45th DIOCESAN CONVENTION
FRIDAY, October 18 and SATURDAY, October 19
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33590

Episcopal Church **Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori** will join the Diocese of Southwest Florida at its 45th Annual Convention. Bishop Katharine, Presiding Bishop since 2006, is a native of Pensacola. She is the 26th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. On Friday, she will address a keynote session of the convention and will preach and celebrate at an opening Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, voting clergy and delegates from the diocese's 76 parishes and missions will gather to approve the 2014 budget, consider resolutions, elect persons to diocesan boards and committees and hear Bishop Dabney Smith's convention address.

The two-day convention is the annual gathering and business meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida. The Friday Eucharist is open to the public. Attendees must register before Tuesday, Oct. 15 for the plenary session.

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**From the Desk of Sarah . . .**

Summer is barely over and we are working hard to make our Annual Convention happen. I hope you all had a chance to find some cool, somewhere.

Remember that our **Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori** is coming to our Convention and this would be a wonderful opportunity to help with either the Exchange table or the Eucharist. Let me know if you can help -- either Friday or Saturday. As we prepare for Convention, the Diocesan Altar Guild Exchange table rapidly is filling up. Please DO bring things that would fit on a big table easily, but if you have 20 acolyte robes or 32 choir robes or boxes of books, please consider bringing a photo plus listing of what you have. We will not have quite as much room as last year, plus our coffers are full of choir and acolyte robes. We just can't display them. Instead, we hope you will consider putting them up on the DAG website. Good for you, if you have cleaned your sacristy!! Once again, we will also be collecting small linens that are beyond repair for burning in November.

Another interesting idea for using old vestments and linens is to repurpose them into much smaller versions to be used all over the world for the Sunday School training program called "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd." There are measurements available and patterns. They love to have real things to teach with. Look this up on the internet and you will be amazed. Contact me if you are interested. It is a little like making doll clothes.

In November, we will be focusing on filling a number of Deanery vacancies. Please consider volunteering!

The new veils, burses and stoles have come and are in place at the Chapel Center at USF in Tampa. They are in the four liturgical colors. They also have 2 new fair linens and more smaller pieces. **The Rev. Eric Cooter** is their new priest and has terrific plans and ideas for this student center.

Don't forget our Annual meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at St. John the Divine in Sun City/Ruskin. The program will interest everyone with ideas and ways to care for or make wonderful vestments. Keynote speaker **Barbara Parks** is a superb seamstress. Her stoles are really stunning. Her creativity will surely energize you!

May God Bless each of you -- Altar Guild is a vital ministry!

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**Sarah Hill, President-North**
CHURCHES AROUND THE DIOCESE

In the MANASOTA DEANERY . . .

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
44087 West Gulf Drive
Holmes Beach, Anna Maria Island, FL

Altar and Kneelers

The Church of the Annunciation is not very big. It seats just about 125 in a long narrow nave.
The Church of the Annunciation is located on Anna Maria Island, a barrier island reached by bridge, just west of Bradenton. At one time, all members of the church were island residents, but today about 80% of the members live in Bradenton, with some traveling as far as 35 miles one way to come to church from Lakewood Ranch, Parrish, Palmetto, and even Myakka.

Annunciation was founded in 1952 when the Bishop told May Harris he would help establish a church on the island if she could find enough potential members. She went door to door on Anna Maria, seeking possible future members. She got 79 signatures, and Bishop Louttit blessed the flock that was to become the Church of the Annunciation. He charged the group to name the new church, and added, "... and don't let it be anything 'by the sea'.''

At first, the little group met for Eucharist in the Lion's Club Youth Center, and later they met in a converted garage below the apartment rented for their new vicar, Rev. Burkett Kniveton. A year later three members of the vestry signed a personal note at the bank to buy two adjoining lots in Holmes Beach upon which they would build the church. Builder of the church was George Harris, son of May Harris who knocked on all those doors, and George is still a member of the parish today.

The new church was dedicated in September, 1953. The parish went through many financially shaky years. Often a donation from the Episcopal Church Women was the only thing that kept the doors open, but as population on the island grew, so did the church.

In 1956, Bishop Louttit appointed the Rev. Gerald Lowe as vicar. In 1962 when Annunciation became a parish he became the rector, a position he held until 1976. It is interesting to note that Fr. Lowe’s son, David, is a parishioner and Junior Warden today.

A rectory was added to the north end of the building in 1959, and in 1983 the parish built a 24 foot extension which became Lowe Parish Hall.

Our font is unusual in that it is made from a large sea shell
Today the parish is a vibrant growing parish of mostly retirees, with about 150 members. In the winter months, we are blessed with about 100 long-time winter visitors we call our “Northern Lights.” They enrich our parish and bring with them new energy, new ideas, and a helping hand for all our projects. The present Rector, the Rev. Dee de Montmollin, has instituted a Sunday School and youth group for our young people who are children and often grandchildren of our members.

Our altar guild is made up on 14 dedicated women, three of whom are Northern Lights. They prepare the altar for three services each week, two on Sunday and a Eucharist and healing service on Thursday mornings. We have one member who cares for the Fair Linens, a member who does all the other linens, and one member who takes care of the flowers and church decorations for Christmas, Easter, and other special occasions. They usually work in pairs, with each team serving once or twice a month.

We welcome you to visit us at the Church of the Annunciation. Services are at 8:00 and 10:30 on Sundays. We are proud of our beautiful little church and its presence in the community.

-- Ann Fletcher, Altar Guild Directress, with help from Terry Hussey

Ecclesiastical Vocabulary - “S” words . . .

Sacristan: The person in charge of the Sacristy and its contents.

Sacristy: The room in the church building where the vestments, books and sacred vessels are kept.

Sanctuary: The sacred portion of the church in which the altar stands.

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp(s) suspended in front of the altar. One, three or seven.

Sedilia: The seats for the clergy within the sanctuary, on the south (Epistle) side. On the north (Gospel) side for the acolytes and layreaders.

See: The diocese or jurisdiction of a bishop.

Server: An acolyte.

Shell: A scallop-shell, or metal vessel of this shape, used for taking water from the font to pour over the head of a person to be baptized.

Stole: A long, narrow band of silk or brocade worn over the shoulders of the clergy.

Subdeacon: The minister who reads the epistle at a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion, whether he is a bishop, priest, deacon, or layman.

Surplice: A white linen vestment worn by the clergy over the cassock.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

**The Presiding Bishop will be in attendance!**

Friday October 18 to Saturday October 19, 2013

*The 45th Annual Diocesan Convention***
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Saturday, March 1, 2014

*DAG Annual Meeting*
St. John the Divine
1015 Del Webb Boulevard East
Sun City Center, FL 33573

UPCOMING AT KANUGA:

Nov. 16-22 - *Icon Writing: A Glimpse of the Kingdom*

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

DAG WEBPAGE:

To visit the DAG webpage, go to the Diocesan website (www.dioswfl.org) and hold your cursor over "Mission and Ministries" and then click on "Diocesan Altar Guild." The link is http://www.dioswfl.org/Mission%20and%20Ministry/diocesan_altar_guild.html.

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HELP WANTED: Deanery Directors for the Venice, Clearwater and St. Petersburg areas.

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. Deanery Directors are members of the DAG Board and are encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings at DaySpring.

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

‘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.

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