

NOTE: Ordinarily, the *Altargram* is published four times a year, but due to hurricanes, early date of Convention, and the fact that the Editor lives in North Carolina, a Fall issue never got compiled. Therefore, this year we have a combined Fall-Winter issue. Hopefully things will get back on track in 2018. Having an Editor who actually lives in SW Florida would help! Anyone interested? Please advise Sarah Hill.

47th ANNUAL MEETING of EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN, DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017

The Executive Board of The Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Southwest Florida invites all the women of your church to the 47th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women, to be held at DaySpring, Parrish, Florida.

Guest Speaker is **Katerina Katsarka Whitley**, Author of *A NEW LOVE ~ A Novel of the First Century*. "Yes, St. Paul did love women!" The annual Bible Women Game (Similar to Jeopardy) will be played if time permits. Once again, our seven deaneries will compete for the ECW Bible Women's Game 2017 Traveling Trophy. Last year's winner was the Venice Deanery.

The Great Offering will be donated to the Youth Camp Program at DaySpring and the Eucharist Offering will be donated to the Cornerstone Kids.

The cost for each person attending is \$25.00. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the meeting adjourns at 3 p.m. Registrations forms were mailed to each parish and were due back by November 1, 2017. **If you have not yet registered and want to go**, contact Berenice Ludwig [727-363-1798 or berryludwig@gmail.com].

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

As you will see, we are combining our Altargram issues due to the intervention of Hurricane Irma and our own Diocesan Convention.

It has been a busy fall but we are all thankful that Irma did not harm our churches and that we are all alive. There were serious damages to some homes and Diocesan House, but doing without electricity was the hardest challenge. We were very blessed here in our diocese.

You will see in this issue a short report on the Diocesan Convention and let me just say here that you all made it the most successful yet. We had so many nice things to exchange. It is such a good feeling to have really been good stewards of all the beautiful things that we have and use in our Episcopal tradition. It is good to start your cleaning out process early. It easily becomes overwhelming. Remember, too, that we can 'advertise' extra items in one of our diocesan publications. All you need is to send Garland Pollard a photo and description.

We are now celebrating All Saints' and thinking ahead to Advent and Christmas. This is a wonderful time of year here in Florida.

Our annual meeting will be the second weekend in March in 2018. The date will be the 10th. It will be held at DaySpring and the focus will be on the story of linens and use of linen in our liturgy. More details soon. There have been requests for this topic so this is the year we will do it. *(continued on P.2)*

The Diocesan Board was not able to have their September meeting due to Irma but we will be meeting on November 15 to make plans. We still need help with having at least one representative from each deanery as well as a new treasurer and secretary. Our best effort is having the Altargram to share and Peggy Curlin really has to draw the line and make her new life in Charlotte. Please consider these positions and ask me about the details.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving full of many blessings. This is really a year that we have a lot to be grateful for after Mother Nature's fury.

Sarah Hill

Diocesan Directress
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DIOCESAN CONVENTION:

