Sacristy Sense

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023 **A publication of the Province IV Altar Guild**

Give me an open mind, O God, a mind ready to receive and to welcome such new light of knowledge as it is Thy will to reveal to me. Let not the past ever be so dear to me as to set a limit to the future. Give me courage to change my mind when that is needed. Let me be tolerant to the thoughts of others and hospitable to such light as may come to me through them. Amen.

By John Baillie, published in the New Altar Guild Book by Barbara Gent and Betty Sturges

PROV IV Hits the Road

The Province IV Altar Guild was organized in June 1987 and has weathered much change since then. I was going through some documents left to me by a former President and found the Province IV Altar Guild page you will see later. The second article in our Purpose Statement is "To bring into communion the altar guilds of Province IV…." In wondering what direction I should take to accomplish this, it became clear that we must grow our membership. I believe a good way to start this is to move our annual meetings throughout the Province so that more people can attend our conference. We have many fine Episcopal conference centers in our Province and we have a communication expert to support hybrid meetings via Zoom for those who choose not to travel. Looking ahead to the future, our annual meetings in 2025 and 2026 need a home.

For 2025 we are looking to Louisiana or Alabama as a meeting location. Sadly, the Gray Center in Mississippi is closed. I would welcome your suggestions for other sites within the Province. For 2026 we propose Kentucky or Tennessee. If you have a favorite venue in one of those states, please let me know so we can start the planning.

Province IV will not gather as a group in 2024. Our bylaws state we will support the General Convention and have a presence at the Triennial each time it meets. The next gathering of the General Convention is in 2024 in Louisville, KY. As your representative with the National Altar Guild, I will be sending information about this to you as soon as it is available to me. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a large presence at the Triennial? It will be, after all, in our Province in 2024! In the years the Triennial isn't convening, the Province IV conference normally meets in the first week of June with registration on Sunday evening and departure after breakfast the following Wednesday. However, we would prefer to not coincide with ECW's annual meeting so that members of both can possibly attend both.

With the help of the twenty dioceses in our Province, I have begun to gather contact information for their larger churches. Some of you have received this newsletter as a result of this ongoing effort.

I would welcome any help you can give to support our purpose. I know that many dioceses have very active convocations or deaneries with the depth of knowledge to help us support the Province. Please let me hear from you.

And always, Blessings to you my dear fellow altar guild members.

Phyllis Bruce, President

Province IV of the Episcopal Church
Province of Sewanee

ANNUAL PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD MEETING AT KANUGA

Report by Kathy Shearer, PROV IV Secretary

The Province IV Altar Guild 26th Annual Meeting and Conference was held June 4th - 7th at Kanuga Conference Center, a pastoral setting in the mountains of Hendersonville, NC. The conference began with a Eucharist service in the Chapel of Transformation and ended with a final Eucharist service including the installation of officers and a blessing of hands. Each morning we had a prayer service in view of the white cross nestled in the woods overlooking the lake.

The theme of ***Making Things New Again II***, was presented on Monday by our Chaplain, the Reverend Chip Broadfoot, rector of the Church of the Transformation in Saluda, North Carolina. Rev Chip opened with the comments that our altar guild vocabulary needs to change from use of the words such as "having a duty, completing tasks, and working" to "having a ministry". The altar guild ministry is a "godly mission for all of us." As we prepare the Lord's table it is a time of loving awareness, joy, and spiritual reflection, and when approached with a faithful heart, God is always there with us. "God makes all things new again."

Lively discussion ensued as we broke up into small groups to share experiences based upon questions Rev Chip asked us to discuss and then shared them with the entire group. Rev Chip asked, "Is God asking you to change in any way? Can we make our experiences serving on the altar guild more holy? Can our calling to serve empower us to help God make all things new again?" Rev Chip concluded that, "empowered by the Holy Spirit we can serve with faith, courage, and humility." and "we can become vessels and transform the world around us with one act of love at a time."

