

Due to Province IV meeting in June and General Convention in July, this issue is somewhat delayed! The next issue will come out in September prior to Diocesan Convention. Note dates and other information in Sarah's column – if you need accommodations in Punta Gorda, make your reservations ASAP. Due to the excitement of Bishop Curry's visit, finding hotel and motel space is going to be a challenge!

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

This has been a summer full of Episcopalian activities! We began with the **Province IV Annual Conference** in early June held at Kanuga. Then we moved right into the **National Altar Guild Triennial** meeting in Austin, Texas in July. **Peggy Curlin** (now in the Diocese of North Carolina) and I attended along with other representatives from Province IV and our bishop and his wife. Southwest Florida had about 25 people there and we loved it all. One of the biggest thrills is being able to use our Altar Guild skills and be part of the daily Eucharists that go on for more than a week. Preparing for several thousand communicants is really special and a lot of work. It takes a team of at least 20 each time plus the deacons and other Eucharistic ministers. The National Altar Guild Association programs were inspiring and we all enjoy sharing ideas and learning new things.

Sarah Hill at NAGA Triennial in Austin Texas



We are now preparing for our own diocesan convention October 11-13 in Punta Gorda. This is going to be one of the busiest gatherings ever because we will be hosting the **Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry!** There will be a big Eucharist at 5 PM on Friday, the 12th. Hibiscus Hall holds about 1500 people so you can picture how that will be a challenge to stage. The other very important part of our convention is the big vestment and liturgical goods exchange

held every year. Start right now cleaning out “treasures” in your sacristies because someone will love them in the future, as you have in the past. We set this up on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 11 and that is a good time to volunteer to help, as well as all of Friday and Saturday morning. This is a most rewarding ministry!

Something else that we can be part of is to encourage acolytes in your churches to attend the ***Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral*** on September 15. Your part can come as they return to their home churches and you reinforce the lessons they have learned about names of sacred vessels and how and why they are used. I will be part of an instructed Eucharist with lots of show and tell. A little tour of your sacristy is a great idea. Using incense is always popular, too. They love that workshop.

Let me know if you need help with altar guild questions. I have lots of resources and am happy to teach and encourage you. Please consider representing your Deanery by being on the Diocesan Altar Guild Board. We meet four times a year at DaySpring, and help with Convention. Plus we have an annual program in the Spring. We are always open to program ideas and wants.

Blessings to you all as Autumn comes and our routines begin again.

Sarah Hill

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MANY THANKS to **Judy Henderson**, official photographer for the P-IV AG and NAGA, for all the lovely photos in this newsletter. Judy is also the Directress and Newsletter Editor for the Altar Guild of the Diocese of Central Florida.

DUES REMINDER FROM THE BOARD

Dues notices are mailed (e-mailed) out in January. If for some reason you forgot to pay your **2018 Diocesan Altar Guild Dues**, pay them now! Dues notices for 2019 will go out in January. Dues for a church are \$20.00; dues for a mission are \$10.00

Make check payable to: Altar Guild, Diocese of SWFL and put “Altar Guild Dues” on the “FOR” line. Send payment to:
Diocese of Southwest Florida
ATTN: Diocesan Altar Guild
8005 – 25th Street East
Parrish FL 34219-9405

JOIN THE NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD

The **National Altar Guild Association** (www.nationalaltarguildassociation.org) serves Episcopal altar groups and individual members of altar guilds. Among other things, NAGA is responsible for all the logistics involving Eucharists at General Convention, for making and providing stoles to military chaplains, for providing or assisting dioceses with providing disaster communion kits, and for being a source of information for “all things altar guild”. Membership in NAGA (\$35 a year) includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, **Epistle**. Make check payable to NAGA and send to Treasurer **Marcia Himes**, 45 Farview Circle, Riverton, WY 82501-9760



CHURCHES AROUND THE DIOCESE . . .

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church (Fort Myers Deanery)
9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33908
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Iona-Hope Episcopal Church had its beginnings in the summer of 1998 as a result of an initiative by the Diocese of Southwest Florida to form a mission in the Iona-MacGregor area of Fort Myers. Iona-Hope received its name from this geographical area, but also for the many discussions relative to the hopes and dreams of this congregation. Iona-Hope is further linked to the Iona Community off the coast of Scotland by the Celtic processional cross which was made by a woodcarver at Iona Abbey, a spiritual site founded by St. Columba in 563. Iona-Hope's patron saint is St. Columba.

