



*The Rt Rev
Justin S. Holcomb
Diocese of Central
Florida*

Diocesan Board: See Page 5 for Board Member contact information.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA MILLER:

Message from President Barbara Miller

Is it still hot outside? Whew!! As we are finishing up the summer months, I am looking forward to some cooler weather! As we are approaching September, I have already scheduled activities for my Altar Guild team at St. George in The Villages.

Our Altar Guild Schedule is now complete for September through November and we will move back to having four services each week. We have completed an analysis of our service attendance to have plenty of prepared intincted wafers available each week. We are now doing wafer preparation every 4 weeks ahead. We now have a wafer intinction group that manages the process. At the start of the summer, we started a floral ministry by utilizing the flowers given to the church for the weekend. We try to have at least 2 to 3 bouquets available for those members who are in the hospital or in assisted living. This has worked well and it is the intent to open this up to members in the congregation who would like to assist and help deliver these to members who are ill or just need a visit from St. George.

We will have our quarterly team meeting in early September. We will be reviewing Altar, Credence, and Element table setups. I am pleased to announce that we have been able to recruit 2 new members from the church Altar Guild. The church hosts a new member event in a private home periodically and it gives the new members a chance to ask questions about what goes on within the church and how to participate in different activities. Following our meeting, we will have a luncheon together for all to meet one another.

In October, we will be going through the linens and frontals as we did in the summer, but this time pulling them for storage if they had not been used. We will be meeting again in early November to review our Christmas decorations, assessing what might need to be replaced and reviewing the Advent Calendar for the season. One thing we will need to be prepared for is that December 24th comes on a Sunday this year, so we will need to be prepared for some efficient decorating after the Sunday morning service in time for the Christmas Eve services.

Lastly, I hope everyone has received their copy of the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) **EPISTLE** for Summer 2023. Also, we have just sent out to the teams the Summer 2023 Newsletter Edition of **Sacristy Sense**. Both are excellent reading for every member in your Altar Guild!!

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 2024 – Annual Central FL Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting – date to be determined; hosted by the Northwest Deanery at St George Episcopal Church, The Villages

Summer 2024 – Watch for future news on Province IV and National Altar Guild Association meetings

Action Reminders:

Review the NAGA Spring 2023, EPISTLE; Check out the Scottish Bread recipe on page 3, Rev. Kelsey Hogue from Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Broomfield, Colorado. It is something I think we might try for one of our weekly daytime services. I used to be with a church where we did make bread occasionally for a weekday service.

Review the Sacristy Sense Province IV Altar Guild Newsletter, Summer 2023. Thank you, Kathy Shearer for the excellent recap of the annual meeting! I encourage everyone to take a moment and read her article. And congratulations, Kathy, as she is the new Secretary for the Province IV Altar Guild Board.

Thanks, Everyone!! Barbara

HOLY TRINITY – MELBOURNE – HOLDS ALTAR GUILD MEETING ON 29 JULY 2023

By Judy Henderson, Holy Trinity, Melbourne

For the first time since February 2020, Holy Trinity, Melbourne, held an Altar Guild Meeting on 29 July 2023, which included our Flower Guild, Wedding Guild, Linen Guild, and Celebratory Guild members (those who rearrange the flowers from the Altar into small arrangements and deliver these arrangements to parishioners who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, as well as to sick and shut-ins). In the 3+ years since our last meeting, many things have changed. We have recruited many new members and have added an additional team to our Altar Guild. We have also changed our schedule so that each team serves one week at a time, Monday through Sunday. Two weeks of the year are designated “all teams on duty” – the week that includes Christmas Eve, and the week from the day after Palm Sunday through Easter. We have even recruited one of our priests to serve on a team – Fr. Bob Bruckart, who is also our Associate Priest in Charge.



Sharon Jones, Susan Mann, Sean DuBois, Kerry Grant, Beverly Larm, Eloise Evans, Sandy Stone, Jackie Menzel, Kay Ives, Anne Brown, Dawn Kiefer, Margo Angleton, Lanney McNally, Becky Crews, Maria Balseiro, Lanney McNally, Becky Crews, Maria Balseiro, Chloe, Jeannette Russell, Anna Bourne, Fr Bob Bruckart, Linda Leone, Joan Snead, and Al Merritt



Al Merritt, Judy Henderson, & Sean Dubois

Our luncheon included pizza, salad, crackers and cheese, and very appetizing desserts – a cake to celebrate the birthdays of two of our members, as well as ice cream with all the trimmings (a charcuterie board of fresh fruits (bananas, blueberries, and strawberries), various ice cream syrup, nuts, Redi Whip, and cherries).

