

The Wedding Guide



Canterbury
United Methodist Church

Canterbury Wedding Coordinator

Bette Owen

c/o Canterbury United Methodist Church
350 Overbrook Road
P.O. Box 130699
Birmingham, AL 35213

205.871.2520

betowen@att.net

TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

May your time of planning for this service of commitment be filled with
joy and anticipation.

May the love that all have for you and that you have for each other
surround you and sustain you.

May you love, honor and cherish each other always and so live
together in faithfulness and patience
that your lives will be filled with joy,

And may the home that you establish become a haven of blessing and
a place of peace.

Through Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings to you as you plan for your wedding. These guidelines have been prepared to help your service be joyful and lovely. Our church has considerable experience and wisdom that contribute to an uplifting experience for all who take part.

Weddings are first and foremost worship services. They are worship services of Canterbury United Methodist Church and are thereby United Methodist worship services.

There are several important dimensions to this.

Canterbury related pastors will conduct the wedding after pre-marital counseling meetings with the couple.

On occasion, because of friendship and special relationships, couples desire to have a non Canterbury related minister take part in their service. This can be discussed with one of us, and we will make the official invitation to the minister to assist in the service.

The wedding liturgy, vows and service components of weddings at Canterbury will come from the alternatives provided by the United Methodist Book of Worship.

If a couple would like to have a wedding homily, brief sermon, or message, the Canterbury related minister will do so.

On behalf of the congregation, staff and pastors of this church, I pray God's blessings upon you and your families as you plan for this holy moment in life.

Faithfully,



Bill Morgan
Senior Minister

Weddings at Canterbury United Methodist Church

We at Canterbury Church are happy that you are having your wedding here. The church is the most appropriate place for the marriage of Christians. Its altar is a fitting place for taking the vows of “those whom God hath joined together.” Among the sacred ordinances performed within this church and for which this church was built stands the pledging of the marriage bonds through which, in God’s good providence, two lives are made one and a new home is established. A church wedding is a service of worship and consecration - a religious ceremony - and all preparations should be made with this in mind.

The clergy, the Church Council and the Board of Trustees have authorized the publication of the following regulations for the use of church facilities for the wedding ceremony and attendant functions.

Where to Start

A couple desiring to use the Sanctuary, Chapel or other areas for a wedding should first contact the Wedding Coordinator, Bette Owen (871-2520) betowen@att.net about a time and date.

This booklet should be read thoroughly. The groom, the bride, and their parents should sign in the appropriate places on the final page to signify their understanding of the wedding policies.

A Wedding Application (found in this booklet) should be filled out and returned to the Wedding Coordinator, Bette Owen, at least 120 days before the wedding date.

All brides should plan to attend an orientation meeting scheduled through the Wedding Coordinator.

Church members should have been members at least one year prior to requesting a date for the wedding.

The wedding date will be reserved on the church calendar only after these requirements are fulfilled.

The wedding date for non-members will not be confirmed until six months before the requested date.

Ministers

The Senior Minister or one of the associate ministers of Canterbury Church is in charge of the service. This minister will conduct the major parts of the ceremony and will have final approval of all parts of the service, including vows, scripture and homily. (See Service of Christian Marriage - Pages 12-17.)

If a second minister is to be a part of the wedding, they must be issued an invitation by the Canterbury officiant. This contact must be made no later than one month prior to the wedding.

Counseling

The ministers of Canterbury Church require a minimum of two counseling sessions with the bride and groom before the wedding. These sessions may be arranged by calling the church and speaking to the minister or his assistant.

Wedding Director

A Wedding Director from Canterbury will be assigned as soon as the wedding date is confirmed. She will advise the bride during planning, conduct the rehearsal and be present at the wedding. The church holds the Wedding Director responsible for seeing that all aspects of the wedding run smoothly. Therefore, the Wedding Director should be consulted on **all details** of the wedding.

