



Thanksgiving Altar

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTRESS

Diocesan Board: See Page 4 for Board Member contact information.

DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date – 17 February 2018

Where: **All Saints Episcopal Church**, 202 South Massachusetts Avenue, Lakeland --
Hosted by the Southwest Deanery

Time – 10 AM to 2 PM

Program – Seasons, Colors, and Symbols of the Church – by The Rev. Meghan Farr,
Diocesan Altar Guild Chaplain

Watch for Your Registration Package – In early January, packages will be mailed to each church and Emailed to Altar Guild Directresses who have provided us with an Email address.

Registrations are Due by 1 February 2018

Cost -- \$15 per person – includes registration, program, and lunch

If you haven't received a registration package by 15 January 2018, please Email Judy Henderson at jem2415@earthlink.net or call Judy at 321-327-3175, and a package will be sent to you.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

When you have something that you think others would like to hear about, please send a short article to Judy Henderson at jem2415@earthlink.net or mail to 1978 Red Bud Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907. We would especially like to see a picture of your Altar. Send a picture and a description of the Altar with information about the location and age of your church. If you have an Altar Guild function, share a picture and/or other information about your function. If you have a Sacristy or Flower Guild room that you're especially proud of, share a picture. If you have something that works well for your Altar Guild, feel free to share that with other churches. Tell us about your Altar Guild. Does your Altar Guild include a Flower Guild or a Wedding Guild or a Linen Guild or an Events Guild (primarily for funerals)? When you ask around at other churches, you quickly discover that all Altar Guilds are not created equally. Let us hear from you.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

17 February 2018 – Annual Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG) Meeting at All Saints in Lakeland (Southwest Deanery)

3-6 June 2018 – Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC

6-11 July 2018 – Annual National Altar Guild Conference, Austin, TX

23 February 2019 – Annual DAG Meeting at Canterbury Retreat Center in Oveido – Programs will include something for everyone

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST – The Ordinary Time – The color is **GREEN**

According to the calendar of the church year (BCP, p. 32), the Season After Pentecost begins on the Monday following Pentecost, and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The color is green – the color of nature, spring, triumph of life over death, charity, regeneration of soul through good works, and hope. It's the Ordinary Time of the church. As we enjoy – or endure, as we do here in Florida – the long hot days of summer (and the hurricane season), we relax in the long time between changing our frontals and hangings, but the Season After Pentecost can also be a time of reflection on the Church Year as it comes to a close. The last Sunday before the beginning of the new Church Year is Christ the King Sunday, and the color is white. The beginning of the new church year, the First Sunday of Advent, is 3 December this year (2017).

ADVENT – The beginning of the new Church Year – the color is **BLUE** or **PURPLE**

Advent is a time of anticipation, and the name is derived from a Latin word for “coming.” The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord’s nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.” The color is blue or purple. Blue is a color for penitence and heavenly love, unveiling of truth. Purple is a color for penitence and royalty and imperial power. The Sundays of Advent are always the four Sundays before Christmas Day, which presents a challenge for the church this year (2017) since Christmas Eve is the fourth Sunday of Advent. You will probably be having an Advent service on the morning of 24 December this year and Christmas Eve services in the afternoon and evening. As you know, this means the color will be blue or purple in the morning and the color will be changed to white for the Christmas season that begins with Christmas Eve services.



Advent Candle

The Program to be presented by The Rev. Meghan Farr at the Annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting on 17 February 2018 will provide additional information about the seasons, colors, and symbols of the church.

ALTAR GUILD PINS

Altar Guild pins are available for purchase from the Diocesan Altar Guild for \$12.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing cost. If you would like to order pins before the annual meeting and pick them up at the meeting, you can save the mailing costs. Pins are available in both silver and gold. Contact Cyndy Berry at Email cyndy.berry@usa.net or phone 203-215-0125 to place an order.



BIO OF DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD BOARD MEMBER BETTY SECKINGER:

My name is Betty Seckinger and I am a member of St Paul’s Episcopal Church in Winter Haven, Florida. I was born and raised in Michigan and grew up as a Baptist. My husband Ralph and I have been married for 36 years and between us we have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. I have been Episcopalian since coming to St Paul’s around 2007. In addition to being on the Altar Guild and on the board of directors, I am a member of The Daughters of the King (DOK), a Stephen Minister, and a member of the Order of St Luke. We love to travel. Next year we will be going to Japan to visit my pen pal that I have written to since I was in high school. They came to visit us in 2015 and we promised to go see them.



