

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTRESS



All Saints - Lakeland

# DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ALTAR GUILD DAG NEWSLETTER

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

### DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING

Because of the heavy fog, the road trip from various geographical points in the Diocese to Lakeland for the 2018 Annual Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG) meeting on 17 February was a little challenging, but about 100 Altar Guild members made the journey to attend the fun and informative meeting, share the Eucharist led by Bishop Gregory Brewer, and hear a delightful Program presented by The Rev. Meghan Farr, our Diocesan Altar Guild Chaplain.

All Saints Episcopal Church welcomed the group to their beautiful historic church in downtown Lakeland for the meeting. Attendees began to gather around 9 AM and checked in at the Registration Desk. Attendees then set to work filling out the "Meet and Greet" that was intended to help them get to know other Altar Guild members in the Diocese. Cyndy Berry, DAG Treasurer, set up a station where she sold Altar Guild pins. For those who preferred to order the pins later, an order form was included in the Handout Package. The Rev. Carolyn Biggs set up a display table for God's Grace Linens ( [www.godsgracelinens.net](http://www.godsgracelinens.net) ) that are handmade in our Sister Diocese of Honduras. An Exchange Table was also set up with many items that were available for free. See Annual Meeting Pictures on pages 3 and 4.

The Business Meeting was conducted to review the DAG activities for 2017, review and accept the Treasurer's Report, and announce significant news and upcoming events. It was announced that Board Member, Betsy Watson, has agreed to step into the Secretary position vacated by Alex Rockefeller. There was a great deal of emphasis on the 2019 Annual DAG meeting which will be held on 23 February 2019 at Canterbury Episcopal Retreat Center in Oviedo. Attendees were advised that rooms have been reserved for those who would like to come the night before so they will not have to drive to Canterbury the morning of the meeting. Rooms at Canterbury are \$56 per night, and two people may share a room and pay only \$23 each. Attendees were urged to fill in the Evaluation Form at the end of the day to advise what workshop and program topics they would be most interested in at next year's meeting. An Altar Guild Apron was awarded in a random drawing of those who completed the Evaluation Form.

Bishop Brewer led the Eucharist and chose the readings and his sermon to honor Martyr Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda. See additional information about the sermon on page 2.

The Rev. Meghan Farr presented the Program, "Seasons, Colors, and Symbols of the Church." See page 2 for additional information about the Program.

#### **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 stay at Canterbury the night before**

## **THE RT REV GREGORY O BREWER'S SERMON AT THE ANNUAL DAG MEETING ON 17 FEBRUARY**

**2018** – by Cyndy Berry

Bishop Brewer's sermon was based on Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, who was one of the most influential leaders of the modern church in Africa. He died as a martyr in February 1977, and the color of the altar was red to commemorate the martyr Janani Luwum. Bishop Brewer shared with us that he had visited Uganda and the places where Janani worshiped and where he was buried.

Janani Luwum, who was revered by the people of Uganda for his steely determination and conviction, spoke out about the atrocities committed by Idi Amin during the 1970s. Janani was a man of the people, gentle, liked to laugh, had children, and was known for his compassionate love. Bishop Brewer compared him to Jesus, in that he had compassion, clarity of vision, capacity to speak the truth, courage in face of adversity, and love of Jesus (God).

Bishop Brewer made the analogy between Janani Luwum and the Lesson readings: Janani was like the 3 friends of Daniel (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego), who had the courage to be loyal to God by refusing to serve King Nebuchadnezzar's gods, even if it meant that they would die in the furnace (Daniel 3:13-29). Janani was an astonishing witness as in the reading from 2 Corinthians -- we are God's servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties (2 Corinthians 6:2-10). In summing up, Bishop Brewer said that nothing can separate us from the love of God -- lay your difficulties before God and ask to know Him (John 12:24-32).



## **SEASONS, COLORS, AND SYMBOLS OF THE CHURCH** – by Kathy Shearer

The Rev. Meghan Farr, Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Melbourne and Chaplain of the Diocesan Altar Guild, was the guest speaker at our Annual Diocesan Meeting in Lakeland on February 17th. Her power point presentation "Seasons, Colors and Symbols of the Church" was educational for all in attendance. Her presentation began with the definition of Liturgy as the "communal public act of worshiping God which is the work of all people, not just the clergy." She went on to say that no two churches are alike as each church develops their own life and liturgy. We engage in church in God's time. The following is a summary of Rev Farr's presentation.



Rev Meghan Farr

Advent, which begins four Sundays prior to Christmas, is the first season. Originally 6 weeks, it was shortened to 4 weeks and begins with themes/stories of the second coming of Jesus and as we move closer to Christmas the story of his birth. The color for this season is Royal Purple or Sarum Blue and the symbol is the advent wreath. Themes throughout Advent include: watchfulness, preparation, hope, expectation and joy.

