



Sacristy Sense

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

A twice-yearly publication of the Province IV Altar Guild

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In Chapter 10:38-42 of St Luke's Gospel we read the story of Jesus visiting in the home of Martha and her sister Mary. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to his teachings, while Martha worked to provide hospitality for him. While Mary seized the opportunity to learn from Jesus, Martha complained because her sister wasn't helping her care for his needs. As members of the Altar Guild we don't have to make that kind of decision. Our altar guild ministry is to provide hospitality to all who would come to his Altar to be fed, while our work gives us a deeper understanding of his ministry and sacrifice.

As a member of Province IV Altar Guild since 2001, I have learned much about the "whys, hows, what ifs, wheres, whens and so muchs" of altar guild matters that helps to make people feel welcome to his table, as well as finding deeper meanings and perspectives in his teachings. However, I have seen a decline in attendance which is occurring in many volunteer organizations of which I'm a member. In 2001, there were about 60 in attendance at our annual meeting. This year there were about 30. We have always had excellent chaplains who lead us in our worship, musicians who enhance our time together, workshops that expand our creativity, and field trips that broaden our horizons. I don't think the attendance decline is about not offering informative, enriching programs, but possibly the cost, travel, and time elements. I know I value the short time that I spend at our sessions each year, returning home feeling spiritually refreshed and renewed. I hope to look at ways we can increase our membership and attendance, to share this special time with more of our devoted altar guild members from throughout Province IV.

Martha Noble Langston and I recently visited St. Mary's Sewanee Ayres Center for Spiritual Development as a possible venue for our 2020 meeting. It is a lovely place, near Chattanooga, and a bit more centrally located than Kanuga, but we didn't feel that it was suitable for our needs at this time. Another possibility is the DuBose Conference Center at Monteagle, TN, again near Chattanooga and convenient to the University of the South, which would be a wonderful place to visit. If you have any other suggestions for an alternate venue for our 2020 annual meeting, please let us know.

I feel privileged to have been elected to serve as president of Province IV for the next three years. I have an excellent team to work with. Vice-President Martha and I are putting together programs that will have practical information, as well as provide spiritual enrichment for those who attend. In addition, we are fortunate to have **Valerie Riley** as secretary and **Phyllis Bruce** as treasurer. **Sarah Hill** will be chairman of our Nominating Committee. **Peggy Curlin** will continue as editor of our newsletter, *Sacristy Sense*, **Regina Barber** and **Melva Morfaw** have agreed to serve as Hospitality Committee. Thanks to all. I look forward to working together with our Board to continue to provide a meaningful session for our members.

Our theme for our term of office is from *Ecclesiastes 3:1*: "There is a time for everything under heaven."

The dates for our 2019 meeting will be June 3-5 at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC. The Spring 2019 newsletter will have meeting details and registration information. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at this special "Meeting Place" with very special altar guild friends.

Ann McCormick
President, Province IV Altar Guild

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

This will be my last letter as President of the Province IV Altar Guild. As of the meeting held at Kanuga the first weekend in June of 2018, I have happily passed the gavel to Ann McCormick.

The past three years have had a common theme of “Art in Worship” with the idea that we all share in so many of the arts in our Episcopal liturgical worship. We began with **Marylyn Doyle** sharing her vast knowledge of textiles and design in our vestments, paraments banners and other garments such as albs and cassocks. We were amazed at her vast knowledge and were greatly enriched.

The second year we focused on music and church architecture. **Paul Anderson** was able to share his incredible knowledge of music through the ages and his teaching materials were amazing. So was his impersonation of Johann Sebastian Bach!! He also introduced us to Taizé music and other early chants. Lots to remember.

The third year we focused on needlepoint, architecture and more music! Our field trip to Calvary Episcopal Church in Fletcher, NC gave us a chance to really see what original needlepoint looks like. Our guide, **Kathy Noyes**, was perfect and so enthusiastic.

Our chaplain, **The Rev. Thack Dyson** and musician **Paul Anderson** are both from St. Paul's in Daphne, AL so they were able to coordinate their music and liturgy to our great benefit. We had our hands blessed, sang together, enjoyed morning prayer by the lake and at St. Francis' chapel. We closed the day with eucharists and glorious music and more Taizé. We also gathered and arranged wonderful wild flowers for altar use encouraged by Thack's wife, **Rebecca**.