DUES AND LOVE OFFERING

Each year in January a letter is sent to all Diocesan churches requesting that they pay Diocesan Altar Guild dues -- \$10 for churches and \$5 for missions. The dues are used to pay for printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter and for other operating expenses.

In addition to dues, it is suggested that churches/Altar Guilds make a “**Love Offering**” in any amount their members may want to contribute. This Love Offering is used to assist with the care of the Canterbury Chapel, the Bishop’s Oratory, and the Chapel at Camp Wingmann. The Love Offering also helps offset the costs of our annual meeting. The Love Offering also helps pay the expenses for the Diocesan Directress to attend the annual Province IV Altar Guild meeting at Kanuga in North Carolina and to attend the National Altar Guild Association meeting that’s held every three years in conjunction with the Episcopal Church Convention.

During the past year, support to the Bishop’s Oratory was in the form of stoles in liturgical colors. The Canterbury Chapel received stoles and chasubles in liturgical colors, and we are currently working on obtaining Eucharistic linens for Camp Wingmann from Gods Grace Linens (www.godsgracelinens.net).

When you receive the request letter in January, please consider paying membership dues and making a “love offering” to support the Diocesan Altar Guild. Dues and Love Offerings are due in February, however, if you have not yet paid for 2017, it’s not too late. Please send your dues to Diocese of Central Florida, Inc., Earl Pickett, Office Administrator, 1017 East Robinson Street, Orlando, FL 32801-2023, marked “For Diocesan Altar Guild - Dues and/or Love Offering.”

DO YOU KNOW A GOOD CLEANER???

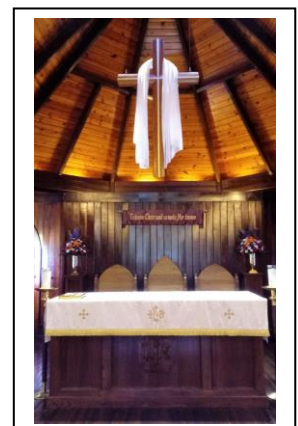
Know any cleaners in the Diocese who are good with church apparel? People are always looking for someone to clean church apparel and hangings. If you know of a good cleaner, please send a message to Judy Henderson or give her a phone call, and we’ll include the information in the next newsletter. Judy’s phone number is 321-327-3175 and the Email is jem2415@earthlink.net.

CALLING ALL “GIFTED” PEOPLE:

Do you have “gifted” people at your church who may be willing to present a workshop at a future Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting? Perhaps you have someone who does wonderful flower presentations, or maybe you have a Wedding Guild leader who would like to share her or his procedures for a smooth-running wedding, or perhaps you have master embroiderers who would be happy to share their knowledge about making church linens. Send your inputs to Judy Henderson at jem2415@earthlink.net

HOLY SPIRIT – APOPKA:

The Big Church, built in 1990, replicates the feel and atmosphere that parishioners love about the original church, but accommodates a much larger number of people. High ceilings create spaciousness while the wood and stained glass add to the warm feel of the interior. The original church, affectionately called The Little Church, is one of Apopka’s most historic buildings. Over 100 years old, the church was moved onto the Holy Spirit property in 1970. It is still functional and is an important part of the church campus, being used for private ceremonies, small services, and meditation.



Holy Spirit, Apopka – Altar

ALTAR GUILD VOCABULARY:

When you join the Altar Guild, one of the things you didn't count on was that you will need to learn a whole new language. Well, maybe not a language, but at least a lot of new words. Here are a few that you will need to know. We'll add other words in future newsletters, as space allows.

Corporal – A Corporal is a nine-fold placemat used to protect the fair linen during the Eucharist. The corporal is designed to be easily unfolded and set in place where it can catch crumbs or drops of wine and later refolded to contain the crumbs, which are disposed of as other blessed bread.

Purificator – A Purificator is a white cloth used to wipe or clean the lip of the chalice after each person sips from the chalice.

Paten – A Paten is a plate made of precious metal that is used with the chalice and purificator and a priest's wafer to set the table for the Eucharist.

Pall – A Pall is a stiffened cloth (white linen) with cardboard or plastic inside. A pall is used to cover the chalice and purificator and paten containing the priest's wafer when the chalice is dressed. Another "pall" is a funeral pall – a cover for the casket or cremains.

Lavabo Towel – A Lavabo Towel is an oblong white cloth that is used when the celebrant washes his or her hands during the offertory.

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