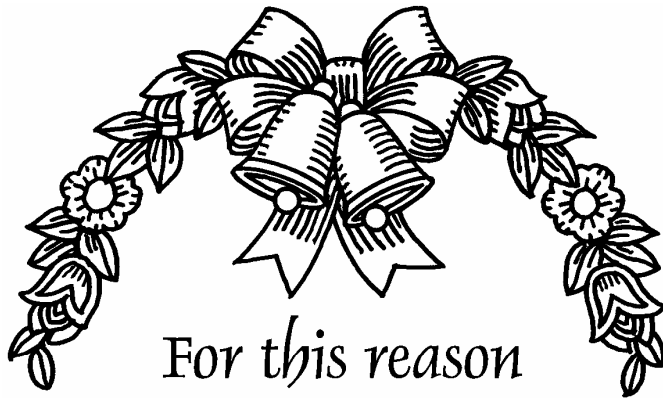


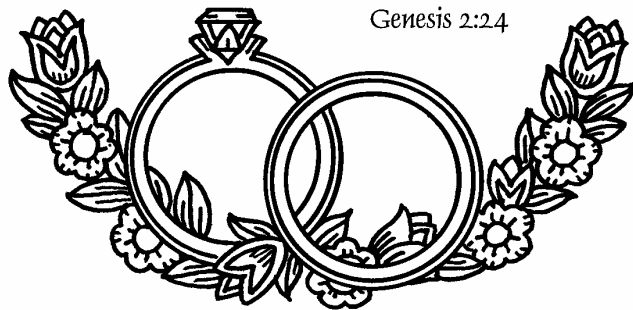
WEDDING BULLETIN FOR THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY OF
ANDREW SWANSON & SHARI GUIMONG

Saturday, October 20, 2007
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Butler, Pennsylvania



*For this reason
a man will leave
his father and mother
and be united to
his wife...*

Genesis 2:24



Order of Worship for the Rite of Christian Marriage

*Andrew James Swanson
to Shari Arquilles Guimong*

*Saturday, October 20, 2007 2:30 P.M.
Covenant Presbyterian Church Butler, PA*

The Pre-Nuptial Music

“All Glory Be To God On High”	J. Pachelbel
“Fugue in C Major (Jig Fugue)”	D. Buxtehude
“Allegro” G. P. Telemann Beverly Antis, Larry Morrison: Alto Recorders	
“I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness” Sarah Jane Morrison, Mezzo Soprano	A. Dvořák
“Arioso”	J. S. Bach
“Con Spirito”	T. Arne



The Gentlemen’s Entrance

“Andrew’s Lullaby” Larry Morrison, Bagpipes	Charlie Glendenning
------------------------------------------------	---------------------

The Bridal Procession	“Trumpet Tune”	Robert Lau
-----------------------	----------------	------------

The Invocation & Greeting

The Presentation of the Bride

*by the Groom’s mother, Karen,
on behalf of the Bride’s father, Rogelio, and mother, Fe*

The Declaration of Intent

The Opening Prayer

The Scripture Readings

The Pastoral Words to the Couple

The Exchange of Vows

The Blessing & Exchange of Rings

The Blessing & Giving of the Thirteen Unity Coins

The Lighting of the Unity Candle

A Vocal Solo *"In This Very Room"* Ron & Carol Harris
Amanda Mays, Soprano

The Pinning of the Veil

The Binding of the Nuptial Cord

The Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing

The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

The Charge and Benediction

The Declaration of Marriage

The Nuptial Kiss

Introduction of Mr. & Mrs. Swanson

Recessional "Shari's Welcome" Lars Morrison



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLESSING BUNDLES:

Rice... that the couple will never be hungry

Coins... that the couple will never be poor

Flowers... that their relationship will grow and "bloom"



Special thanks to:

The Wedding Planners: Beverly Antis & Ann Morrison

The Flower Arranger: Rebecca Doyle

The Musicians: Beverly Antis (organ, piano); Larry Morrison (bagpipes, guitar); Sarah Jane Morrison (vocal solo); Amanda Mays (vocal solo)

The Ushers: David & Nancy Blewett

The Videographer: Mark Hitchcock

The Kitchen Crew: Nancy Moorhead (crew chief), Jane Hall, Donna Hobough, Virginia Lokovich, & Linda Peters

The Bridal Shower: Connie Brown and Nancy Moorhead for their "gift" of a well planned bridal shower & delightful afternoon on October 6th

The Covenant Church Family & Friends:

for their prayers and well-wishes, welcome and support. Shari, Andy and their families express their most sincere thanks and appreciation!



