

Stafford Township Historical Society

Church FAQs for Weddings:

- The church is located on Route 9 south, just north of the Route 72/Route 9 interchange, directly across the street from the Stafford Branch of the Ocean County Library. The address is 120 N. Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. **Note:** The *historic* Baptist Church is on Route 9. It is different from the Manahawkin Baptist Church which is located at 400 Beach Avenue in Manahawkin. Use the 120 North Main Street, Manahawkin address when searching for directions.
- The church is just north of Manahawkin Lake park, providing a great venue for pictures within easy walking distance.
- The church is nondenominational. It is often referred to as the “Old Baptist Church” simply because the first congregation to use the church was Baptist.
- You may arrange to have your own officiant perform your ceremony. You may also find the links below useful in arranging an officiant:
<http://longbeachisland.com/worship.html>
<https://www.weddingwire.com/c/nj-new-jersey/manahawkin/wedding-officiants/9-vendors.html>
- The Stafford Township Historical Society does not provide musicians for ceremonies, and the piano currently in the church is not play-able. Users should plan on using a portable boom box, or have live musicians bring their own instruments.
- The maximum capacity for the church is 125 people.
- You may see the Chapel by appointment by contacting the society’s Wedding Coordinator (Caroline Scales, 609-290-4252, caroline@staffordhistory.org) to make arrangements. You may also visit the grounds outside the church at any time.
- The schedule for church use is published online at the society’s website:
<http://www.staffordhistory.org/churchevents.html>
- The church is considered reserved when a copy of the church use agreement along with all fees are received. Reserving the church will also include use of the church for a rehearsal.
- The cost for use of the church is \$250 plus a \$100 deposit due 10 days prior to your event. The fee includes a one year membership in the Stafford Historical Society.
- We currently offer rain insurance! Cost is \$250 if the church is used, \$150 if the church is not used (\$100 is refunded). The fee includes a one year membership in the Stafford Historical Society. We encourage couples planning to be married at the pavilion on Manahawkin Lake to exercise this option since the church is on Route 9 just north of the pavilion.

- There is plenty of parking adjacent to the church. There is a lot just north of the church, and there is also a parking lot just south of the church at Manahawkin Lake Park.
- There are many reception facilities nearby: Holiday Inn & Stafford Township Firehouse are five minutes from the church. The church is a 15-20 minute drive from Long Beach Island which also has many options for reception facilities.
- Details about the Stafford Fire House can be obtained by calling the main station at 609-597-2138 and leaving a message for Melissa regarding hall rental.
- Does the church have air conditioning?
YES, the church is on the national registry of historic places so has to have air conditioning (& heat) to maintain the building.
- You are welcome to decorate the church for your wedding, however, due to the building being historic, use of thumbtacks are not permitted.