Music

The Canterbury Church organist plays the organ for all weddings. If he should be unavailable, the organist will engage another local organist for the occasion. **You may not engage your own organist.** Contact the organist well in advance of the ceremony. The choice of music and solos will be decided in consultation with him. Secular music will not be used. *The Lord's Prayer* will be said during the marriage ceremony by members of the wedding party and guests. Symbolically, this is the prayer prayed by all for the success of the marriage and is the first act of public worship for the newly married couple. *The Lord's Prayer* may be sung as part of the marriage ritual upon approval.

Decorations

It has been said that the Sanctuary and Chapel at Canterbury were built just for brides, and need little adornment. Restraint in the use of flowers is expected. (See pages 8-11.) A pair of candelabra are available to be used in the Sanctuary and Chapel only for a nominal fee. No tacks, nails, pins, screws, or tape which will permanently deface the furniture or walls (outside or inside) may be used to secure any decorations.

Photography & Videography

No flash photography shall be taken in the Sanctuary from the time the guests begin to arrive throughout the ceremony. Please inform your family, friends and photographer. Photographers violating this rule will be forbidden from taking pictures at future weddings at Canterbury Church.

All photographic equipment should be removed from the Sanctuary or Chapel at least 45 minutes before the ceremony and no longer than 30 minutes after the ceremony. During the ceremony, photographers should stand in the balcony of the Sanctuary or Chapel. We appreciate the photographer honoring the reverence of the ceremony by remaining as quiet as possible while taking pictures.

There should be no photography from the aisle during the ceremony. Pictures may be taken as the couple leaves the church but photographers may not enter the Sanctuary for these pictures. There should be no photography by guests.

Video taping of the wedding may be done from the balcony with no added lights. A camera may be placed in the right rear door of the chancel as long as it remains unseen by the congregation.

Facilities for the Bridal Party

The Bride's Room and rooms for the bridesmaids are in and adjacent to the Narthex. Groomsmen may use the room to the right of the chancel, easily reached by stairs coming up from the porte cochere and parlor. The bride, groom and attendants may dress at the church if they wish, but the church cannot be responsible for clothing, valuables or jewelry left at the church.

Receptions

Canterbury Hall and the Parlor are available for receptions. The room can be reserved through Beth Stisher at beth.stisher@gmail.com, or the Wedding Coordinator.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted.

No rice, birdseed, confetti or other material may be thrown inside or outside the church building due to liability and clean up difficulties.

No nails, tacks or tape shall be used to secure decorations.

Altar Guild

Acolytes and crucifers are trained by the Altar Guild and may be used as needed during the ceremony. Contact the Wedding Director.

A member of the Altar Guild will be present an hour before and during the wedding to assist you in any way she can.

Orientation

Wedding Orientation should be scheduled by contacting the Wedding Coordinator, Bette Owen (871-2520). Each bride is required to attend an orientation. Mothers, grooms and others the bride wishes to attend are welcome.

Miscellaneous

Canterbury Church is designated as a NO SMOKING facility. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

Directions to the Church

From Highway 280 at Brookwood Mall, take Mountain Brook Parkway east to Overbrook Road and turn left. The church will be on your left after one block.

Wedding Fees

There is no charge for the use of the Sanctuary, Chapel and bridal units for members. All fees are payable IN CASH to the Wedding Director at the rehearsal. She will disburse the fees for you to the appropriate people.

Weddings

Sanctuary (nonmembers) (Deposit \$250)	\$1500
Chapel (nonmembers) (Deposit \$125)	\$1000
Wedding Director, Sanctuary	\$300
Wedding Director, Chapel	\$200
Organist	\$300
Soloist from Canterbury	Negotiable
Building Super, Sanctuary	\$175
Building Super, Chapel	\$150
Sound (Sanctuary only)	\$40

Clean-up

Canterbury Hall	\$500
Parlor	\$125
Parlor and Canterbury Hall	\$35 per hour, 4 hour minimum

The minister's honorarium is included only
for nonmember weddings.

It is not included for weddings for members.