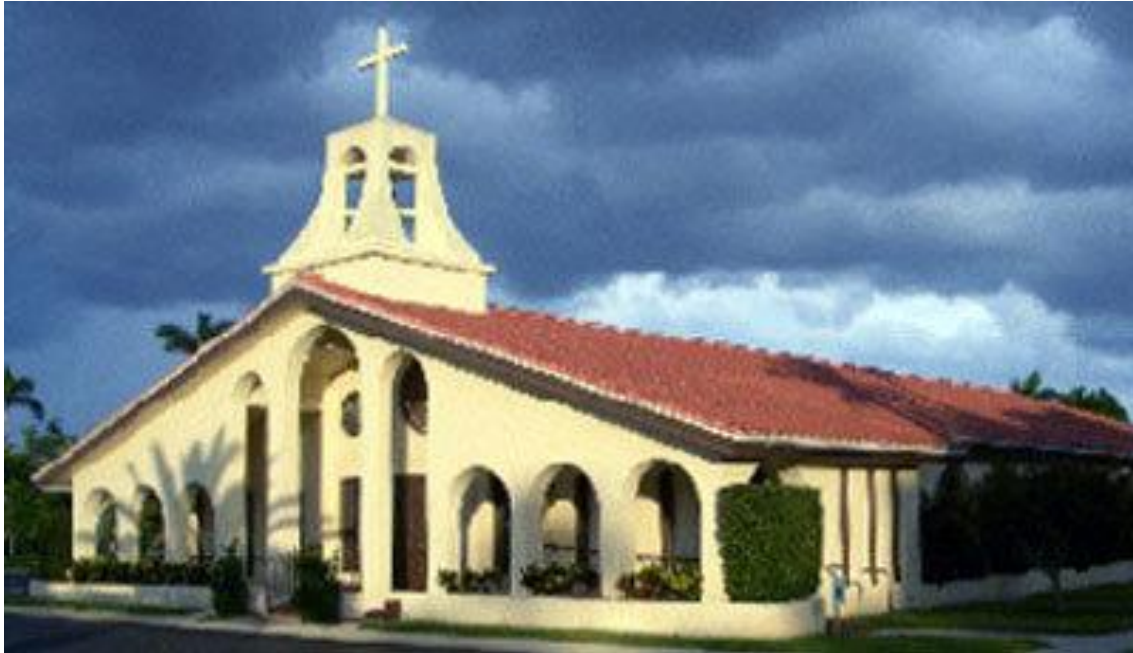
Once again the Diocesan Altar Guild made an important statement at the annual convention in Punta Gorda. Many thanks to all of you who cleaned out your sacristies, closets and storerooms and brought a multitude of treasures to the exchange tables. We were able to offer a great many items for "holy recycling" and to find new homes for all but two medium boxes of things. This was a banner year!

Our Friday evening Eucharist was beautiful, once again, with about 400 people in attendance. Creating an atmosphere that says "church" is possible because we have our portable altar, a lovely full frontal and beautiful candlesticks. We all love our gorgeous red flowers that stand in front of the altar. Getting the altar cross up is always a challenge and the staff at the convention center improve on it each year. The cross belongs to Christ Church in Bradenton. This year we were honored to use the original Bishop's Chair which dates back to 1838. It is kept at Christ Church in Bradenton, as well.

These two parts of Convention are made possible because so many altar guilds anticipate our needs and are so willing to help. Thank you to all who helped and all who gathered the many items we were able to share.

CHURCHES AROUND THE DIOCESE . . .

St. John's Episcopal Church (Naples Deanery) 500 Park Shore Dr. Naples Florida 34103



The first worship service was held on Sunday, April 26, 1970 in the community room of a Naples bank located at 2400 N. Tamiami Trail. Trinity-by-the-Cove parish, Naples, was the "mother parish," assisting the organizers in a number of ways, including giving the property at 605 Parkview on which the Vicarage was built. They also worked with Raymond Lutgert, developer of the Park Shore neighborhood, to secure the donation of the 3.5 acres of property on which the church is built. By October 1970, St. John's was granted official mission status by the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Groundbreaking for the Church building took place on February 21, 1971, and the completed building was dedicated in November 1972. Full parish status was achieved in October 1980. Sugden Parish Hall was completed in November 1980. During the period 1981 to 1987, stained glass windows and a pipe organ were installed in the church and the Garden of the Resurrection (for interment of cremation remains) was completed. The Thrift Shoppe, committed to community outreach, opened its doors in April 1982. In 1987, Brewster Hall was dedicated in 1988. St. John's support for a new North Naples mission helped St. Monica's begin worship services in January 1991.

St. John's Altar Guild presently is a group of five year round members. From November to Easter we gain an additional two ladies. Our newest members are **Pat Korda**, who joined us last spring, and **Vicki Bauch**, who joined us last week! From November through April the Altar Guild prepares for three weekend services, one service on Saturday and two on Sundays. We create a quarterly schedule and each member usually works two weekends a month. We meet on Saturday mornings to prepare for the weekend services. We schedule based on the service the members prefer to attend, i.e. Saturday service is scheduled with the members who attend that service. September was a busy month with Hurricane Irma pressing us into action to secure our worship items. Many of our members, their spouses, our past directress, and our priest, jumped in to remove items from the sanctuary to higher and safer areas. Fortunately our church did not have any damage to the buildings. We have a Disaster Preparedness plan that outlines what needs to be removed and where it goes. We keep an updated inventory of all items in a safety deposit box. 72 hours before the storm we get notified by Priest or Junior Warden and our Altar Guild Emergency Team is activated -- presently it is down to one member. At the 48 hour point, based on notification from Collier County Emergency Management on the severity of the anticipated storm by, we begin ensuring that all items are up off the floor and away from the window.

