

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2071 BUFORD ROAD
RICHMOND, VA 23235
(804) 272-6228

THE CEREMONY: The marriage ceremony is a service of worship in which prayers are offered, vows are made and a blessing given. Nothing that is planned should detract from a service that is worshipful, joyful and reverent.

MUSIC: Since the wedding is a service of worship, its music should be appropriate for a church service. The organist will be happy to advise the bride and groom as to what music might be used. The church organist should be contacted for weddings in the church but other organists are permitted to play.

FLOWERS AND CANDLES: The Bon Air Christian Church (seating capacity approximately 135) is most often chosen for weddings because of its quaint beauty, therefore additional decorations are not necessary. Only a minimum amount of flowers should be considered. Candles are appropriate but because of the time and effort required to clean up spilled wax, freestanding candelabrum will not be permitted. Table model unity candles may be used as an alternative. There are 12 sconces around the interior of the sanctuary. The candles in the sconces may be lit during the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Because of the sacredness and beauty of the wedding service, photographs should not be taken during the ceremony. Photographs are usually taken following the wedding.

REHEARSAL: If everyone is on time the rehearsal should not take longer than one hour. Any wedding involving more than four persons in the ceremony should probably be rehearsed. The minister is in charge of the rehearsal.

FEE: The fee for the use of the sanctuary for a wedding is \$300.00. \$25.00 non-refundable reservation fee is required to reserve the time and date of your wedding. The fee for the rehearsal \$100.00. The custodial fee is \$50.00. Candle fee is \$10.00. The fee for the use of the fellowship hall is \$300.00. A \$100.00 security deposit must be made. If the premises are left undamaged and in good order this deposit will be returned. The wedding fee for the Bon Air Christian Church organist is \$200.00. Additional fees will be added if the organist accompanies soloists or has additional solo songs to perform. Ministers other than the Bon Air Christian Church minister are welcome to perform wedding ceremonies here. He or she must be an ordained minister and registered in the state of Virginia. If the minister from Bon Air Christian Church officiates your wedding the fee is \$300.00. You are expected to schedule premarital conferences, rehearsal and wedding date with her prior to making other arrangements for your wedding. All fees are due and payable 6 weeks in advance. Separate checks are required for each service rendered. The check for the rental of the church is to be made payable to the Bon Air Christian Church; if the services of our minister and organist are used, separate checks must be made accordingly.

MISCELLANEOUS: The use of rice and confetti is prohibited. Birdseed would be more appropriate. You may not move church furniture. Do not deface walls or furniture with tape, nails or in any other manner.

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPENED BY THE CUSTODIAN ONE (1) HOUR PRIOR TO THE WEDDING. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION IN ADVANCE WITH YOUR FLORIST, PHOTOGRAPHER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR WEDDING PARTY.

MINISTER: The minister officiating the wedding ceremony must be ordained and must be registered with a Circuit Court in Virginia. The minister at Bon Air Christian gives first priority to members of the church in scheduling weddings. She will officiate weddings for non members if her schedule permits. If you would like Reverend Stratton to officiate, please call her and schedule a meeting (9:00 - 12) Monday through Thursday at 272-6228. If the pastor of Bon Air Christian is officiating bring your marriage license to the church one week

Cynthia K. Stratton has been pastor of Bon Air Christian since 1986. She is a member of the General Nominating Committee and a member of Administrative Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada; Regional Board member, chairperson of Renewal and Nurture Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia. She was the first full-time woman pastor (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia.

CHURCH HISTORY: The Bon Air Land and Improvement Company built the Gothic Carpenter Church in 1882 for the guests of the Bon Air resort. It was called the Bon Air Union Chapel and is one of only two of the public buildings of the resort ear standing today. In 1884 the land company offered the building to any congregation that would maintain it. Bon Air Presbyterian Church was organized and occupied the building for almost eighty years. Bon Air Christian Church was established in the building in 1963, The church has made the building available as a meeting place for many organizations such as the Bon Air Woman's Club, numerous garden clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Bon Air Historical Society and Daughters of the American Revolution. The sanctuary is in demand for wedding ceremonies for may couples outside the congregation. Frequently couples become members of the congregation.

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2071 Buford Road
Richmond, VA 23235

Office Hours: 9:00 - 12:00 Monday through Friday

Cynthia K. Stratton
Vickie Brooks
Shirley Acree
Becky Harvell & Lorna Sturm

Minister
Organist
Custodian
Secretary