On Tuesday morning, Stuart Ibberson from Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Alabama, led the workshop ***Subject to Change…Why do we need an Altar Guild Manual?*** Stuart emphasized that a manual is essential for educating, training, and performance of our responsibilities for the altar guild in each church. Each church has its own way of dealing with its duties and should have its own manual. He covered many aspects of a manual's construction and editing. He also emphasized that captioned pictures are worth a thousand words, and manual organization should include the regular, special and seasonal services. Programs such as Microsoft Word and Publisher are commonly used and can enable proofreading multiple times by different people. It is also important for at least one other person to have access to the files. And lastly, realize that your manual is an evolving document...it is subject to change…by your present priest or your new priest or your director/directress.

Tuesday afternoon, Cheryl Burgoon, from Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Alabama, led a Make and Take Workshop about **linens and embroidery**. Cheryl shared her love of sewing and embroidery which she nurtured making beautiful dresses for her five daughters. She has transferred that love to the creating of beautiful fair linens for her church, which she displayed for us. Cheryl shared the following tips regarding linens: If you create your own fair linens or credence linens, use medium linen available from Almy and a large spool of 100% cotton German thread available from JoAnn Fabrics. She advised to roll linens wrapped in acid-free tissue paper on hard rolls and store them in individual 100% cotton muslin bags. For the final portion of Cheryl's workshop, she provided a complete kit for each of us to embroider a shadow cross similar to the ones she had embroidered on one of the fair linens she made in memory of her daughter, which she displayed for us. The attendees, women **and men**, enjoyed creating a beautiful cross which they could take home.

During the conference we also had time to chat and share stories at the welcoming reception, at mealtimes, and at the annual ice cream social. The Province VI Annual Conference is open to all altar guild members and is a wonderful opportunity to meet and share experiences with other altar guild members, to attend educational presentations, and to be inspired about our ministry.

Greetings and Peace to all,

I was given the incredible opportunity to speak and teach about our precious linens this summer at Province IV. I did not know what to expect!

I had heard of deconsecrating and burning linens and this was my first witness to this heartbreaking ritual. While being in attendance, through tears, I had an epiphany of what to do with these deconsecrated linens. I hope to eradicate this form of disposal!

I have a beautiful friend who asked me to help make funeral gowns for newborns. I was devastated because I lost a child, although not a newborn. I could not find the strength to participate.

However, my epiphany was to donate these linens to the beautiful people who provide this ministry. I donated the first lot and they were very grateful. They usually use old wedding gowns. How precious is that?! How precious to use linens that were used in communion with God!

I hope you, too, will find an organization like this for your deconsecrated linens!

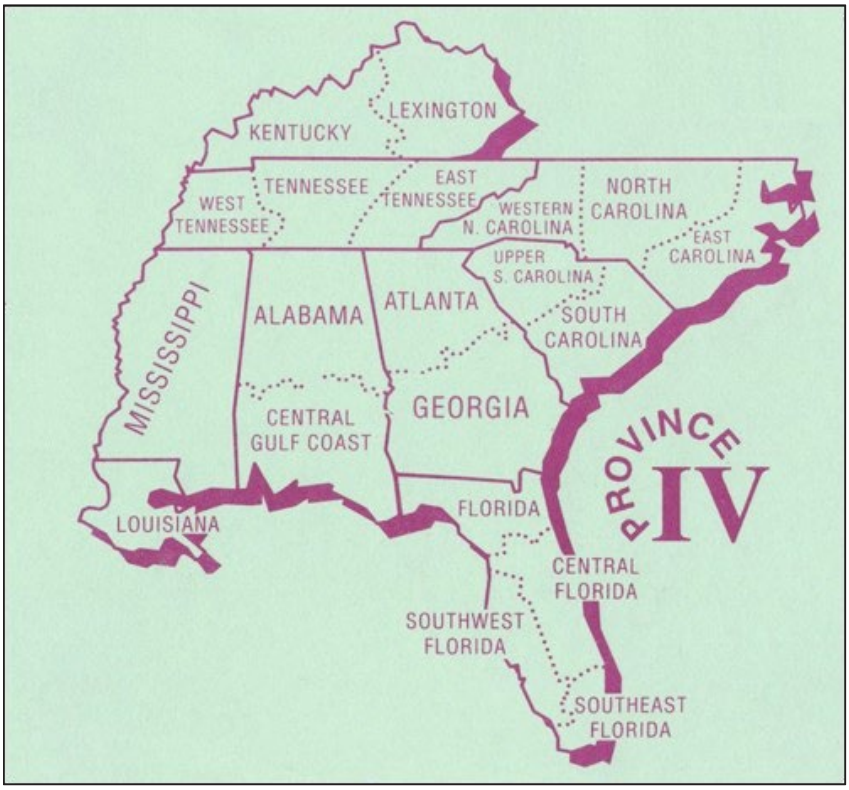
Love in Christ,

Cheryl Burgoon
Dothan, AL



Teresa's Facebook page
Sweet Child of Mine
non-profit
bereavement gowns for infants
hospital and clergy
Greetings and Peace to all,
https://www.facebook.com/SweetChildofMineMinistry

