

PENTECOST

Commemorates the
Descent of the
Holy Spirit

The Birthday of the
Church

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA MILLER:

Now, as Spring winds down and we approach the Summer, I continue to look at the next 3 months as continued opportunity and growth both for my altar guild team at St. George and also for the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Board.

At St. George we are implementing a new approach with full team development. After meeting with several altar guild Directresses, we are approaching altar guild from a "team" approach for altar guild activities. We have created three teams of four team members, with one member being the team leader. The leader is responsible for working with each of the members for assigned responsibilities, identifying strengths and weaknesses, assisting with hands on training with all aspects of altar guild responsibilities. We do have an extra group of 4 which would be substitutes for when someone is out ill or traveling for the summer. Also, at this time, we are looking to update any procedural changes that need to be made. In mid-summer, the team leaders and I will gather to inventory our sacristy, identify suppliers to order items from, evaluate the linen cleaning process and identify any needs for new linens. We are in the process now of a change in the Altar frontals. We have made some size modifications with our Altar table.

With the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Board, we have identified 4 individuals who would take charge of the Annual Meeting Planning for next February 2025. I have worked with several other groups and we implemented this format which worked well. The group will brainstorm, organize meeting topics, evaluate the 2024 Meeting as well as prior years. Upon completion, they would give a presentation plan back to the Board for further suggestions and comments.

I hope everyone has received a copy of the NAGA Spring edition of Epistle. The articles are very interesting and give thought to some fresh ideas!

Wishing everyone a safe and "cool" Summer ahead!

Barbara Miller, President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

22 – 27 June 2024 – National Altar Guild Association meeting in conjunction with the Episcopal Church Convention, Louisville, Kentucky. There's still time to register for the meeting. [For more information and registration, contact David Hawley-Lowry at david8hl@outlook.com or 616-915-6188](#)

February 2025 -- Diocese of Central Florida Altar Guild (DAG) Annual Meeting at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melbourne, Florida

RECRUITMENT -- and TEN GOOD REASONS TO JOIN ALTAR GUILD:

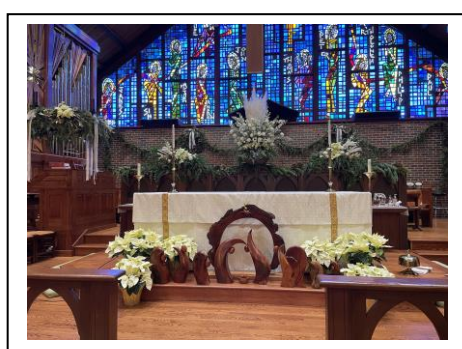
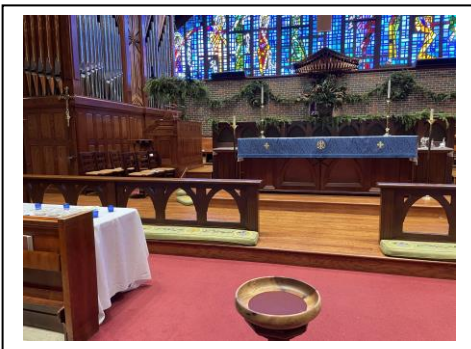
Provided by St Michael's Episcopal in Orlando

During the four Sundays of Advent this past December, members of St Michael's altar guild manned a table with photos and the "Ten Reasons" to become a member of our altar guild. During this timeframe, we recruited 6 people including a husband and wife. Perhaps something such as this activity may help recruit more members for your altar guild ministry.

THE TEN REASONS

- You love the Lord, our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you're looking for a way to serve the world!
- You love your Episcopal Church and want a way to serve!
- You want some way to serve as an individual or couple or family group!
- You have 2-3 hours a month available to serve!
- You want to become part of a Loving and Dedicated Team that is flexible with their monthly schedules!
- You want to experience the beauty and quiet solitude of our Church or Chapel!
- You want to see the "behind the scenes" church action!
- You want to learn a new vocabulary!
- You want to experience the traditions and history of the Episcopal Church!
- "As I come into the quiet of Your House, help me to quiet my soul that I may spend this time of preparation with you. Help me make every act an Act of Worship!"

ST MICHAEL'S (ORLANDO) ALTAR PHOTOS DURING THE SEASONS & SPECIAL SERVICES



TOTAL IMMERSION BAPTISM

By Judy Henderson, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melbourne, FL

I'm a cradle Episcopalian, and in all my years, I have always experienced Holy Baptisms in the "traditional" way, where the candidate is presented, the questions are answered, the water is blessed, and the priest pours water over the head of the candidate. Do you know what the PRAYER BOOK says about Holy Baptism (pg 307)?

