43rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
October 21-22, 2012
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda

Bishop Smith’s introductory letter states:

In the Catechism outlined in the Book of Common Prayer, the ministry of the laity is outlined as follows:

- To represent Christ and his Church;
- To bear witness to him wherever they may be; and,
- According to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and
- To take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

The ministry of a priest as well calls us “to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church”. As we gather together this year as a convention of lay and clergy, let us affirm and celebrate this purpose and live willingly into the biblical exhortation of “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

HOLY RECYCLING: The DAG continues to sponsor its highly popular “Free Market” at Convention. This is an opportunity to purge your Sacristy and share gently used items with other churches within the Diocese. There is no cost to the receiving party – it is simply an opportunity to let someone else enjoy something that you no longer use. Suggestions: bells, books, and candles; frontals, banners, and hangings; vestments and clergy clothes (has a priest or deacon retired or lost or gained weight?); any other items of use to another church. Bring or send the items to Convention -- on Thursday afternoon if possible; if that is not convenient, items are accepted anytime on Friday. If something is extremely large or heavy, write a description of the item and the dimensions, take a picture (or several pictures from different angles), include contact information (church name/number/email) and bring that information with you.

CANNED GOODS COMPETITION: Deaneries once again vie for the coveted “Canley Cup” awarded to the Deanery that brings in the most canned goods (by weight). 2010 defending champion is the Tampa Deanery. Donations this year will be shared by the food pantries at St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church in Arcadia and St. George’s Episcopal Church in Bradenton.

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CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER’S SPECIAL ALTAR GUILD MEMBER

Dora Riverol started her 101st year in April of 2011. In this recent photo, Dora reminisces about her years on active Altar Guild duty. Although now Altar Guild Member Emeritus, Dora remains an active participant in St. Mary’s Guild, is a two-day a week volunteer at the Episcopal Thrift House, was recently elected treasurer of Daughters of the King chapter, and leads a Bible Study.

A woman who certainly has “taken her place” as a follower of our Lord, It is clear that Dora learned long ago what was most important to her, and she has disciplined herself to maintain those priorities. Greater than anything else, Jesus is the Lord of her life and she has taken her place at Redeemer to spread the Gospel and serve others.

Dora was born in London and grew up in British Honduras (now Belize). In 1993, she was inducted into the Belize National Sports Hall of Fame for her sublime tennis skills, a three-time winner with a record has not yet been broken. She still takes the bus, shops, meets friends for dinner and is a joy to be around. Most importantly, you will always see Dora on Sunday and frequently at a weekday Mass. She says with a smile, “Church of the Redeemer means everything to me.”

-- Picture and article submitted by Katie Altmann
Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota, Florida
The DAG Board will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at DaySpring. To bring a topic before the Board, please contact Carol Ann Brumbach or Sarah Hill (see Page 4 for contact information).

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS CHURCH?

[Image of a church]

CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
Grand Teton National Park - Moose, Wyoming

The rustic log Chapel of the Transfiguration sits on a rise just within the southern entrance of Grand Teton National Park. A large window behind its altar frames the magnificent beauty of the Teton Mountain Range. It was built in 1925 and functions today as an Episcopal church, operated by St. John’s Episcopal Church in Jackson, Wyoming. Services are held at the Chapel from late May to early September each year. When my husband and I attended a Sunday service here we were immersed in the beauty of this holy place constructed in the Western Craftsman style. We were most amused with the passing of the alms basins -- ten gallon hats!

*Picture and article submitted by Cathy Athanson, Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida*

Share your pictures for this Altargram feature! Although it is fun to visit churches in other places (and this makes me positive I want to go to Grand Teton NP), how about some pictures of churches in our Diocese?

Email picture and article to pcurlin@verizon.net. Include the name and location of the church and any other interesting information, along with your name and church home.

Next issue of the Altargram will be in January 2012.

FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .

Welcome back, Altar Guild members! We are getting started in the busy time of year. Hope that you had a wonderful summer.

Mary Ellen Smith, our Bishop’s wife, needs our constant prayers. She was diagnosed with cancer of bile ducts and liver and had surgery on September 20. Support Mary Ellen, Bishop Smith, and their entire family in your daily prayer.

The DAG Board met in early September at DaySpring. Naples – Barbara Smith at St. John’s reported they have created a rain garden (see article on Page 3). Manasota – Katie Altmann reported a lot is happening in their deanery. The Rector at St. Boniface on Siesta Key is retiring, so they are searching for a new Rector. They are considering a Junior Altar Guild or Mother-Daughter teams. St. George’s in Bradenton has a new Rector and four new Altar Guild members. Nan Webster reported that they are looking forward to new changes. Loretta Hartzog reported that St. Mary Magdalen in Bradenton has started the Alpha program. Sharon Lewis will be leading a program called “Journey into Healing.” They are looking forward to their trip to Greece and Turkey (April 12, 2012) to follow in the footsteps of Paul. If interested in joining them, call 941-731-1462. Fort Myers Deanery AG will meet on Nov. 5 at Good Shepherd in LaBelle. Guest speaker will be Sarah Hill, DAG Director North, speaking on “52 Years of Loving the Altar Guild.”