President's note: Please take a few minutes to look at Teresa's page. This could be a fine ministry for us or for your local groups. Or perhaps you'd like to join the group yourself.



PURPOSE

- To encourage and assist in the organization of diocesan altar guilds and to strengthen the work of parish and mission altar guilds with Province IV.
- To bring into communion the altar guilds of Province IV, encouraging and deepening the spiritual life of their members in order that their public worship to Almighty God in His church may be offered in the beauty of holiness for the extension of His kingdom.
- To foster education programs throughout Province IV and to sponsor an annual conference and workshop.
- To serve as a communicator between the National Altar Guild Association and the membership of the Province IV Altar Guilds.

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING
KANUGA INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023

In the absence of President Martha Noble, the 26th annual meeting was called to order at 1:24 by Vice-President Dianne Walters.

All participants had received a copy of the minutes of the 2022 meeting. Lynn Hendricks moved the minutes be approved as presented, the motion was seconded by Cheryl Burgoon. The minutes were approved unanimously.

All participants had received a copy of the 2022 Treasurer's report. Phyllis Bruce reported that we owed Kanuga additional funds to clear our bill in 2022. She considers it a measure of Kanuga's policy of charging for services rendered, and long overdue. The NAGA fund for the travel of the President was increased from $2,000 to $3,500 following a review of historical documents that stated $250 of a SYNOD subsidy would be placed in the NAGA Fund. The NAGA fund was not reflecting the increases. There was some discussion about the purpose of the Betty Knowlton fund and no clear understanding of how it was to be used. Betty Knowlton was the first Treasurer of PROV IV. Phyllis stated she has several boxes of files from Ann McCormick and will see if they shed some light. Rebecca Taylor moved the Treasurer's report be accepted; motion seconded by Cheryl Burgoon. The Treasurer's report was approved and will be filed for audit.

OLD BUSINESS

There was wide acceptance by voting members, of moving the 2023 meeting to another location, possibly in north Alabama. After researching the viability of moving to another location within the province, the board agreed that Kanuga was the most reasonable in cost and accessibility at this time.

We were reminded that the Triennial meeting will be in Louisville, KY in 2024. Per the by-laws, PROV IV Altar Guild does not meet in the same year. Instead, we focus on attending the Triennial and will urge all our members to do the same.

NEW BUSINESS

As the host province for the Triennial, members of PROV IV Altar Guild will be called to help the local churches in any way possible.

In 2025, we will try to not meet the same week as ECW so that members who are in both can attend both. With two years to plan we may be able to find a suitable location other than Kanuga. A forthcoming newsletter will request help from the membership to find a location.

Members present voted to give our love offering in 2023 to the Pop-up Pantry, an outreach of the Church of the Transformation.

Lynn Hendricks represented the Nominating Committee, also composed of Dianne Walters and Peggy Curlin. She presented the proposed slate of officers which had been submitted to the membership in the fall newsletter as required by the bylaws. Phyllis Bruce for President, Joyce Edwards for Vice-President, Jay Walters for Treasurer, and Kathy Shearer for Secretary for the years 2024 thru 2026. There were no nominations from the floor and those present voted unanimously for the slate.

Vice-President Dianne Walters adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Bruce from the recording.

BOARD MEMBERS
JUNE 2023 – JUNE 2026

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I was born Roman Catholic, joined the Presbyterian Church for a few years, and then was happily received at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne, AL in 1999. I've been so blessed to be a member of this community and have served with the kitchen crew, vestry, choir, and Family Promise. A dear friend asked me to help her iron the fair linen in 2009 and I've been hooked ever since. Thack Dyson, my priest, asked me to become head of the altar guild and to attend the PROV IV meeting in 2013. So here I am. I have served PROV IV as Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary over the last eight years. I will be your President until a new board takes office in June 2026.