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon the Candidate saying

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Definition of Immersed (Episcopal Dictionary Online): Mode of baptism in which the candidate's entire body is introduced into the water. The term "baptize" is from the Greek, "to dip."

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/immersion/>

Did you notice that the word "immerses" is shown ahead of "pours water upon"?

Our priest, The Rev. Tom Phillips, advised me recently that we were going to have a "total immersion" Baptism on Pentecost Sunday. You can probably imagine the thoughts that went through my head -- where will this be done (in the church), how can we have an immersion when we don't have a pool, are we going to the beach, is this going to be a one-time event or will we be offering immersion Baptisms in the future?

Fr. Tom advised me that the church has purchased a water trough to be placed in front of the pews in the church. My next question was about filling and draining the trough, and Fr. Tom assured me our facilities manager would handle that - *whew!* The trough is metal, so my mind quickly went to how we could dress up a trough. I decided to purchase material and Velcro to attach the material to the trough. The trough was placed in front of the pews, the material was attached, and we had a total immersion Baptism. Fr. Tom said that for future Baptisms, we will be offering this method to anyone who is old enough to hold their breath. You can view the Baptism on You Tube or on our Facebook page -- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Melbourne.



*Welcome to the family.
We're glad that you have come
To share your life with us.
As we grow in love,
And may we always be to you:
A fam'ly always there
To be strong and to lean on,
To be strong and to lean on.*

← *The Rev. Tom Phillips and Eli Snead*

ST MICHAEL'S (ORLANDO) ALTAR PHOTOS DURING THE SEASONS & SPECIAL SERVICES

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DONATIONS TO THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BELIZE

In the March issue of the DAG Newsletter, we reported that the Exchange Table items that were left after the DAG Annual Meeting in February were given to Deacon John E (Johnny) Clark, the president of No One Hungry, Inc., a nonprofit ministry of St Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Titusville. Deacon Johnny reported that the items were delivered to the Anglican Diocese of Belize and items were welcomed with open arms. Shown here is one of the Chasubles that was delivered to Belize, and the happy priest who received it.



SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT

Deacon John E Clark, St Gabriel's, Titusville, asked that we also make Altar Guild members aware of The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida "School Supply Project" in partnership with No One Hungry's Mission. This Ministry benefits the 22 schools of the Anglican Diocese of Belize in Central America.

If Altar Guild members would like to help with school supplies for the children in Belize, please follow these easy directions:



Easy Steps:

Go to... DOLLAR TREE On-Line Store

<https://www.dollartree.com/>

Find a Store: In search box put in zip code **32796 Garden Street Titusville**

Make certain to **click** the box to **"Ship to the Store"**

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When checking out, place the following email in the order process:
“Email Address (Required for order updates)” info@NoOneHungryFL.org

******* ITEMS NEED TO ARRIVE IN TITUSVILLE BY 1 AUGUST *******

Here are some items needed. Search by item SKU number. REMEMBER --

- Go to... DOLLAR TREE On-Line Store <https://www.dollartree.com/>
- Find a Store: In search box put in **zip code 32796 Garden Street Titusville**
- Make certain to click the box to “Ship to the Store”
- When checking out, place the following email in the order process:
- “Email Address (Required for order updates)” info@NoOneHungryFL.org

- Crayola Short Colored Pencils 8-ct. Pks SKU: 265458 24 per case \$30.00
- Jot Kids' Safety-Cut Scissors SKU: 117780 24 per case \$30.00
- Crayola Classic Crayons, 16-ct. Packs SKU: 212220 48 Pks per case \$60.00
- Promarx Grippy Blue Med Ballpoint Pens 4-ct. Packs SKU: 178320 36 packs per case \$45.00
- Jot Pink Beveled Erasers, 6-ct. Packs SKU: 257038 36 Packs per case \$45.00
- Jot Classic Yellow No.2 Pencils, 24-ct. SKU: 359035 48 packs per case \$60.00
- Jot Glue Sticks, 4-ct. Packs SKU: 26598 24 packs per case \$30.00
- Jot Clear Plastic Magnifying Rulers SKU: 178441 30 per case \$37.50

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 - Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net

[NOTE: If you would like to join the Diocesan Altar Guild Board, please contact President Barbara Miller. We especially need additional representatives from the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Deaneries.]