Yes", or consent will not be granted. Questions in Section B, are also answered, "Yes", except in unusual situations thoroughly explained in an accompanying letter from the member of the clergy.

All Petitions are to be submitted to the Bishop of Virginia, 110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220. When any answers on the Petition are checked, “No”, Petitions must be accompanied by a thorough letter from the member of the clergy submitting the petition explaining the circumstances.



## MUSIC FOR WEDDINGS IN VAUTER'S CHURCH

*The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a worship Service where vows are made, prayers are offered, and a blessing given. Any music used in connection with it should be suitable for a Service of the Church as distinguished from a social gathering. Music must be selected for its suitability to a Service of praise and thanksgiving offered to God.*

*-The Joint Commission on Church*

If music is desired, the wedding party is responsible for arranging for the musician. Vauter's has a piano and an organ, and can give you a lead on possible musicians.

Before the Service: Appropriate music is played about 20 minutes before the Service while worshipers are assembling. The music reflects the moods of the Service – joyful, festive and serious – but is offered with the underlying intent of glorifying God. Any music to be played or sung must fit within this context and be approved by the Priest. Many pop or sentimental songs are not appropriate during this time when the thoughts of those present should be directed toward the Service that is about to begin.

During the Service: Congregational music is most appropriate during the Service. Joyous hymns may be sung or played during the entering and exiting processions, or sung during the Service. (At the wedding of Queen Elizabeth, the hymn "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" was sung during the entering procession.) Appropriate solos may also be employed.

Hymns suitable for congregational singing during the Service or during the entering or exiting Procession (All hymns from The Hymnal 1982.)

- 390 -- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
- 376 -- Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
- 410 -- Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
- 377 -- All people that on earth do dwell
- 566 -- Rejoice, ye pure in heart
- 657 -- Love divine, all loves excelling
- 397 -- Now thank we all our God
- 414 -- God, my King, thy might confessing
- 518 -- Christ is made the sure foundation
- 482 -- Lord of all hopefulness
- 352 -- O God, to those who here profess
- 353 -- Your love, O God, has called us here
- 379 -- God is love, let heaven adore him
- 400 -- All creatures of our God and King
- 416 -- For the beauty of the earth
- 448 -- O love, how deep, how broad, how high
- 516 -- Come down, O

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

A wedding is an important event in the life of a family and photographs and videotapes provide a lasting memento of the occasion. We ask, however, that everyone associated with the wedding remember that the occasion is first and foremost a Service for the worship of Almighty God. Nothing, therefore, is to interfere with the worshipful character of the Service.

Special lights, flashes, and photographers moving about the church during the Service distract and disrupt and will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Photography may take place in the church before and after the Service but must be completed thirty (30) minutes before and thirty (30) minutes after the Service. Photographs may be taken freely in the Parish House before the Service and outdoors both before and after the Service.

At the time of the Service, flash pictures are permitted only as the bride prepares to walk down the aisle and when the couple leaves the chancel at the conclusion of the Service. All photos and videos made during the Service must be made with natural light.

No flashes or video lights will be permitted in the church during the Service.

A photographer or videographer may be permitted in one of the galleries during the Service. He or she, however, may not move about in the gallery so as to distract worshipers. To avoid misunderstanding and confusion on the day of the wedding, it is the responsibility of the bride to inform her photographer and/or videographer of these guidelines.

## ALTAR FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Only live flowers and greenery may be used.

Flowers must be arranged and delivered by 10:00 A.M., on the day of the wedding and be at least twenty-seven inches tall, and arranged in the church's containers. One vases of flowers may be used on each of the windows on either side of the pulpit.

The placement and use of additional floral arrangements requires restraint so that the appearance of the church is not more opulent than it is on Easter Day.

Ivy or magnolia may be placed in the windows along the pews. No flowers or decorations may be attached to the pew boxes with the exception of pew boxes reserved for family members that may be indicated by a bow or by a small floral arrangement.