I met Jere Bruce while working at the Naval Air Station in my hometown of Jacksonville, FL and we were married from 1972 until his death from Alzheimer's Disease in 2010. I have two children and two grandchildren, and my fondest wish came true this year when my daughter and her family moved to Daphne, AL, just 15 minutes away. I began my working career as a clerk-typist but took a thirteen-year hiatus when my son was born and returned to the working world in 1986. I began my second career as a clerk typist with the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired in 2008 as a budget analyst.

I've indulged my love of music and traveling since my retirement and have been to Australia and various countries in Europe, even on a European tour with the Alabama Ambassadors of Music. Closer to home, I visit my large family in Texas and Florida and friends all over the country. At home I tend a small pond, grow vegetables in my front yard year-round, sing with two choirs, and go down rabbit holes on YouTube.

Phyllis Bruce, President
August 2023



The Baptist Church was my home as a child. My introduction and love of liturgy and The Episcopal Church began in 1971 in Dyersburg, Tennessee. There was a learning curve as I learned to navigate a prayer book and become familiar with church seasons and different colors for each. As I became familiar with the prayer book worship, I became interested in other aspects of church workings. ECW and Altar Guilds became an interest. Now Daughters of the King is a helpful focus within the church. I have served as president of DOK, been a member of vestries, taught formation classes and love being a reader and LEM. In 2006, I finished a two-year Spiritual Direction formation course at Stillpoint in Nashville, TN.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) has occupied much of my time the last 25 years, first as a member, then group leader, and Shepherd Leader. I love gardening, both flowers and vegetables. Renovation of our 130-year-old house has been a delightful and taxing adventure for the last 30 years. Now with the retirement of my husband, Frank, first from a 25-year career in the military and then 25 more working for the State of Tennessee, we have time for travel to near and distant places. Image Essentials is my small business that keeps me busy with clients.

We have 4 children who are very much adults with those precious grandchildren and now we have great grandchildren who live about a mile from us. What a blessing!

I look forward to serving as Vice President of Providence IV Altar Guild until June 2026.

Joyce Edwards, Vice-President
July 2023

SHOUT OUT

A huge Thank you to the Diocese of Mississippi Altar Guild Chair Lee Aylward and Coast Convocation Rep Ron Hudgens who gave me such a warm welcome. You guys rock!

Ron invited me to attend the convocation meeting at St. Mark's in Gulfport and asked me to talk about PROV IV, which I was delighted to do. The Rev. Clélie McCandless wrote a Eucharist for us, as it was Mary and Martha's Feast Day, and the ladies of the church fixed a very nice luncheon. It was a really good program, and I was especially excited to learn about the Supply Closet that is maintained in Jackson, MS. I look forward to hearing more about it from Harvey Smith.



I was raised in Illinois and grew up in the United Church of Christ. In 1969 I accepted a teaching position in Miami, FL where I met and married my husband, Scott. Scott, our two children, and I moved to the Orlando area in 1976 where we still reside. Scott and I joined St. Michael's Episcopal Church in 1999 and I became a member of St. Anne's Altar Guild at St. Michael's in 2001.