Iona-Hope's present church was opened for services during Advent of 2005. Current services include Saturday 5:00PM healing service with Eucharist, Sunday morning, Rite One at 8:00AM and Rite Two at 9:30, Wednesday morning Eucharist at 9:30 AM. **The Rev. Ray Buchanan** is Rector, and **The Rev. Susie Post** is Associate Rector.

As the Iona Community in Scotland seeks new ways to live the Gospel in today's world, so do the members of Iona-Hope strive toward intentionality in seeking to serve Christ here and beyond their borders. Iona-Hope Episcopal Church proclaims "All are Welcome" on its signage as a confirmation of our baptismal covenants to love our neighbor as ourselves and of Iona-Hope's emphasis on inclusivity and servanthood.

The Altar Guild has 13 members; some are seasonal. **Bob Hunt** and **Cyndi Farmer** share leadership duties. One person cares for all altar linens -- they are easy care fabric so it is not a huge task. Iona-Hope uses silk flower arrangements on the Altar, with all monies collected for flowers going to outreach, primarily to Hunger Ministries.



REPORT FROM PROVINCE IV ANNUAL MEETING
Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina
June 3-6, 2018

This was the third year of a program series called "Art in Worship." **The Rev. Thack Dyson** from St. Paul's, Daphne, Alabama, served as Conference Chaplain, with their organist & music director, **Paul Anderson**, providing music for various services, including Opening and Closing Eucharists, Morning Prayer every day (one with Deconsecration and Burning of Linens), and a Taize service.

Attendees "gleaned on the grounds" to obtain materials for a flower workshop given by **Rebecca Dyson**, entitled "Altar-Worthy Weeds". Rebecca's love of flowers started in her grandmother's garden in Alabama. She has worked for a florist, taken a class at the National Cathedral, and has lots of hands-on experience. Rebecca loves to share "flower talk" and glorify God by working with His creation.



Gleaned Materials



Altar-Worthy Weeds

A day was devoted to a field trip to **Calvary Episcopal Church in Fletcher, North Carolina**, home of a most amazing collection of original needlepoint kneelers depicting the history of this pre-Civil War church, along with images of local birds, insects, animals, flowers, trees, and mountains of western Carolina. A couple examples are shown below:



Cross with Grapevine Border & NC Mountains



Spring in Western NC

Historian-Photographer **Judy Henderson** treated everyone to a slide show with images from the 2017 Conference, and Paul Anderson presented a program on church architecture. Plenty of time was allocated for members to share pictures of needlework from their home churches, and to swap ideas. In the evenings, old friendships were renewed and new ones made at Social Hour, including a joint get-together with members of the ECW.

During the closing service, newly elected officers were installed. Their three-year term runs from June 2018 to June 2021. Following Eucharist, the hands of altar guild members were blessed for the work they do.



2018-2021 Board: Ann McCormick, President (Memphis TN); Martha Noble Langston, Vice-President (Birmingham AL); The Rev. Thack Dyson, Chaplain; Valerie Riley, Secretary (Irmo SC); Phyllis Bruce, Treasurer (Fairview AL)



Blessing of the Hands



Group Photo 2018

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the Province IV Altar Guild is usually held the first week of June. Tentative dates for 2019 are Sun. June 2 through Wed. June 5. Once the new Board finalizes plans, information will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *AltarGram*.

JOIN THE PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD

The Province IV Altar Guild is comprised of members from the nine states in our geographic area: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and part of Louisiana. Membership in the P-IV AG gives you an opportunity to network with wonderful altar guild members from the southeast. P-IV AG dues (\$20 a year) include a subscription to their twice-yearly newsletter, **Sacristy Sense**. Make check payable to P-IV AG and send to Treasurer **Phyllis Bruce**, 402 Circle Drive, Fairhope, AL 36532-2603.

NAGA TRIENNIAL
J. W. Marriott Hotel, Austin, Texas
July 6-12, 2018

Province IV was well represented at the NAGA Triennial in Austin, Texas: Five attendees from the Diocese of Alabama, four from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, five from the Diocese of Central Florida, one from the Diocese of Southwest Florida, two from the Diocese of Tennessee, one from the Diocese of West Tennessee, one from the Diocese of Mississippi, one from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, one from the Diocese of Kentucky, and two from the Diocese of North Carolina. Province IV continues its long tradition of service to NAGA: **Dianne Walters** of Alabama is the new President, **Judy Henderson** of Florida is historian, **Betsy Davenport** of Kentucky runs the Sacristy Shop, **Ann McCormick** of Tennessee is the P-IV Representative, and **Peggy Curlin** of North Carolina is newsletter Editor.

NAGA has the responsibility and honor to prepare for and clean up after all the Eucharists at General Convention, serving over 3000 communicants in less than 15 minutes. **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** took time out of his busy schedule to visit and speak to the members of NAGA.



