



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTRESS

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

2019 ANNUAL DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD MEETING

The Evaluation Form distributed at the 2018 Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting asked attendees to choose which workshops/programs they would like to have included in the 2019 Annual Meeting at Canterbury Retreat Center (23 February 2019). The list below shows which workshops/programs received the most votes.

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Based on the 2018 inputs, and inputs from previous years, the Board has come up with the following tentative workshop/program subjects for the 2019 Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting; however, if you have not attended previous meetings and you have not had an input, we would like to hear from you. We know that some of you probably have other ideas, and might attend the 2019 Annual Meeting if there is a workshop/program you are interested in. With that in mind, we are offering you an opportunity to let us know which workshops/programs are most important to you. Also, please let us know if you are likely to attend the 2019 meeting at Canterbury Episcopal Retreat Center in Oviedo. There will be an increased fee, as we will be using the Canterbury facilities, and must use their dining facility for lunch and breakfast items.

TENTATIVE WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMS for the 2019 ANNUAL DAG MEETING:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Recruiting new and younger members | - Altar Guild 101 |
| - History of Vessels & Altar Pieces | - Developing an Altar Guild Manual |
| - Flower Demonstration | - Linens – Care of |
| - Flowers – Hands-on working with flowers | - Linens – Basic Sewing |

Please send your inputs/suggestions for workshops/programs at the 2019 Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting to: Judy Henderson, 1978 Red Bud Circle NW, Palm Bay FL 32907, or Email to jem2415@earthlink.net **NOT LATER THAN 30 JUNE 2018.**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

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

1-2 February 2019 – Diocesan Convention – location to be determined

23 February 2019 – Annual DAG Meeting at Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo – Programs will include something for everyone – and you can also stay at Canterbury the night before

EASTER SERVICES:

By Judy Henderson – Holy Trinity – Melbourne FL

Having just ended the Easter Season, many of you probably have fond memories of your church filled with parishioners you have not seen for some time and visitors you have never met. Easter at my church is an especially busy time. Many visitors from up north trying to escape the cold weather join their family in Florida and make our attendance at the 9 AM service “bursting at the seams” – which we love. Because we can only accommodate a certain number of people in our main church, we have two 9 AM services (in addition to our 7:30 and 11:15 AM services). One service is in the main church, and the other, “Family Service,” takes place in the gym and is geared for families with children. It’s an especially fun service for the children, with our Saturday night band providing the music and lots of participation by the younger members, including our children’s choir. Following the service, the young children are treated to an Easter Egg Hunt, complete with a man-sized Easter Bunny. As you might imagine, setting up a church service in the gym presents a slight challenge for the Altar Guild and Flower Guild, but we love a challenge, and after many years of doing an additional service in gym, we’re quite good at it. As you can see from the pictures, we take care to ensure the service is “Easter Celebration” quality, with all the bells and whistles – silver, brass, and beautiful flowers.

I would love to hear how your church celebrates special services and/or occasions. Tell me about your Pentecost!!



GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFER RECIPES:

By Judy Henderson

Many people these days must avoid gluten in their diet for health reasons, and the last thing the church wants to do is make them anxious about the wafers served at the Eucharist.

It was recently brought to my attention by Fr. Steve Easterday at Holy Trinity – Melbourne FL – that there are Gluten Free Wafer recipes available on the Internet. I HAVE NOT TRIED THESE RECIPES, SO I CAN'T VERIFY THEY ARE GOOD, but if you would like to try one or both of them, feel free to let me know how they turned out – Email to jem2415@earthlink.net . When my life slows down a little, I plan to give them a try and I'll report my findings.

