



# Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church

Service through Worship, Worship through Service

January, 2009

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT— January 17, 2009

The January 2009 meeting of the Walter Mace Chapter of the Vergers' Guild will be on Saturday, January 17th, at St. George's and St. Patrick's Church, Houston from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Ron Robertson, Chapter Training Officer, will talk about writing customaries.

Lunch will be served at the beginning of the meeting . Donations (\$5) toward lunch would be appreciated. Please RSVP to

Peggy Metcalf, [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com) , so that we can adequately prepare for lunch.

St. George's and St. Patrick's Church is located at 4040 W. Bellfort St, Houston 77025 (713-666-1408). The church is near the corner of Stella Link and Bellfort, just south of Loop 610 S. A map is available on their website, [www.the2saints.org](http://www.the2saints.org).

## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL VERGERS GUILD IN BURLINGTON, VERMONT — October, 2008

*The national conference for the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church was held in Vermont in October, 2008. Beautiful country, especially in the fall, and also very expensive and difficult in the way of round-trip travel!! Amongst those attending the seminar from our chapter were Joe Sturdevant and Anna Goza. Here are Joe's comment on the focus of the meeting:*

The Conference opened Thursday evening with a beautiful Taize service in the nave of the Cathedral, led by the Cathedral Choir and with the Bishop officiating. The Cathedral then hosted a dinner for all the vergers and guests.

The workshops focused on liturgical architecture and liturgical art. This was particularly appropriate because of the history of St. Paul 's. Their beautiful gothic Cathedral Church , built, I think, in 1838, was burned to the ground in 1971. They were able to save only five of the original bells from the bell tower. The downtown area surrounding the Cathedral property had just been designated as an urban renewal site, so any new construction was expected to support the goals of the renewal project. The congregation's priorities for the new Cathedral

called for buildings that would be open to the entire community and could be used for a variety of spiritual, cultural, and artistic activities.

The new Cathedral that resulted is strikingly ultra-modern and multi-functional. The nave and chancel are all concrete, and the South wall of the Nave is all windows. Skylights add to the openness of the space. One of the original architects from the firm that won the design competition gave us a presentation on how and why they made the design decisions.

The Liturgical Art workshop was conducted by a local artist who has designed many of the frontals and other vestments used in the Cathedral. She emphasized that it is important to begin with a very limited definition of what the design should be, and then allow the Spirit to influence the finished product. The pictures that have been published from the Conference this week show the Frontal they use for weddings, baptisms, etc, that she designed. The design resulted in the appearance of three dove figures that she did not originally envision but have a dominating effect on the entire worship space.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SPRING 2009 SEMINAR— APRIL 25

The spring 2009 seminar, our 7<sup>th</sup> Training Seminar, will be held in Austin on April 25, at St. John's Episcopal Church, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Bill Beare, the our chapter's Austin area contact, and Peggy Metcalf, our president, are coordinators for this day.

Austin Bay, a noted syndicated columnist, author, and professor at the University of Texas, will challenge us on our world perspective as Christians and The Rev. Al Rodriguez, rector of St. John's, who will be speaking on prayer.

Bill and Peggy will keep you posted as the details evolve. Keep in touch about the seminar via the website. The registration brochure will be available soon. Cost will be \$45 and includes lunch and snacks. Late registration will be \$50. Registration

forms will be available later in January on our website.

A map and directions to St. John's Episcopal may be obtained from their website, [www.austinstjohns.org](http://www.austinstjohns.org). St. John's is located at 11201 Parkfield Dr, Austin 78758, phone number 512-836-3974.

And a special request for the 2009 seminar: Those of us involved in making the seminar happen would like to have parts of the seminar recorded on a DVD, so that we have copies available to local chapters. Any one interested in being the chapter's videographer?

## 2008 National VGEC Conference

*(Continued from page 1)*

We also visited the Diocese's conference area which is very close to downtown but feels as if it is in a far away wilderness. It is the location of the Bishop's residence, and the Bishop and his wife hosted a luncheon for us there on Friday. It is also the location of a boarding school that the Diocese founded early in the last century to help children who, while not physically or functionally disabled, have been unable to be successful in several high school experiences. The headmaster of the School conducted one of the workshops and showed how their holistic and spiritual approach has had transformative effects on hundreds of students.

