ANNUAL MEETING of the DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (JOINT NORTH-SOUTH)
SATURDAY, March 5, 2011
Registration starts at 9:00
Meeting starts at 9:30

Church of the Nativity
5900 North Lockwood Ridge, Sarasota, FL 34243-2523

Your DAG Board is excited that we are having a joint meeting of Altar Guild members from the entire Diocese! This is the first time in many years that we have attempted to get everyone together, and we sincerely hope members from BOTH ends of our LONG Diocese (Brooksville all the way to Marco Island) will find a way to meet together in the middle. Per MapQuest, driving time to Nativity in Sarasota is 1 hour 36 minutes from St. John’s in Brooksville and 2 hours 6 minutes from St. Mark’s in Marco Island. Get your members to carpool – save gas, and consider the time on the road as a blessed opportunity to enjoy each other’s company.

This year’s guest speaker is Lynn Hendricks from Birmingham, Alabama. Born in Edmonton, Canada, Lynn was a “cradle” Anglican, baptized and confirmed in the cathedral, where in her teenage years she was active in youth ministries. When she met her husband at the University of Colorado, they became members of the Episcopal Church and have been actively involved ever since (49 years and counting!). While Peter served in the Navy for 24 years, they found themselves members of many different parishes which afforded Lynn many opportunities to serve. She has taught Sunday school, worked with an inner city church preschool, prepared meals in a homeless shelter, sung in choirs, and been active in ECW. When they moved to Birmingham in 1981, Lynn retired from her profession as a Medical Technologist and focused her time and energy on family and church. The family became members of All Saints’ where Lynn has served as treasurer and president of the parish ECW, as clerk of the Vestry, and as the Altar Guild directress. She continues to sing in the choir, work with the Altar Guild, and welcome the homeless through Hospitality Network. While Diocesan Altar Guild Chairperson she served on the Diocese of Alabama Committee of Liturgy and Music for nine years. At the provincial level she served as Hospitality Chair for Province IV. For six years she was Endowment Fund Chairperson for the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA), and is currently on the NAGA Board as the Treasurer. In addition to all her church activities, Lynn volunteers at the McWane Science Center and St. Vincent’s East Hospital. Sewing, reading, scuba diving, skiing and traveling with Peter are activities she enjoys. With three children and eight grandchildren scattered from coast to coast, she sometimes feels Peter and she alone are keeping Delta in business. But wherever they go, they know waiting at home to greet them is their little fluffy white dog Maverick.

Lynn’s topic is “Altar Guild, At the Priest’s Discretion.” This will be a fun, interactive look at our prayer book! In 1979 the Episcopal Church adopted a new prayer book which offered a host of options with regard to worship. Change comes about as our attitudes evolve and we have new insights. The new prayer book updated language, gave us greater flexibility in our celebratory services with new optional prayers (ex. six Eucharistic prayers for consecration and six new forms of Prayers of the People) with an emphasis on the environmental and social aspects of our world today; and made the Eucharist the primary service on Sundays. At the same time the authors preserved the language, prayers and services of past ages according to our traditions (ex. Our Rite I services). They cycled back to traditions long past (ex. Eucharistic Prayer B from the 3rd century and Eucharistic Prayer D from the 4th century). With the reinstitution of “reserved sacrament” they expanded the role of the laity by allowing Lay Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to the sick and shut in.

Taking all the above into account we will look at the church facility, furnishings and adornments -- what has changed since 1979 and what has remained the same; what is necessary and what is optional; all in accordance to the rubrics of the prayer book. Many of the things we THINK are required and necessary for worship are ACTUALLY the tradition of our church universal or of a particular parish or priest. Adapting to a priest’s desires in each and every case is the challenge and mission of the altar guild.
Province IV Altar Guild invites you to a fun and informative retreat in June 2011. Keynote speaker is the Rt. Rev. Charles L. Keyser, Assisting Bishop for the Diocese of Florida. Attendees will visit Carl Sandburg’s home in nearby Flat Rock, NC. Hands-on workshops and other fun activities will combine to make this an inspiring and restful time with a great group of Altar Guild cohorts. If you have never been to Kanuga, this is your opportunity to experience the peace of the mountains, forests, and lakes of western North Carolina, while at the same time meeting altar guild members from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and part of Louisiana. Go to www.kanuga.org to see pictures, learn history, and find all about the nation’s most used Episcopal conference center.

**Ecclesiastical Vocabulary**

A few “C” words – others will show up in the next issue!

