



Calvary Church
Fletcher NC

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTRESS

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

Following are reports on the Province IV conference at Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC, the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) conference in Austin, TX, and planning for our Annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting. If you want to know more, feel free to contact me.

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PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE **KANUGA Episcopal Conference Center** **Hendersonville, NC – 3-6 June 2018**

This year's Conference was Part III of a 3-year series titled "Art in Worship." I think we all want to celebrate our worship in a beautiful setting; whether in a church, a wilderness chapel, or a temporary store-front church, there is much we can do to make the space more beautiful. Those of us who are fortunate enough to celebrate in a church may enjoy beautiful stained-glass windows, carved wooden altars, hand-crafted needlepoint kneelers, banners, frontals and hangings, Eucharistic elements, etc. We may have the privilege of enjoying gorgeous organ music or music led by a full choir or band. We sometimes take these things for granted, as we enjoy them each week, but much has been done over the years to perfect the beauty of a church.

This year's conference helped bring us back to the basics. One workshop on "Altar-Worthy Weeds," brought us back to what we can do to make the worship space beautiful with little resources. Rebecca Dyson, leader of the workshop, gave us time to scour through the Kanuga grounds and come back with items to make our altar arrangement. (see pictures, page 2).

A field trip to Calvary Episcopal Church in Fletcher, NC, was a highlight of our conference. Calvary is a pre-Civil War church, complete with cemetery. Members of the congregation have recently completed needlepoint kneelers and cushions. In their Sacristy, many in our group were interested in their unique method of storing their altar frontals (see pictures on page 2).

DATES TO REMEMBER:

1-2 February 2019 – Central FL Diocesan Convention, Orlando, FL

23 February 2019 – Annual DAG Meeting at Canterbury Retreat Center in Oveido, FL –
Programs will include something for everyone – and you can stay at
Canterbury the night before, for a nominal fee

2-5 June 2019 – Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC

**Calvary Episcopal Church, Fletcher, NC
– Needlepoint & Frontal Hanger**



Needlepoint kneeler



Needlepoint Cushion



Hanging Frontals in the Sacristy



Dianne Walters Gleaning Cuttings



Rebecca Dyson Leading the Altar Flower Workshop



Some of the Altar Worthy Arrangements

The conference included much more – music, a Taize service, social time, exchange of ideas, worship services, a business meeting, election of officers, videos, blessing of the hands, and lots of wonderful meals. The conference is open to all altar guild members. If you would like to attend next year’s conference, watch for future news in this newsletter, or contact me for further information – jem2415@earthlink.net .



Group Picture



Florida Attendees



Rev Thack Dyson - Blessing of the Hands

NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE
Austin, Texas – 6-13 July 2018

The National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) Conference is held every 3 years in conjunction with the Episcopal Convention. This year the Conference was held in Austin, TX. The primary reason for holding the Conference in conjunction with the Convention is that NAGA organizes the Eucharist for each of the services (essentially, every day). The Eucharist was well organized, with a team preparing the bread in large baskets, pitchers of wine, glass chalices, smaller bread baskets, and purificators before the team of Deacons and Altar Guild members arrived for training. Deacons and Altar Guild members manned each of the 9 Eucharistic stations with 4 people serving bread and 8 people serving wine at each station. A team of “walking Deacons and friends” were recruited at each service to take the bread and wine to the Altar to be blessed and then to distribute the bread and wine to the stations after it was blessed. It’s quite a process and very impressive to see 3,000 to 4,000 people served Eucharist in about 11 or 12 minutes. Even the cleanup was impressive with carts being brought around to pick up the used and unused wine and bread and dirty chalices and purificators. The blessed wine and bread were disposed of properly at the end of each day.