Any flowers or decorations, inside or outside, other than the two vases at the front windows must be removed immediately after the Wedding Service.

Flowers or wreaths may be placed on the front doors using existing nails only and then removed following the Marriage Service.

Flower girls are not allowed to scatter confetti.

Rice and/or birdseed may not be thrown inside or outside.

There is no aisle runner.

When there are two weddings on the same date, brides often work together for one set of flowers. The Altar Guild will help to coordinate this.

After Sunday Services, altar flowers are distributed to the sick and homebound.

Additional candles for the sconces are available for weddings that take place no earlier than 5 P.M. in the winter with an additional donation requested. No other candles, candle-holders, candelabra, or candle stands may be brought into the church.

The Altar Guild Information Sheet is designed to enumerate the various decisions required for flowers and decorations, and the Marriage Service; it should be filled out and sent to the church office one month prior to your wedding.

## GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PARISH HOUSE AND GROUNDS

### **1. Authority.**

In accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church [III.14.1(c)] in the Diocese of Virginia, the church and all other parish buildings with their appurtenances, as well as the grounds, are under the control of, and for the support of the ministry of, the Priest who must approve all usages. The church building may be used only for Services of the Episcopal Church and in accordance with The Book of Common Prayer. This means that only clergy of The Episcopal Church may preside but we are pleased to invite other clergy to assist in the Marriage Liturgy. At the discretion of the Priest, the church building may be used for concerts or for dramatic productions deemed appropriate.

### **2. Priority of Usage.**

It is expected that every use of the grounds and Parish House of Vauter's Church will be compatible with the Christian teachings of the Episcopal Church. Vauter's Church's grounds, as well as the various other rooms in the Parish House are primarily for church activities, but may be available secondarily for the private use of members and their families, and next for the private use of non-members, and for the use of community organizations and activities.

### **3. Restrictions.**

- a. Each use must be approved by the Priest.
- b. The Priest may seek the advice of the Senior and Junior Warden prior to granting approval for use.
- c. A member-sponsor is required for a private function of a non-member.
- d. Vauter's Church's facilities may not be used to raise funds for an individual's income, for wages, and/or for profit -- although organizations might be allowed to use the facilities for purposes of internal fund raising.
- e. A person or group that abuses the rules, the grounds, or the Parish House, or fails to abide by the established time schedule may be refused permission for continued or future use.
- f. In the Parish House, the Nursery and educational materials/supplies may not be used for private functions nor by community organizations and must be left undisturbed.
- g. Leaders of groups of children or youth who use the church facilities will be required to read the Diocese of Virginia's Child Abuse Prevention Policy and sign a form indicating that they have read and understand the policy and agree to abide by it. Church facilities will not be available to groups whose leaders refuse to read and sign the policy.
- h. After each occasion of use, long-term users must leave the lights off, and the building clean and secured.

### **4. Scheduling.**

Each use of the grounds or Parish House must be scheduled in advance with the Priest and approval placed on the calendar in the church office. This includes rehearsals, practices, and/or preparation time prior to an activity.

### **5. Responsibilities.** Grounds and Parish House users shall be responsible for:

- a. the proper conduct and appropriate dress of persons in attendance;

- b. leaving the Parish House and grounds, after use, free of trash, garbage, etc.
- c. the care of church property: undue wear and tear, damage, or destruction must be reported to the Priest, and will be repaired or replaced by Vauter's Church and billed to the responsible person or group.

**6. Alcoholic Beverages.** Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed on the premises. On occasion, the Priest may waive this regulation --- in which case an Alcohol Beverage Control License is not necessary unless beverages are sold. When permission has been granted to serve an alcoholic beverage, an equally attractive non-alcoholic beverage also must be served.

**7. Equipment Use.** A user may not bring in any type of equipment or machinery without the permission of the Priest. All church-owned equipment (tables, chairs, etc.) is to be set up and afterwards put away by the Sexton. The user is to leave the room(s) clean and in good order.