At Holy Trinity, we always use our annual meeting to encourage members to contribute to the Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG) “Love Offering.” This year, we collected over \$200 to help support the Bishop’s Oratory, the two altars at Canterbury, and the Camp Wingmann altar. The “love offering” also helps offset the expenses of our annual meeting and helps pay for our DAG representative to attend the annual Province IV meeting and the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) meeting every three years.

This year, we offered some training at our meeting: One workshop was on how to launder linens and stretch them out on the counter to dry, as well as how to fold corporals, purificators, and lavabo towels. We’re fortunate to have counter space in our Sacristy to stretch the linens out to dry after each church service, so no one must take them home. Another workshop was presented on how to replace the wick in our oil Aumbry Candle.

We also recognized several members who pitch in to cover special projects (intincting wafers with wine and placing them in sealed bags, cleaning after the mid-week service each week by a member even when her team is not on duty, laundering the large altar linens, helping with special cleaning on Good Friday, etc). We all gave a big hand to our "youngest" member, granddaughter of Margo Angleton, one of our Altar Guild team leaders; Chloe is only 15 years old, but she has been helping with Altar Guild since she was just 5 years old.

ANNUAL PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD MEETING AT KANUGA, HENDERSNVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

By Kathy Shearer, Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Representative, Central Deanery

The Annual Meeting of the Province IV Altar Guild was held June 4 – 7, 2023, at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Jane Williams, Scott Shearer and I represented the state of Florida while other altar guild members represented Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. 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 laying on of hands ceremony.

The theme of *Making Things New Again, II*, was presented by the Conference Chaplain and keynote speaker, the Reverend Chip Broadfoot, rector of the Church of the Transformation in Saluda, NC. 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, completing an act of worship, a meaningful offering which provides fulfillment and peace to oneself as well as our clergy and our congregations." 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."



*See list of attendees, below

Stuart Ibberson from Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Alabama led the Tuesday workshop, *Subject to Change...Why do we need an Altar Guild Manual?* Stuart explained that a manual is essential for educating, training, and performance of our responsibilities in the altar guild ministry in each individual church.

Also, on Tuesday, Cheryl Burgoon, from Church of the Nativity in Dothan, AL, led the workshop about *Linens and Make & Take 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 enhancing beautiful fair linens for her church, with embroidered crosses. Cheryl provided a complete kit containing a piece of linen, a small loom, needle, thread, scissors, and a pattern for each of us to embroider a shadow cross similar to the ones she had embroidered on one of the fair linens she made to the glory of God in memory of her daughter. The attendees, women as well as men, enjoyed creating a beautiful cross which they could take home.

Mealtimes and the traditional Province IV ice cream social provided lots of opportunities for attendees to get to know each other and to learn from others. The Province IV Annual Conference is open to all altar guild members within the Province. Watch for more information and pictures in the Province IV **SACRISTY SENSE**, and the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) **EPISTLE**.

*List of Attendees: Top to bottom, left to right:

Row 1: Scott Shearer and Jay Walters

Row 2: Pete Hendricks - Frank Edwards - Cheryl Burgoon – Justin Lovelace

Row 3: Joyce Edwards – Stuart Ibberson - Jane Williams

Row 4: Kathy Shearer - Phyllis Bruce - Phyllis Means

Row 5: Dianne Walters - Peggy Curlin – Varian Hunt - Lynn Hendricks

DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (DAG) BOARD ASSISTS WITH BISHOP JUSTIN S. HOLCOMB'S ORDINATION AND CONSECRATION:

When The Rt. Rev. Justin S. Holcomb was ordained and consecrated on 10 June 2023 at Calvary Assembly in Orlando, FL, the DAG Board and Central Florida altar guild members played a major part in preparing and cleaning up the Eucharist for about 2,000 people.

Much preparation was needed to ensure Calvary Assembly was transformed into a setting that resembled an Episcopal Church, with an altar adorned with paraments and essential items for the service.



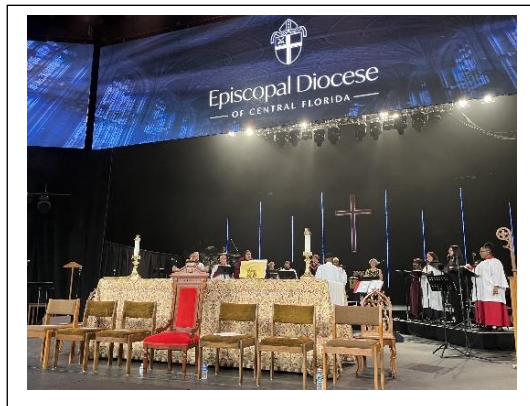
Kathy Shearer, DAG Board Past-President, met with the Diocesan office to determine what would be needed for the altar and Eucharist. The altar and altar items (the Jacobean frontal, the fair linen, the brass candlesticks, and the brass stand) were provided by the Cathedral of St Luke in Orlando.

