What’s In Store for 2010 Province IV Altar Guild Conference
(Sunday, June 6 to Wednesday, June 9)

Is music important to you? The keynote speaker, Sue Carmichael, is a published songwriter and composer. She also sings and plays the harp and the guitar. Her CD’s can be found in the Kanuga Bookstore. Sue is the Lay Vicar of St. Mary’s Mission in Jacksonville, Florida. The Chaplain will be the Rev. Jeff Batkin of Saluda, North Carolina, retired from Trinity Episcopal in St. Augustine, Florida. His wife, Marguerite, a landscape designer, will present a meditation garden workshop.

Annual Meetings
Altar Guild, Diocese of Southwest Florida

South AG Meeting
Saturday, February 27, 2010
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
2653 Cleveland Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901-5898
239-334-2479

North AG Meeting
Saturday, March 6, 2010
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
1015 Del Webb Blvd East
Sun City Center FL 33573
813-633-3970

The speaker for both meetings will be Dianne Walters of Enterprise, Alabama (see Page 2 for Dianne’s biography).

“Is Your Church Prepared to Lose It All?”
Preparing a Church Inventory

In the last 6-8 years, churches and parishes across the Nation have suffered devastating loss of property due to hurricanes, fires and tornadoes and other forces of nature. In the aftermath of these events many parishes found they were not able to accurately assess damaged and lost property. As a result, many found that their church insurance coverage was inadequate.

In this workshop we will explore the steps necessary to prepare a comprehensive inventory that is both written and pictorial. Having a complete current inventory of items is one of the best things that any church can do to protect itself should a loss of property occur.

* * * * *

ALL Altar Guild members and Clergy are invited to attend the Diocesan Altar Guild Meetings. The Altar Guild of the Diocese of Southwest Florida is divided into “South” and “North” branches. The South branch encompasses the Manasota, Venice, Fort Myers, and Naples Deaneries. The North branch encompasses the Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Tampa Deaneries. The “host church” will mail reservation information to the Altar Guild Director of each church in their area, but if it is more convenient to attend the meeting in the other area, please feel free to contact the church office of the appropriate host church to let them know you would like to attend their meeting.

The general meeting format consists of a business meeting, program, Eucharist, and lunch (not necessarily in that order). Bishop Dabney Smith will preach and celebrate the Eucharist at each meeting.
When my husband and I were confirmed by the Bishop of the Armed Forces in 1978, we were stationed in Nuremberg, Germany with the US Army Dental Corps. There was always a need for help in our little chapel – always something to be done. In response to that need I became a lay reader and licensed chalice bearer, and in 1984 I became an Altar Guild member.

The Army moved us several times before our assignment to Ft. Rucker, Alabama, where we joined the small mission Church of the Epiphany. As often happens, new members are asked to volunteer right away and I was asked to join the Altar Guild. My wonderful mentor, Mary Drumheller, carefully taught me how to care for the beautiful vessels, linens, fabrics, and vestments. She guided me through all the duties necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and other services that occurred in the life of our church. In a short period of time I knew I had found a sacred ministry in the Altar Guild. We now make our home in Enterprise, Alabama (affectionately referred to as L.A. – Lower Alabama) where my husband retired from the Army in 1995 and established a private Dental practice. I have been a Registered Dental Hygienist since graduating from the Army in 1995 and established a private Dental practice. I have presented various workshops for Province IV Altar Guild Conferences, Diocesan Altar Guild meeting in Texas and the Central Gulf Coast, and for the ECW 2006 Triennial meeting. In 2003, I was elected Treasurer of the Province IV Altar Guild and in 2008 was elected Treasurer of the National Altar Guild (NAGA).

Along with my husband of 28 years, Jay (who is also an Altar Guild member), we have two children, a granddaughter, and are expecting a new granddaughter to be born in May, 2010. Over the years, I have developed a love for heirloom sewing, have made several sets of vestments, crocheted many cinctures, and enjoy making scrapbooks and handmade cards. Somewhere along the line I took some gourmet cooking classes and have also worked to improve my computer skills.

“Host Church” for South Meeting:
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
2635 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-334-2479
The Rev. Philip D. Read, II, Rector
Carol Ann Brumbach and Syd Dawson, AG Directors

Saint Luke’s Church in Fort Myers is one of the “Mother Churches” of Southwest Florida. Organized in 1885, Saint Luke’s has participated in the founding of most of the Episcopal churches in Lee County.

Our life at St. Luke’s centers at the Altar of God in the celebration of the Eucharist. As an Anglo-Catholic parish, traditional liturgy and music are an integral part of our worship together. We are affiliated with the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes.

The current church building was erected in 1969 and is located in downtown Fort Myers just off of U.S. 41.

“Host Church” for North Meeting:
St. John the Divine
1015 Del Webb Boulevard East, Sun City Center, FL 33573
813-633-3970
The Rev. Tracy Wilder, Rector
Joy Sparkman, AG Director

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church is the first church in the Diocese of Southwest Florida to be one church with two campuses. St. John the Divine was formally organized as a mission on October 18, 1962, and was admitted as a parish to the Diocese of Southwest Florida in 1973. The original church (West Campus) in Ruskin shares its facilities with the Lord's Lighthouse, a ministry to the Hispanic community of the area. The second facility (East Campus) in Sun City Center was officially opened on July 26, 2009. The Altar Guild meeting for the North part of the Diocese will be held at our beautiful new Sun City Center campus located East of I-275 off SR 674. Our Neo-Gothic designed Church is set on a property with spacious lawns, 2 small ponds and a beautiful treed area across the back.

FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .

With the holidays behind us, we are starting the new year with several new Deanery Directresses. Bishop Dabney Smith will install the following at our Annual Meeting: Naples Deanery – Nancy Shields, St. Mark’s, Marco Island; Fort Myers Deanery – Elizabeth Mody, St. Michael & All Angels, Sanibel; and Manasota Deanery – Katie Altman, Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota.

As most of you know, Mary Vernon died on December 4, 2009. Mary did a wonderful job in the Fort Myers Deanery and will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank Marcia Simington for all the work she did for the Manasota Deanery throughout the years. We are still looking for a Deanery Directress for the Venice area. Please pray on this and turn into your heart to serve the Lord. See you all on February 27, 2010.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

WANTED . . .

The Diocesan Altar Guild has had a request from Karen Carroll, a nurse sponsored by our Diocese. Karen has spent the past five years setting up a nursing home and helping in many other ways in the DR. Karen asks for at least one chalice and paten to be sent for use in a church in the Dominican Republic. If your church has a used chalice and paten they would like to donate, or if an individual or church would like to purchase a new set for the DR, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Bob Stevens of the DDG will arrange to take these special items to their new church.

Please contact Sarah Hill at sarah_hill@hotmail.com or phone her at 727-525-8340 if you can help fill this request.
IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Vernon on December 4, 2009, following a massive stroke. Mary was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on November 16, 1921. She is survived by her children, Lynn Holcomb and Peter Vernon, many grandchildren, one great-grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary was the Fort Myers Deanery Directress since 2006, past Directress of the Altar Guild at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel, Florida, and had worked diligently on many committees at her church, along with volunteering at Hope Hospice. Mary loved golf, traveling, her family, and her church. She will be missed by her many friends in the Fort Myers Deanery, the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and Province IV.

Memorial services were held at St. Michael and All Angels on Friday, December 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. Celebrant was The Reverend Dr. Ellen Sloan.

REMINDER – DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD DUES are due and payable in JANUARY of each year.

Dues are $20.00 per year for a Parish church and $10.00 per year for a Mission church.

Make check payable to:

Altar Guild, Diocese of SW Florida

Send to: Peggy R. Curlin, Treasurer
         Altar Guild, Diocese of SW Florida
         Post Office Box 18938
         Tampa FL 33679-8938

PROPOSED BILINGUAL ALTAR GUILD TRAINING
(Spring 2010)

With the expansion of the Hispanic ministry within the Diocese, persons whose primary language is Spanish will be needed as Altar Guild members. The DAG is considering offering basic Altar Guild training to Spanish-speaking AG members (or prospective members). We envision materials explaining the items used in the Eucharist and the duties of AG members in both Spanish and English – hoping that this will be helpful to both speakers of both languages.

Please contact Sarah Hill by February 28, 2010 if you are interested in attending or helping provide a training of this type.

DEANE RY DIRECTORS NEEDED FOR VENICE AND TAMPA:

The main function of an Altar Guild Deanery Director is to facilitate communication among the Altar Guilds of the various churches within the Deanery and serve as a resource to the churches within the Deanery. The Deanery Director is also a member of the Board of the Diocesan Altar Guild. The Board meets two or three times a year at DaySpring, and Deanery Directors are expected to attend if at all possible. Some Deanery Directors like to have an annual face-to-face meeting for all their members; others prefer to communicate by e-mail and telephone. There is no "right" way that works exactly the same for all churches, but sharing "best practices" helps us all. The Deanery Director isn’t expected to know ALL the answers, but she (or he) would help find the answers. Things like, “Where are the best sources for liturgical supplies?”, “How do I get wax or wine out of linens?”, “How do I recruit and train new members?” etc.

Is God calling you to this service? Give it prayerful consideration, and if you hear the call, contact your area Altar Guild President:

For the Venice Deanery
Contact Carl Ann Brumbach, 239-481-5410 or cabrumbach@gmail.com

For the Tampa Deanery
Contact Sarah Hill, 727-525-8340 or sarah_hill@hotmail.com
DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, February 27, 2010
Southern Annual Meeting - Diocesan Altar Guild
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
2653 Cleveland Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901-5898
239-334-2479

Saturday, March 6, 2010
Northern Annual Meeting - Diocesan Altar Guild
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
(New Campus)
1015 Del Webb Boulevard East
Sun City Center, FL 33573
813-633-3970

Sunday, June 6, 2010 to Wednesday, June 9, 2010
Province IV Altar Guild Conference & Workshop
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, NC

PLEASE POST A COPY OF THE ‘ALTARGRAM’
IN YOUR ALTAR GUILD SACRISTY

ALTARGRAM
Post Office Box 18938
Tampa, FL 33679-8938

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED