



PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

A twice-yearly publication of the Province IV Altar Guild

GIFT FROM PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE TO KANUGA NEW SILVER PATEN FOR CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



Every year at the closing Eucharist of the P-IV Annual Conference, a “Love Offering” is collected and given back to Kanuga to be used for special needs in the Chapel. Through the years we have helped with everything from a new oil-filled Pascal candle to enhancing the sound system. Sometimes we buy new linens or vestments.

This year’s request from Kanuga was for another silver paten. As you will see in the photo, we have purchased one from Almy and it is engraved on the underside with “*To the Glory of God - Province IV Altar Guild*”. We are happy to buy something specifically as an Altar Guild gift. There is enough money left that we can replace the brass followers on the altar candles and those will be ordered next.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

ART IN WORSHIP

Our annual Province IV meeting was a sparkling success with music filling our days and evenings. We were treated to a wonderful overview of the history of music in a church setting, spent part of an afternoon with organist Paul Anderson impersonating Johann Sebastian Bach and had a beautiful evening Taize music service. A most interesting feature was realizing how much vocal and organ music depends on the architecture of the building. Once again, were delighted to learn more about our Anglican heritage.

I am happy to announce that our Chaplain, Thack Dyson, and our 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. We will provide more details about this project in the spring. Here is an example of a display prepared by St. Hilary's in Fort Myers Florida (for the Diocese of Southwest Florida Altar Guild Conference) that has pictures and some actual needlepoint.



This Fall finds many of us affected by hurricanes and serious losses. I hope everyone has come through this time safely and without suffering.

Fall is also a time of wonderful new beginning in most churches and I hope yours is thriving and full of life and love. Let us pray for each other.

Thanks Be to God for the ministry and the liturgy we share.

Sarah Hill
President, Province IV Altar Guild

PHOTO COLLAGE of 2017 ANNUAL RETREAT & CONFERENCE

Judy Henderson, Historian-Photographer



2017 CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Here is the feedback from the survey included in Conference packets. Out of 25 registered persons, we received 14 responses. Some questions were left blank on some responses, so not all questions have 14 responses. Numerical responses written as "3.5" or "3+" were counted as "3", etc. Thanks to those who participated. Survey results will be considered as planning progresses for the 2018 Conference.

Questions Rated on Scale (1 = Didn't Like; 2 = Liked A Little; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Liked Somewhat; 5 = Liked A Lot):

Program Theme "Art in Worship – Part 2" –10 liked a lot, 3 neutral, 1 didn't like (14 responses)
Keynote Speaker –9 liked a lot, 4 liked somewhat, 1 didn't like (14 responses)
Chaplain –11 liked a lot, 1 liked somewhat, 1 neutral, 1 didn't like (14 responses)
Opening Eucharist – 11 liked a lot, 2 liked somewhat, 1 didn't like (14 responses)
Morning Prayer – 9 liked a lot, 3 liked somewhat, 1 didn't like (13 responses)
Monday Morning Speaker Session – 8 liked a lot, 5 liked somewhat, 1 liked a little (14 responses)
"Holy Week Retrospective" – 9 liked a lot, 3 liked somewhat, 1 didn't like (13 responses)
Show & Tell – 4 liked a lot, 3 liked somewhat, 6 neutral, 1 liked a little (14 responses)
Taize Service – 11 liked a lot, 2 liked somewhat, 1 neutral (14 responses)
"All About Bach" – 9 liked a lot, 1 liked somewhat, 1 didn't like (11 responses)
Closing Eucharist & Blessing of Hands – 10 liked a lot, 1 didn't like (11 responses)

Other Questions:

Is this the first time you have attended the Province IV Altar Guild Conference? 3 said YES, 10 said NO
Have you attended other events at Kanuga in the past? 8 said YES, 4 said NO
Would you recommend any other conference site for the future? 7 said stay at Kanuga, 1 suggested Camp McDowell in Nauvoo AL, 3 suggested Camp Beckwith in Fairhope AL, 1 suggested rotating between different (unspecified) sites
Free time allotted – 5 said Not Enough, 5 said Just Right
Ice Cream Social – 6 liked it, 2 said it was OK, 2 said N/A – 1 suggestion that it could be combined with Show & Tell
Location of Social Hour – 8 liked 3rd Floor Lounge & Porch, 4 said anywhere is fine
Location of Taize Service – 8 liked 3rd Floor Porch, 1 suggested St. Francis Chapel (outdoors), 1 would like it in a room with a piano
Would you like an "Altar Guild 101" Workshop? -- 8 said YES, 2 said "Don't need myself but good for newcomers"
Would you be willing to bring your Sacristy handbook for Show & Tell – 7 said YES, 1 said "Maybe if we get one"
Suggestions for speakers for 2018 Conference – 5 suggestions, they have been given to Board
Will you recommend future P-IV AG Conferences to others" – 13 said YES (13 responses)
Suggestions for 2019-2020-2021 Board – 6 suggestions, they have been given to Nominating Committee
Suggestions for Newsletter name – "Sacristy Secrets" and "The Mission" (see VOTE at bottom of page)
Other Comments: "Would like hands-on workshop" / "Great conference!!" / "It was a wonderful conference – thanks for all your hard work"

VOTE FOR NEWSLETTER NAME:

"Sacristy Secrets"

"The Mission"

Other _____

Submit your vote by email to pcurlin@outlook.com or cut this out and mail to:

Peggy Curlin
1035 Linda Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211-2038

Voting Deadline is December 31, 2017.