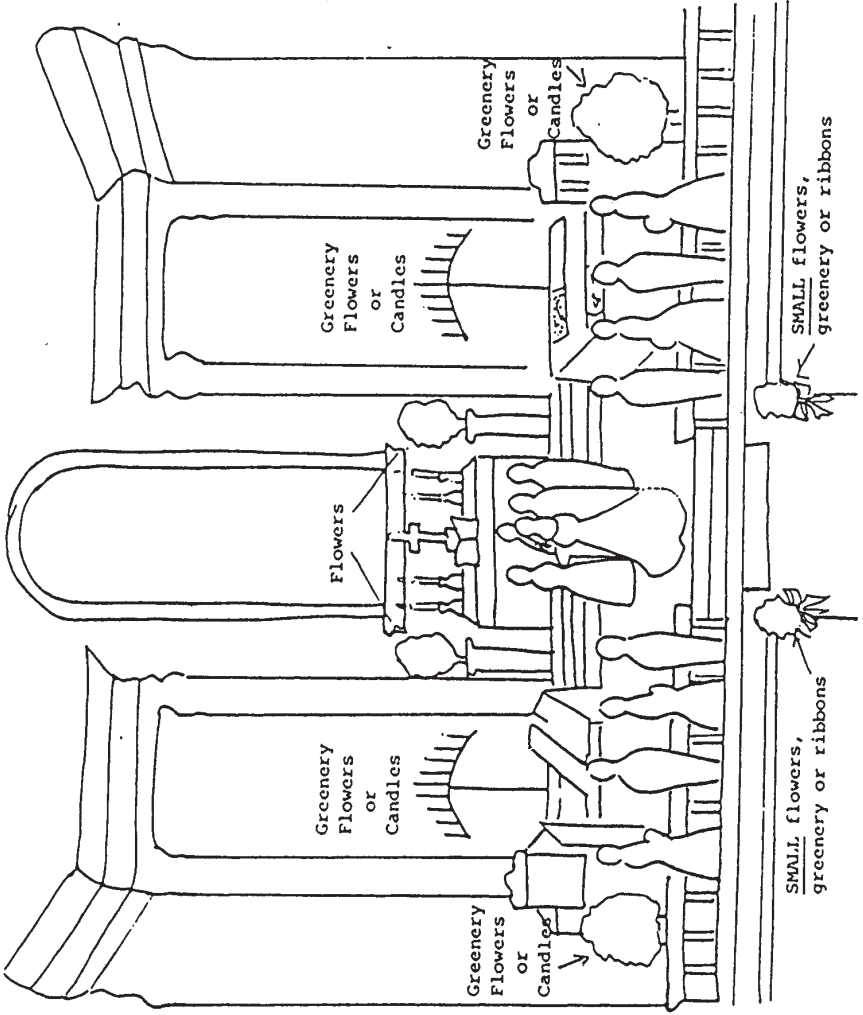
Optional Services

Audio/Video (Sanctuary only)	\$150
Aisle Cloth, Sanctuary, Chapel	\$75
Pair 15-branch Candelabra (Sanctuary)	\$25
Pair of Candelabra (Chapel)	\$10
Unity Candle & Pedestal	\$10
Crucifer	\$15
Acolyte	\$15

Receptions

Canterbury Hall (nonmembers)	\$500
Parlor (nonmembers)	\$200
Reception Director	\$200

Fees Subject to Change Without Notice. Effective January 1, 2011



Greenery
Flowers
or
Candles

Greenery
Flowers
or
Candles

Flowers

Greenery
Flowers
or
Candles

Greenery
Flowers
or
Candles

SMALL flowers,
greenery or ribbons

SMALL flowers,
greenery or ribbons

Sanctuary Weddings

The Sanctuary at Canterbury needs little adornment. There is beauty and reverence in simplicity, and the spirit of worship is served by restraint in the use of flowers. This diagram illustrates the maximum in decorations acceptable.

