



St Augustine Chapel
Canterbury Retreat
Center, Oviedo, FL

Diocesan Board: See Page 6 for Board Member contact information.

CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (DAG) **ANNUAL MEETING at Canterbury Retreat Center**

By **Judy Henderson** – Newsletter Editor

If you missed the 2019 Annual Meeting, you missed an opportunity to learn more about many different aspects of the Altar Guild (AG) and Flower Guild. Perhaps your Flower Guild is not a part of your Altar Guild, but the Flower Guild comes under the umbrella of the Altar Guild in many churches.

The weekend began on Friday evening when several Diocesan AG Board members, out-of-town speakers, and AG members from around the Diocese met at Canterbury to begin the weekend activities. We decorated the “color-coded” tables (each Deanery was assigned a color), set up the registration table, and ensured that meeting rooms were set according to our needs for the Saturday workshops before going to dinner together at a local restaurant. Saturday morning, we were ready for the attendees to arrive and anxious to enjoy Eucharist with the Bishop and a variety of Workshops.

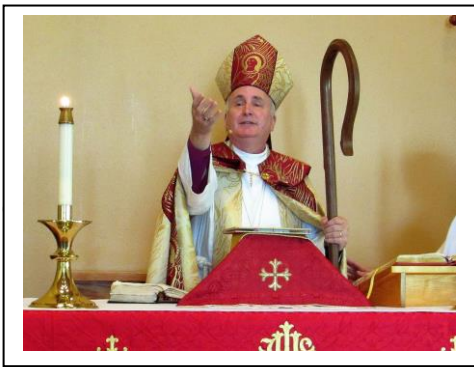
After a short business meeting, Bishop Gregory Brewer led us in worship with a sermon about Polycarp (see page 2 for additional information). Following the worship service, we enjoyed a lovely lunch prepared by the Canterbury staff and then two sessions of workshops, offering a selection of subjects of interest to AG and Flower Guild members. In the first session, attendees chose between Altar Guild 101, Altar Flower Demonstration, Basic Linen Sewing, or History of Vessels and Vestments. In the second session, attendees chose between Recruitment and Retention of AG Members, Flower Re-Arranging, Developing an AG Manual, or Care of Linens. Additional information about workshops is presented on pages 2 and 3.

Each Deanery was assigned a different color to allow Deanery members the opportunity to meet others in their Deanery, as well as members of other Deaneries. The distinctive color-coding was assigned to table decorations and name tags, and attendees had a chance of winning the table decorations. Additional prizes were awarded in a random drawing, including one name selected by those who submitted Evaluation Forms for the Meeting. See pages 4 and 5 for meeting pictures and additional information on the Evaluation Form results. Attendees departed in mid-afternoon, happy with their new knowledge of the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Sewing Guild.

A special thanks to our speakers and workshop leaders who offered their time and knowledge, to the Central Deanery members who assisted the Board with the Meeting, and especially to the DAG Board Members who put the meeting together.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2-5 June 2019 – Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC
February 2020 – Annual Central FL Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting – date and location to be determined; hosted by the Northeast Deanery



Bishop Gregory Brewer is a strong supporter of the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild, and his sermon at the Annual Meeting reflected this support. The subject of his sermon was “Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna,” who died a painful death, probably in the year 156, because he was willing to “Not Deny Jesus.” The authentic account of the martyrdom of Polycarp on February 23 tells of Polycarp’s courageous witness in the amphitheater at Smyrna. When the Proconsul asked Polycarp to curse Christ, Polycarp said, “Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I Blaspheme my King who saved me?” Polycarp, who was faithful to

Jesus, regardless of the price, was burned at the stake, but before his ordeal, he is reported to have looked up to heaven and prayed to his King. Bishop Brewer reminded the Altar Guild members of the need to pray at all times and especially as we perform our Altar Guild ministry. Bishop Brewer said, “A well-dressed Altar invites people into the church.” He further said that we should be still in the presence of God and pray, that our prayers reflect his Grace and Glory, and that we should sit in church letting the quiet wash over us. Bishop Brewer was assisted at the Eucharist by The Ven. Kristi Alday and the DAG Chaplain, The Rev. Meghan Farr.

