REPORT FROM THE PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE

In June, Betty Modys, Edna Hanner, and Sarah Hill from the Diocese of Southwest Florida went to the annual Altar Guild meeting for Province IV at Kanuga. Two morning sessions featured our keynote speaker, The Rt. Rev. Charles L. Keyser, who has retired as a Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and now assists in the Diocese of Florida. He focused on the Gift of Life through Baptism and our Individual Stewardship of the Mysteries of God. Bishop Keyser encouraged us to share our gifts through ministry. He was a most inspirational speaker, sharing his faith with us.

Our chaplain was The Rt. Rev. James "Jay" Magness, the Bishop Suffragan for the Federal Ministries in The Episcopal Church. He has a military background as a chaplain, as well. He, too, has shared his faith in so many situations, and it was wonderful to have him preach and encourage us to share our talents to glorify God in everything we do. Both these men were so warm and friendly, sharing our whole conference with us. Who knew Altar Guild could be so interesting and fun?

The music was outstanding with a most accomplished organist, David Benson. We really had "church" with two bishops and fine musical response by all of us.

One afternoon we made tissue paper stained glass windows and our teacher, Michelle McLachlan, showed us the impossible. Her artistic talent has extended into making storefront windows church-like by creating big Biblically based pictures out of paper and starch. She draws beautiful designs and then many people gather to fill in the design with colorful papers. They even change the designs of the window according to the church year! And the youth groups take down the old ones! Our efforts were on glass that was 9” x 14” and they were amazing.

A special treat was the trip to the nearby Carl Sandburg home -- a beautiful and interesting place to spend an afternoon.

One evening Delores Miller did a skit entitled "Recovering Altar Guild Addict" that had us rolling on the floor!

As always, the fellowship and our love for Altar Guild renewed us all. One of the most valuable parts is simply sharing ideas and encouraging one another.

-- Sarah Hill

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT KANUGA:

- **LITURGICAL ARTS XIV: Artistic Expressions of Your Faith -- AUGUST 21 TO AUGUST 26, 2011**

- **ICON WRITING: A Glimpse of the Kingdom -- NOVEMBER 12 TO NOVEMBER 18**
  Use acrylic paint and prayer to recreate an icon. For beginners and experienced iconographers alike. Led by Teresa Harrison, Coronado, Calif.

For additional information, call 828-692-9136 or go to [http://www.kanuga.org/contactus.asp](http://www.kanuga.org/contactus.asp).
The DAG Board will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at DaySpring. If there are any items you would like the Board to consider, please contact Carol Ann Brumbach or Sarah Hill (see Page 4 for contact information).

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH?

 Probably not . . . unless you are from Alabama or just like wandering around “blue highways” off the beaten path.

This is St. Thomas Episcopal Church (established 1893) in Citronelle, AL, located in the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Morning Prayer at 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM Eucharist every Sunday.

Picture taken by Peggy Curlin, St. John’s, Tampa, while on vacation with her college roommate – yes, still friends after more than 50 years!

FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .

We are in the lazy days of summer. Many members of Altar Guilds have gone on vacation or are visiting families up north, so thanks to all who stick around to keep our churches beautiful.

The Southern AG met with the Naples Deanery for our annual meeting. It was nice to see each other, renew friendships, and share ideas.

Welcome to our new member, Jody Tiffany, new co-chair of the Altar Guild at Trinity-by-the-Cove. Jody wants to know if any churches have a Junior Altar Guild. If so, please email her at jodybob@embarqmail.com or by phone at 239-262-3434.

I would like to thank Lisbeth Wilson for her past service in the Naples Deanery as co-chair of the Altar Guild at Trinity-by-the-Cove.

Many of our members are collecting items for the annual Free Market, to be held at the Diocesan Convention, Oct. 21-22, 2011, in Punta Gorda.

Make plans now to attend the Annual DAG Meeting (North/South) on Sat. March 3, 2012, at the Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Carolyn Randall will offer ideas and help in organizing a Flower Guild.

Also remember if any churches would like to place an article in the Altargram, contact Peggy Curlin (see Page 4).

Have a GREAT summer.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

Plans are unfolding for this year’s convention in Punta Gorda. The DAG has obtained a new Altar Missal, Gospel book and new candles to use at Convention and other Diocesan events.

As we have done the past two years, the DAG will sponsor a “Free Market” where gently used altar items, vestments, etc., are available at no cost to anyone who wants them. If your church has items in good condition that are no longer being used, her is your chance to participate in holy recycling. One man’s trash is another man’s treasure!

The last Sunday service at St. Cecilia’s Episcopal Church, 1920 S. Maydell Drive in Tampa (Palm River), was celebrated on June 26. The small core of parishioners plan to continue to worship together as a “community of faith.”

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North

IN MEMORIAM

Roy Wallis, beloved husband of Thelma Wallis, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, June 16, 2011. Services were held on June 21 at Christ Church in Bradenton. Please keep Thelma in your prayers.
FULL SET OF GREEN VESTMENTS NEED A NEW HOME

This beautiful set is FREE – first come, first serve.

For exact dimensions and other details, contact Nancy Shields at 239-595-2253 or fairford8300@embarqmail.com

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Ecclesiastical Vocabulary

“E” words . . .

East End of a Church: The end where the altar stands, even if it is not actually in the east.

Elements: The materials used in the Sacraments appointed by Christ: Water, Wine and Bread.

Epistle Side: The side of the altar at which the Epistle is read, the right as viewed from the congregation sees it. Also the side where the Credence Shelf is located.

Eucharistic Lights: Two candles placed at either end of the top of the altar.

Eucharistic Vestments: The Eucharistic Vestments are worn by a Bishop or a Priest for the celebration of the Holy Communion and may include: alb, amice, chasuble, cassock, cope, girdle, maniple, and stole.

Eucharist: One of the names for the Holy Mysteries; the Holy Communion.

Even or Eve: The day before a festival designed to be a preparation for the feast it precedes, i.e., Easter Even, Christmas Eve.

Ewer: The pitcher for holding the water for the font and for the lavabo basin.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday August 21 to Friday August 26, 2011  
Liturgical Arts XIV: Artistic Expressions of Your Faith  
Kanuga Conference Center  
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Tuesday September 20 to Sunday September 25, 2011  
National Altar Guild Needle Workshop  
Convent of St. John the Baptist  
Mendham, New Jersey

Saturday November 12 to Friday November 18, 2011  
Icon Writing: A Glimpse of the Kingdom  
Kanuga Conference Center  
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Saturday, March 3, 2012  
Joint Meeting of Diocesan Altar Guilds (North and South)  
Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
140 Fourth Street  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711-3836

Sunday June 3 to Wednesday June 6, 2012  
Province IV Altar Guild Conference  
Kanuga Conference Center  
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Thursday July 5 to Wednesday July 11, 2012  
Join NAGA at the Triennial Convention  
Indianapolis, Indiana

HELP WANTED: Deanery Director for the Clearwater area. 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 Sarah at 727-525-8340.

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 Mody  
Fort Myers Deanery Dir.  
boomodys@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  
Elizabeth‘Anne’ Lawlor  
Venice Deanery Dir.  
info@stmarksvenice.com  
941-493-7065

‘ALTARGRAM’

The ‘Altargram’ 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 by mail to:

Altargram, Post Office Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938