Between church services and serving the Episcopal Convention, NAGA planned an interesting and informative series of briefings/workshops, worship services, and meetings, plus a field trip to the Painted Churches, and social gatherings where attendees had an opportunity to get to know other attendees and exchange ideas. ALMY sponsored our breakfast one morning; former NAGA President, Katrina Packard, treated us to heavy hors d'oeuvres at the historic Sengelmann Dance Hall at the end of our field trip; St James Episcopal Church treated us to continental breakfast before we celebrated Eucharist at their church on our way to see the Painted Churches; and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church served us lunch after Eucharist and installation of our new officers. The Field Trip to the Painted Churches of Texas was amazing (see pictures on page 4).

Carol McCrady presented an impressive demonstration of how papyrus is made and displayed her original art work on papyrus in her Papyrus Art Show workshop. It was interesting to learn about the development of papyrus and its effect on the spread of the written word.

Carol McCrady with artwork



Keynote speaker was **Demi Prentiss**, co-author (with Fletcher Lowe) of the book, **Radical Sending: Go to Love and Serve**. Demi enlisted many BIBLE verses in her encouragement to Altar Guild members as they serve the church and God. She encouraged us to be brave and lead the way in worship and as an example to others in all areas of hospitality. Following is an example of her “Radical Welcome”:

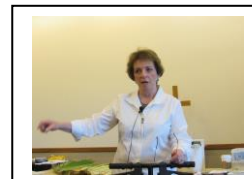
- Inviting – “Come, join our community and share our cultural values and heritage.”
- Inclusion – “Help us to be diverse.”
- Radical Welcome – “Bring your culture, your voice, your whole self—we want to engage in truly mutual relationship.”

Demi Prentiss



Chris Farber, Flower Artist, demonstrated flower arranging and the making of various items using palm fronds. She also distributed information about various flowers and the significance of the flowers. Examples include:

- Hibiscus – Delicate Beauty, Glory
- Daisy – Loyal Love, Faith
- Lily of the Valley – Happiness, Purity, Spring Time
- Sunflower – Adoration, Constancy, Respect



Chris Farber

Jenna Burns, Liturgical Artist, presented a wonderful workshop on making frontals, hangings, and banners. I loved her work, but I don't have sufficient space in this issue to describe her presentation, so I'm going to save this article and the pictures until our November newsletter. If you want a little heads-up on her work, visit www.cottonpatch-designs.com

Other presentations included “Recruitment and Retention” by **Lynn Hendricks**, “Rubrics of the BCP” by Lynn Hendricks, and “Book of Occasional Services,” by **Rev Bill King**. Rev Bill also led Morning Prayer services and Blessing of the Hands.

The highlight of our Conference was when **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** visited and gave us encouragement in our work to make the sacred spaces pleasing to God and had his picture taken with our group. If you've seen any news from the Episcopal Convention, I'm sure you will know that the theme of Bishop Curry's remarks was “Love” and the “Love of Christ in the Church.” At the Revival, I was fortunate to be sitting just a few rows back, directly at center stage. I had a terrific view of Bishop Curry and you could feel the love all around. People sat on the edge of their seats and listened to his every word, and people clapped and said “Amen” at every pause. It was a thrill to hear him preach.





Cart ready to take Bread & Wine out



Eucharist Station with Chalices & Bread Baskets



Barbara Holladay & Riek Fitzpatrick – Dioc of Cen FL

PLANS ARE PROGRESSING FOR OUR ANNUAL DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Those of you who have attended Sally Spenser’s annual flower workshops in New Smyrna Beach will be thrilled to know that Sally will be presenting a Flower Demonstration at our 2019 annual meeting. An additional flower workshop, “Hands-on Working With Flowers,” will also be included in our program. Altar Guild 101 will be presented by former NAGA President, Lynn Hendricks, and it looks promising that we will have a “Linens – Basic Sewing” workshop for those who wish to learn about sewing church linens. We have a volunteer to lead a “Developing an Altar Guild Manual” workshop, and we’re still working on other subjects that we plan to include in our 2019 meeting.

Please keep the date open – **23 February 2019**, and plan to attend. We have already reserved the Canterbury Episcopal Retreat Center in Oviedo for our meeting. More information will be available in our November newsletter, and registration packages will be distributed to all churches around 1 January.

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