Altar Set-Up Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we come before you to set your table,
Calm our thoughts, still our minds, and open our hearts to you.
We ask you, Lord, to help us to focus on setting a Table for you,
That we set it right and proper, that we work together to make sure
All things are there for the priests and chalice bearers to properly serve you on Sunday.
And, Lord, bless us with your grace and mercy so that your Light
May shine upon our service to you this day. AMEN

"God wanted to reach out to our St. Anne members as they were bringing in their burdens and dashing through the set-up and not really remembering why God called them there. He put it on me and when I sat down to write, the words came from Him. When you walk into the Sacristy, give your burdens to God. Pray together that God will unite us in the joy of setting the table for our Lord."

Diane Sorrentino, Altar Guild Director,
St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church, Seminole, Florida
**ANNUAL ALTAR GUILD MEETINGS WERE A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Kudos to the hosts of the annual meetings of the Altar Guild of the Diocese of Southwest Florida: Fr. Philip Read and the Altar Guild of St. Luke’s, Fort Myers, for the South Meeting on February 28., and Fr. Tracy Wilder and the Altar Guild of St. John the Divine, Sun City Center, for the North Meeting on March 6. Special thanks to Carol Ann Brumbach and Syd Dawson (St. Luke’s) and to Joy Sparkman (St. John the Divine) for master-minding all the details, planning the food, and getting volunteers to cook, serve, and clean up.

Total attendance at the South meeting on February 28 was 98, and total attendance at the North meeting on March 6 was 37. Bishop Smith preached and celebrated Eucharist at both meetings. At the request of the Bishop, the offertory from both meetings was allocated to Haitian earthquake relief. Through your generosity, a total of $657.50 was collected, and a check in this amount has been sent to the Diocesan Office for this purpose.

Despite some technical difficulties, speaker Dianne Walters presented a lot of valuable information and hopefully inspired us all to go back to our churches, review these ideas with our clergy and vestry, and get it done! (Documenting the contents of your own home is also a good idea.) We all pray we will not have to deal with natural or man-made disasters, but if they occur it would certainly be less stressful if you have prepared ahead of time!

**FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .**

We had a wonderful Diocese meeting February 27, 2010 at St. Luke’s Church in Fort Myers. Roll call: 87 altar guild members and 11 clergy were present for a total of 98. The names of members who we lost this past year were read (see “In Memoriam” on P. 3). They will be sorely missed and their names will be sent to NAGA for enrollment in the National Altar Guild Memory Book. Bishop Dabney Smith preached, celebrated the Eucharist, and installed three (3) NEW Deanery Directresses:

- Naples – Nancy Shields, St. Marks, Marco Island
- Ft. Myers – Elizabeth Mody – St. Michaels and All Angels, Sanibel
- Manasota – Katie Altmann – Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota

The Treasurer reported that donations were made to NAGA and Providence IV in memory of Mary Vernon. She was very active in Ft. Myers Deanery, in Providence IV, and NAGA altar guilds.

We are still looking for a Directress for the Venice Deanery.

The guest speaker, Deane Walters, gave us a lot of information in preparing a church inventory. “Is your church prepared to lose it all?”

We received information about fair trade Altar Linens made in Haiti. This would be a good opportunity to support these people at this difficult time. For additional information, go to www.livingthreadshaiti.com.

**Future Dates:**

1. Diocesan Altar Guild Board Meeting – Day Spring - May 12, 2010 at 10 a.m. –
2. Providence IV Altar Guild Conference – Kanuga, June 6 through June 9, 2010. (See article on P. 1.) Contact Peggy Curlin (pcurlin@verizon.net) or Sarah Hill (sarah_hill@hotmail.com) if you are interested in driving up in a group.
3. Next year the South Diocesan AG Meeting will be March 5, 2011 at a place to be determined later.
4. If you would like to share news in the Altargram, please contact Peggy Curlin.
5. General Convention in Punta Gorda, October 8-9, 2010. Remember Free Market Table where we exchange items we do not need.

Thank you all for doing special caring jobs with your altar guilds.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

**FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .**

David and I spent two weeks in Jerusalem to celebrate Easter. We participated in a Pilgrimage led by the Rev. John Peterson and sponsored by the National Cathedral in Washington DC. We were there for Palm Sunday and all of Holy Week. This year Orthodox Easter coincided with our Christian Easter so there were even more wonderful celebrations to be part of. We also saw all the special sites surrounding Jerusalem. It was an absolutely fabulous experience -- hopefully I will find time to share more details in a future issue of the Altargram.