*Notes from Anna Goza:*

The annual National VGEC Conferences are always a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow vergers from all over the United

States and usually some from Canada and the United Kingdom. This year was no exception and it is great to meet so many dedicated vergers and have the chance to talk about what types of things they are doing in their home parishes and to discuss the various challenges we all face in our ministry.

All of the conferences are very informative and the host church has prepared excellent workshops and many opportunities for fellowship among the vergers. The last night of the Conference is a banquet with a speaker and the presentation of certificates of completion and verges for those who have completed the VGEC Training Course since the last Annual Meeting.

I strongly encourage every verger to make the effort to attend a National VGEC Conference.

## Upcoming National VGEC Conferences

Mark your calendars and plan to attend :

The 2009 National VEGC Conference— October 22 thru 25 in San Diego, California. Information on this conference will be available in a few months on the National VEGC website [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org).

The 2010 National VEGC Conference— October 7 thru 10 in Washington, D.C.

And in 2013, the 25th Anniversary of the National VGEC, the conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee.

## DIOCESAN COUNCIL 2009 — FEBRUARY 13th AND 14th

Diocesan Council 2009 will be hosted by Christ Church Cathedral at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston on February 13th and 14th. Our chapter of vergers will have a booth and we need volunteers to help staff it.

We provide handouts with information about vergers and will have our 2009 seminar brochures available. It is an excellent opportunity to answer questions about our ministry and provide

a contact for those interested in our ministry.

We have high hopes for 2009's presence at Council based on the booth's reception last year in Galveston.

If interested in helping, please contact Peggy Metcalf, [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com) , or Joe Sturdevant, [joe.sturdevant@swbell.net](mailto:joe.sturdevant@swbell.net).

## CHAPTER ARCHIVES

Patricia Shepherd, Chapter Secretary, has offered to be a repository for information on the Chapter, a collector of historical information. She already has on file two services of verger installation, a bulletin from Andy Doyle's consecration, and a bulletin for Rob Rynerson's funeral. Any of you are welcome to send annotated pictures, bulletins, and other items that might be interesting to future vergers.

## Personal Note

I do hope that everyone within the path of Ike, or involved in the latest snowstorms, is doing well by now. Please do keep praying for those having to deal with their loses from the hurricane, including many of our churches.

Many thanks to all of you for your prayers and concerns for me during the summer months. I had bouts with a broken arm, two

hospitalizations (including one during Hurricane Ike and the hospital being on lockdown!), and someone rear-ending my car.

Prayer does work -- as I am well on the way to a full healing.

-- Peggy Metcalf

## SPECIAL REQUEST

Peggy Metcalf would like to have stories and photos (high quality, jpeg if possible) from those willing souls of our Chapter, who have made their own verges from scratch.

Where did you find your emblem on top of the verge? What did you use to make the body or arm of the verge? How did you attach the emblem to the handle or arm? Why is your verge special to you? How do you carry your verge at your church for a typical Eucharist?

Potential uses for these stories include a display at our Verger's Guild booth at Diocesan 2009, and as a subject for a potential quarterly meeting, or in an upcoming pamphlet. Send the information to Peggy via email, [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com) or to her home address, 4609 University Oaks Blvd, Houston, TX 77004.

## Annual Dues

Annual dues are \$20.00. Please make your checks payable to: Walter Mace Memorial Chapter VGEC and send to: Patricia Shepherd, 5326 Carmen, Houston, TX 77033

You do not have to pay dues to be an affiliate member of our Chapter, however you must pay dues to vote in elections or serve as an officer of the Chapter. Dues assist the Chapter with several expenses, such as the booth fee at Diocesan Council, and handouts and speakers fees for our seminars and meetings, as well as postage for the newsletter.

## Newsletter

The Chapter newsletter is posted on our website at [www.texasvergers.org](http://www.texasvergers.org) and e-mailed to all members who have given us their e-mail. If you want a copy mailed to you, please contact our Communications Officer, Bid Drake at [bdrake2939@consolidated.net](mailto:bdrake2939@consolidated.net) or by phone 926-756-3566. Please provide your name and complete address.

## Contact Information

We are constantly trying to keep your contact information up to date so that we are able to keep you informed of all activities within our Chapter. Please notify the Communications Officer, Bid Drake at [bdrake2939@consolidated.net](mailto:bdrake2939@consolidated.net), whenever there is a change in your address, phone number or e-mail.

Thanks!

### Officers

#### *President*

Margaret Metcalf – St. Mark's – Houston  
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