

Calvary Episcopal Church
Louisville, Kentucky

DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ALTAR GUILD DAG NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA MILLER:

As we approach the Fall Season, I can't help but think about our Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild (CFDAG) Organization and Network. We have been revising our information and goals about CFDAG for the Diocesan website. Below are several items I wanted to share with each member as to what we do:

- We assist with supporting the Bishop and providing special Diocesan Eucharists.
- We support the altars at the Diocesan House, Camp Wingmann, and the Annual Diocesan Convention when assistance is needed.
- We have an Annual Meeting each February, rotating annually around the deaneries. We offer a business meeting, Holy Eucharist, and several educational and informative sessions.
- We can work with any parish who has a need for altar guild assistance with training needs, vestment evaluations, and linen management. We have a lot of resources should a parish have any needs for additional linens, vestments, or paraments for your sanctuary.
- We can present workshops for your altar guild teams for care of linens to proper candle care and basic altar guild techniques.
- During our Annual Meeting, we offer a "free exchange" program should you need additional linens or vestments.
- We offer free training in linen laundry, ironing of linens, and proper folding.

I encourage everyone to check their records as to membership with the CFDAG. If you have not renewed or joined for 2024, please consider bringing your membership current. With these membership fees, the monies used are for mailings, copying, and assisting in areas of financial needs for various eucharists throughout the diocese.

I hope everyone has a wonderful FALL ahead. We at St. George are doing something different for our yearly ministry of Altar Guild. With the help from the CFDAG Resource Guide, we have put together a handout and are initiating a membership recruitment for additional members in Altar Guild. While we have moved to a team concept for Altar Guild, we are expanding teams for flower arranging, assistance with funerals and working with the Daughters of the King (DOK) group for receptions!

Thanks, everyone! Barbara Miller, President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

8-14 June 2025 - Province IV Altar Guild Meeting - Solomon Episcopal Retreat Center, north of Covington, Louisiana

NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD ASSOCIATION (NAGA) TRIENNIAL MEETING and 81st General Episcopal Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22 to 28, 2024

Submitted by Judy Henderson, Diocesan Altar Guild Board and SE Deanery Representative

As a member of the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) Board, as well as a member of the Central Florida Diocese Altar Guild (DAG), I attended the 81st General Episcopal Convention and NAGA Triennial meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, in June. I can't tell you what a blessing it was to be able to participate in this meeting, especially since this was a year when a new Presiding Bishop was selected; this occurs every nine years. This was my third General Convention; my first Convention was in 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah, when Bishop Curry was selected as Presiding Bishop. NAGA typically meets every three years, in conjunction with the General Convention, but attendance at the 2021 Convention was very limited because of COVID, and the NAGA meeting in 2021 was held only by Zoom.



The Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori (Presiding Bishop from 2006 to 2015), Sean W. Lowe (Presiding Bishop Elect), and Michael Bruce Curry (Presiding Bishop from 2015 to 2024)

The Convention began with Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry's "Revival," setting the pace for the week of activities, which included three Eucharist services. Bishop Curry's Revival was exactly what one would expect -- lots of singing and joy and an "Invitation to Embrace the Way of Love."



Altar Guild Train in the Service Elevator
repeated on Wednesday and Friday, when NAGA members gathered at the Sacristy to prepare the Eucharist. After the final Eucharist on Friday, NAGA members cleaned all items and packed up the wine pitchers, chalices, baskets, oil Altar candles, etc. and prepared the items to be shipped to the storage facility where they will be stored until they are needed again in Phoenix, Arizona, in 2027.

The NAGA Triennial meeting included workshops and a keynote speaker, as well as a day trip to the Abbey of Gethsemani and the Maker's Mark Distillery in the Kentucky countryside. For the first time, NAGA had a table in the Exhibit Hall to make NAGA known to those attending the Convention. It was amazing how many people came by and said they didn't know there was a National Altar Guild Association. A few people even signed up to become members of NAGA.

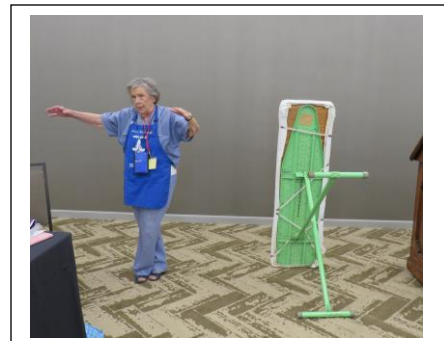
CM Almy, a well-known religious supply company that is now a division of F.C. Ziegler company provided a workshop and talked about the company. They told us about their facilities and their ability to repair all sorts of items including metal and fabric items. They suggested an eye dropper to fill the small oil cartridge attached to a snuffer. Another hint was that linens can be machine washed on gentle cycle, but that they should not be placed in the dryer and Clorox will never be used. They also said that chalices should never be immersed in water.



Sacristy Training

The Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Anne Schnaare, Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She reminded us of what an honor it is to be a member of the Altar Guild and that it's our job to "prepare the way" of the service. She urged us to meet with the clergy prior to big events like Holy Week to be sure everyone is on the same page. She referred to Maundy Thursday as the "Barefoot Service"! She also advised that clergy should never be reluctant to point out when something is not set to their taste, and that altar guild members should not be offended.

