

Here Comes the Bride

Patsy Rowe



Pre-Arrangements:

- Ask several of the women to come prepared to do a fashion show featuring their wedding gown and to provide information: where purchased, style, color, year married, to whom married, and other information you may want to add to make the fashion show interesting.
- Ask ladies to bring a wedding picture—if they have one— for display or power point presentation.
- Have a wedding cake for the occasion.
- Ask a soloist to sing a wedding song.

Arrangements: Set up chairs so there is an aisle down the middle for the fashion show.
Decorate with wedding bells, streamers, flowers, candles, etc.

Invitation to the Wedding:

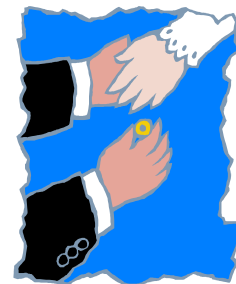
Poem: *The Bride of Christ*

Patsy Rowe

With holiness she presents herself
Before the throne of Grace;
She knows her beloved waits
To meet her face to face.

She offers Him her deepest love
And He extends his hands;
She sees the nail prints there
And knows He understands.

Many times she has faltered
In uncertainty of life;
Now her bridegroom comes
And takes her as His wife.



Song Suggestions: *Jesus My Lord Will Love Me Forever* (The Salvation Army Songbook 349)
O Happy Day That Fixed My Choice (The Salvation Army Songbook 365)
Once In Misery I Walked Alone (The Salvation Army Songbook 376)

Designing the Bouquet:



Game: Top Ten Most Popular Flowers for Weddings

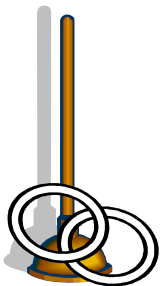
Directions: Put the flowers in order from the least to the most popular flower.

Hydrangeas	10.	_____
Sweet Pea	9.	_____
Rose	8.	_____
Peony	7.	_____
Ranunculus (similar to buttercup)	6.	_____
Calla Lily	5.	_____
Tulip	4.	_____
Gardenia	3.	_____
Stephanotis (star-shaped white flowers)	2.	_____
Lily of the Valley	1.	_____

10. Gardenia, 9. Sweet Pea, 8. Stephanotis (star-shaped white flowers), 7. Ranunculus (similar to buttercups)
6. Peony, 5. Hydrangeas, 4. Lily of the Valley, 3. Calla Lily, 2. Tulip, 1. Rose

Choosing the Rings:

Ring Toss Game

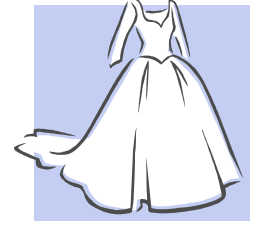


Requirements: Two toilet plungers, 2 dog chew rings

Directions: Chose two contestants to compete with each other to throw the dog chew ring onto the toilet plunger. The first one to do this three times is the winner (prize—candy ring, which can be purchased at most candy shops)

Choosing the Gown:

Fashion Show—Ladies can do a secret ballot for the favorite gown with a prize given to the winner; play the *Wedding March* to let the winner glory in her moment of fame



Wedding Ceremony:

Vocal Selection:

Selected Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61: 10-11; Isaiah 62: 1-5

Devotions: **A New Name** (Adapted from *Why did God sometimes change a person's name in the Bible?*
<http://www.gotquestions.org/name-change.html>)

We are all well aware that it is common today for the bride to keep her maiden name or to hyphenate her name with that of her husband; however, this hasn't always been the case. Historically, the wife took the last name of her husband, and was often known as Mrs. _____, to indicate her new identity as a married woman. Does this mean that the individual personality of the bride no longer exists—that her identity and personality is now absorbed by that of her husband? No! She is still an individual; however, as a wife she is now linked to another and so she no longer lives for herself, but her desire is to love and please her husband.

The Bible speaks to us about God giving a new name to individuals. A few examples of name changes are: Abram (high father) to Abraham (father of multitude), Sarai (my princess) to Sarah (mother of nations), Jacob (supplanter— one who wrongfully or illegally seizes and hold the place of another) to Israel (having power with God), Simon (God has heard) to Peter (rock).

Despite these name changes, there were times when the old name arose. For instance, “Jesus would occasionally call Peter “Simon” after He had changed His name to Peter. Why? Probably because Simon sometimes acted like his old self instead of the rock God called him to be. The same is true for Jacob. God continued to call him Jacob to remind him of his past and to remind him to depend on God's strength” (<http://www.gotquestions.org/name-change.html>).

Why *did* God decide to give some people new names? The Bible doesn't specifically say; however, from reading the stories about those individuals, we can infer that it indicated the beginning of a new path in life and that was God guiding them in the path that lay before them. Their part was to recognize God's faithfulness and trust Him to lead the way.



God calls each one of us to be His bride, to take His name as our own as we identify ourselves with Him, and in being united with Him we start on a new path in life—the path of holy living, and we do this with the assurance that God is guiding us in the path that lies before us.

Song: *I know Thee Who Thou Art* (The Salvation Army Songbook 59)

Prayer Poem:

Creator of Beauty

Patsy Rowe

Creator of beauty, come and be present with us
On this day in which we stand before You;
As we seek your presence and your blessing,
Guide us daily in all we do.



Because love finds its origin in You
It's You alone we seek most of all;
Together we walk this path placed before us
And know you hear us when we call.

Whether we experience sickness or health,
In the midst of great joy or deep sorrow,
Make known to us Your diverse ways,
Help us to trust You for tomorrow.

Creator of beauty, You are most beautiful;
We bow in your presence, we seek your face;
Humbly we come, saying we love You
And giving thanks for Your wondrous grace.

Photographer:

Show the wedding pictures of those who have brought them for the display

Reception:

Refreshments and wedding cake.