I am thrilled to welcome Cindy Davidson from St. Peter’s in Plant City as the new Altar Guild Deanery Director for the Tampa Deanery.

DONATION 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. Contact me if you can help fill this request.

The North AG Annual Meeting will be March 12, 2011, location to be announced at a later date.

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North

**REMINDER -- DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD DUES**

($20.00 per year for a Parish church or $10.00 per year for a Mission church) **were due and payable in JANUARY.** There are a few churches whose dues remain unpaid. If you are unsure whether your church has paid, contact the Treasurer (813-287-0176 or pcurlin@verizon.net).
IN MEMORIAM
Altar Guild Members Who Died in 2009

Nan Profit – St. Luke’s, Ft. Myers
Mary Vernon – St. Michaels and All Angels, Sanibel
Ethel Schmidt – St. Hilary’s, Ft. Myers
Shirley Bear, Mancy Marshall, Millie Rideout – Church of the Epiphany, Cape Coral
Donna Young – Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota
Pat Caswell – All Souls, North Fort Myers
Emily Younge – Good Shepherd, Venice
Alberta Neathery, St. Peter’s Cathedral, St. Petersburg
Anmarie Richards, St. John’s, Tampa
Dorothy Coil, Church of the Ascension, Clearwater
Pat Brown, St. Peter’s, Plant City
Une Sunne, Church of the Ascension, Clearwater
Virginia Brew, St. Peter’s Cathedral, St. Petersburg

Ecclesiastical Vocabulary

Here are some “A” words – can you think of any others? . . .

Ablutions: The cleansing of the Chalice and Paten after the receiving of Holy Communion. Also, the cleansing of the hands of the Priest at any time during the service.
Academic Hood: A hood worn over the shoulders and down the back, denoting a college degree. It has ecclesiastical significance.
Acolyte: One who serves the celebrant at the altar, sometimes called the server or altar boy (or girl).
Alb: A long, white, linen vestment with straight sleeves which covers the cassock.
Alms Basin: Also spelled Bason. A large circular vessel of greater width than depth, usually made of wood, brass, or silver in which are placed the offerings of the people.
Altar: The Holy Table, the Communion Table.
Altar Bread: The wafers or bread used at the Holy Communion.
Altar Cloth: See Frontal and Superfrontal.
Altar Rail: The railing which enclosed the Sanctuary and at which communicants kneel to receive Holy Communion. Also known as the Chancel Rail.
Altar Stone: A small flat stone (usually square, approximately 6” x 6” to 12” x 12”) consecrated by the proper high church official, and on which the Sacrifice of the Mass may be said. It may be placed and used on an altar not yet consecrated and thus becomes the true altar. (An optional piece not found in all churches.)
Amice: A vestment consisting of a hood or a large rectangle, square or oblong, of white linen or cotton upon which a cross is embroidered (in white). It is the first garment put around the shoulders, over the cassock by the priest (deacon or bishop) in vesting for mass. The upper part is first placed over the head that it may fall like a collar over the alb. It is tied with strings around the waist.
Ampulla: A cruet for wine or water.
Ante-Communion: That part of the Communion Service which precedes the oblation.
Antependium: A hanging before the altar, or for the pulpit or lectern; a frontal.
Apparels: Oblong pieces of colored silk or brocade, tacked above the hem on the front back and sleeves of the alb., as well as on the collar of the amice.
Aspergill: An instrument containing holy water used in blessing people, vessels, vestments, etc.
Aumbry: A receptacle made either in the wall or attached to the wall of the chancel or sacristy to contain the consecrated elements, holy oils, or sacred vessels; or a locked cupboard for storing altar books, vestments, or sacred vessels.

. . . look for “B thru Z” words in future issues.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 2010
42nd Annual Convention of the
Diocese of Southwest Florida
Convention Center
Punta Gorda, FL

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

‘ALTARGRAM’

ONE copy of the ‘Altargram’ is mailed to the Altar Guild of each parish in the Diocese for posting in the Altar Guild Sacristy. We also e-mail a copy to at least one AG representative from each parish with the request that they then e-mail it to as many members of their Altar Guild as possible. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail, send your request by e-mail to pcurlin@verizon.net. SUBMIT ARTICLES by e-mail to any Board member, or mail submissions to:

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED