The theme this year is **Needlepoint Around the Diocese**. We are asking YOU to share your beautiful original needlepoint with others! The annual meeting is on a Saturday, so you should be able to bring a few pieces and get them back to your church for Sunday services with no problem. Tables will be set up around the room and everyone will have ample time to admire everything. Each Altar Guild bringing items will be responsible for their own display – provide a sign with your church name and location, pictures of items you can’t bring, information on how the needlepoint was created – how the theme was selected, who designed it, was it a one-time project or do you have an ongoing needlepoint guild, etc. If you plan to bring a needlepoint example from your church, please contact Sarah Hill [email to sarahhill.fl@gmail.com or call 727-525-9340].

The Invitations, Registration form and other pertinent information will be mailed to all the churches in our Diocese the first week in February. Tell your church office to let you know as soon as they receive a pastel envelope marked “Attn: Altar Guild.” Be sure to complete the “In Memoriam” form (on back of Registration) with the names of any of your Altar Guild members who have died since last March. They will be remembered in the Prayers of the People during Eucharist.

Get a group together (AG members and interested clergy) and carpool to the Annual Meeting. DaySpring is about as centrally located in our long Diocese. According to MapQuest, it is 85 miles and 1-1/2 hours from St. Martin’s in Hudson (northernmost parish); 140 miles and 2 hours from St. Mark’s on Marco Island (southernmost parish); 50 miles and 55 minutes from St. Edmund’s in Arcadia (easternmost parish).

If you have never been to DaySpring, you have missed something special. Driving up to the property, you go through a residential neighborhood and wonder if you have made a wrong turn. All of a sudden you turn onto the DaySpring property and you are immediately transported back to Old Florida with live oaks, Spanish moss, and palmettos. Our Diocesan House is located on the right near the entrance. The minute my car enters DaySpring, a sense of peace envelops me. Our meeting is being held at the New Pavilion, which is really not that new (a modular building dating to 2001 – it was supposed to only last 10 years). Our agenda will include a presentation by Carla O’Dell, DaySpring Executive Director, outlining the exciting changes coming to pass very soon, along with an overview of future plans.
Scemetical Day
Reflection, Reconciliation & Renewal

St. Martin’s Episcopal Church
15301 US Highway 19
Hudson, Florida 34667

February 13, 2016
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sponsored by the
Faith Chapter of the
Daughters of the King

Doors open at 9:00 AM
Eucharist - 9:30 AM
The Very Reverend Douglas Scharf
Refreshments will be Served
Lenten Soup and Bread Lunch
Music provided by John Tinpanelli

Call Joyce Turner
To Register
352.200.8000
From the Desk of Sarah Hill . . .

Epiphany is the season of being on a journey. We are all on this journey together but our journeys are individual. We are always seeking meaning, working through changes in our lives and hoping to find the best path to follow. Every day brings a new challenge. We, too, are following a star and our goal is finding Jesus.

Soon it will be Ash Wednesday. Many churches will be burning the dried palms from last year and making new ashes to use this year. Altar Guilds have to adapt the sanctuary for a more simple, somber look and feel. You may use purple vestments and veils or a simpler Lenten array. Do you use pottery in place of silver? Plain candlesticks or maybe wrought iron? No flowers? Greenery or twigs? Each church will create something special for Lent.

This year the Chrism Mass will be held at the Cathedral on Thursday, February 11. That is the unique service where the Bishop consecrates the Holy Oils for use during the calendar year. The oils are then bottled. Half of the oil will be scented with Chrism -- the oil of balsam, which is used for baptisms and other festive occasions. The oil for anointing the sick or healing is left unscented. Extra-virgin olive oil is the only oil ever used.

Then, on March 5, we will have our annual meeting at DaySpring and it will be a gorgeous display of the creative talents found in our churches through their needlepoint. We hope you are busy photographing examples if you have kneelers or cushions or chair seats with all sorts of symbolism. If you can bring a smaller cushion or sample such as a pulpit fall, please do. Pictures may be mounted on a tri-fold board for display purposes (a nice size can be purchased at Dollar Tree). Be sure you have someone who can tell the story of how you got what you have, who designed them, who worked them and what you have in your church. We want to feature practical tips to share and talk about yarns and stitches too. Be in touch so we can plan adequate table space. You are responsible for your own story and display!!