RECAP of 2017 PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Surrounded by the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, 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.)

Paul Anderson, keynote speaker and organist, is Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne, Alabama. He has devoted his entire life to music - church music and school music (teaching in public, private and parochial schools. Mr. Anderson's program was informative, interesting, interactive, and culminated in a surprise visit from no other than that master of church music, Johann Sebastian Bach (aka Paul Anderson, in wig and costume). Throughout his presentation, Mr. Anderson moved back and forth from the lectern to the piano to illustrate the type of music he was discussing. To prepare the group for a later service, 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! 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. Mr. Anderson explained it is the job of the music director to fit the music to the space and the circumstances. Is the church large or small? Is there a pipe organ with multiple ranks of pipes, or a small electronic keyboard? Does the choir include paid professionals, have access to music students from a nearby university, or does it consist of a few dedicated volunteer singers? Church music can be "scaled down without being dumbed down." We need beautiful music, not fancy music.

Worship services were planned and led by The Rev. Thack Dyson, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne, Alabama. Attendees assisted with lessons, psalms, prayers of the people, and as acolytes and LEMs during Eucharist. The opening and closing Eucharists were celebrated in the Chapel of the Transfiguration. Monday began with Morning Prayer. 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. Tuesday began with Morning Prayer on the 3rd Floor Porch. The closing Eucharist included a blessing of our hands for service. As a long time altar guild member, I find having my hands blessed and marked with chrism in the sign of the cross to be 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.

A "Holy Week Retrospective of Music and Singing" by the Rev. Thack Dyson and Paul Anderson took us day by day from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil. Thack emphasized that Holy Week is a WEEK and that the services each day help us to live the last week of Jesus' life, to prepare for his death and to foreshadow the Resurrection. Paul gave examples of music used at the various services.

In a "Walk through the Book of Occasional Services" the Rev. Thack Dyson acquainted us with the many services available for special occasions. Thack explained the latest edition was authorized by the 2003 General Convention, and contains services submitted by clergy to minister to a variety of needs in the life of a parish. 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 offering by 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!

Peggy Curlin

Province IV Altar Guild Treasurer/Editor / Member of Christ Church, Charlotte NC

JOIN the PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD!!

Membership runs from January through December. Technically, dues should be paid in January, but we will happily accept dues whenever they are received! However, if you pay your dues late in the year, your membership still expires at the end December.

- To join, complete Membership Application (P. 7) and mail it with your check to:
P-IV AG Treasurer Peggy Curlin, 1035 Linda Lane, Charlotte NC 28211-2038.

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the Endowment Fund, named for founding member and first Treasurer Betty Knowlton, can be made at any time and in any amount. Please consider a tax deductible gift to the Endowment Fund to commemorate a special occasion, to honor someone important in your life, or as a memorial in memory of someone special. Contributions will be acknowledged in writing. Make checks payable to "Province IV Altar Guild" and put "Endowment Fund" in the memo line, and mail to:

Peggy R. Curlin
Province IV Altar Guild Treasurer
1035 Linda Lane
Charlotte NC 28211-2038

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(Term runs from April 2015 to June 2018)

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PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD

2017 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

INDIVIDUAL OR HOUSEHOLD - Membership open to anyone interested in the ministry of serving the altar.

ANNUAL DUES Individual \$ 20 Household* \$ 30 (Includes spouse/partner or family member)

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
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 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone(s): _____ E-Mail: _____
 Your Parish: _____ Your Diocese: _____
 New: _____ Renewal: _____

PARISH OR MISSION - Membership for any Episcopal parish or mission, or any associated Episcopal group at the parish level (AG, ECW, etc). A recipient for Province IV Altar Guild mailing may be designated. **ANNUAL DUES \$20**

Name: _____
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DIOCESE - Membership for the Office of Bishop, Diocesan Altar Guild, Diocesan Episcopal Church Women or any other diocesan Episcopal group. A recipient for Province IV Altar Guild mailing may be designated. **ANNUAL DUES \$30**

Name of Bishop or Group: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 New: _____ Renewal: _____
 Name of Newsletter Recipient if other than above: _____
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Please make your check payable to: **PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD**

Mail application and check to: **Peggy Curlin
1035 Linda Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211-2038**



Closing Eucharist and Blessing of Hands



Friends and Family



See You Next Year!!