



Cathedral of All Souls
Asheville, NC

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

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT:
2019 Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga Conference Center - June 2 – 5

By Kathy Shearer

It was my pleasure to represent the Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Board at the 2019 Province IV Altar Guild Conference at the Kanuga Conference Center. Nestled in the natural beauty and pastoral setting of the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, Kanuga is a beautiful location for our annual conference of spiritual growth and education as well as for sharing good times with fellow altar guild members from the southeast U.S. The newly renovated lodge rooms are beautiful and some of the cabins have also been renovated. The rooms are not fancy hotel accommodations as no tvs, phones, clocks, or hair dryers are provided.

Our past Board Directress/President Judy Henderson, who is the official Province IV Historian-Photographer, as well as past Board Directress Sue Geiger were also in attendance from our DAG Board.

On Sunday evening after a welcoming reception we had our opening Eucharist with the Rev. Carl Saxton, our keynote speaker, as our celebrant. After the service was the official opening of the conference by our Province IV President Ann McCormick.

Each morning we had Morning Prayer at the Lakeside Chapel, an awesome outdoor location overlooking Lake Kanuga facing the large white cross nestled among the trees on the other side of the lake. It is an inspirational site and great for meditation. Each day at breakfast, lunch and dinner in the dining hall, I sat at a different table to meet and talk to others who represented altar guilds from the southeast.

The Rev. Carl Saxton's topic for the workshop sessions was "A Time for All" based upon Ecclesiastes 3:1: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." His workshops were back to basics because everything we do in liturgy is symbolic - from church architecture to vestments to the Book of Common Prayer. His workshops were very educational even for those who had been altar guild members for many, many years.

A highlight of the conference was a guided tour of the Cathedral of All Souls located in the heart of the Biltmore Village, North Carolina, which was consecrated in 1896. This historical Cathedral has an interesting history and almost everything in it is original (see photos on page 2). After the tour we all enjoyed a picnic on the grounds and some enjoyed a walk around this quaint, historic village. (continued pg 2)

CHECK OUT THE NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD ASSOCIATION (NAGA) WEBSITE:

<http://www.nationalaltarguildassociation.org/>

DATES TO REMEMBER:

15 February 2020 – Annual Central FL Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting at St Barnabas, Deland; hosted by the Northeast Deanery

June 2020 – Province IV Altar Guild Conference (location not yet determined)

30 June-9 July 2021 – National Altar Guild Association (NAGA) Triennial in Baltimore, MD

2019 Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga Conference Center - June 2 – 5 (continued)

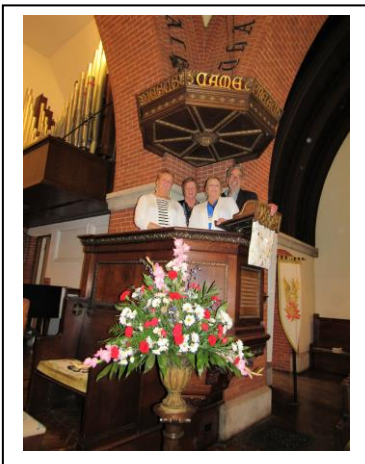
Other conference activities included: the annual business meeting, social hours prior to dinner giving us opportunities to socialize with other altar guild members, walks along the trails to experience the beauty of the Kanuga grounds, and a slide presentation of the 2018 Province IV Altar Guild Conference by our own Judy Henderson.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending this year's conference and found it refreshing and inspiring. I highly recommend that every altar guild member attend a Province IV Altar Guild Conference.

CATHEDRAL OF ALL SOULS – Biltmore Village, Asheville, NC:

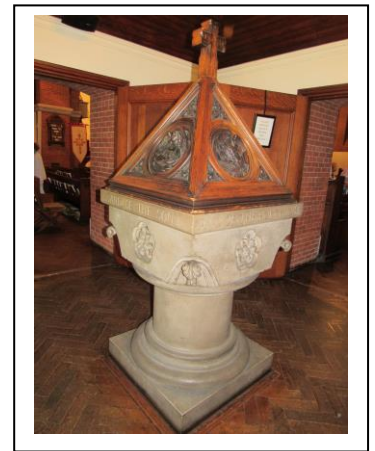
By Judy Henderson

A highlight of the Province IV Altar Guild Conference in June 2019 was a visit to the historic Episcopal Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville, NC. All Souls was consecrated on November 8, 1896. Built by George Vanderbilt as the parish church for the village adjacent to the Biltmore House, it was seen by Vanderbilt as the connecting piece for the daily life of all persons, all souls, in the region. On January 1, 1995, All Souls became the first Cathedral for The Diocese of Western North Carolina.



