



LOVE

DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ALTAR GUILD DAG NEWSLETTER

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

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA MILLER:

Hi, everyone! Here we are in the midst of Fall with Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner! Looking ahead, I really want the holidays to be great this year for everyone on the St. George Episcopal Church Altar Guild team. For my Altar Guild team, we will be grouping together prior to Thanksgiving for scheduling, reviewing of all the altar guild events, reviewing holiday decorating and special requirements for the season.

To start with, we list up the following liturgical services and holidays ahead:

- All Saints Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christ the King Sunday
- First Sunday of Advent
- Second Sunday of Advent
- Third Sunday of Advent
- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Christmas Eve Service
- Christmas Day Service

Each of the liturgical services has something that varies one from the other. All Saints Day will be an All-Saints Weekend incorporating our Thursday 10:00 AM service. One thing that we really will have to plan for is Christmas Eve day, with regular services in the morning, followed by Christmas decorating in time for the Christmas Eve services later that afternoon and evening, followed by a Christmas Day service! Something we instituted years ago for the decorating was tagging each tree, wreath, or holiday decoration by location. This one step has been crucial to reduce extended times for set up of the Altar, the sanctuary, and the narthex. What had been taking 4 to 5 hours to decorate, now takes about 2 hours!

Moving ahead, we at St. George are simply thrilled to be hosting the Annual Meeting for the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild here in The Villages, Florida, on February 10, 2024! Sharing some early information, we will have a brief General Meeting to start, followed by an informational presentation concerning National Altar Guild Association and Province IV Altar Guild for our region. Following that we will have our Church service in the main Sanctuary with Bishop Holcomb. We will have lunch followed by the presentation about vestments and a session of resource sharing. Be on the lookout for the flyer coming out in early December. All Altar Guild members and Directresses are

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

10 February 2024 – Annual Central FL Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting –hosted by the Northwest Deanery at St George Episcopal Church, The Villages – see page 2.

22 – 27 June 2024 – National Altar Guild Association meeting in conjunction with the Episcopal Church Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA MILLER:

invited to attend. This will be a great learning experience, a networking opportunity to meet others within the Diocese. We should be wrapping up before 3:00 PM. The Registration Form will include additional information about The Villages and the area!

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

WHY DO WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS?

St. Augustine said marking oneself with the sign of the cross was a Christian's outward profession of faith. Signing the cross is a tangible way to acknowledge that we have been marked as Christ's own forever.

The cross represents the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of human sin, our hope of salvation, and God's love which was fully revealed by Jesus on the cross. The cross is Christ's victory sign, and Christians have long used it to claim identification with his triumph over sin and death. It could be said that all of Christianity is summed up in the cross.

When we make the sign of the cross, we are essentially saying, "Amen" which means, 'verily' or 'truly' indicating personal assent or agreement.

To make the sign, one touches fingertips to forehead, chest/abdomen, left breast, and right breast, and we do it at various times during the liturgy:

- When the priest says, "in the name of the "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" etc. at the beginning of the service.
- When the Gospel is announced, we sign (with the thumb) forehead, lips, and breast, to show that we will take the words to our mind, speak the words with our lips, and keep the words in our hearts.
- If the priest says, "in the name of the Father" etc. before and/or after the sermon.
- At the absolution when the priest makes the sign of the cross over the congregation after the general confession.
- At the second part of the Sanctus in our Eucharistic prayer ("Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord").
- Before receiving the bread and wine at communion.
- At the blessing at the end when the priest makes the sign over the people.

Do Episcopalians have to make the sign of the cross? As we say in our tradition: "None must, some should, all can." In other words, it's what feels appropriate to you.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Rick

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**Fr Rick Luoni, St
Michael's Episcopal
Church, Orlando**

Submitted by Kathy Shearer

2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD

The Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting will be held on February 10, 2024, at St. George Episcopal Church, in The Villages, Florida. Bishop Justin Holcomb will be in attendance for the Holy Eucharist service followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall, followed by a "Vesting Through the Church Year" presentation by Canon Scott T. Holcombe. Attendees will enjoy a Resource Sharing session, an opportunity to peruse the exchange tables with items they may take if they find items needed at their church, and time to exchange ideas with other Diocesan Altar Guild members. **Watch for the registration package to be distributed in early December 2023.**

DEFINITIONS

By Barbara Miller

Altar Guild: A volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards, Altar Guild members frequently supervise the decoration of the sanctuary of the parish with flowers.