**Cassock:** A long closely fitting garment reaching from the neck to the shoe tops, worn by the clergy, acolytes, and choir. It is usually black. There are two styles commonly in use. The Roman (buttoned down the front) and the Anglican (buttoned at the side). Celebrant: The priest (bishop or deacon) who celebrates the Holy Communion. In the case of a deacon, pre-consecrated sacraments are used. Celebration: The consecration and administration of the Holy Communion. Censer: A swinging vessel on a chain, used for burning incense, usually made of brass or silver. Cere-Cloth: One of the three traditional cloths laid upon the top of the altar. A waxed cloth, designed to protect the fair linen from the dampness and moisture of the stone altar top. In the case of more modern churches using wood altars without the altar stone, it protects the wood from any spills and acts as a slip guard for the fair linen. Chalice: The cup used at Holy Communion. Chancel: The east end of the church, raised above the floor of the nave, containing the choir (usually) and the sanctuary. Chapel: A building or portion of one used for worship. Chasuble: A loose vestment with neck aperture oval in shape made without sleeves and worn over the Alb. Chimere: A long garment with arm holes, but without sleeves. It is worn by a bishop over the rochet and may be either black or red. Choir: The choristers; also the part of the chancel between the nave and sanctuary, where the daily offices are said. Choir Office: A service said in the choir instead of in the sanctuary, such as Morning or Evening Prayer. Chrism: Consecrated oil used for ceremonial anointing. Ciborium: A chalice-like covered cup to hold the Sacramental Bread; a canopy of wood or stone or marble, supported by four or more pillars covering an altar. Also used to hold the Reserved Sacrament. Cincture: The girdle of a cassock. Clergy: Persons in Holy Orders; bishops, priests, deacons. Compline: The last evening service of the day. Cope: A long cloak of rich material, varying in color according to the church season, worn over the Alb by a bishop or a priest at processions on festival occasions.

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

With the holidays behind us, we start the new year by welcoming back many winter Altar Guild members and getting ready for the “busy season” in South Florida.

Remember to send Diocesan Altar Guild dues to Peggy Curlin, PO Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938. Notices were emailed in January: Parish church is $20 and Mission church is $10.

Look forward to the 12th Annual Altar Guild meeting on 3/5/2011 at Church of the Nativity in Sarasota. Invitations will be mailed on 2/4/2011. RSVP by 2/24/2011. Cost of the box lunch from Nellie’s Deli (don’t you love that name) is $10. Bishop Smith sends his regrets that a conflict will not allow him to be with us this year; however, Canon Michael During will join us as the Diocesan representative. I know everyone will enjoy Lynn Hendricks’s presentation—bring your Prayer Books!

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

**HELP WANTED:** Deanery Directors for the Venice and Clearwater areas. Use the phone and/or email to facilitate communication. If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas and meeting new people who also love Altar Guild, sign up!

Call Carol Ann at 239-481-5410 (for Venice). Call Sarah at 727-525-8340 (for Clearwater).

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

Start setting aside items for the “Free Market” at Diocesan Convention in October. Vestments, church furnishings, linens, etc. – bring anything that is in good condition but no longer used in your church so it can find a new and grateful home elsewhere in the diocese. For large items (altars, other furnishings), bring a picture, dimensions and information on how to pick up the item.

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be at St. Peter’s Cathedral on March 3rd. Put it on your calendars now!

**REOURCES:**


National Altar Guild website: www.episcopalchurch.org/altarguild

Visit “Resources” for find information about upcoming workshops and links to websites of interest. Visit “Sacristy Shop” for jewelry, stationery, and other interesting items.

Province IV website: www.provinceiv.org

Provides links to all diocesan websites within the Province, plus links to individual church websites.

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North

**Altargram 2**
GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD

- OUR WORK BEGINS WITH SUPPORTING THE BISHOP AND PROVIDING FOR DIOCESAN EUCHARISTS.
- WE ALSO ARE AVAILABLE TO ANY CHURCH TO WORK WITH YOUR RECTOR AND ALTAR GUILD TO ENHANCE YOUR WORSHIP.
- IF YOU NEED TO ORDER NEW VESTMENTS OR PARAMENTS FOR YOUR SANCTUARY, WE CAN HELP YOU WITH RESOURCES.
- IF YOU NEED ANY OF THE LINENS FOR THE ALTAR SUCH AS PURIFICATORS, FAIR LINENS, CORPORALS, ETC., WE HAVE LOTS OF RESOURCES.
- SHOULD YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY OF THESE SPECIAL PIECES YOURSELVES, WE CAN HELP WITH FABRIC SOURCES AND PATTERNS.
- WE CAN COME TO YOU AND DO A WORKSHOP IN YOUR CHURCH OR SACRISTY AND TEACH YOU -- ANYTHING FROM CARE OF LINENS TO PROPER CANDLE CARE OR BASIC ALTAR GUILD TECHNIQUES.
- IF YOUR SACRISTY NEEDS A GOOD HOUSECLEANING OF OLD THINGS, WE CAN HELP YOU FIND NEW HOMES FOR SOME OR RESTORE AND REFINISH OTHERS.
- WE SPONSOR THE “FREE MARKET” AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION TO FIND A NEW HOME FOR ITEMS YOU NO LONGER USE AND THAT SOMEONE NEEDS.
- WE HAVE LOTS OF PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR LAUNDRY, IRONING AND POLISHING BRASS AND SILVER.
- THERE ARE FLOWER GUILD WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE.
- MOST OF ALL, WE LOVE TO SHARE THIS MOST SPECIAL MINISTRY THAT IS ALL DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

The Practical Sacristy

We had a big gob of wax on the credence table linen. Tried everything I had used in the past, and nothing worked. Suddenly it came to me – wax is a petroleum product and oil is a petroleum product. They use Dawn detergent to clean oil off waterfowl. Why not Dawn for linens? I poured it on full strength, rubbed it in, dropped the linen in the washing machine, and VOILA! The wax was gone and there was no sign it had ever been there!

