



# Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church E-Newsletter



*Service through Worship, Worship through Service*

June 2007  
Vol. 2, No.2

## 2007 Walter Mace Annual Training Seminar and Meeting

**Annual Training Conference**  
**The Walter E. Mace Chapter**  
**Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Georgetown, Texas**  
**March 9-10, 2007**  
Bob Bliss  
Grace Georgetown

Well, if you missed the March 2007 annual training seminar you missed a great time. Friday evening started out with Choral Evensong. Members of the Guild joined with the Grace congregation in making joyful noise unto the Lord. Afterwards people went out to eat and socialize.



Saturday morning started with a nice breakfast prepared by Grace Hooper who is a member of Grace Church. After breakfast The Rev Bill Adams, retired professor of liturgy at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest gave a class on being a Verger and Master of Ceremonies. Nathan Jennings, professor of liturgy at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, gave a class on Liturgy and the history behind the format of our services. Both presentations were very well received and we hope to hear more from them at future seminars.



Lunch was served and everyone took the time to feast and to socialize. We had around 27 in attendance. That was not bad considering there was a mandatory Wardens and Vestry conference being held on the same day. We were blessed to have a newly ordained Deacon, The Rev Gill Keyworth, from Emmanuel, Houston in attendance. The afternoon ended with a business meeting and Holy Eucharist. Fr Steve Rottgers celebrated the service and Taft Metcalf was kind enough to perform the music for the service. Just as we started the seminar on Friday we also ended the seminar on Saturday offering joyful noise unto the Lord.

Please visit the TexasVergers webpage at: [www.texasvergers.org](http://www.texasvergers.org) to view all of the pictures from the seminar. Here are a few thumbnails.



# A Personal Investiture Story

Tim Wade, Verger

Emmanuel, Houston

Super Bowl Sunday is always a day full of hype, great Ads of TV and great expectations for your favorite team. This is the day of my investiture. For me the journey to this day has been filled with great highs and lows. My journey started almost one year ago. The Head Verger and Mace Chapter Training Officer, Ron Robertson, and fellow Verger Dr. Jerry P. Christopher were in charge of my Training. We met every three weeks from February through June of 2006. On June 25<sup>th</sup> we all met with our Rector Janie Kirt Morris and Father Bradley Sullivan, Assistant to the Rector. We reviewed my progress and role and discussed waiting for my installation until after two others finished their training. Unfortunately, Ron Robertson, on July 22 had a plane crash in his yellow plane.

Ron was taken by Life Flight to Memorial Herman in Houston and was in Critical condition. Our church prayed and the shock of Ron's accident reverberated through members of our church as well as the Verger Guild. Ron's wife while in shock was encouraged by the wonderful prayers, support, and kind words from the VList and calls and visits from his fellow Mace Chapter Vergers. Slowly, but surely Ron started to get better. After almost six months of good and bad days in the hospital, Ron was able to go home and continue his rehab from home. This past January Ron went back to work. He is truly a miracle and the prayers and well-wishers have been inspirational to him and all that are aware of his miraculous recovery.

So, any thought of my investiture was put on hold. My other trainer, Dr. Jerry Christopher, had been picking up the temporary role of head verger at Emmanuel and our Rector had asked him in August to start thinking about Advent and Christmas. Jerry was doing well, when in September he started having trouble catching his breath. Jerry was admitted to the ICU and was doing better. He then picked up an infection and after a couple months Jerry gave up the fight and we celebrated his life on November 9, 2006 with a full congregation and numerous Vergers from the Mace Chapter in attendance. On this same occasion Ron Robertson, with the assistance of a wheel chair, temporarily checked out of the hospital to attend Jerry's funeral.

It was at this funeral, in the drive from the Hospital that Ron and his wife Marilyn suggested to me that I consider talking with Pastor Janie about scheduling my investiture. I said that I was not going to be ready until my Trainer was able to present me. I attended the Investiture of David Salmon at Trinity Church in The Woodlands on December 3, 2006 and had a nice visit with Peggy Metcalf, Bid Drake and Dick Johnson all Mace Chapter Vergers.

My Rector, Janie Kirt Morris met with me and we discussed scheduling the beginning of my new ministry at Emmanuel. We discussed the pros and cons of having a service that is more convenient for other Vergers to attend verse having those who will support me in my new ministry. We agreed for me that at our usual Sunday service that I would be installed.

It is now just a week before my investiture. For the past several Sundays my installation has been announced at every service and the well wishes from my parish family has been humbling. While I am excited, I also have a nervous feeling of am I worthy. I have received numerous emails from the VList and fellow Mace Chapter Vergers. I also received a welcomed we are all set from my Rector with her prayers that God will flow through us in our service to his glory. I feel , using a Houston reference, that we are GO for Launch!

The preparations are set, the service is printed. Presenters, Vestments, Seals, Verge, and Investiture Certificates are in place and a new Prayer Book/Hymnal has been purchased by my mother. My excitement and anticipation of the big day seem as far away as a Birthday is to an Elementary Child!

