



Mace Memorial Chapter, Diocese of Texas

AUGUST 2007

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

- September 22, 2007 Mace Chapter Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral from noon until 3:00 pm. Reservations needed **ONLY IF** you wish to reserve a box lunch. Donations will be accepted for the box lunches. Lunch reservations go to Walter Stuart, wstuartvgr@aol.com, who is a member of the Cathedral. The meeting will include a short chat by The Very Rev. Joe D. Reynolds, Dean of the Cathedral, and a tour of The Beacon, the outreach ministry located on the first floor of the Diocesan Center and Parking Garage. Parking will be free in the Diocesan Center garage, across San Jacinto Street from the Cathedral. Those wishing to make a donation to The Beacon may bring their donations to the meeting. Especially appreciated are monetary contributions, new socks and underwear, bottled water and personal items. We shall meet in the Jeffer's Conference Room of the Cathedral.
- September 27-30, 2007 19th Annual Meeting of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church, in Albuquerque, NM. A brochure for the meeting is posted on the national VGEC site, www.vergers.org
- April 12, 2008 Walter Mace Chapter VGEC 6th Annual Seminar. Speakers will include The Rev. Canon Andy Doyle and the Rev. John Price. In addition to the speakers, up to four mini-workshops will be offered. The meeting will be held in the McGehee conference room at Christ Church Cathedral, with a closing Eucharist celebrated Dean Joe Reynolds. Watch the www.texasvergers.org website for updates. The seminar is scheduled in April due to Easter being so early in 2008, and to avoid March school vacation times, as well as to provide recovery time from Passion Week. The 2008 seminar brochure will be available after the first of the year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

DUKE DuTEIL, of St. Richard's/Round Rock, who has accepted the post of Head Verger at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

DOUGLAS DAVIS, Emmanuel/Houston, who has been appointed to the Diocese of Texas Liturgical Commission.

PHILLIP SCROGGIE and **DERRITH WIEMAN**, who were installed July 29 during the 11:15 service as Emmanuel/Houston's newest vergers. They join Ron Robertson, Doug Davis, and Tim Wade in service as vergers at Emmanuel.

BOB BLISS, who has been officially accepted into the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Iona Program bi-vocational ordination track, to begin training in September. Because of this new direction in his life, Bob has had to resign his post as Communications Chair for the Mace Chapter of the Vergers' Guild.

JON EICHE, St. Mark's/Houston, who recently chaired a seminar for the Rotary Clubs about the Rotary Clubs in Russia. Jon, who is fluent in Russian, is a past governor of the Rotary Club 5890 (Houston area) and has been very active in establishing the Rotary Club in Russia. For an article on the events (along with wonderful pictures!!), Google "Rotary Club Jon Eiche", and see what Jon himself reported about the event.

PATRICIA SHEPHERD, St. Mark's/Houston and our secretary/treasurer, who was recently named Acolyte Master at St. Mark's.

RON ROBERTSON, who soon will have trained over 190 vergers in his life as a training officer in the Dioceses of Dallas, Oklahoma, and Texas. He was originally trained by Walter "Wacco" Mace, a soft-spoken Scotsman who was one of the first vergers in the Diocese of Texas, and for whom our chapter is named. Ron has numerous remembrances of Wacco, and delightful stories to tell about Wacco, and in the other dioceses in which he served. Be sure to ask him about Emmanuel North and Emmanuel South, and his Rector, who has served in both churches.

ANNA and MARK GOZA, who announce the birth of their second grandchild, Kaycie Rae Fielder, born August 16, to their daughter, Teri. Kacie is 8 lbs 5 oz and has a full head of hair.

!Ultreya! to Bob Bliss and his wife, Melanie, who made their Cursillo in Cristianidad the weekend of August 2 through 5 at Camp Allen. !Ultreya! to The Rev. Canon Andy Doyle, who made his Cursillo the same weekend. Duke duTeil, our verger at St Richard's/Round Rock, was on the Cursillo team for Cursillo 217, the Cursillo of Speaking Wisdom and Meditating on Truth. !Ultreya!