-- Betty Mody (St. Michael & All Angels, Sanibel)

Use BIZ to remove wine and lipstick. Soak linens in a solution of BIZ and water (see container for amount to use) and then wash as usual. You can leave things soaking in BIZ for a week or longer and it will not damage the fabric.

-- Sarah Hill (St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral, St. Petersburg)

If you have embroidered items (linens or frontals or vestments) where the fabric is worn out but the embroidery is still beautiful, they can be recycled into stoles or wall hangings. Have your priest deconsecrate the items, and then let your imagination run free. If you contact Barbara Parks, President of the Province IV Altar Guild, I am sure she would be happy to share pictures of some of the beautiful stoles she has made using this technique – or come to the Province IV Altar Guild Meeting at Kanuga and see firsthand what Barbara and other talented people have done!

For small linens that are beyond repair and not suitable for recycling, you can have your priest deconsecrate them and then burn them and scatter the ashes on your church grounds. Or bring (or send) them to the Province IV Altar Guild Meeting at Kanuga for deconsecration and burning in the “holy cooker” – the ashes will be scattered on Kanuga property. (To send to Province IV AG Meeting, contact Carol Ann Brumbach or Sarah Hill.)

To dispose of broken glass items that have been used on the altar or large cloth items not suitable for recycling (vestments, frontals, etc.) – have your priest deconsecrate them. They can then be disposed of in the trash, or buried on church property or in your back yard.

PRAYER FOR THE DECONSECRATION OF LINENS, VESTMENTS, AND PARAMENTS

Almighty God,

We thank you for the beauty of your creation and our responsibility to care for it.

We thank you for your faithful people who have given these linens, vestments, and paraments (only say what is appropriate) to be used for your honor and glory.

As they were consecrated in your name, they adorned your sanctuaries, reflected your beauty, and served your people. So now, Lord, in your name, we deconsecrate them and this day return them to the earth from which they came.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. We pray in the name of the first born of all creation, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Written by The Reverend Martha H. Hedgpeth (Christ Episcopal, Charlotte, NC) and first used at the 2002 Province IV Altar Guild Conference.
NEWS FROM CLEARWATER DEANERY: A beautiful service of “Consecration of New Altar Table and Baptismal Font” was held on February 1st at the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan in Clearwater. Bishop Dabney Smith presided, with many local clergy in attendance to celebrate with Father Ron Kowalski and his parish. The Bishop baptized two children after consecrating the font. Both the altar and font were given in prayerful remembrance of Jim Sessions by his beloved wife Jan. They were designed and built by Gene Chapman, a member of Calvary Episcopal Church in Indian Rocks Beach. The altar has two pedestals featuring the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, and the font has a wooden base with a hammered aluminum basin.

DAG Officers & Board

Carol Ann Brumbach
President-South
cabrumbach@gmail.com
239-481-5410

Sarah Hill
President-North
sarah_hill@hotmail.com
727-525-8340

Thelma Wallis, Secretary
twallis1205@aol.com
941-776-9169

Peggy Curlin, Treasurer
pcurlin@verizon.net
813-287-0176

Elizabeth Modys
Fort Myers Deanery Dir.
boomody@embarqmail.com
239-433-0156

VACANT
Clearwater Deanery Dir.

Katie Altmann
Manasota Deanery Dir.
hg28@verizon.net
941-924-7950

Donna Hoffman
St. Pete. Deanery Dir.
donnahoff42@aol.com
727-367-9227

Nancy Shields
Naples Deanery Dir.
fairford8300@embarqmail.com
239-472-0156

Cindy Davidson
Tampa Deanery Dir.
smeadman@msn.com
813-752-4771

VACANT
Venice Deanery Dir.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, February 5, 2011 (9:00 am – 3:30 pm)
Believe In A Miracle
(A Day of Renewal for Women)
Charlotte Harbor Event Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Saturday, March 5, 2011
Joint Meeting of Diocesan Altar Guilds
(North and South)
Church of the Nativity
5900 North Lockwood Ridge
Sarasota, Florida 34243-2523

Sunday June 5, to Wednesday June 8, 2011
Province IV AG Conference & Workshop
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

‘ALTARGRAM’

The ‘Altagram’ is emailed to the Altar Guild Director of each parish in the Diocese (or to Church Office or Rector if no email address available for AG Director). PLEASE PRINT A COPY OF THE ‘ALTARGRAM’ AND POST IT IN YOUR AG SACRISTY, and forward an electronic copy by email to as many members of your Altar Guild as possible. Send any changes in email addresses to pcurlin@verizon.net. SUBMIT ARTICLES by email to any Board member, or mail submissions to:
Altagram, Post Office Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938