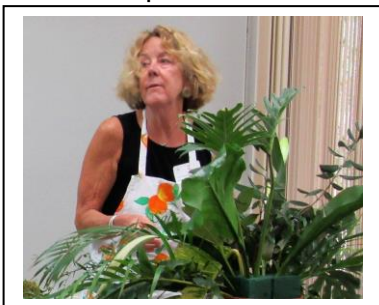
SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP SESSIONS INCLUDED:

-- Workshop A1 was **Altar Guild 101**, led by **Dianne Walters**, President of the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA), from Dothan, Alabama. Dianne did a Power Point presentation which was created by **Lynn Hendricks**, Past President of NAGA. It was a basic introduction to the Altar Guild, its purpose and responsibilities, including but not limited to the church calendar, definitions of terms, caring of vessels and linens with photos illustrating all aspects of the AG. New AG members as well as veteran AG members learned from Dianne’s presentation. Evaluation comments included “Speaker and message good,” “Book recommendations great” and “Very knowledgeable.”



Dianne Walters

-- Workshop A2 was a **Flower Demonstration** by well-known flower arranger and seminar presenter, **Sally Spencer**, of St Peter the Fisherman, New Smyrna Beach.

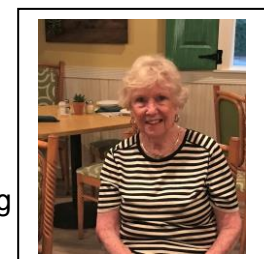


Sally Spencer

Sally assembled altar flower arrangements, giving professional guidance on selecting flowers and greenery and graciously left the arrangements she made for Church of the Incarnation at Canterbury for their Sunday service. Sally is well-known by Diocesan Flower Guild members for her Flower Seminars. She grows many of the flowers and greens she uses. Evaluation comments included “Great presentation – time too limited for questions.”



-- Workshop A3 was a **Basic Linen Sewing** class presented by **Charlotte Sandberg** who led the Linen Guild at Holy Trinity, Melbourne, for many years. Charlotte, who made the trip from her current residence in Maryland to present the workshop, prepared kits containing a linen square cut to the size needed for a purificator and included thread, needles, etc, so she could teach attendees how to hand sew the hem of the linen, including a mitered corner. Charlotte included a simple cross at the center of the linen that can be embroidered to complete the purificator. Attendees left with the knowledge of how to complete their purificator at home. Evaluation Form comments included “Charlotte is Great – Loved Charlotte,” “Charlotte was terrific! She makes sewing fun...,” and “Great Presenter, so knowledgeable and patient.” Charlotte led a second workshop session (B9) to allow more time to work on the project.



Charlotte Sandberg

-- Workshop A4, **History of Vessels and Altar Pieces**, was presented by **Suzanne Grant** (pictured at right) of All Saints in Lakeland. Suzanne presented many interesting facts about the items handled by Altar Guild members and showed extremely ornate sterling silver chalices and a ciborium that must be kept in a vault when not in use. She discussed the care of such vessels and told about who handles the special pieces in their church – deacons, vergers, etc. Suzanne also displayed vestments and explained when items are used and gave tips on care of these items. Evaluation comments included “Interesting to know.”



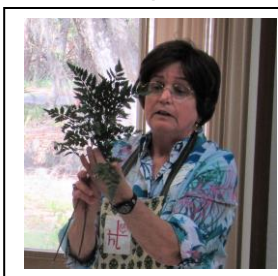
-- Workshop B5, **Recruitment and Retention of Altar Guild Members** was presented by **Lynn Hendricks**,



Lynn Hendricks

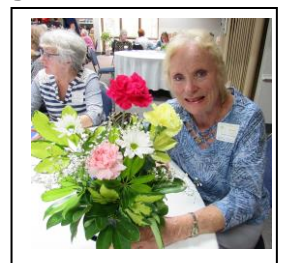
Immediate Past President of NAGA and former President of Province IV Altar Guild. Recruitment and retention are a challenge for nearly all Altar Guilds, and attendees were introduced to some of the techniques used by other churches. As a cradle Episcopalian and an AG member since 1981, with experience in AG training at the Province and National levels, Lynn was the perfect person to share ideas on this subject. Lynn discussed new ways (text, email) of contacting altar guild volunteers in our modern digital world. She also discussed gatherings (coffees, open house, etc) for attracting new members. Evaluation comments included “Most important info. Everyone enjoyed.”