The pulpit, lectern, high altar, bishop's chair, chancel furniture, pews, and kneeling cushions are all original. The baptismal font, located in the northeast anteroom, was carved by Karl Bitter. The style of the church is primarily Romanesque Revival carried out in Richard Morris Hunt's manorial vernacular developed for Biltmore. Originally, all the windows were mouth-blown, hand leaded translucent glass such as those seen today in the Parish Hall. The windows in the chancel, nave, and tower were replaced by memorial windows given by George Vanderbilt between 1898 and 1914.

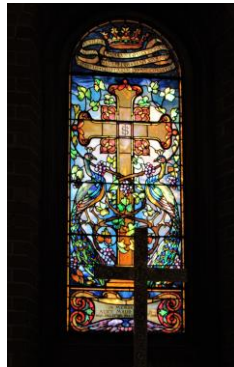
Pulpit



Baptismal Font



Cross on top of All Souls



Stained glass windows donated by George Vanderbilt



Original mouth-blown window



Bishop's Chair



Sacristy with safe



Eucharistic Elements



Banners on a Storage Rack

2019 PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD CONFERENCE:

By Judy Henderson

The Province IV Altar Guild Conference always provides an opportunity for spiritual growth, altar guild education, and time for learning about how altar guilds operate at churches throughout the Province. Attendees spend a lot of time together sharing meals with other participants and attending happy hour prior to dinner each day. Some free time is offered to allow attendees to enjoy the beautiful setting in the mountains of North Carolina. **All Altar Guild members are invited and would benefit from a delightful conference, learning more about this important church ministry;** hope you will consider attending the conference next year.

Keynote Speaker and Celebrant at the 2019 Conference was The Rev. Carl Saxton. His theme was based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." In his "Back to Basics" talks, Rev. Saxton presented information on early church architecture, indicating the layout of early Eucharist services, talked about Principal Feast Days, showed slides that included pictures of chalices and other Eucharistic elements, instructed about priest vestments, showed how chasuble styles have changed over the last 65 years, and covered a multitude of special services (like Tenebrae and Christmas Lessons and Carols). While covering the history of the church, he showed how church services have changed over the years and reminded us that change is in the foreseeable future. Fr Saxton talked about the differences between "high" church and "low" church.



Fr Saxton in Chapel of the Transfiguration



Suggestions that came from the Round Table Discussion and other discussions included:

- Burial Shrouds for Ashes may be made from linens that are no longer useable.
- Altars and Baptismal Fonts must be blessed by the Bishop
- Leftover bread and wine will be stored in the Aumbry, but only enough should be stored for the sick and shut-ins; additional blessed bread and wine should be consumed reverently.
- Sanctus Bells are sounded to signal parishioners "it's time to look and see what's happening."
- If you are setting the altar and it does not have a Priests' host, it should NOT be veiled.

- When Altar Guild members say, "We've always done it that way," remind them that a church not willing to change is a dying church. "When you're green you grow; when you're ripe you rot."

- The difference between a Tabernacle and an Aumbry – the Tabernacle is "above" the altar, and the Aumbry is "away" from the altar.

As is the usual practice at the Province IV Conferences, a morning prayer service included the de-consecration and burning of linens that are no longer useable. When weather allows, the service is held at the Lakeside Chapel, overlooking Kanuga Lake. To the delight of attendees, we were treated with the appearance of several families of Canadian Geese at the lake.



Martha Langston & Phyllis Bruce



Judy Henderson & Kathy Shearer of Central FL

DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD MEMBER BIO – SANDI HENDRIKS:

By Sandi Hendriks

I'm Sandi Hendriks from St Judes Episcopal Church in Orange City. My husband and I live in Deltona, Florida, moving from Connecticut 22 years ago. We are blessed to have one son, one daughter and one granddaughter all living here in Central Florida with their families.

I'm the Directress of the Altar Guild at St. Judes Episcopal Church in Orange City, and also serving as a the board member of the DAG from the Northeast Deanery.



I grew up an "Army Brat" as my father made a career of the military so we traveled extensively all over the country. I became an Episcopalian when I was 10 years old, and confirmed at St John The Divine Cathedral in NYC. Through the years I've taught Sunday school, was a youth group leader and sang in the choir more years than I can remember. I worked outside the home in the accounting field for over 45 years and finally retired in 2017.

I now spend my time volunteering for the church and the VFW Auxiliary, as my passion is helping Veterans and their families. Fun times include swimming at the YMCA doing water aerobics, traveling with my husband, and good times at the beach. I also love working in my flower gardens attending my roses and orchids plants.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS??? Or is there something your church needs but can't afford???

Would you like to share these items with other Diocesan churches? The DAG would like to help. Please forward a description of your items (and pictures, if possible) so we can begin an exchange article. At our annual DAG meeting we always have an Exchange Table of items you may have for FREE; we would like to help exchange these items throughout the year. Please send inputs to Judy Henderson at jem2415@earthlink.net or 1978 Red Bud Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907.

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