

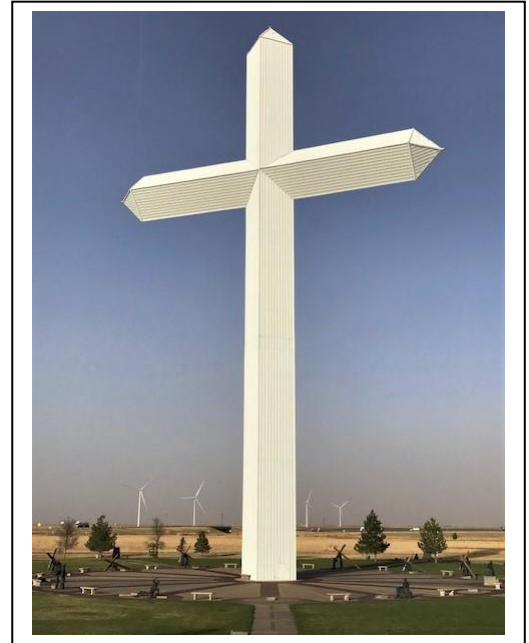


**Diocesan Board:** See Page 4 for Board Member contact information.

## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KATHY SHEARER:**

Your Diocesan Board is excited that our 2023 Annual Meeting on February 18, 2023, will be held at Canterbury Retreat Center, a central location which will provide each attendee the opportunity to participate in two different workshops as well as enjoy the pastoral atmosphere of the renovated Canterbury and a Eucharist in St Andrews Chapel. We will most likely offer the 3 workshops originally planned for this year in addition to 2 or 3 others which we hope will be of interest to altar guild members. We have received a few suggestions for additional workshops, but if you have a suggestion for a topic, it is not too late to let us know. Please send me an email at [wwdassoc@gmail.com](mailto:wwdassoc@gmail.com) with any suggestion you have for a workshop or speaker you would like to have us offer at our 2023 Annual Meeting. Your DAG Board is here to serve and provide educational opportunities for you. Please let your Deanery representative or me know your wishes. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

I wanted to share with you an experience my husband and I had as we were recently completing one of the items on his bucket list... taking Route 66 from Santa Monica, California, to Chicago, Illinois. In the panhandle of Texas just off Route 66 and I-40 outside the small town of Groom, population 550, our EZ 66 Guide alerted us to look for a white free standing cross that rises 190 feet (19 stories) toward the sky. With no other information in the guide, we had to learn more about this landmark by visiting the site. The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the tallest cross west of the Mississippi River and it is said that it is visible for 20 miles away. Radiating from the base of this magnificent cross are the life-size sculptures depicting the Stations of the Cross. I have seen and prayed the Stations of the Cross in my church as well as other churches and chapels, but this was an awesome, inspirational experience, especially since we were there without any planning during Holy Week. I will share more of this story in an article and photos in a future edition of our DAG Newsletter.



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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 2022 – June 5-8 – Province IV Altar Guild Meeting, “Making All Things New Again” – Kanuga Episcopal Retreat Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina
- 2022, July – Episcopal Church Convention – Baltimore, Maryland – ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL ONLY – No Altar Guild presence
- 2023 – 18 February 2023 – Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting, Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo, Florida

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT** (continued from page 1)

Thank you for all you do for your altar guild, your clergy, your church, your congregation, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Blessings, Kathy

**THE RIGHT REVEREND GREGORY BREWER VISITS ST JUDE'S IN ORANGE CITY**

Submitted by Sandi Hendriks, Riek Fitzpatrick, and Judy Valk

March 27<sup>th</sup> was a special and glorious Sunday! St Jude's Church, in Orange City, was blessed by the visit of The Right Reverend Bishop Gregory Brewer of Central Florida!

It was a beautiful day full of sunshine and blessings with the confirmation of Steven Abbggy, the reception of Vicky Barnes, Janet Puma, Amy Donna Raspa and reaffirmation of JoAnn Middagh.

It's been a long time since we have had our visit from the Bishop, due to Covid-19 lurking around for the past couple of years, and our congregation was overwhelmed with joy to receive this visit by our Bishop. We are blessed to have gifted members with beautiful voices, Paulette Bell, Clarise Ellis, and Oscar Lovell sang the offertory "At the Cross." Amy Yates, and Miguel Mendez played music and sang during the communion portion of the service.



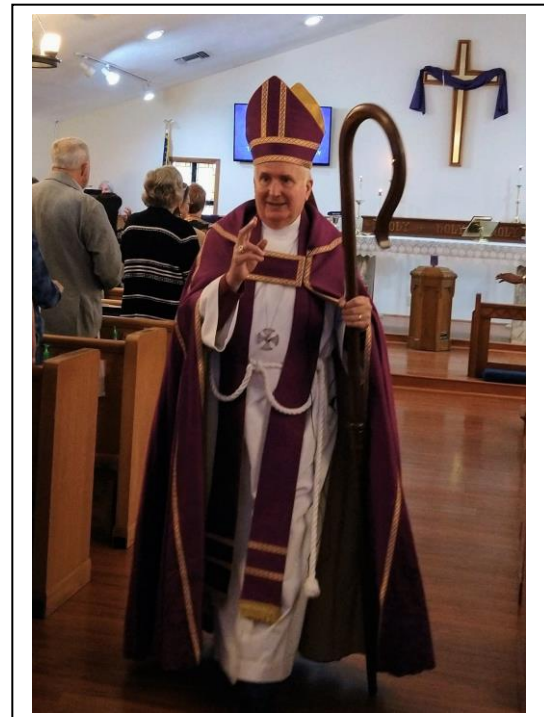
*Deacon Jim Flood, Bishop Gregory Brewer, and Rev Battle*

Following the Holy Eucharist service we had a reception in our parish hall for the Bishop and the congregation. Many parishioners enjoyed the chance to have an informal conversation with the Bishop. It certainly was a day to remember.