October 21-22 – Remember the Free Market at Diocesan Convention. If you have any articles needing a “new home” please bring them to Convention.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

In June, Bishop Dabney Smith asked the Diocesan Altar Guild for help. Sadly, the diocese has had to close down the little mission church of St. Cecelia in southeast Tampa. He asked our help to remove and catalog all the “church” related items.

Four brave souls (Peggy Curlin, Cindy Davidson, Jane Bender and Sarah Hill) tackled this project. We have done all the vestments, choir and acolyte robes, furniture, linens, prayer and hymn books, plus other religious items. Most of the small things and vestments are now in an air-conditioned storage unit. Things like the altar, pews, communion rail, organ and piano remain in the building. All is cataloged, measured, photographed, and recorded on a disc.

It is very sad to undo a church but St. Cecelia’s will live on as these things find new homes throughout our diocese. Some of these items will be available at Convention at our Free Market Exchange table.

At our Spring Diocesan Altar Guild meeting on March 3, 2012, we plan to display and share examples of various altar guild manuals used throughout our Diocese. This might be a good time to update your manual and prepare to bring it. The meeting will be at St. Peter's Cathedral and we have plenty of table space for display purposes.

Bless the work we all do so faithfully.

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North
RAIN GARDEN II AT ST. JOHN’S, NAPLES

St. John’s exterior restoration includes a new rain garden to showcase the front of the church. When you walk along the sidewalk, your eyes will be directed to the church entrance and drawn up to the cross, with the blue sky framing the picture perfectly. St. John’s will be more visually inviting to all who pass by and to all who attend services.

Rain Garden II will be three times larger than Rain Garden I, built last year. St. John’s has continued the theme of restoring God’s natural landscape, and has constructed a garden that is nicely curved with small boulders placed to provide a natural feeling and complement the native Florida plantings.

So why are we doing this rain garden concept?

When Rain Garden I was created along Crayton Road, the primary objective was to capture and detain the first inch of rain or storm water runoff (which contains contaminants from fertilizer and oil from parking areas) in a swale so the impurities could be filtered through a shell surface. Thus, the overflow storm water enters the storm sewer system and flows to the bay without the impurities. A secondary objective was to reduce the amount of water required for the lawn and plantings, so we replaced some sodded areas with native Florida plantings that require less water, can survive in a drought, yet can live with “wet feet” when the heavy rains come in summer. We knew the storm water detention would work, we would consume less water for sprinkling, and the new plant material would look nice. We were surprised by the color and beauty of the garden and the subtle changes of the seasons. The beauty and the natural plantings of the rain garden complement the Old Florida Spanish architecture of St. John’s. This landscaping will showcase God’s amazing creations; extend a beautiful “welcome mat” to our neighbors, and continue the environmental leadership that we started with Rain Garden I. We hope other churches will follow suit.

-- Pictures and article submitted by Barbara Goodhue Smith
St. John’s Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida

Ecclesiastical Vocabulary

“F” words . . .

Fair Linen: The principal covering of the top of the altar. It hangs over the sides of the altar almost to the floor.

Flagon: A large covered glass or metal container for a reserve of wine.

Footpace: The platform upon which the altar rests, where the priest stands to celebrate the Holy Eucharist; also called the predella. The highest of three steps is known as the Priest's Step; the other two being the Deacon's (second step) and the Subdeacon's (bottom or first step).

Frontal: A covering of cloth that hangs before the front of the altar, covering the entire front of the altar.

Frontlet: A short cover for the front of the altar, attached to linen on the altar top. Also known as a Superfrontal.
HELP WANTED: Deanery Director for the Clearwater area. If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas, this is the (unpaid) job for you! Primary responsibility is to maintain phone or email contact with the altar guilds of the churches in your Deanery to let each other know what is going on. If you can visit the other churches to develop a personal relationship with their AG members, that can be very fulfilling. Some Deanery Directors hold annual or twice-yearly meetings in their area, but that is totally at their discretion. Deanery Directors are members of the DAG Board and are encouraged to attend the Board meetings, held at DaySpring – usually from 10 AM to 1 PM on a Wednesday in Jan., May, and September, with lunch provided (including the famous DaySpring cookies).

If interested, call Sarah at 727-525-8340.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT KANUGA:

- **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.

- **THANKSGIVING GUEST PERIOD**: **NOVEMBER 22 – NOVEMBER 27**
  Inn rooms immediately available; short waiting list for cottages.

- **LANSING LEE CONFERENCE: Listening to Faith** -- **DECEMBER 4 TO DECEMBER 6**
  Krista Tippett, host and producer of the National Public Radio program “On Being” (formerly “Speaking of Faith”), will share insights gained from some of her most compelling and provocative interviews.

For additional information, call 828-692-9136 or go to [http://www.kanuga.org/contactus.asp](http://www.kanuga.org/contactus.asp).

**ALTARGRAM**

The ‘Altagram’ goes out by email 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](mailto:pcurlin@verizon.net).

**SUBMIT ARTICLES** by email to any Board member, or by mail to: Altagram, Post Office Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938.