Kathy Shearer met with Deacon Rose Sapp-Bax, to determine the number of chalices, wafer dishes, wine cruets, wine, wafers, and stations needed. Kathy researched and ordered or purchased items that were not readily available.



DAG Board members (Kathy Shearer, Barbara Miller, and Alex Rockefeller) and Kathy Tyndal, Co-Director of the Cathedral Altar Guild, met on Friday to set up the altar and to prepare the credence table as much as possible (chalices, wine cruets, wafer dishes and linens were added, and wafers were put into sealed bags for each station) to make the Saturday morning setup easier. On Saturday, Kathy, Barbara, Alex, and Kathy met to pour the wine into cruets, place the wafers into the wafer dishes, and organize the credence table so that everything would be ready for the arrival of those attending the joyous event. After the service, these same ladies, with the help of other Diocesan altar guild members, stayed after the service to clean up and prepare the items to be returned to their rightful home. As some of these items were purchased especially for a large gathering, they will be stored at the Diocesan House for future use, as needed.

When changes are made at our home church services, altar guild members sometimes feel a little overwhelmed, but setting up quickly for a service for 2,000 people shows what can be done when a team comes together. It was a beautiful service and the Eucharist went off without a hitch.



DAG CHAPLAIN, MOTHER MICHELLE ROACH, IS MOVING TO NORTH CAROLINA

We were notified by Rev. Michelle Roach, our DAG Chaplain, that she has been appointed, as of 1 August 2023, as Rector to Redeemer Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, within the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. We wish Mother Michelle all the best and thank her for her service to the Diocese of Central Florida Altar Guild. If you would like to send her a note, you can by email: rmichellemona@gmail.com.

We have been in contact with the CF Diocese, and a new chaplain will be assigned to us.

NECROLOGY LIST

St George – The Villages – Juanita Mander - Altar Guild and Flower Guild

DUES AND LOVE OFFERING

To all who have submitted their dues and love offering, THANK YOU for supporting the Diocesan Altar Guild. Dues are due in February each year, but it's never too late to submit your annual donations. Diocesan Altar Guild dues are \$10 for churches or \$5 for missions.

Please be sure to make the check payable to Diocese of Central Florida, Inc., with a Memo "For Diocesan Altar Guild Dues and Love Offering." (Please do not make checks payable to Cyndy Berry.)

It is preferred that you mail the check to Cyndy Berry so that she has your contact information (and then she can properly credit your church with the payment). However, if you (or your church office) sends the check directly to the Diocesan Office in Orlando, please let Cyndy know, by Email or text, the amount of the check (\$ amount for dues and \$ amount for Love Offering) as well as your contact information – Church, City, Directress/Director, Phone, and Email. For those who provide an Email address, Cyndy will send an acknowledgement by Email. Cyndy's contact information is: **Cyndy Berry, DAG Treasurer, 4201 Limerick Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859. Cell: 203-215-0125; Home: 863-875-7043; Email: cyndy.berry@usa.net**

CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (DAG) BOARD:

- President: Barbara Miller – 214-773-3464 – barb.miller@earthlink.net
- Vice President – Alex Rockefeller - 321-783-6643 - ayrock70@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor: Judy Henderson - Home 321-327-3175; Cell 321-536-3965 – jem2415@earthlink.net
- Secretary: Betsy Watson - Home 863-688-2162; Cell 863-670-1602 – eswatson917@aol.com
- Treasurer: Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net
- Chaplain: (vacant)
- **Central Deanery:**
 - Kathy Shearer – Cell 407-230-4350 – wwdassoc@gmail.com – Immediate Past President
 - Eve Hyatt – Home/Work 407-880-3416 – samias@aol.com
 - Beth Hyatt - Home 407-884-6058 – Cell 407-252-4934 – es23hyatt@gmail.com
- **Northeast Deanery:**
 - Judy Valk – Home 386-960-7413 – judyjvk@gmail.com
 - **WE COULD REALLY USE ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OR TWO FROM THE NORTHEAST DEANERY**
 - **want to volunteer?** Contact Barbara Miller, President of DAG Board (see contact information, above)
- **Northwest Deanery:**
 - Dianne Casson – Home 352-787-0508 – Cell 352-255-5444 – dcasson@embarqmail.com
 - Lynn Johns – Cell 305-240-0163 – ljohns1@comcast.net
 - Barbara Miller - 214-773-3464 - barb.miller@earthlink.net
- **Southeast Deanery:**
 - Judy Henderson - Home 321-327-3175; Cell 321-536-3965 – jem2415@earthlink.net
 - Alex Rockefeller - 321-783-6643 - ayrock70@gmail.com
- **Southwest Deanery:**
 - Betty Seckinger - Cell 863-221-4103 – bettyboop100100@gmail.com
 - Betsy Watson - Home 863-688-2162; Cell 863-670-1602 – eswatson917@aol.com
 - Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net