**8. Designated Communicator.** Each person or organization using the grounds or the Parish House shall designate one person to communicate with the Priest and provide the church office with this person's name, address, and telephone number before approval for use will be granted.

**9. Proper Supervision Required.** Each activity is to be properly supervised at all times so that, for instance, there will be no running inside or in the parking lot.

**10. Space Limitation.** Each use of grounds or Parish House shall be confined to the area(s) approved by the Priest.

**11. No pets are allowed on the premises.**

**12. Closing Time.** All activities must be concluded so that grounds and Parish House may be cleaned, vacated, and secured no later than 11:00 P.M. unless otherwise approved in writing by the Priest.

**13. Requirements for all Groups - church and private functions.**

- a. Each outside organization must provide its own tablecloths, napkins, and all other disposable or launderable products associated with a meal or a reception.
- b. All kitchen equipment and utensils must be left clean and returned to the proper storage places.
- c. Floors must be left clean in the kitchen and in all rooms used.
- d. All trash must be taken off premises.
- e. No food may be left in the refrigerator(s) following any function or activity.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR READINGS

One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. A passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28	Male and female he created them
Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24	A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh
Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7	Many waters cannot quench love
Tobit 8:5b-8	That she and I may grow old together
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Love is patient and kind
Ephesians 3:14-19	The Father from whom every family is named
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33	Walk in love, as Christ loved us
Colossians 3:12-17	Love which binds everything together in harmony
1 John 4:7-16	Let us love one another for love is of God

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are:

Psalm 67  
Psalm 127  
Psalm 128

Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:13-16	You are the light...Let your light so shine
Matthew 7:21,24-29	Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock
Mark 10:6-9,13-16	They are no longer two but one
John 15:9-12	Love one another as I have loved you

### Old Testaments Readings

#### Genesis 1:26-28

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

#### Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.  
Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If one offered for love  
all the wealth of his house,  
it would be utterly scorned.

#### Tobit 8:5b-8

Tobias said:  
“We praise thee, O God of our fathers,  
We praise thy name for ever and ever.  
Let the heavens and all thy creation praise thee for ever.  
Thou madest Adam, and Eve his wife  
To be his helper and support;  
And those two were the parents of the human race.  
This was thy word: ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;  
Let us make him a helper like him.’  
I now take this my beloved to wife,  
Not out of lust  
but in true marriage.  
Grant that she and I may find mercy  
and grow old together.”  
They both said “Amen.”

### **Epistle Readings**

#### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but



when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

#### Ephesians 3:14-19

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

#### Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind-- yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

#### Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in

word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

**Psalms**

Psalm 67 Page 675, BCP

May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.  
Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.  
May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 127 Page 675, BCP

Unless the LORD builds the house, \*  
their labor is in vain who build it.  
Unless the LORD watches over the city, \*  
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; \*  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.  
Children are a heritage from the LORD, \*  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior \*  
are the children of one's youth.  
Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! \*  
he shall not be put to shame  
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128 Page 783, BCP

Happy are they all who fear the LORD, \*  
and who follow in his ways!  
You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.  
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your table.  
The man who fears the LORD \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.  
The LORD bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.  
May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.

**Gospel Readings**

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to the crowd, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 7:21,24-29

Jesus told the crowd, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9,13-16

Jesus said, "From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## HOLY MATRIMONY INFORMATION SHEET

The following forms are to be returned to the Church Office at least one month prior to your wedding.

The Rev. Scott Parnell  
Attn.: Wedding Info  
P.O. Box 154  
Champlain, VA 22438

Day and date of wedding \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Day and date of rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired Officiant if other than the Priest of Vauter's \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

Where will the Marriage Service be? Vauter's Church // Other

Will the Marriage Service include the Holy Eucharist? yes // no

Do you wish to have a leaflet for the Marriage Service? yes // no

If so, how many? (20 cents each) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need access to the Parish house on the wedding day? yes no

If so, at what time \_\_\_\_\_

### PERMANENT ADDRESS AFTER MARRIAGE

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DECLARATION OF INTENTION

We understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God.