-- Workshop B6, **Flowers – Re-Arranging**, was presented by **Anna Bourne, Nance Burroughs, and Geri**



Geri Riley

Riley of Holy Trinity, Melbourne. Anna, Nance, and Geri are involved in Flower Arranging, as well as Re-Arranging at Holy Trinity. After the flowers adorn the Altar at the weekend services, the flower arrangements are disassembled and rearranged into vases or mugs for delivery to those who are sick or shut-in or hospitalized, as well as members of the congregation who have a birthday or anniversary. These re-arranged flowers bring joy to many parishioners each week. This workshop was a hands-on class, and participants were proud to take home their flower arrangements.



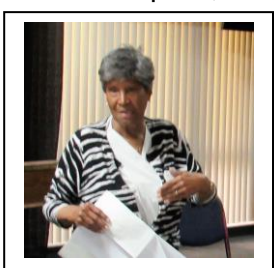
Winnie Hart with her re-arranged flowers

-- Workshop B7, **Developing an Altar Guild Manual**, was presented by DAG Board Member, **Kathy Shearer**, of St Michael’s in Orlando. Kathy provided many manuals which were exceptionally written with many pictures and everything the AG uses labeled with proper names. Viewing these manuals plus the hand-outs of a typical AG Manual Table of Contents and Weekend Checklists for Sunday and weekday services preparation were helpful for the AG team to devise their own manual and check lists. Evaluation Form comments included, “Good samples – good advice,” and “Excellent.”



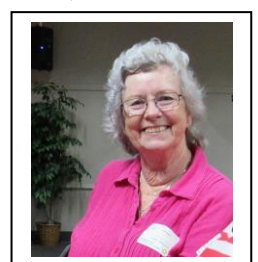
Kathy Shearer

-- Workshop B8, **Care of Linens**, was presented by **Barbara Holladay**, and DAG Board Member, **Riek**



Barbara Holladay

Fitzpatrick, of St Jude’s in Orange City. Proper care of linens is of utmost importance to AG members, and information about the best ways to remove stains and wax is always of interest. As a part of the workshop, **The Rev. Meghan Farr** led a service of “Disposition of Linens” so that attendees could properly dispose of blessed linens that were no longer useable. Evaluation comments included “Great inclusion of audience.”



Riek Fitzpatrick

NEW CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD DIRECTRESS

By Judy Henderson

After serving as Diocesan Altar Guild Directress for the last four years, it was time for me to step down and welcome a new Diocesan Directress. **Kathy Shearer** was installed as the new Directress by Bishop Brewer. It was my privilege to represent the Diocese in this position. You might remember that **Kathy Shearer** and **Suzie Lore** served as Co-Directresses for a year prior to my taking over the position. Since I was new to the Board, having served only one year prior to becoming Directress, Kathy and Suzie were my mentors and were always available to give me advice and help me during my tenure. I will be remaining on the Board, serving as Newsletter Editor and representing the Southeast Deanery.



