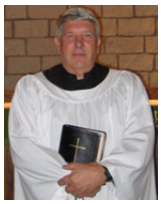
# Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church Monthly E-Newsletter

***Service through Worship, Worship through Service***

July, 2006
Vol. 1, No.1



Welcome to the first edition of the Walter Mace Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church monthly E-Newsletter. The Chapter is comprised of over 80 vergers from 32 parishes throughout the Diocese of Texas. The purpose of the Chapter is to promote a greater awareness of the servant ministry of vergers in the Diocese of Texas and to provide support, training, education, and fellowship to the vergers who practice their ministry therein.

Each of us have a story to tell, not only of how our ministry is performed in our parishes, but also of the parishes we serve. In order to promote a greater awareness among our growing numbers, each month a portion of this e-newsletter will be dedicated to three of our 32 parishes.

You are invited to send articles of interest, with pictures, to Bob Bliss, at vergers@graceepis.org . Each submission should be limited to one page double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, and submitted via email. Stories of your ministry, the people, the type of services celebrated, high - broad - low, and how you adapt to changing needs are of importance. You may also submit time honored traditions, suggestions of how to perform church care and pictures of your church. Great things are happening in the Diocese of Texas and our Guild. Be an active part of our ministry.

Yours In Christ,
Bob Bliss
Communications Chair

## Vergers Installed in Marble Falls

Tom Ashcroft and Pat Hudson have completed their training and were installed as vergers at Trinity Church in Marble Falls July 9, 2006. The installation took place during the 10:30 service which was celebrated by The Rev. Dr. Ann Normand. Rev Ann, as she likes to be addressed, told the congregation " she has an Assistant Priest, two seminarians, and now two vergers to help her. How much better could her life be?" Ron Robertson, Guild Training Officer, presented the candidates. The candidates and their families were brought forward and the installation was performed. Bob Bliss, Guild Communications Chair, representing the National Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church and the Mace Chapter, assisted Rev. Ann in the installation. A reception followed the service where Tom and Pat were congratulated by the congregation.

## 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 certified to present a diocesan program "Graceful Exits". There will be a nominal charge ($10 per person) to cover costs of materials. Those attending are asked to bring a copy (completed or in progress) of their funeral customary for their church, and, if available, any handout that your clergy gives the bereaving 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 .

# June 2007 Chapter Meeting
# Election of Officers

The Walter Mace Chapter VGEC held its June chapter meeting at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church/ Houston, amidst torrential rains. The Rev. Bill DeForrest gave an interesting presentation on the relationship of vergers to the clergy, the personal role of vergers with other guilds within the church, and taking care of oneself spiritually within the context of ministry.

The following slate of officers was elected by acclamation:

- ✞ Peggy Metcalf, St. Mark's/Houston, President
- ✞ Gary Burnhauser, Good Shepherd/Tomball, Vice President
- ✞ Ron Robertson, Emmanuel/Houston, your Roving Training Officer
- ✞ Bob Bliss, Grace Episcopal Church/Georgetown, Communications Chair
- ✞ Patricia Shepherd, St. Mark's/Houston, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved were:

- ✞ A motion that the annual March seminar be occasionally held in the Austin area, due to the growth of the verger contingent there;
- ✞ A motion to consider having one social meeting per year;
- ✞ A directive to the president to offer our involvement to the diocese in the service of consecration of The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, newly approved at General Convention 2006.

## Website Being Upgraded

The texasvergers.org website is currently being rewritten and will debut shortly. Not only will it have a new look and feel but will be a repository for articles and "How To's" that we all want to share. The content will grow over time and will reflect the knowledge of the Guild. Perishable information will primarily be distributed through the monthly E-Newsletter so that it can be timely and helpful.

It would be very helpful for each member to check their information on the membership page. If you see out of date email addresses listed please let us know the correct information. Great things are happening in the Diocese of Texas and our Guild. Be an active part of our ministry.

## Finding Liturgical North

The custom of worshipping towards the East, and of building Churches with the Chancel at the East end, has been the rule of the Catholic Church for many centuries. The Altar is therefore at the East end, in token that Christ is our Sun and Light, and that He will come from the East at His second Advent. "And the glory of the Lord came into the House by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the East" (Ezek. 43, 4).

From the Nave looking toward the Altar you are facing liturgical east. North will be on your left and south to your right. The pulpit is usually placed on the north side, facing west, because ancients thought that the voice had its strength from the right side. The pulpit symbolizes the teaching power and authority of the church.

The Lectern, at which the lessons for the day are read, is ordinarily on the south side of the chancel, facing west. In many churches , however, the positions accorded the Lectern and Pulpit are transposed.

## Contact Information

Please keep your contact information up to date so that we are able to keep you informed of all activities within our Chapter. You need notify the Communications Officer. Bob Bliss at vergers@graceepis.org whenever there is a change in your address, phone number or email. Thanks!

## 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 think that you will have some spare time to donate to the chapter for any excursions, please contact Peggy Metcalf at mlf1943@yahoo.com . We have the materials, we just need the spokespersons.

## The Quarterly Newsletter

You have now seen the monthly E-Newsletter. What can you expect from the quarterly newsletter? What you can expect are longer 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 .

## Calendar Events of Interest to Vergers

**September 23. 2006**
Quarterly Meeting of Mace Chapter
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church/Tomball
Noon to 3 pm

**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**
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 St. David's/Austin

**March 5-7, 2007**
Diocesan Altar Guild Retreat

**March 10, 2007**
5th Annual Mace Chapter Seminar, Grace Episcopal Church/ Georgetown

**February 2008** Diocesan Council, Galveston, Texas

## Officers

***President***
Margaret Metcalf - St. Mark's – Houston
***Vice-President***
Gary Burnhauser - Good Shepherd - Tomball
***Secretary/Treasurer***
Patricia Shepherd - St. Mark's – Houston
***Training Officer***
Ron Robertson – Emmanuel – Houston
***Communications Officer***
Bob Bliss - Grace - Georgetown

## *Helpful Links*

Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church: www.vergers.org

Church of England Guild of Vergers: CEGV

The Hunger Site: www.thehungersite.com

Episcopal Church USA: www.episcopalchurch.org

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

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD): www.er-d.org

Episcopal Diocese of Texas: 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."

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

Bob Bliss, Verger
Grace Episcopal Church
1314 EAST UNIVERSITY AVE.
Georgetown, TX. 78626
or by email to: vergers@graceepis.org