Elements Ready for Consecration



Bishop Curry speaks to NAGA

Everyone enjoyed a full week of inspiring talks, workshops, many communal services, and a field trip to a few of the “painted churches” of Texas. The keynote speaker, **Demi Prentiss**, challenged altar guild members to always exhibit radical hospitality. Workshops featured flower arranging, the history of communication and the process of creating papyrus for modern-day art, fabric art for sacred spaces, including a “make & take” project, and presentations on the *Book of Common Prayer*, the *Book of Occasional Services*, and how to recruit and retain AG members.



Demi Prentiss Inspires NAGA

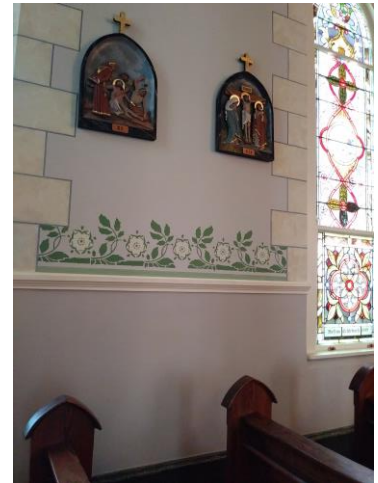
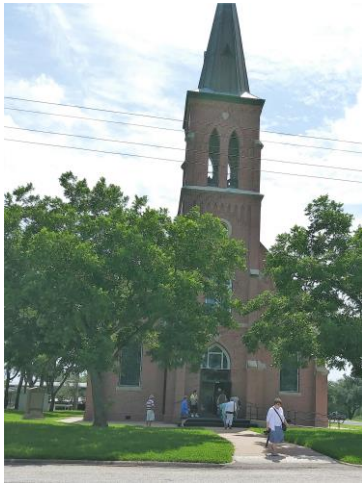


Fabric Artist Jenna Brunns

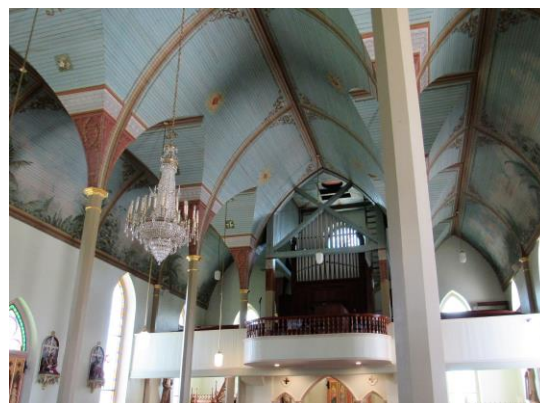
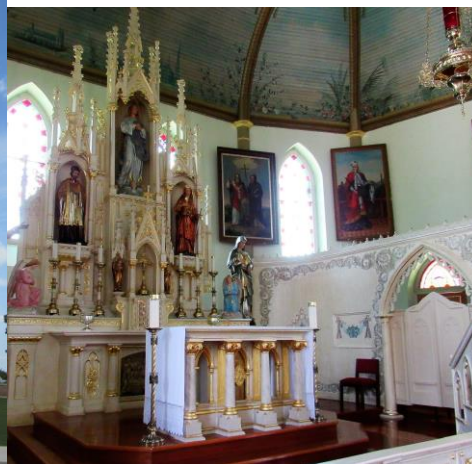
PAINTED CHURCHES OF TEXAS:

Czech and German immigrants who came to Texas in the 1800s settled in the central part of the state and immediately set to building churches and schools. In an effort to replicate the feeling of their homelands, they painted the walls, altars, and arches of their sanctuaries in colorful patterns and clever tromp l'oeil images.

The Nativity of Mary, Blessed Virgin, High Hill, Texas



St. Mary's, Church of the Assumption, Praha, Texas



St. John the Baptist in Ammansville



Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina



The exterior of Sts. Cyril & Methodius is almost identical to St. John the Baptist – apparently the same plans were used for the outside of both churches, but the interiors are quite different.

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HELP WANTED: Secretary. Deanery Directors for the Manasota, St. Petersburg, and Venice areas. Editor of AltarGram.

If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas, there are plenty of (unpaid) opportunities for you!

Secretary keeps minutes of Board meetings and Annual meeting.

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.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

THURS. OCT. 11, 2018 1:00 PM

Help DAG set-up Free Market tables for Diocesan Convention

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda FL

FRI. OCT. 12 & SAT. OCT 13, 2018

50th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda FL

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH FREE MARKET TABLE