Christmas, the second season, is the celebration of the birth of Christ and begins on December 25th and lasts until Epiphany on January 6th. The color for Christmas is white with the themes of the incarnation of God in the form of man, joy, peace and hope. Symbols of Christmas are the creche or nativity and evergreens.

Epiphany, which is always on January 6th, celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The Sundays after Epiphany are green and part of ordinary time. This season is longer or shorter depending on the date of Easter. The baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration bookend this season and both use the color white. The season is also marked by a series of manifestations--the way Jesus is made known to be the Son of God.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays). The date of Easter is always determined by the lunar cycle. It is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. Thus, Easter is never earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25<sup>th</sup>. Lent ends on Holy Saturday. The colors for Lent are Violet or Light Purple. The themes are preparation, repentance, wilderness, GUS - give up something, or TOM - take on more. Symbols of Lent are ashes, palms, stations of the cross, and the cross.

Easter begins at sundown of the Saturday prior to Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days. The color is white and the themes are: conquering death, resurrection, joy, and victory. The symbols include fire, paschal candle, lilies, empty tomb, and baptism.

(continued on page 3)

## **SEASONS, COLORS, AND SYMBOLS OF THE CHURCH** (continued from page 2)

Pentecost or Whitsunday occurs 50 days after Easter. The color is red and the themes are the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the church, and baptism. Symbols are flames and a dove. The season of the Sundays after Pentecost is considered ordinary time, though there is nothing ordinary about it! The word "ordinary" comes from "ordinal" meaning counted or numbered. It lasts through Christ the King Sunday and the color for most of the season is green. This is the great green growing season as the Godly Play program calls it. Green is the liturgical color for this season because just as these months mark a time of green and growth in the world around us, so too is life within the church growing--the growth of Christians together in the fellowship of faith and the growth of the Holy Spirit in us. The theme of this season after Pentecost focuses on the mission of the church in the world and our responsibility in carrying on the work that Jesus gave us to do.

According to the evaluations completed by the Altar Guild members and clergy present, Rev. Farr's presentation was interesting, informative, and well presented.

### **ANNUAL MEETING PICTURES**



Laura Lee Brewer & Kathy Shearer



Betsy Watson & Rev Carolyn Biggs



Maria Balseiro, Judy Henderson & Mona Leverett



Registration Table – Ralph Seckinger, Sandi Hendriks, Judy Valk, & Betty Seckinger



Kristina Munday & Judy Davidson



Sarah Hill – President of Province IV Altar Guild

## **HOLY TRINITY'S – MELBOURNE – FLOWER WHISPERER MAUREEN HAMILTON LEADS WORKSHOP –**

by Nance Burroughs

Over 20 enthusiastic ladies with a passion for flowers attended a floral design workshop in late October at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melbourne. Led by "flower whisperer" Maureen Hamilton, participants watched as Maureen created four different arrangements. While she worked, she illustrated various techniques and gave tips. Then each attendee was given a huge vase of many different kinds of flowers together with a container fitted with floral oasis and allowed to do a hands-on project. Maureen and members of her flower guild were on hand to answer questions and give suggestions as members of the class went to work.



Maureen Hamilton



Lunch came next! While everyone enjoyed a buffet luncheon of delectable salads, Maureen continued to demonstrate more arrangements that would adorn the altar and narthex for the weekend services. In the afternoon, students took apart their morning arrangement and, using the same flowers, created another arrangement to take home.

Many of the participants had no experience arranging flowers and everyone agreed they learned a lot from the workshop.



Completing the Meet & Greet – Alicia Cameron Felicia Stephen, & Carolyn Bonzak



Cheryl Davis & Joan Kippns



Pat Hook & Carmen Howell

### **ALTAR GUILD VOCABULARY:**

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

**Altar Book** – also called the Missal – The Altar Book contains the service of the Eucharist in all its variations, as well as the music for conducting a sung Eucharist.

**Aumbry** – The aumbry is the “wall safe” where the Reserved Sacrament is held. If the wine and/or wafers have been blessed by the priest, these elements must be consumed. If these elements cannot be consumed during the regular service, they may be stored in the aumbry for future use.

**Ciborium** – A ciborium is a container used in the Aumbry to contain the bread (wafers). The Ciborium resembles a chalice, but it has a lid.

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### **MORE ANNUAL MTG PICS**



Diane Eugene, Alicia Cameron, & Claudia McGregor



Jane Blair & Kathy Munro