

Clergy's advice: Wedding plans must begin early

By STEPHANIE CARTER

Several Lincoln clergymen have common advice for newly engaged couples: it is never too soon to start planning your wedding.

"Couples can't start planning too soon," said the Rev. James Bauer, of the University Lutheran Chapel.

Bauer said he likes to know about a couple's wedding plans at least one year before the marriage date. He said this gives him time to counsel the couple about communication, handling in-laws, past sexual experiences and other problems they might encounter after marriage.

Although most couples who get married at the University Chapel are members of the church, Bauer said he also will marry non-members.

The chapel has a reception hall that may be reserved for use after the wedding.

The Rev. Dr. Gordon Leitch, of First Presbyterian Church, said he doesn't have a set rule on advance notice for church rental.

"It's just a matter of how much chance a couple wants to take in getting the date they want," he said. "We will marry couples on any day the church is not already booked."

Leitch said it is best to reserve the church three to six months in advance especially if the wedding date is set during the popular marriage months of May, June and July.

Leitch said that last year, weddings were scheduled every weekend in June and July.

The First Presbyterian Church offers two rooms for wedding receptions that can accommodate 250 to 300 people each. The church catering service usually serves the reception and helps the bride's family with the arrangements.

First Presbyterian also has a wedding consultant to aid with wedding and reception plans.

"It is no problem to marry members of other churches," Leitch said, "but they must not expect the church to change ceremony rules for them."

The Rev. Peter Gadiant, of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lincoln, said he likes to know about wedding plans at least six months before the marriage date in order that he can begin counseling sessions with the couple.

St. Mary's does not have reception accommodations in the church.



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

Planning a wedding can be confusing, exhilarating and tiring.

WEDDING PREPARATION CHECKLIST

You finally are engaged and the day you have dreamed of is not far away. But don't let your wedding day catch you panicking because of something you forgot to arrange. Here is a calendar compiled by *Woman's Day* magazine to help you guide your wedding plans.

Six months before wedding:

- Decide on a wedding date and style — traditional or modern. Plan your budget.
- Choose a reception location. Make reservations.
- Talk to your clergyman or officiant.
- Choose your attendants.

- Pick a color scheme for the wedding.
- Begin your guest list.
- Shop for your wedding dress or arrange to have it made. Order your bridesmaids' attire.
- Select a caterer.
- Select a florist.
- Book the musicians and decide on the music.
- Select a photographer and/or videotape company.
- Start planning your honeymoon.
- Start looking for an apartment or house.
- Register selections with bridal registries.

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