For those of you who have not "made a Cursillo", Cursillos in Cristianidad are short courses in Christianity. Originating in the Roman Catholic church of Spain, Cursillos are now licensed in various denominations, under the Cursillo name or (in some denominations) A Walk to Emmaus. Cursillo means short course, and in the case of the Episcopal church, encompasses a long weekend of table fellowship regarding Christian responsibility, sharing our own experiences, following our Lord Jesus Christ, and learning in detail about the various services in our Book of Common Prayer. Just in case you have not made a cursillo, 'nuff said about the fellowship and really special events that take place during a weekend ... with the only additional suggestion being to check the websites for official information and application forms. The sites are:

www.texascursillo.org for the Diocese of Texas Cursillo

www.episcopalcursillo.org for the national Cursillo site

And oh, yes, be certain to ask your priest or a cursillista in your church about his or her experience of Cursillo!!

THE IONA CENTER

Whatever is this Iona Center mentioned in Bob Bliss' notes? According to the Diocese of Texas website, "Iona is the collective effort of the Diocese of Texas to provide dynamic and responsive leadership training which impacts the mission of the Church through personal and congregational transformation." This leadership development has three thrusts:

Clergy leadership development, which includes the Iona School for Ministry, continuing education program for clergy, Crosspointes: intersections of faith and leadership; clericus meetings and clergy conferences

Congregational development

Lay leadership development in the areas of Wardens' and Vestry Conferences, Evangelism Conferences, Stewardship Conferences, and Crosspointes: a leadership training experience dealing with intersections of faith and leadership

This center without walls takes its name from the Island of Iona (Scotland), where St. Columba established a Christian community and center for learning. This abbey on Iona became renowned for its training of evangelists, who ultimately affected the development of Christianity by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ across Europe.

It is in this tradition that the Iona Center has been established in the Diocese, in order to train the baptized for leadership in this diocese. Bishop Wimberly's own emphasis during his tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of Texas is on the baptismal aspects of our common calling. Information about the Iona School can be found on the Episcopal Diocese of Texas website at [www.epicenter.org/edot/The Iona Center](http://www.epicenter.org/edot/The_Iona_Center) . Contact person for the Iona Center is Mary MacGregor.

A REQUEST ...

For articles on what your local vergers' corps is doing --
For biographies of vergers that we have permission to run --
Funny stories/favorite remembrances of a special service or odd circumstance

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great food, shared family style, good company and conversation, and a wonderful presentation on meditation and contemplative prayer by The Rev. John Price were all part of the June 22 meeting of the Walter Mace Chapter. Those of you who could not attend missed a fine meeting. There was ample opportunity for folk present to have an intimate conversation about their activities at their local church.

Due to Bob Bliss' resignation as Communications Chair, I have taken the liberty, available to me under the current bylaws, of appointing a COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. Members include Tim Wade, Emmanuel/Houston (chair); Anna Goza, St. Christopher's/Houston; Bid Drake, St. James'/Conroe; and Peggy Metcalf. Anna will be responsible for the local and diocesan websites; Tim Wade, collection and initial formatting of the newsletter; and Bid and Peggy, for editing of the articles comprising the newsletter. Our thanks go to Bob for his service to the Chapter over the past year, and well wishes for his new endeavor to become a bi-vocational priest.

At my direction, the potential changes to the bylaws have been referred to committee. The bylaws changes were submitted for their first reading earlier in the year. Since there were so few members at the June 22 meeting, the second reading is being postponed. It has been decided by the Bylaws Committee that the issue of re-defining the roles of officers/Executive Board members needs to be the subject of a later modification of the bylaws, partly because any changes in those definitions need to be more appropriately timed to upcoming elections, rather than being imposed on officers already in place, so additional time for reflection is needed in order to more appropriately define the new roles.

A letter will soon be going out to each church in the diocese, asking for information on the vergers in that church. The chapter would like to maintain a complete listing (both email and snail mail addresses included) so that we can better communicate the goings on of the chapter. So --- to keep us up to date, please let either Bid Drake (bdrake2939@consolidated.net) or Patricia Shepherd (patannnds@hotmail.com) know your address, email address, phone number and church. The Board of the Mace Chapter VGEC would like to be in a position to encourage ALL vergers in their ministries and to update everyone on events and educational opportunities.

Best wishes for a good fall -- and encouragement for all of you to stay in touch with us.

Yours in Christ,

Peggy Metcalf, FVGEC
President, Walter Mace Chapter VGEC