



# Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church

## Monthly E-Newsletter



*Service through Worship, Worship through Service*

August, 2006  
Vol. 1, No.2

The month of August has been a difficult time for Ron Robertson, his family and friends, and all the members of our Chapter. As you know Ron, our Training Officer, was involved in a private aircraft accident and is hospitalized in Houston. He has continued to show signs of progress but his recovery is slow. We need to remain ever vigilant in our prayers for Ron during his recovery.

The executive committee has asked Joe Sturdevant to step in as the Interim Training Coordinator for Ron during his absence. Joe has graciously accepted and will assure that training will continue as Ron had previously laid out. Please keep Ron in your prayers as he recovers from his injuries.

### September 2006 Chapter Meeting

The next Walter Mace Chapter meeting will be held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church/Tomball on September 23, 2006 from noon to 3 pm. The speaker will be Bidwell Drake, who is experienced in presenting the program "Graceful Exits". There will be a nominal charge (\$10 per person) to cover costs of materials. "The attendees are asked to bring a copy of the funeral customary for their church (completed or in progress), and any handout that the clergy give to the bereaved family." Lunch will be provided for free for this meeting only. RSVP's are absolutely necessary. Please respond to Peggy Metcalf at [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com).



Good Shepherd is located at 715 Carrell Street; the telephone number is 281-351-1609.

### New Mace Chapter Brochure Being Produced

Peggy Metcalf, our Chapter President, has been hard at work designing and writing a brochure for the Walter Mace Chapter. It will debut shortly at Clergy Conference, ECW, Diocesan Council and other events. A version of it should be available for everyone to take a look at during the September 23rd Quarterly meeting. This brochure will provide a great deal of information about vergers and their ministry. Many thanks to Peggy for pulling this one together. Many other projects are being discussed at this time. If you have the opportunity to help please contact one of the executive committee members and place your name on the volunteers list. We appreciate any help that you are willing to provide.

### Episcopal Diocese of Texas Regional Altar Guild Workshop

There will be a regional altar guild workshop held at Grace Church in Georgetown on September 23, 2006. The workshop will centered around "Setting His Table." Registration will be from 9:00am - 10:00 am. Please let your altar guild members know about this wonderful opportunity.

## The Verger's Prayer

Almighty Father, from whom every family  
in Heaven and earth is named,  
who has called us into the fellowship of Your Church,  
grant, we pray, that in all our Churches  
we may fulfill the duties and enjoy the privileges  
of our spiritual home.

And on those who offer themselves  
for service as Vergers in the House of God  
bestow the fullness of Your Grace,  
that, united in love to You and to one another,  
we may show forth Your glory  
and hasten the coming of Your Kingdom  
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord  
Amen.

Always remember that the work we do is for the people. When a person walks through the church doors they are seeing an outward and visible sign of God's love, compassion, and forgiveness for his people as expressed through our liturgy. Let nothing distract. Welcome all.



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## The Virge

*Virga* (*Virge*) in the classical world:  
VERGIL

The *virga*, “stick” or “wand”, was a crucial talisman for Aeneas when he visited the Underworld. As described in Book VI of Vergil’s *Aeneid*, he has been advised to visit the spirit of his deceased father Anchises. If he were unable to penetrate beneath earth’s secrets, he could not found Rome.

In the first passage, the Sibyl, prophetess of Apollo, tells Aeneas that he must acquire a golden *virga* before visiting the underworld:

But no one is granted permission to penetrate the earth’s secrets before he has plucked from the tree the golden-leaved offshoot.

This as her own gift beautiful Proserpina has resolved be brought to her. When the first branch is torn away, a second golden one springs forth, sprouting with the same metallic hue.

And so [Aeneas] look high with your eyes. Duly find it and seize it by hand. For of its own accord easily it will yield, if the Fates so call you. Otherwise you will not be able to overcome it with any strength, nor tear it off with harsh steel.

(*Aeneid* 6.141-149)

Charon, the grizzled ferryman who takes spirits across the River Styx, agrees to take Aeneas only after he sees the golden *virga*:

Then his boiling anger receded in his heart.