Please contact me and help us put together the details of the program. We will all benefit from your input and go home inspired and appreciative of the beauty found throughout our diocese. I need to have all your interesting details soon so that we can include pertinent information in our program!

As summer approaches, please consider going to Kanuga for the Province IV meeting from June 6-9th. This year we should be able to enjoy the newly remodeled Inn. Our next three years will feature “Art in Worship” and this year we will start with current trends in vestments. Our speaker will be Marilyn Doyle who is well known nationally and at Kanuga for her workshops at Liturgical Arts.

Take time for a Quiet Day or something special for Lent. You deserve it!!!

Sarah Hill
Diocesan Directress

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Epiphany -- The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or “epiphanies,” of Jesus’ divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The western church commemorates the coming of the Magi on Jan. 6. The eastern church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord and the Wedding at Cana on Jan. 6. In the east the day was called “Theophany” (manifestation of God).

Lent -- Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ’s fasting in the wilderness. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. All Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP, p. 265).
CHURCHES AROUND THE DIOCESE . . .

St. Thomas Chapel
DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center
Parrish, Florida

The St. Thomas Chapel at DaySpring was originally built in 1914 as The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Safety Harbor, Florida. The architectural style is known as Carpenter Gothic, and was common in North America in the late nineteenth century for houses and small churches. These structures adapted Gothic elements such as pointed arches, steep gables, and towers to traditional American light-frame construction. The invention of the scroll saw and mass-produced wood moldings allowed a few of these structures to mimic the florid fenestration of the High Gothic, but in most cases, Carpenter Gothic buildings were relatively unadorned, retaining only the basic elements of pointed-arch windows and steep gables. Probably the best known example of Carpenter Gothic is the house in Eldon, Iowa, that Grant Wood used for the background of his famous painting *American Gothic*.

When the congregation of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church outgrew this church (seating 65), the Holy Spirit intervened to ensure its preservation. The building was transported to DaySpring in the middle of the night on January 20, 1988. It had to be moved in two pieces to clear the bridges on the 70 mile trek. A plaque in the chapel reads “Given to the glory of God by The Church of the Holy Spirit, Safety Harbor and in loving memory of Thomas N. Fluharty by the gifts of his friends and family. Dedicated June 12, 1988.”

Here is the story as told by Steve Fluharty (member of St. John’s, Tampa), son of Thomas N. Fluharty:

“After my father died in 1978, our family decided to donate some funds to the Diocese for a Chapel at DaySpring. At that time DaySpring was in its infancy. The donation was made with the caveat that when a Chapel was built it would be named St. Thomas in memory of my father Thomas.

Several years passed and in October 1983 we asked the third year architectural design students from the University of Florida to come to DaySpring. They split up into about five groups and were asked to design a Chapel that fit into the surroundings. There were about 125 students involved and the designs were both rustic and futuristic. We made it interesting by offer a cash prize for the group that was selected for the best design. It was a very interesting exercise, but it was never the intent that the Diocese would build the selected design and I am glad they didn’t. In 1988, someone mentioned that the Carpenter Gothic church in Safety Harbor was no longer being used as a worship space. The Diocese decided it was a perfect fit for DaySpring, and the rest is history.”

Steve’s sister, Susan Fluharty Regan, is on the Altar Guild at St. Peter’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg with Sarah Hill. His son was married at St. Thomas Chapel, and his granddaughter was Christened there. What a wonderful family connection between the Fluharty family and DaySpring!

St. Thomas Chapel has been in use at DaySpring since 1988 for prayer, meditation, and worship services. Groups wishing to use the chapel for a service need to schedule it with Jackie Simmons, Reservations Director at DaySpring. DaySpring will provide wine and wafers upon request, or the group’s priest can bring the elements. As there is no
congregation at DaySpring, the Diocesan Altar Guild “adopted” St. Thomas Chapel to serve as its altar guild. In addition to seeing that everything is clean and organized and ready for the celebration of Eucharist, several years ago the DAG paid for the installation of a water heater and shelves in the sacristy. We are lucky to have Evelyn Fudge of nearby Parrish as the Chapel Coordinator.

**NOTE:** Evelyn and her husband spend their summers up north, so if anyone else who lives close to DaySpring would like to volunteer to help in the summer, please tell Evelyn or Sarah Hill. They will be delighted to “teach you the ropes” of the DaySpring sacristy.

**HELPFUL PRODUCTS:** The DAG does not “endorse” any company, but we do try to provide information on sources for supplies needed by all altar guilds.

**Metal Polishes:**

*From Carol Eaton* - I brought MAAS metal polish with me from England but you can get it mail order at online at [www.maasinc.com](http://www.maasinc.com). It certainly has worked wonders on our very old paschal candlestick -- I'm sorry we paid over $300 to have the other one re-brassed before I tried this stuff.

*From Bette Mody & Julie Boyd* – Another great product is Met-All Brass and Copper Polish from Met-All Industries, Canal Fulton, OH 44614. Their Silver & Pewter Polish is also powerful. [www.met-all.com](http://www.met-all.com).

**Fabric:**
- Jay’s Fabric Center, 801 Pasadena Avenue South, St. Petersburg FL 33707, (727) 381-6600; [www.jaysfabriccenter.com](http://www.jaysfabriccenter.com).
- Boca Bargoons, [www.bocabargoos.com](http://www.bocabargoos.com),
  1029 E Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL 33604, (813) 238-9515
  3645 Fowler St, Fort Myers, FL 33901, (239) 274-0000

**Soaps:**
Pear's Soap, Palmolive or Dawn all work well removing lipstick. If you can’t find Pear’s locally, it is available through [www.vermontcountrystore.com](http://www.vermontcountrystore.com).

**NEWS FROM THE DAG BOARD**

We are pleased to introduce a new Altar Guild Directress for the Clearwater Deanery. Here is Carol’s story:

*My name is Carol Eaton and I was born and brought up in England. I have moved house about 24 times during my nearly 70 years so know most corners of England which although small, is a beautiful and diverse country with so much history around every corner. My married son and my sister live near me in Northamptonshire but thank goodness for skype which keeps us in touch all year.*

*Here I am a snowbird arriving in November and leaving in April. My late husband and I bought our house in Pasco County in 1997 needing a warmer climate for the winters. Unfortunately he went home to God only a few short months later. The plan was always that I would carry on living here, and I was fortunate to walk into St Martin’s Church in Hudson searching for a spiritual home. I was welcomed with open arms and quickly realised this was the right place for me. I was soon asked to serve on the Altar Guild, and became involved using my sewing skills in making new altar hangings and fair linens for our sacristy. Three years ago the current AG Director retired so I stepped up to the job which has now led me to my new role as Deanery Director for Clearwater and making many more new friends. Looking forward to meeting you at the Annual Meeting!*

**NOTE:** Now we just need someone from Manasota, St. Petersburg, and Venice to represent their Deaneries!
DATES TO REMEMBER:

SAT., Feb. 13, 2016
**ECUMENICAL DAY OF REFLECTION**
St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Hudson, FL
(See flyer on Page 2)

FEB. 13-19, 2016
**ICONOGRAPHY with SUZANNE SCHLECK**
Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville NC
Experience the compelling practice of painting an icon using techniques developed before the year 1000 AD. Instructor Suzanne Schleck guides you through a week of art and prayer. She has studied iconography for more than 20 years and welcomes experienced artists as well as beginners. Days begin with an early morning Eucharist followed by an anointing of hands in the studio. Noonday prayers are said before lunch and each day ends with evening prayer in Kanuga’s Chapel of the Transfiguration. Space is limited to 30 participants.

SAT. MARCH 5, 2016
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD**
Dayspring Conference Center, Parrish FL
(See Page 1)

SUN. MARCH 10, 2016
**10th ANNUAL SPRING TEA**
St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church
St. Petersburg FL
Additional information will be forthcoming!

MON. JUNE 06 to THURS. JUNE 09, 2016
**Province IV Altar Guild Conference**
Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville NC

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

If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas, there are plenty of (unpaid) opportunities for you! Deanery Directors are members of the DAG Board and are encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings at DaySpring. 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 interested, contact Sarah at (727) 525-8340.

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."

DAG OFFICERS & BOARD

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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VACANT: Deanery Directors for the Manasota, St. Petersburg, and Venice areas.

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

‘ALTARGRAM’
The ‘Altargram’ 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@outlook.com

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