Well the day is here. Yesterday I made signs for visiting vergers, talked to acolytes and had my mother inscribe my new Prayer/Hymnal. My wife graciously attached the Vergers Guild seal, Diocese of Texas Seal and the Church of England badge. I shined my shoes and cleaned and polished the verge that will be presented.

This morning I printed the Procession / Recessional sequence and made copies. I will be leaving shortly to make sure all is well.

Wow! The sun is shining and the service was everything I had hoped. Perhaps it is the more things change the more things stay the same. I felt that my personal doubts and concerns were echo in the scripture readings. Brad Hester our Music Minister and the full choir sounded wonderful. We went in with "*I Bind Unto Myself (Hymn 370)*." Then at the Offertory they "*As the Bridegroom to His Chosen.*" During communion we sang *I, the Lord of sea and sky*. The music was perfect and to the glory of god. Peggy Metcalf, President of Mace Chapter and Fellow in the Vergers Guild presided. Ron Robertson, my trainer, Head Verger at Emmanuel and Mace Chapter Trainer, presented me. Ron Robertson and Doug Davis, VGEC and Emmanuel Verger presented my Scapular, which is our church's vestment for vergers. Bidwell Drake, VGEC and CEVG, presented me the Seals of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Texas. She also presented me with my Church of England Vergers Guild badge. Zane Christopher, Jerry's wife, presented me with Jerry's verge. Peggy Metcalf presented me the Walter Mace Chapter of Vergers Certificate, which was signed by my Rector, Mace President, and Mace Trainer. Peggy also presented the certificate from the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, which was signed by William H. Gleason, President Emeritus VGEC.

I sat with my fellow Verger trainees Philip Scroggie and Derrith Wieman, who will be installed in the future. My wife, mother and youngest son sat behind me. My oldest son served as a Crucifer. My Rector, The Reverend Janie Kirt Morris and Assistant to the Rector, The Reverend Bradley Sullivan officiated the service of installation.

I truly felt the spirit of the lord tickling the small hairs in my neck and flowing through those serving at the alter. I am very thankful for all those who participated and made the service so meaningful to me. I ask your prayers for my continued growth as a verger and as a Christian. Sincerely, Timothy W. Wade – VERGER!

An Editors note:

I personally want to thank Tim for writing his story. It pays tribute to all of the people involved in Ron's accident and they need to be recognized. We are all grateful for Ron's return to health. God has unfinished plans for Ron and we anxiously await his future to unfold. But I want to return to Tim also. It points out that we all are servants of God and we work in His time. Patience is rewarded, we just have to look for the signs of God's gifts to us. Please forward your story to us so others may hear. We all have a story!

Bob Bliss, FVGEC  
Communications Chair

## Quarterly Meeting

The next meeting of the Walter Mace Memorial Chapter Vergers' Guild will be  
Friday, June 22  
6:30 to 9:00 pm  
Buca di Beppo Restaurant  
5192 Buffalo Speedway  
Houston 77005

Our speaker will be The Rev. John Price. Buca di Beppo is located on the west side of Buffalo Speedway between Westpark and Bissonnett, just south of the Southwest Freeway. We will have a room to ourselves that will accommodate 23 people. Since the chapter has to guarantee reservations, RSVP's are required. RSVP to Peggy Metcalf at [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com) or 713-741-4312. Cost per person is \$22.

The menu will include Margherita Pizza for antipasti, Caesar Salad, Fresh Salmon with Pesto, Fettuccine Alfredo and , for dessert, Triple Chocolate Cake and coffee or soft drink. Seating for dinner will occur at 7:00 pm, giving those wishing to fellowship prior to the meal over drinks in the bar time from 6:30 to 7:00. Liquor is not included in the price of the meal.

## HELPPPP!!!

The Mace Chapter VGEC is considering having booths at various events over the upcoming year. If you can help the chapter, and our ministry, please contact Peggy Metcalf at [mlfm1943@yahoo.com](mailto:mlfm1943@yahoo.com). We have the materials, we just need the spokespeople.

## Group Picture Annual Training Seminar Grace Church, Georgetown March 2007



### Calendar Events of Interest to Vergers

**June 22, 2007**

**Quarterly Meeting/Mace Chapter**

**September, 2007**

**Walter Mace Chapter**

**Details to be announced**

**September, 2007**

**Vergers Guild Of the Episcopal Church Annual Meeting**

**Albuquerque, NM**

### **New Brochure**

You can download the new official Walter Mace Chapter Verger brochure from our [texasvergers.org](http://texasvergers.org) web site. Just go to the Resources page and you will find it in a .pdf format. Please pass it around and have extra copies available at your church.

### **The E-Newsletter**

You have now seen the 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 Ana Goza at: [anna-goza@houston.rr.com](mailto:anna-goza@houston.rr.com)

## 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**

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## **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)

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

## **Finally...**

Christ has no body, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. *St. Teresa of Avila*

## **Contact Information**

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

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