Something I have discovered that is helpful for our Altar Guild members is An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church. See if you can match the word with the description/definition:

Pyx
Missal
Narthex
Font
Asperges

- A. Sprinkling with Holy Water
- B. Receptacle for baptismal water
- C. Altar Book
- D. Small container for consecrated wafers
- E. Entry space, foyer, or anteroom of church

ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CELEBRATES THEIR 75th ANNIVERSARY

by Jenn Mandelion Chrisman

St Michael's 75th Anniversary celebration began the Friday evening prior to St Michael's Sunday with a family event in our parking lot, which was decorated with festive lights and tables with glass jar flower arrangements. There was a variety of food trucks, a DJ, and carnival games. There was barbecue, tacos, frozen drinks, popcorn, and even an ice cream truck, which made amazing bananas foster. The carnival games were hosted by BSA Troop 200 in gratitude for everything St Michael's does for them. Everything during this celebration was free to everyone in attendance. It was a fun evening for everyone. We all teased that the weather was a gift from God as it was a beautiful cool evening with no rain.



Unfortunately, Saturday evening's planned organ concert had to be postponed.

At St Michael's Sunday 10:15 service, Fr. Rick Luoni gave a moving sermon before welcoming the Rt Rev Justin Holcomb and his family as our guests. Bishop Holcomb congratulated Fr Rick and the St Michael's family for achieving this milestone of 75 years serving our



community. We were honored and grateful Bishop Holcomb and his family were also able to attend our luncheon in Quigley Hall after the service. At the luncheon we were also honored to have Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer send Robert Stuart to present a commemoration of this date in history as St Michael's 75th Anniversary Day. The delicious meal was served by our scout volunteers from BSA Troop 200. Quigley Hall was packed with families who love St Michael's, love one another, and love God.



Bishop Holcomb
Robert Stuart
Fr Rick Luoni
←-----



Boy Scout Troop 200
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The Episcopal Church Diocese of Central Florida

The Right Reverend Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop

June 2, 2023

Mrs. Kathy Shearer, Past-President
Mrs. Barbara Miller, President
Diocesan Altar Guild

Sent Via Email

Dear Kathy and Barb,

Please accept my most sincere gratitude to you and to the members of the diocesan altar guild for your generous stewardship of the bishop's oratory at the diocesan office throughout my episcopacy. Most recently, you have not only gifted the oratory with a set of brass candlesticks, but you also had them, as well as a brass missal stand, polished and coated, thus ensuring they will be enjoyed at worship services in the oratory for many years to come.

Additionally, please know how very touched I was to have members from the diocesan altar guild along with your chaplain, Mother Michelle Roach, in attendance for the service of Holy Eucharist in the oratory on May 25th and to be presented with the beautiful custom-made red brocade stole. The stole is a truly stunning work of art. I shall treasure it and shall be reminded of your faithfulness each time I wear it. Thank you for such a thoughtful gift.

May God continue to pour out His blessing on the ministry of the Diocesan Altar Guild.

Grace to you,

Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop

*"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." - Colossians 1:28*

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WATS: 1-800-299-3567 □ FAX 407/872-0006 □ [HTTP://www.cfdiocese.org](http://www.cfdiocese.org)

**Bishop Brewer
Thanks The DAG For
Support Of The
Bishop's Oratory
During His Years
As Bishop Of The
Diocese Of Central
Florida**

As most of you know, the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG) sends out an annual request for support to the Diocesan churches. In our request, we ask that churches pay annual dues of \$10 and that missions pay annual dues of \$5. The dues help defray our costs for printing and postage for quarterly publication of our newsletter and other DAG expenses. We also ask that churches consider a "Love Offering" to the DAG to support our expenses as we care for the Canterbury Chapel, the Bishop's Oratory, and the Camp Wingmann Chapel. The "Love Offering" also helps offset the expenses of our annual meeting and helps pay for our President to represent our Diocese at the Province IV annual meeting and the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) meeting every three years. **Please watch for our request for Dues and Love Offering that is sent out in January each year.**

2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 2024 Diocesan Annual Convention will be held on January 27th at All Saints Church in Winter Park, Florida. The Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild will be present with an information table about our group. We will have informational handouts for any attendees who need information on Altar Guild activities and needs.

DUES AND LOVE OFFERING (see additional information on page 4)

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) send 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**

NECROLOGY LIST

Each year at the Diocesan Annual Altar Guild Meeting, a Necrology List is included in the meeting package listing Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild members who have died in the last year. If you have a member who has died, and you would like to include them in the list, please submit the member's name, the name of the church, and the city where the church is located to Judy Henderson, jem2415@earthlink.net or mail the information to Judy at 1978 Red Bud Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907. If you do not attend the meeting but would like a copy of the Necrology List, please contact Judy.

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: **Position currently not filled.**
- Treasurer: Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net
- Chaplain: Newly Selected – Rev Garcia Banswell-Schmidt – 954-600-7876
- **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
 - Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net