Rev. Farr & Bishop Brewer



Kathy Shearer

PICTURES FROM THE DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD MEETING AT CANTERBURY



Diocese of Central FL AG Banner
Made by Eve Hyatt



Ladies from St John's - Kissimmee



Registration Table - Linda Wendell, Judy Valk, Eve Hyatt, & Susan Vernon



Stacy Deibler & Florence Smith



Holy Trinity - Fruitland Park



Susan Vernon & Doris Duxbury



Cyndy Berry - DAG Board Treasurer



Some of the DAG Board Members



Some of the Ladies from Holy Trinity - Melbourne - Dawn, Kerry, Rev Meghan, Maureen, Mona, & Maria



Musician Tim Lutner & Debbie



Miriam Rivkind – God's Grace Linens



Happy "Flower Re-Arranging" workshop participants from Holy Trinity - Melbourne



Angela Wallace & Sonia Edinboro – Blessed Redeemer – Palm Bay



Burning of De-consecrated Sacred Linens – with The Rev Meghan Farr



Some of the "Linens – Basic Sewing" workshop attendees



Attendees from Christ Church – Okahumpka



Filling out the "Meet & Greet"



Checking out pictures from 2018 – Diocesan, Province IV, & National AG Meetings

EVALUATIONS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING:

Each year at the Annual Diocesan AG Meeting, the DAG Board asks attendees to fill out the Evaluation Form. Information from this form is used to prepare for future Annual Meetings. In the last few years, we have received many suggestions for workshops, and using the information, we developed our program this year, covering as many suggested subjects as possible, either at the Annual Meeting or in the Newsletter. Knowing that we would need a larger facility to accommodate the various workshops, we decided to hold the 2019 meeting at Canterbury, where we could split up into various meeting rooms.

Nearly all the evaluations were positive, with just a few people indicating the workshop did not meet their expectations. Some comments included notes that the workshops were not long enough to cover everything needed or that it was disappointing they could not attend more than two workshops. It was suggested we repeat some of the workshops at a future time. In addition, we will try to include some of these subjects in future newsletters. If you have a subject you would like to have covered in the newsletter or at an annual meeting, please contact one of the DAG Board members (see page 6).

ALTAR GUILD PINS

Altar Guild pins were available for purchase at the Annual Meeting, but if you missed the meeting or didn't get the pins you wanted, they are always available from the Diocesan Altar Guild for \$12.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing cost. If you would like to order pins, contact Cyndy Berry at Email cyndy.berry@usa.net or phone 203-215-0125 to place an order.



DUES AND LOVE OFFERING

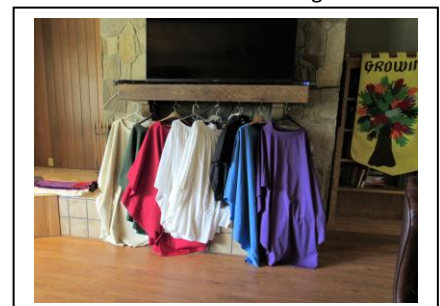
There's still time to pay your annual dues and make a Love Offering for 2019. Diocesan Altar Guild dues are \$10 for churches or \$5 for missions. The dues are used to pay for printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter and for other operating expenses. In addition to dues, it is suggested that churches/Altar Guilds make a "Love Offering" in any amount their members may want to contribute. This Love Offering is used to assist with the care of the Canterbury Chapel, the Bishop's Oratory, and the Chapel at Camp Wingmann. The Love Offering also helps offset the costs of our annual meeting and helps pay the expenses for the Diocesan Directress to attend the annual Province IV Altar Guild meeting at Kanuga in North Carolina and to attend the National Altar Guild Association meeting that's held every three years in conjunction with the Episcopal Church Convention. **PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND LOVE OFFERING TO: Cyndy Berry, Diocesan Altar Guild Treasurer, at 4201 Limerick Dr., Lake Wales, FL 33859**, and indicate "For Diocesan Altar Guild - Dues and/or Love Offering" on the check.

CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD BOARD:

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- Chaplain: Rev. Meghan Farr – Work 321-723-5272 – revmeghan@holyltrinitymelbourne.org
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 - Riek Fitzpatrick – Home 386-951-4129; Cell 386-837-7455 -- riekfitzpatrick@yahoo.com
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 - Cyndy Berry – Cell 203-215-0125 – cyndy.berry@usa.net
 - Sharon Smith – 863-370-0315 – smithibeme@tampabay.rr.com



Additional "Linen-Basic Sewing" attendees



Some of the Exchange Table items



Additional Ladies from Holy Trinity - Melbourne



Chapel at Canterbury