He, saying no more, marveled at the awe-inspiring gift of the fateful branch seen so long a time.

He turned his dark boat and approached the shore.

(*Aeneid* 6.408-410)

## HELPPPP!!!

The Mace Chapter VGEC is considering having booths at various events over the next six months. These include the October clergy conference, ECW meeting at Camp Allen in October, and Diocesan Council in Austin, February 2006. If you can help the chapter, and our ministry, at any of these meetings, please contact, please contact Peggy Metcalf at [mlf1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlf1943@yahoo.com). We have the materials, we just need the spokespersons.

### The Monthly E-Newsletter

You have now seen the monthly E-Newsletter. What can you expect from the newsletter? What you can expect are articles on what we do as vergers, what we do as Lay Ministers and perhaps what we should be training to do. You will also find stories of interest submitted by our chapter members and from other Chapters of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church. What you will not find are discussions on either church politics or politics as a whole. If you have materials that you would like to submit please send them to Bob Bliss at: [vergers@graceepis.org](mailto:vergers@graceepis.org).

### Calendar Events of Interest to Vergers

#### September 23, 2006

Quarterly Meeting of Mace Chapter, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church/Tomball, Noon to 3 pm

#### September 23, 2006

Regional Altar Guild meeting, Grace Church, Georgetown

#### October 7, 2006

Ordination of the Ven. Dena Harrison as suffragan bishop, Diocese of Texas Camp Allen

#### October 9-11

Clergy Conference, Camp Allen

#### October 20-21

ECW Annual Meeting, Camp Allen Hosts: ECW of All Saint's/ Austin

#### November 7, 2006

Ordination of The Rt. Rev. Jefferts-Schori, Bishop of the Diocese of Nevada as the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

#### December 2006

Mace Chapter social gathering, place and time to be announced

#### January 2007

Quarterly Meeting/Mace Chapter Time and place to be announced

#### February 9-10, 2007

Diocesan Council, Austin, Texas Host church is St. David's, Austin

#### March 5-7, 2007

Diocesan Altar Guild Retreat, Camp Allen

#### March 10, 2007

5th Annual Mace Chapter Seminar, Grace Episcopal Church/ Georgetown

## Officers

### ***President***

Margaret Metcalf - St. Mark's – Houston — [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com)

### ***Vice-President***

Gary Burnhauser - Good Shepherd - Tomball — [maesgrampy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maesgrampy@sbcglobal.net)

### ***Secretary/Treasurer***

Patricia Shepherd - St. Mark's – Houston — [patannds@hotmail.com](mailto:patannds@hotmail.com)

### ***Training Officer***

Ron Robertson – Emmanuel – Houston — [v224296@aol.com](mailto:v224296@aol.com)

Joe Sturdevant Interim Training Officer — [sturdev@swbell.net](mailto:sturdev@swbell.net)

### ***Communications***

Bob Bliss - Grace - Georgetown — [vergers@graceepis.org](mailto:vergers@graceepis.org)

## ***Helpful Links***

Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church: [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org)

Church of England Guild of Vergers: [CEGV](http://CEGV)

The Hunger Site: [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com)

Episcopal Church USA: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

Episcopal News Service (ENS): [www.episcopalchurch.org/ENS/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ENS/)

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD): [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)

Episcopal Diocese of Texas: [www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org)

"Being Episcopalians": <http://www.epicenter.org/edot/Beliefs.asp?SnID=1719867338>

Forward Movement Reading of the Day: <http://www.forwardmovement.org/todaysreading.cfm>

## ***Finally...***

**"Invite a Friend to Church"**--Share the good news of Jesus Christ with others and invite them to "come and see."

## **Contact Information**

**Please address all communication to the following address:**

Bob Bliss, Verger  
Grace Episcopal Church  
1314 E. University Ave.  
Georgetown, TX. 78626  
or by email to: [vergers@graceepis.org](mailto:vergers@graceepis.org)