

in front of it, with a large flower arrangement blocking the view. Tables with beautiful cloths to the floor were set just outside the columbarium. If anybody realized that the wedding was being celebrated in a burial place, no comment was made.

For the bride to move from the bride's room to the Chapel, she would have to walk outside. When the time came, sheets of rain were blowing into the walkway. The wedding committee came to the rescue as they always do. They walked in the rain, holding large tarps to shield the beautiful bride.

Families sometimes want to pose wedding pictures in front of stained glass windows that have special significance for them. That was the case for this same historic wedding. The only problem: heavy chandeliers and construction materials were stored in front of their window. Last-minute changes were quickly made.

Our ministers are highly skilled and very kind as they officiate. We all feel privileged to help our fellow members feel the blessings of God and church family in their weddings. (Jane Green is the current wedding coordinator, assuming the role after many years of service on the wedding committee.)

Martha G. Isom
Wedding Coordinator 2002-2013



FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Did you know...

Before construction for the Sanctuary was completely finished, a magnificent wedding was the first event in the space. It happened on Saturday, March 25, 1967. This was the day before Easter Sunday, when the first official worship service was scheduled for the Sanctuary. The bride was Barbara (Babs) Holcomb, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. John H. Holcomb Jr. She was marrying Robert Walker of Nashville. A day before the wedding rehearsal, pews were being installed and finishing touches were being applied to the stained glass windows. The organ was not yet installed. Many years later, Babs and Robert Walker's grandson, also named Robert Walker, was dedicated in the Sanctuary. He was a student in the Early Learning Center.

WE'VE A STORY TO TELL
75th Anniversary Memories of Mountain Brook Baptist Church

WEDDINGS AT MOUNTAIN BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Approximately a dozen beautiful weddings are celebrated at our church each year. It's no wonder, because we offer several outstanding settings for ceremonies. Our weddings range in attendance from immediate family to a packed Sanctuary. "Because the wedding is a service of worship, a sacred and beautiful occasion, the church provides facilities and services suited to its dignity and meaning." This is a quote from our Church Wedding Manual, a policy guide followed by all. Our church is never rented out. Only members and their immediate families are eligible to hold weddings in our facilities.

Every wedding is a major occasion, and our own wedding committee helps to make it perfect. In any wedding, emergencies can arise, and the wedding coordinator helps to find a solution. The following stories involve some of our leading members. All showed grace and flexibility to meet emergencies.



The Power Outage

Shortly after 8 a.m. the florist was busy decorating. There was a loud boom outside, the lights dimmed to a soft glow, and some areas of the building went dark. No air conditioning, in the middle of summer, and no lights or organ. Hundreds of guests were expected. I immediately started calling Alabama Power. Their equipment did not show that we had a power shortage. Much scrambling among our staff led to the diagnosis: the church had only a single phase of electricity coming in. Alabama Power said the church would have to wait its turn amid a big area-wide electrical crisis. It was time for the bride and her mother to arrive. When they approached the Narthex, I explained the situation to them. I told the bride she would have some good stories to tell her children. They accepted the bad news like champions. I assured them we were doing all we could. When the wedding party arrived, the mother set the tone for them.

We had lots of candles. We had an orchestra to play music. The wedding would go on, just not exactly as planned. When Dr. Moebes called me from an out-of-town funeral, I told him we could get no help from Alabama Power, even from the executive level. Dr. Moebes said he had the cell number for an Alabama Power president. Dr. Moebes called back to say we should have power restored soon, and we did! The building did not get very cool, but we had a beautiful wedding and a gracious family.

Maegan Annell Cox and Andrew David Smith were married at Mountain Brook Baptist Church on August 15, 2015. (Photos provided by Megan Kennedy Photography)



The Missing Bridesmaid's Dress

Another family that stayed calm under pressure discovered that the bridal shop had not delivered all of the bridesmaids' dresses. The bride's mother and friends reached out to the bridal shop, which could not be convinced about the missing dress. I knew that some of the bridal party had served in other weddings. Had anyone worn a similar dress previously? No, but the sister of one of the young women had. Her mother rushed in with the dress. It was identical in color and fabric and very similar in design. The bridesmaids figured out what to do. When they came for photos, the maid of honor wore the borrowed dress, and the rest of the bridesmaids wore the other dresses delivered by the bridal shop. It was a beautiful wedding with a near catastrophe handled with class and good character.

The Note of Sadness

It is not unusual for a joyful bridal party to carry a burden of sadness because of a death of a loved family member. Brides have chosen different ways to honor the deceased. On one occasion, the bride's mother had died young while the bride was still an early teenager. The bride's sister and brothers processed at the time the mother would have been seated. The sister carried a long-stemmed pink rose. They processed to the mother's pew and placed it in her seat. As they recessed, the wedding guests realized what had happened. There was not a dry eye in the Sanctuary.

Another bride's sister had been killed the previous year. She would have been the maid of honor. The bride did not want to be morbid but wanted to honor her sister. We used the unity candelabrum. The parents lit the center candle in memory of the sister. This was mentioned in the printed order of service but was not overly emphasized. After the wedding the mother kept the candle as a reminder.

Church Construction Zone

Far in advance, the family of the groom arranged for a Saturday evening wedding ceremony in the Chapel, to be followed by cake and punch in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. They were graciously avoiding areas that were undergoing renovation, and some areas would already be pre-set for Sunday worship.

On the day of the wedding, we discovered that the Narthex floors had not dried from being varnished. Nobody could walk on them, and the reception could not be held on them. With some reluctance, the groom (a physician) and his mother agreed to hold the reception in the newly built columbarium. Only one niche had been occupied at that time. We hurriedly placed a sideboard



Amy Michelle Jackson and Matthew Justin Hirsch were married at Mountain Brook Baptist on April 28, 2018. The Splawn family was an integral part of their day with Wayne officiating the ceremony, Mary serving as the matron of honor, Webb as the ring bearer, and Eleanor Grace as the flower girl. (Photos provided by Je Vois Photography)