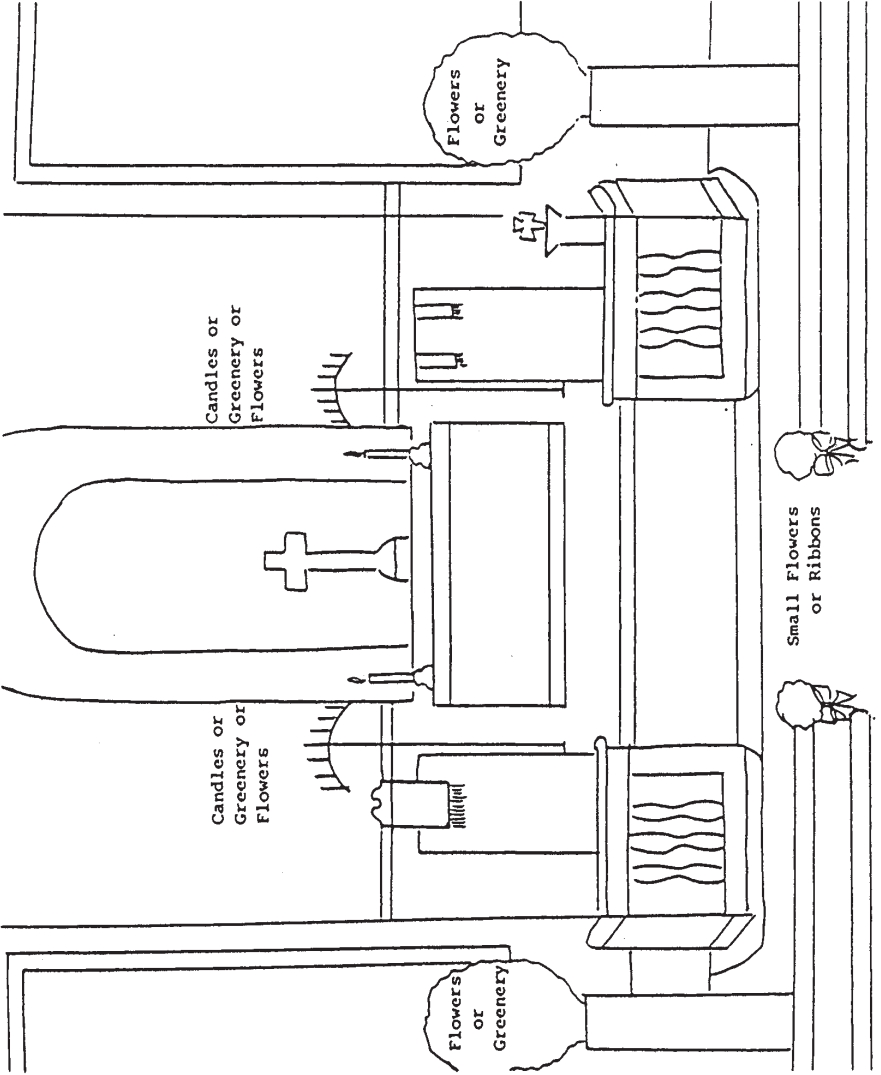
Fewer arrangements will be in good taste. No more than four arrangements of flowers, candles, or greenery may be used in the Sanctuary with NO artificial flowers or greenery. Arrangements placed on each side of the Altar should be no higher than the top of the cross (52 inches from the top of the pedestal to the top of the cross). They should not hang over the Altar where they are a fire hazard for the candles and may soil the fair linen. **The Altar may not be changed; nothing can be moved or removed from the Altar.**

Candles, other than those on the Altar, with simple greenery or flowers may be used as suggested. The church has a pair of fifteen-light candelabra that may be used at a nominal charge. The dripless candles for these candelabra are supplied by the Church. Candles for other candelabra used must be supplied by the florist. Suitable material (nonflammable) must be used to protect floors and carpets from candles drippings, even though dripless candles must be used.

Family pews *only* may be decorated with small arrangements of flowers, greenery and/or ribbon (a total of four, one at the first row and one at the end of the family pews).

If badges of flowers or bows are to be used on the outside doors, they should be hung from the nails which are below the light fixtures.

Your Wedding Director will be happy to answer any questions concerning decoration.



Flowers
or
Greenery

Candles or
Greenery or
Flowers



Candles or
Greenery or
Flowers

Flowers
or
Greenery

Small Flowers
or
Ribbons

Chapel Weddings

The Chapel at Canterbury needs little adornment. There is beauty and reverence in simplicity, and the spirit of worship is served by restraint in the use of flowers. This diagram illustrates the maximum in decorations acceptable.