St. Jude's Church located in Orange City is known as the "friendly congregation, bringing people to Jesus Christ by sharing the Good News of God's Love through our worship, fellowship, discipleship, outreach, and service." Those words certainly describe our wonderful church!



*Judy Valk, a member of the Diocesan Altar Guild Board, was the Crucifer*



*The Right Reverend Gregory Brewer*

## **RECRUITMENT**

By Judy Henderson – Holy Trinity, Melbourne

In the August 2021 issue of the DAG Newsletter, we published an article written by Michele Guest of St Mary of the Angels church in Orlando. The article was about “Recruitment,” a topic we are often asked to address. Since their altar guild had dwindled to three members, St. Mary of the Angels realized they needed new members, so they began with prayer. After consulting their clergy, they began to identify individuals in their church who they thought might be interested in the altar guild ministry. They “prayed expectantly and confidently that the Lord would bring forth those He wanted in this service.” Once they identified the individuals they felt might want to consider the ministry, the prospective members were individually invited to a meeting to learn more about the altar guild, and they were given an opportunity to ask questions. To make a long story short, their altar guild grew from three members to twelve.

If you read their article, you may have thought, “Well, that’s wonderful, but I don’t think it would work for us.” If that’s what you thought, I might want to reconsider.

Soon after reading the article and pointing it out to our clergy – I always send a copy of the DAG Newsletter to our priests, deacons, and verger – I approached our priests to see if we could consider trying this method of recruitment. We have long wanted to add a fourth team and enhance the teams we already have. We have four services weekly – one on Saturday evening, and three on Sunday, so we need many team members to cover all these services.

First, we spread the word through our existing altar guild members and asked them to diligently pray that we would recruit new members and asking them to start thinking about people we could invite to join. After several months, we began to compile our list. I think we came up with about 35 names, and Rev. Pam Easterday sent each of them an individual letter asking that they consider attending an introduction meeting.

Our introduction meeting was chaired by the existing three team leaders and after beginning with prayer, we told them about the primary duties of the altar guild – dusting, polishing, filling the oil candles, cleaning up from one service and setting up for the next, etc. – but we also told them about the camaraderie that grows among the altar guild members as they perform their ministry. We told them how we often get together for lunch after performing our duties, and how we form friendships with the other members of our team, something that is not always easy when you attend different services and seldom see the other person.

The wonderful result was the addition of eight new altar guild members, and three of them are men! Are you aware that the Vice President of the National Altar Guild Association is a man; don’t overlook the men in your congregation.

With these additions, we have established a new team. Many of these new recruits indicated they would only be available to do church preparation on Saturday mornings; our other three teams meet on Friday mornings. With this new team, each team will now be serving every fourth week, rather than every third week (we changed from a monthly team rotation to a weekly rotation in January 2022). We’ve enhanced our other three teams and published our schedule for the remainder of the year. We have also stressed to the new recruits they will not be expected to perform duties without experienced guidance until they feel they are ready. We thank God for all these new recruits, and we are encouraged that this method of recruitment worked for us. You might want to give it a try.

## **DUES AND LOVE OFFERING UPDATE**

To all who have submitted their dues and love offering, THANK YOU for supporting the Diocesan Altar Guild. Dues are due in February each year, but it’s never too late to submit your annual donations. Diocesan Altar Guild dues are \$10 for churches or \$5 for missions.

**Please be sure to make the check payable to Diocese of Central Florida, Inc., with a Memo “For Diocesan Altar Guild Dues and Love Offering.” (Please do not make checks payable to Cyndy Berry.)**

**DUES AND LOVE OFFERING UPDATE** (continued from page 3)

It is preferred that you mail the check to Cyndy Berry so that she has your contact information (and then she can properly credit your church with the payment). However, if you (or your church office) sends the check directly to the Diocesan Office in Orlando, please let Cyndy know, by Email or text, the amount of the check (\$ amount for dues and \$ amount for Love Offering) as well as your contact information – Church, City, Directress/Director, Phone, and Email. For those who provide an Email address, Cyndy will send an acknowledgement by Email.

Cyndy's contact information is: Cyndy Berry, DAG Treasurer  
4201 Limerick Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859  
Cell: 203-215-0125; Home: 863-875-7043  
[cyndy.berry@usa.net](mailto:cyndy.berry@usa.net)

**NECROLOGY LIST**

The Annual Necrology List is generally published at the February Annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting. Since there were no DAG meetings in 2021 or 2022, we are publishing names as we receive them. The following name has been added to the list:

Barbara Spencer - Advent Altar Guild

**CENTRAL FLORIDA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD (DAG) BOARD:**

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- Treasurer: Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – [cyndy.berry@usa.net](mailto:cyndy.berry@usa.net)
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  - Barbara Miller - 214-773-3464 - [barb.miller@earthlink.net](mailto:barb.miller@earthlink.net)
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  - Alex Rockefeller - 321-783-6643 - [ayrock70@gmail.com](mailto:ayrock70@gmail.com)
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  - Cyndy Berry – Home 863-875-7043 - Cell 203-215-0125 – [cyndy.berry@usa.net](mailto:cyndy.berry@usa.net)



*Historic Chapel – Holy Trinity – Melbourne – Altar*

*Holy Trinity – Melbourne – Annual Parish Camping Trip – with Fr Steve Easterday & Debbie Bruckart*