Maid of Honor: Miss Leah Swanson

Best Man: Mr. Matthew Houk

Parents of the Bride: Rogelio and Fe Guimong

Parents of the Groom: James and Karen Swanson



FILIPINO WEDDING CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

In early Filipino custom, the groom-to-be threw his spear at the front steps of his intended's home, a sign that she has been spoken for. These days, a ring suffices as the symbol of engagement. After the couple has decided to marry, the first order of business is the *pamanhikan*, where the groom and his parents visit the bride's family to ask for her hand in marriage. Jim accompanied Andy to the Philippines in March of 2007 to meet Shari and her parents and to help them pick out an engagement ring. Shari and Andy were engaged on the day of Shari's birthday, March 26th.

The white wedding dress has become popular in the last hundred years or so as a result of America's influence in the Philippines during World War II. Before that, brides wore their best dress, in a festive color or even stylish black, to celebrate a wedding. For men, the *barong tagalog* is the traditional Filipino formal wear. It is a cool, almost transparent, embroidered shirt, made from silky pina or jusi, two native ecru fabrics. It is worn untucked, over black pants, with a white t-shirt underneath. These days, a Filipino American groom might wear the conventional black tux or a nice suit, but Filipino male wedding guests will usually show up in their finest barongs.

In pre-colonial days, a wedding ceremony lasted three days. On the first day, the bride and groom were brought to the house of a priest or *babaylan*, who joined their hands over a plate of raw rice and blessed the couple. On the third day, the priest pricked the chests of both bride and groom and drew a little blood. Joining their hands, they declared their love for each other three times. The priest then fed them cooked rice from the same plate and gave them a drink of some of their blood mixed with water. Binding their hands and necks with a cord, he declared them married. Thank goodness, some of the more bizarre customs have been discontinued (like the drawing of blood), but some native traditions remain, such as the giving of unity coins, the pinning of the veil and the binding with a nuptial cord. Most couples have special "sponsors" who act as witnesses to the marriage and perform special duties during the marriage service, such as the candle, cord and veil ceremonies.

A special part of the wedding ceremony involves the giving of thirteen coins, or *arrahae*, blessed by the priest and given to the groom who in turn offers them to his bride. The unity coins have come to symbolize more than just prosperity; they are a

visible sign of the groom's pledge of dedication to the welfare of his wife and to the support of their future children.

Today's couples embrace life & face the world together in a more mutually supportive way than ever before, yet the role of husband as “provider” is still important. Each coin represents one of thirteen universal tenets of marriage: Love, Trust, Commitment, Respect, Joy, Happiness, Harmony, Wisdom, Unity, Nurturing, Caring, Cooperation and Peace.

Similar to our American custom of lighting a “unity candle,” in the Philippines two candles are lit before vows are exchanged, which the bride and groom use to light a single candle to symbolize the joining of the two families and to invoke the light of Christ in their married life.

In another part of the ceremony, Veil sponsors place a white veil over the bride's head and the groom's shoulders, a symbol of two people clothed as one. Cord sponsors drape the *yugal*, a decorative silk cord, a string of flowers or links of coins, in the form of a figure-eight, placing each loop loosely around the neck/shoulders of the bride and groom. This symbolizes the infinite and everlasting bond of marriage.

Special attention is given to the food eaten following the wedding ceremony. The Filipino wedding feast is elaborate. Among the delicacies enjoyed by the guests of the newly married husband and wife are soups, followed by meats of unlimited quantity- stewed goat, chicken minced with garlic, roast pork and stuffed capon – along with exotic crystallized fruits, coconut macaroons and sweetened seeds. At the reception following Andy and Shari's ceremony today, great care has been taken by the wedding planners (Beverly Antis, Ann Morrison and Nancy Jo Moorhead) to include Shari's choice of Filipino tastes and preferences as well as some Covenant Church favorites. Served today will be:

Curried turkey-grape-almond salad in puffed pastries; roast pork medallions with apple-almond cilantro salsa; shrimp with cocktail sauce; crisp, cold green beans with sesame-ginger dressing; spinach balls; herbed rice; fruit salad; coconut macaroons; lemon squares; cream puffs; French mints; pastel mints and nuts; and, of course, wedding cake.