Thanks to Barbara Jordan, Co-Directress, and Parish website

RECAP of 2017 PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Members of the Province IV Altar Guild met at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville from June 4 through June 7, 2017. "Art in Music – Part II," explored the role music plays in the Episcopal church. (This was the second of a three-year program series -- the 2016 program featured needlework and vestments, and the 2018 program will look at architecture and how sacred spaces shape our worship.)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne, Alabama, provided both our keynote speaker, Paul Anderson (Director of Music) and our Chaplain, The Rev. Thack Dyson (Rector

Mr. Anderson's program was informative, interesting, and interactive. Throughout his opening presentation, Mr. Anderson moved back and forth from the lectern to the piano to illustrate the type of music he was discussing. His keynote address led us through a brief history of church music, with particular emphasis on the great tradition of Anglican music. Anglican church music is designed to enhance the various forms of the liturgy and borrows from both Catholic and Protestant traditions. Quintessential examples of Anglican music include settings for Evensong and the service of Lessons and Carols, and the practice of change ringing. Just as traditional church music was shaped by the Gothic cathedral, the pipe organ, and the availability of huge professional choirs, so church music today is shaped by the architecture of our worship spaces, the type and quality of musical instrument (organ, keyboard, piano, etc.) and the availability of choir members. Paul explained the origins of Taize worship and led us in a tutorial of Taize songs. Anyone who thinks Altar Guild members are silent servants is sorely mistaken – Paul proved we can also make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Worship services began with Eucharist on Sunday evening. Both the opening and closing Eucharists were celebrated in the Chapel of the Transfiguration. Attendees assisted with lessons, psalms, prayers of the people, and as acolytes and LEMs during Eucharist. Monday began with Morning Prayer, during which linens which were beyond repair were deconsecrated and burned in the 3rd floor fireplace. There was a beautiful Taize service after sunset on Monday evening, with lots of candles and song. Morning Prayer was held again in Tuesday morning, and the closing Eucharist included a blessing of our hands for service. Having your hands blessed and marked with chrism in the sign of the cross is a particularly moving event. It is a beautiful reminder that our service behind the scenes is a true ministry. Wednesday morning the weather cooperated and we were able to have Morning Prayer outside in St. Francis Chapel.

Other program offerings included a "Holy Week Retrospective of Music and Singing" by the Rev. Thack Dyson and Paul Anderson and a "Walk through the Book of Occasional Services" where Chaplain Dyson acquainted us with the many services available for special occasions. Altar guild members often think they know all about all services, but most of us were in for some surprises. Some of the services are pretty familiar, and some were unknown to most present.

The final program from Paul Anderson was "Meet Johann Sebastian Bach." Yes, really meet him! After brief introductory remarks by our Vice-President Phyllis Bruce, the door opened and in strolled JSB, resplendent in wig and brocade garb. Herr Bach proceeded to take us on a tour of Leipzig via lithographs. He told us all about his life: his childhood, his marriages and his 20 children, the joys and tragedies of their lives and deaths. JSB explained how he came to end up in Leipzig, the school where he taught, the talent (or lack thereof) of his students, his difficulties with the town council, his constant search for additional sources of income to meet the needs of his family, the various churches where he played the organ, the music he wrote, and many anecdotes about life in general in his day and time. This was truly a great culmination to a great conference!