Fewer arrangements will be in good taste. No more than four arrangements of flowers, candles, or greenery may be used in the Chapel with NO artificial flowers or greenery. Arrangements placed on each side of the Altar should be no higher than the top of the cross (30 inches from the top of the pedestal to the top of the cross, 72 inches from the floor to the top of the cross). They should not hang over the Altar where they are a fire hazard for the candles and may soil the fair linen. The Altar may not be changed; nothing can be moved or removed from the Altar.

Candles, other than those on the Altar, with simple greenery or flowers may be used as suggested. Candelabra are available at a nominal charge. No other candles may be used. Suitable material (nonflammable) must be used to protect floors and carpets from candles drippings, even though dripleless candles must be used.

Family pews *only* may be decorated with small arrangements of flowers, greenery and/or ribbon (a total of four, one at the first row and one at the end of the family pews).

If badges of flowers or bows are to be used on the outside doors, they should be hung from the nails which are below the light fixtures.

Your Wedding Director will be happy to answer any questions concerning decoration.

The Wedding Ceremony

You will find on the next few pages the United Methodist Services of Christian Marriage. One of these two services must be used. Approved scripture may be read as well as approved songs sung during the wedding ceremony. Talk with the minister concerning these matters before making decisions or having programs printed. The minister can advise you as to what will make your ceremony a truly worshipful experience. The Canterbury minister will give the final approval of all segments of the ceremony.

The Order for the Service of Marriage

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together (Groom) and (Bride) in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence in Cana in Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are kept inviolate, as God's Word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

(Groom), will you have (Bride) to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

(Bride), will you have (Groom) to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep you only unto him so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

Who presents (Bride) to be married to (Groom)?

I, (Groom), take you, (Bride) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

I, (Bride), take you, (Groom) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of this man and this woman in holy matrimony, through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forasmuch as (Groom) and (Bride) have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder. Amen.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send thy blessing upon (Groom) and (Bride) whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

A Service of Christian Marriage

Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and to bless the joining together of (Groom) and (Bride) in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God, who created us male and female for each other. With his presence and power, Jesus graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee and in His sacrificial love gave us the example for the love of husband and wife. (Groom) and (Bride) come to give themselves to each other in this holy covenant.

I ask you now in the presence of God and these people to declare your intention to enter into the union with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ, who has called you into union with himself through baptism

(Bride), will you have (Groom) to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

I will.

(Groom), will you have (Bride) to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

I will.

Who presents (Bride) to be married to (Groom)?

We do.

In the name of God, I, (Groom), take you, (Bride), to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

In the name of God, I, (Bride), take you, (Groom), to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to us the union between Jesus Christ and his Church.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may live in your peace, and continue in your favor all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Bride), I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Groom), I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

You have declared your consent and vows before God and this congregation. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace.

Now that (Groom) and (Bride) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands, and the giving of rings, I announce to you that they are husband and wife in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of Christian marriage that in it is represented the covenant between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon (Groom) and (Bride) that they may surely keep their marriage covenant and so grow

in love and godliness together, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God the Eternal keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home. Go to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do. Bear witness to the love of God in this world so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Suggested Outline for Programs

Prelude

Seating of the Mothers

Wedding Processional

Bridal Processional

Pastoral Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchanging of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Blessing of Marriage

The Lord's Prayer

Dismissal with Blessing

Recessional

We sign this document in the good faith that we have thoroughly read this booklet and understand the contents. We agree to carefully follow the wedding policies of Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Bride

Groom

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Date _____

Dearly Beloved:

We look forward to working with you at this very important and exciting time. We will be glad to do all we can to make your wedding day a memorable experience. Our desire is that this service of worship and consecration will begin your life together in the very best way.

*The Staff of
Canterbury United Methodist Church*



CANTERBURY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

350 Overbrook Road, P.O. Box 130699

Birmingham, Alabama 35213-0699

205-871-4695

Web Site: www.canterburyumc.org