We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong, and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community.

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Signature

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Signature

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

THE LITURGY

*Please see the Guidelines for Music Selection (pg. 9) and the Recommendations for Readings (pg. 14) as you complete this section. The skeleton of the liturgy is found on page 423 of the Book of Common Prayer. This form will serve as the starting point for a conversation around the liturgy, and it is intended to help the bride and groom personalize their ceremony.*

Do you wish the service to be old language or contemporary language?

Do you wish to include a celebration of the Eucharist? yes // no

If yes, do you wish the service to be: sung // said

Music (see pg. 9 for suggestions)

Opening/Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Praise (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

Sequence (the hymn before the Gospel reading) : \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_

*If there is communion:*

Offertory: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Readings:

Old Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalter: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower dedication:

\_\_ To the glory of God and in loving memory of  
\_\_ To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the marriage of

THE GROOM

Full name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please circle the name you wish used during the Service)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Telephones: Home:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Bachelor or Widower?

Father's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Have you been baptized? yes // no

Have you been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? yes // no

Are you a Communicant of Vauter's Church? yes // no

Have you ever been married before? yes // no

Birthdate: . \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_



THE BRIDE

Full name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please circle the name you wish used during the Service)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Telephones: Home:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Bachelor or Widower?

Father's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Have you been baptized? yes // no

Have you been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? yes // no

Are you a Communicant of Vauter's Church? yes // no

Have you ever been married before? yes // no

Birthdate: . \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

## ALTAR GUILD INFORMATION SHEET

Date and day of wedding: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### BRIDE:

Full name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please circle the name you wish used during the Service)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state and Zip)

Telephones: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PLANNING CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

Telephones: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be using markers to reserve pews? yes // no

If yes, how many pews do you want reserved on each side of the center aisle? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, will you be using \_\_\_\_\_ a floral marker \_\_\_\_\_ ribbon bows

Will you be using sconce and/or window candles? yes // no

Will the rehearsal include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist? yes // no

If yes, how many communicants?

Will the Marriage Service include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist? yes // no

If yes, how many communicants?

### FLOWERS:

Name of florist: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person there: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE FACILITIES

Name of Organization or individual \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Function \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The function will take place from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (time).

Set-up will begin at \_\_\_\_\_ (time). Clean-up will be completed by \_\_\_\_\_ (time).

The expected number of people attending will be \_\_\_\_\_.

The liaison on site at all times during the function, set-up, and clean-up will  
be \_\_\_\_\_.

The liaison's phone numbers are Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**General:**

Will food be served at the function? yes // no

Will alcohol be served? yes // no

Will items be offered for sale? yes // no

Will donations be collected? yes // no

Will fees be charged to participants? yes // no

Will the kitchen appliances be used? yes // no

## DONATION SCHEDULE

All donations, together with the marriage license, are due in the church office no later than one week before the Marriage Service.

### **For the services provided by Vauter's Church**

For printed leaflets \$0.20 each (minimum 100)	\$ _____
Window Candles (only after dark in the winter)	\$100.00
For the use of the Parish House for a reception	\$250.00
Made payable to Vauter's Episcopal Church	\$ _____

### **For the services of the clergy**

There is no donation request for members in good standing of Vauter's Episcopal Church. If, however, a thank-offering is given, the clergy gratefully deposit these gifts into the Rector's Discretionary Fund for furthering the ministry of Vauter's Church. Please make this check payable to Vauter's Episcopal Church, with "Priest Discretionary" in the memo line.

### **Additional donations for non-contributors (members and non-members)**

For the use of the church <i>Payable to Vauter's Episcopal Church</i>	\$1000.00
For the services of the altar guild at the rehearsal and service <i>Payable to Vauter's Episcopal Church</i> <i>Altar Guild in the memo line</i>	\$100.00
For the services of the clergy <i>10% of the cost of the wedding, up to \$500.00</i> <i>Payable to Scott Parnell</i>	\$ _____