HYMNS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

The Dentist's Hymn . . . *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
The Weatherman's Hymn . . . *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*
The Contractor's Hymn . . . *The Church's One Foundation*
The Tailor's Hymn . . . *Holy, Holy, Holy*
The Golfer's Hymn . . . *There is a Green Hill Far Away*
The Politician's Hymn . . . *Standing on the Promises*
The Optometrist's Hymn . . . *Open My Eyes That I Might See*
The IRS Agent's Hymn . . . *I Surrender All*
The Gossip's Hymn . . . *Pass It On*
The Electrician's Hymn . . . *Send The Light*
The Shopper's Hymn . . . *Sweet Bye and Bye*
The Realtor's Hymn . . . *I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop*
The Massage Therapists Hymn . . . *He Touched Me*
The Doctor's Hymn . . . *The Great Physician*

AND for those who speed on the highway:

45 mph . . .	<i>God Will Take Care of You</i>
65 mph . . .	<i>Nearer My God To Thee</i>
85 mph . . .	<i>This World Is Not My Home</i>
95 mph . . .	<i>Lord, I'm Coming Home</i>
100 mph . . .	<i>Take My Hand, Precious Lord</i>
120 mph . . .	<i>Beyond the Sunset</i>
150 mph . . .	<i>The Master Has Called</i>

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018 PROVINCE IV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chaplain, Thack Dyson, and Organist, Paul Anderson, will be returning to our annual conference next year. They have even more to offer and we are delighted that they can fit us into their schedules.

Next summer our meeting will be at Kanuga the 3rd through 6th of June. **Part III of our Art in Worship** theme will include more about church architecture and stained glass. We will also have a wonderful program featuring flowers and greens in a church setting.

A special feature next year will be a field trip to Calvary Church in Fletcher. This is a pre-Civil War church and their needlepoint kneelers tell their history through the years.

Meanwhile, I am asking anyone and everyone who plans to come to the 2018 annual conference to take the time between now and June to photograph the needlepoint found in your church and bring your photos for a very interesting display at Kanuga. Each church has unique needlework and the designs, colors and especially the stories behind each piece are fascinating. If your church hasn't documented the history of its needlework or the value of its possessions, this project can serve multiple purposes. Not only will the pictures delight attendees at the conference, but also they can be part of your church history and serve as proof of value for insurance purposes. Many of you already did this for our Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting a couple of years ago, so you may be ahead of the game!

I encourage anyone who would like to attend to talk to their Rector about possible scholarship assistance. Most churches allocate funds for continuing education and conferences for parish members, and now is a good time to get your request in before your church's 2018 budget is finalized. Meals and lodging at Kanuga for the entire conference runs a little over \$300, and transportation from southwest Florida to Hendersonville/Asheville can run anywhere from \$150 to over \$300 (driving or flying).

Sarah Hill

Diocesan Directress

DATES TO REMEMBER:

WED. NOV. 15, 2017 – 10:00 AM
DIOCESAN ALTARGUILD BOARD MEETING
Dayspring Conference Center, Library
Any altar guild member is welcome to attend!

THURS. NOV. 16, 2017 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
47TH ANNUAL ECW MEETING
Dayspring Conference Center
All women of the Diocese are invited!

SAT. MARCH 10, 2018
ANNUAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD
Dayspring Conference Center
(Details will be announced in next issue.)

SAT. JUNE 03 to WED. JUNE 06, 2018
PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE
Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville NC
(See article on P. 5)

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HELP WANTED: Deanery Directors for the Naples, St. Petersburg, and Venice areas. Secretary. Treasurer and Editor of AltarGram (does not have to be same person in both roles)

If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas, there are plenty of (unpaid) opportunities for you! Deanery Directors are members of the DAG Board and are encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings at DaySpring. Primary responsibility is to maintain phone or email contact with the altar guilds of the churches in your Deanery to let each other know what is going on. Treasurer collects dues and pays bills. Editor of AltarGram collects news from around the Diocese and shares it in newsletter – basic computer skills very helpful!

If interested, contact Sarah at (727) 525-8340.

DAG WEBPAGE:

To visit the DAG webpage, go to the Diocesan website (www.episcopalswfl.org) and hold your cursor over "Mission and Ministries" and then click on "Diocesan Altar Guild."

'ALTARGRAM'

The 'Altargram' goes out by email to the Altar Guild Director of each parish in the Diocese (or to Church Office or Rector if no email address available for AG Director). **PLEASE PRINT A COPY OF THE 'ALTARGRAM' AND POST IT IN YOUR AG SACRISTY**, and forward an electronic copy by email to as many members of your Altar Guild as possible. **Send any changes in email addresses to pcurlin@outlook.com until a new Editor is found. SUBMIT ARTICLES** by email to any Board member.