The Liturgical Threads Workshop was amazing. I've attended a lot of Altar Guild workshops, but this workshop was the most informative I've ever attended. The workshop leader, Alice Scarbrough, offered many new concepts and ideas. Alice introduced us to many new cleaning products including "Orvus" -- a livestock washing product available at tractor supply stores -- and offered ideas for repairing fabric items. She showed us her specially designed ironing board with an added rectangular top, allowing more of the large linens to be on the ironing board at one time. She used her specially designed drying racks for drying small linens with a minimum of counter space. Alice suggested that we contact The Neighborhood Cleaners Association, which can provide names of good dry cleaners in communities all around the country: Neighborhood Cleaners Association, 252 West 29th Street, New York, New York 10001-5271 -- 1-800-888-1622 -- www.nac-i.com.



Alice Scarbrough with her specially designed ironing board

Joyce Edwards presented an Anglican Prayer Beads workshop. The purpose of prayer beads is to draw us near to God, and He will draw near to us. Joyce discussed the history of prayer beads across the centuries, and she said that praying with beads keeps us on track, helps us to know what not to worry about, and creates discipline. We made prayer beads and then prayed as a group using our beads.



Social Gathering attendees

The Triennial meeting also included a social gathering to provide time to get to know Altar Guild members throughout the country, as well as installation of NAGA officers who will serve the next three years. The new President is David Hawley-Lowry, 1st Vice President is Debbie Mead, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair is Martha Noble, and the Treasurer is Phyllis Bruce.

The knowledge gained from attending a NAGA Triennial meeting is always amazing, and this knowledge is passed along to the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild members through our annual meetings and our quarterly newsletter.

Watch for information on our 2025 meeting which will take place in the Southeast Deanery at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Melbourne in February.

I urge each of you to consider joining NAGA so you can receive the newsletter and keep up to date on Altar Guild events occurring throughout the country. You can access the website, which offers many resources at <https://nationalaltarguildassociation.org/>

*Lynn Hendricks and Marcia Himes
at the NAGA Exhibit*



BISHOP HOLCOMB VISITS ST. JUDE'S IN ORANGE CITY

Submitted by Sandi Hendriks, St Jude's in Orange City, NE Deanery

On February 4, 2024, The Right Reverend Dr. Justin S. Holcomb visited St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Orange City. What a wonderful day for us as we prepared for the baptism of a young man - Isaiah Mitchell; 4 candidates for confirmation - Lilijha Abbg, Autumn Robertson, E's va Thompson, and Jean Wormsbocher; and 2 candidates received into the parish - Keith Wormsbocher and Debbie Copeland.



Bishop Holcomb officiated the service with Reverend Phyllis Bartle, and Deacons Wanda Sherrouse, Pauline Butler, and Jim Flood. St. Jude's held one service on February 4th, in hopes all parishioners will participate.

Following the church service St. Jude's held a reception in the parish hall for all to congratulate the newest members of our parish and to meet and greet our new Bishop, Justin Holcomb.

DUES AND LOVE OFFERING

To all who have submitted their dues and love offering, THANK YOU for supporting the Central Florida 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 (dollar amount for dues and dollar 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 address and a membership form that can be submitted with your dues and love offering are provided at the bottom of page 5. Cyndy can be contacted at **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
- Secretary: Karen Stewart -- 407-625-7615 -- kstewart1208@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net
- Newsletter Editor: Judy Henderson - Home 321-327-3175; Cell 321-536-3965 – jem2415@earthlink.net
- Membership
 - Sandi Hendriks -- Cell 386-748-1186 -- sandihendriks@yahoo.com
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- Chaplain: Rev Garcia Barnswell-Schmidt – 954-600-7876 - gschmidt@cfdiocese.org

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CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (DAG) BOARD

(continued from page 4)

-- 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
- Carol McFarlane - Cell 845-721-1588 -- cmcfarla@aol.com
- Karen Stewart -- 407-625-7615 -- kstewart1208@yahoo.com

-- Northeast Deanery:

- Judy Valk – Home 386-960-7413 – judyjvk@gmail.com
- Sandi Hendriks - Cell 386-748-1186 -- sandihendriks@yahoo.com

-- Northwest Deanery:

- Dianne Casson – Home 352-787-0508 – Cell 352-255-5444 – dcasson@embarqmail.com
- 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

[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. Our next CFDAG Board meeting is 14 September at 10 AM at the Diocesan House in Orlando; if you are interested in joining the CFDAG Board, we urge you to contact Barbara Miller to let her know if you can attend.]

(Include this portion with your Dues and Love Offering)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make your check payable to: **Diocese of Central Florida, Inc.**

With a Memo for: **Diocesan Altar Guild Dues and Love Offering**

Mail to: Cyndy Berry
Treasurer, Diocesan Altar Guild
4201 Limerick Drive
Lake Wales, FL 33859

Please return this notice with your check

(This will help Cyndy give credit to the correct parish or mission) Thanks!

Diocesan Altar Guild Dues and Love Offering

Church _____ City _____

Directress _____ Phone _____

Email _____ **Dues (please circle one)** \$10 \$5

Love Offering \$ _____ **Total enclosed** \$ _____