FIRST RECIPE: The author of this recipe is Jules Shepard, and her recipe calls for her specially developed flour that can be ordered from her web site: <https://gfjules.com/> . As you might imagine, the flour is a little costly, but communion wafers are also costly; it would be interesting to compare the price of homemade gluten free wafers to those available from commercial sources. Ms Shepard provides a nice background of the use of gluten free wafers in the Catholic Church on her web site. The recipe is available directly at <https://gfjules.com/recipes/gluten-free-communion-wafers/>

SECOND RECIPE: The author of this recipe is Trisha Gilkerson, and she labels her recipe "Gluten-Free, Grain-Free Communion Wafers." Ms Gilkerson's recipe is made with almond flour and just two additional ingredients – an egg and salt. She says that "Hopefully, now we can all spend our time meditating on Christ during communion and not the potential health effects." Ms Gilkerson's gluten free recipes are available at <http://www.intoxicatedonlife.com>



Ingredients: 2 cups almond flour
1 egg
¾ tsp salt

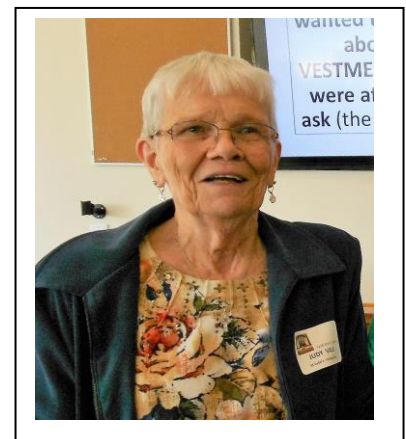
Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend together all ingredients using a high-powered blender or food processor. Roll out the dough between 2 sheets of wax paper until the thickness of a penny. Cut into squares or other shapes using a pizza cutter or knife. Bake for 10-11 minutes until edges start to turn golden.

DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD BOARD MEMBER – JUDY VALK:

By Judy Valk

After I was confirmed 50+ years ago, I was recruited for the Altar Guild in our small Massachusetts church. When we returned to Florida in 1993 I became a member at Grace Church, Port Orange, and when we moved to Orange City in 2014, I became a member at St. Jude's. That's about 50 years of Altar Guild service mainly in small or medium sized parishes. I'm not sure just when I became a Diocesan Altar Guild Board Member, but it has been about 6-8 years now. Clara Fowler was a long-time friend who encouraged me to be involved.

Jim & I were married 54+ years ago in Gainesville and have 4 adult children and 5 grandchildren all based in Massachusetts. At least once a year we take the Auto Train north to see them all, usually at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Besides the Altar Guild, I've been a Eucharist Minister and Lector in each of the churches where we've been long-term members. When we moved to John Knox Village, I became involved in several volunteer activities there including the in-house library. I was a professional librarian for over 25 years, retiring from the Volusia County system in 2002. My many activities include knitting, sewing, reading and tending my 4 cats as well as Jim. I find being part of my church's life to be a blessing in my life.



JUDY VALK

ALTAR GUILD VOCABULARY:

Here are a few more vocabulary words to add to your Altar Guild dictionary.

Alms Basins – Better known as “offering plates” or “collection plates.” Often brass or silverplate, these Alms Basins are used for the collection of alms. Wooden Alms Basins may also be used, especially during certain seasons, such as Lent.

Altar – The center of worship in the church, the Altar is a table where the Eucharist is celebrated. Sometimes attached to a wall, the more modern Altar is free standing.

Bread Box – The dish or bowl that contains Eucharistic wafers.

Cruets – Cruets are containers used to contain the water and wine during celebration of the Eucharist. Cruets are generally made of glass or crystal.

Fair Linen – The white linen that covers the entire top of the Altar and hangs over the ends. Generally, the Fair Linen is embroidered in the center and at the top and bottom of each side with crosses or other Christian symbols.

Flagon – Larger than cruets, the Flagon is generally used for extra wine during the Eucharistic celebration. Flagons may also be used for extra water.

Piscina – A piscina is a sink in the sacristy that drains directly to the ground. Water used to clean vessels and linens that have held consecrated elements must be drained directly to the ground in the piscina. If no piscine is available, the water should be poured outdoors onto the ground.

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