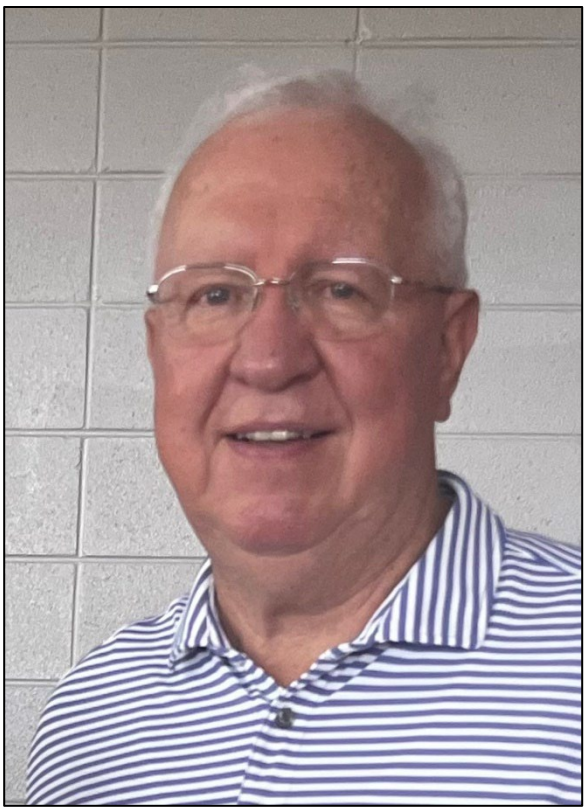
Sally Scott, Past Directress, recruited me for altar guild. After a year of service, I asked her, "How long is the term for altar guild members?" She laughed and replied, "Did I forget to tell you… it's for life!" I have joyfully served this ministry for 22 years, serving as a team leader for 14 years and as Directress for 3 years. After the passing of a long-time Diocesan Board member from our church in 2012, Suzie Lore recruited me to be a representative for the Central Deanery on the DAG Board. Between 2012 and 2014, we lost many members of our DAG Board and in 2014 Suzie Lore recruited me to be her Co - Directress/President of the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Board. We worked diligently communicating with directresses of all the churches in the five Deaneries in our Diocese to resurrect an active and functioning diocesan altar guild board. From 2015 to 2019, I served as President/Directress of a very active board as we continued to grow and offer educational offerings at our annual meetings/conferences to over 100 attendees each year except during 2021 and 2022 due to COVID. Additionally, we provided for the altars at the Diocesan Chapel, the two chapels at Canterbury, the chapel at Camp Wingmann and the Eucharist at the Annual Diocesan Convention.

My first introduction to Province IV was when I represented our Diocesan Board at the Province IV Conference at Kanuga in June of 2014 and I have represented our board at least 4 more times since then. I have accepted the position of secretary of Province IV and look forward to working with the officers in planning future conferences.

Outside of church, I have been a State Certified General Appraiser for 39 years in the Greater Orlando area. In addition, until COVID, for 11 years I had been a substitute for teachers and para-professionals of special needs children at two elementary schools and one high school. We have two children. Our daughter Jennifer lives in Orlando and our son Scott, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, and grandson live in Plantation, FL.

My husband and I love to travel and now that we are retired, we plan to travel more.

Kathy Shearer, Secretary
July 2023



Allow me to introduce myself, I am Jay Walters from Enterprise, Alabama. I attend the Church of the Nativity, Dothan, Alabama. Am recently retired from practicing dentistry for forty-seven years. Have been involved in Altar Guild, with my wife Dianne for some forty years. Yes, I have even ironed a "fair linen." I am looking forward to working with the fine people of Province IV Altar Guild as your Treasurer.

Jay Walters, Treasurer
July 2023



Province IV needs your support. Please consider joining us. Membership applications for 2024 will be sent in the next newsletter.

Your input for locations in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee would be much appreciated. We truly want you to be part of our community.

NECROLOGY LIST
IN MEMORY OF ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
February 2020 – February 2023

CHRIST CHURCH – LONGWOOD ..... Marjorie Mais

CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH – ORLANDO ..... Debbie Donaldson

CHURCH OF ST LUKE & ST PETER – SAINT CLOUD ..... Emma Wheeler

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD – MAITLAND ..... Peggy Schultz

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH – FRUITLAND PARK ..... Susy Brown

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH – MELBOURNE ..... Dolores Faughnan
June Golder
JoEllen Johnson
Leila Seabold
Phyllis Woodford

ST EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – MOUNT DORA ..... Nell Green

ST GEORGE EPISCOPAL CHURCH – THE VILLAGES ..... Deborah Ruhsenberger
Margaret Squire

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – MELBOURNE ..... Hope Johnson

ST JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – ORANGE CITY ..... Corrine Timko

ST MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – ORLANDO ..... Carolyn "Rusty" Abdalla

ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – ORLANDO ..... Lucy Bowers
Jane Leighton
Robin Murphy

ST PAUL'S CHURCH – WINTER HAVEN ..... Lester Collier
Eileen Race
Bev Schnaitman

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST LUKE – ORLANDO ..... Nancy McCalister

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT – DUNNELLON ..... Barbara Spencer