



# St. Christopher's By-the-Sea

## Episcopal Church and Montessori School

The Reverend Susan M. Bruttell, Rector

### Clergy Donation

As a guide to your decisions on the amount to give, you might note the fees charged by others involved in your wedding and relate the clergy donation accordingly.

Couples are urged to remember that several sessions are necessary to plan their wedding services, as well as the time for preparation, rehearsal and the ceremony. Therefore, there has been a tradition that the Priest be given an honorarium by the couple. An amount is not set for this service, but a commonly used guideline is \$250.00 for members. For non-members, the clergy fee is \$750-850 and is left to the discretion of the couple. If the Priest has agreed to officiate at a location outside of the church, that should also be taken into consideration.

Honorariums are in consideration of, but not limited to:

1. Pre-marital counseling meetings with the Priest (a minimum of 3-4 sessions)
2. Ceremony planning and Service Booklet
3. Supervising the wedding rehearsal and Execution of Marriage License
4. Officiating at the Ceremony

Most wedding celebrants who are associated with a church or a parish may not charge a set fee, but accept donations instead. Most celebrants that you might secure outside of a home community setting have set fees that range from \$250 (which sometimes results in minimal interaction) to \$1000, with the middle ground being \$500 to \$850. A few will tell you that they have no set fee, but accept donations, and most couples then offer donations in the same range as the set fees. Sometimes this supplements the income of the wedding celebrant. They can spend a great deal of time in each wedding's preparation and sometimes it is used for the work of their church. (Cash is acceptable. If writing a check, the check should be made out directly to the priest.)

Brides and grooms who are planning low budget weddings and cannot afford these kinds of fees often find that many celebrants will officiate at your wedding for a low donation or for nothing. After a clergy person invests thought and time into making sure your wedding is meaningful, however, s/he should not be made to feel that they are financially less important than the cake, flowers, music, party favors or photography.