We now move on to embrace another three years with a new board and new ideas. Altar Guild is not just about ironing purificators or polishing silver. There are so many ways to appreciate what makes our liturgy special.

I thank you all for your support these past three years. It made a fine culmination for me for the 59 years that I have been part of an altar guild.

“Liturgy is common prayer expressing and creating a common life-common belief”

Sarah Hill

Immediate Past-President, Province IV Altar Guild

IN MEMORIUM

Our loving friend, **Dolores Miller** passed away on Monday January 28, after a several-year battle with cancer. She was a past president of the Province IV Altar Guild and an active member in her parish altar guild, St. Catherine's, Florence SC. Dolores was a devoted member of NAGA and attended many Triennials. Her gift of laughter and wry humor will never be forgotten. Dolores' passing leaves a hole in the lives of many, including myself. She was such a delightful person ... she will be missed. Her memorial service will be held on March 23 in Florence, South Carolina.

Condolences may be sent to:

Frances Elmore
4205 Byrnes Blvd.
Florence, SC 29506-8335

I ask for your prayers for Frances as she moves through this difficult time. May our friend Dolores rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

Dianne Walters

President, National Altar Guild

TIME TO RENEW (OR BEGIN) YOUR MEMBERSHIP !!

Membership in the Province IV Altar Guild runs from January through December. Technically, dues should be paid in January, but some people wait until they register for the Conference to renew their membership.

Complete the Membership Application (P. 4) and mail it with your check to

Phyllis Bruce
Treasurer, P-IV Altar Guild
402 Circle Drive
Fairhope, AL 36532-2603



BETTY KNOWLTON ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the Province IV Altar Guild 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 **Phyllis Bruce** (see above for address).

P-IV ALTAR GUILD MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Thanks to **Dianne Walters**, you can now order any style shirt or any other monogram-able item from Lands' End and have the Province IV logo embroidered on it. Go to the web site (see link below) or order by phone.

http://ocs.landsend.com/cd/frontdoor?store_name=Province_IV_Altar_Guild&store_type=3

Just copy this link into your browser, select the shirt or other item you want, and proceed to checkout. When you put the item in your shopping cart there is a choice of logo and when you click on the link Province IV AG comes up.

If you wish to order by phone, the number is 800-587-1541. Tell the representative you want:

Logo #1116018.

Company Name: Province IV Altar Guild

Store Login ID: altarguild

Store URL: ces.landsend.com/Province_IV_Altar Guild.



PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD

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: _____
 City: _____
 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: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Attn: _____
 Diocese: _____
 New: _____ Renewal: _____
 Name of Newsletter Recipient if other than above: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 New: _____ Renewal: _____

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: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 New: _____ Renewal: _____

Please make your check payable to: **PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD**

Mail application and check to: **Phyllis Bruce
 402 Circle Drive
 Fairhope, AL 36532-2603**

ALTAR GUILD FESTIVAL

The Diocese of Alabama Altar Guild held an Altar Guild Festival on Saturday January 12, 2019 at Saint Stephen's in Birmingham. The day started with Eucharist conducted by *The Rev. John Burruss* the Rector of Saint Stephen's.

The program for the day included a presentation by *Lynn Hendricks* former NAGA President on the "Care of Linens and the Deconsecrating of Linens and Vestments." She brought a stole made by *Barbara Parks* from deconsecrated purificators that had been recycled. It was a way for members to see a wonderful use for linens that have become too worn for regular use.



Dr. Anne Blackerby gave a hands-on demonstration of "Baking Eucharist Bread." Members were provided a recipe and were able to see the entire process of baking bread appropriate for use at Eucharist. The bread baked that day will be used for the Eucharist at the Convention of the Diocese of Alabama in February.



NAGA President *Dianne Walters* presented a program on NAGA. She offered ways for members to become involved on a level past the parish. Dianne also encouraged members to take advantage of resources from Province IV and NAGA.

The day concluded with a very informative session by **Jason Powell** of Petals from the Past in Jemison, AL. His topic was “Creating Cutting Arrangements.” He work well in gardens of arrangements for our Altars. time, his extensive demonstrated. He donated for the gardens of Saint



Gardens for Use in Altar Flower presented a variety of plants that Alabama and can be used in Jason was very generous with his knowledge and the plantings he several plants for door prizes and one Stephen’s.

The day was a great time for learning and visiting with members from other parishes.

Submitted by **Martha Noble Langston**

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(June 2019 to June 2021)

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