



Sacristy Sense

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

A twice-yearly publication of the Province IV Altar Guild

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

GREETINGS:

If you are like me, you are very anxious to get back to “normal”, which, most importantly, means resuming regular church attendance with our church families and worship in our sacred spaces. Possibly one good thing about our period of quarantine, it has made us more appreciative of what is truly important in our lives. For me and for many of you who serve on the altar guild, that means a recommitment to our beloved ministry. It is now a good time as well, to invite others to join in serving God in this way.

So now I am inviting you to return to or join us for the first time at Province IV Altar Guild.

Who are we?

The members of Province IV Altar Guild are individuals who serve on their parish altar guild, as well as parishes and missions of any of the 20 Dioceses of Province IV (also known as the Province of Sewanee). Province IV is also an affiliate the National Altar Guild Association (NAGA).

What do we do?

According to our Bylaws, we strive to unite all altar guilds of Province IV, to deepen their spiritual life, and to enhance the beauty of their worship services to the glory of God. We stand ready to help in the organization and work of parish/mission guilds. We have an annual meeting of our membership, usually at beautiful Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina. *(Due to Covid 19, no meeting was held in 2020.)* Our programs are planned to educate and share information on all aspects of our Episcopal worship services. We publish an informative newsletter and assist in communication between NAGA and the membership of Province IV. Those of us who attend the Episcopal Triennial meetings participate in the preparation and serving of the Holy Eucharist at the worship services.

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What are our plans for the future?

We hope to increase our membership. Like many organizations, we have lost members over the past few years. We need you to be a part of our great organization, which is committed to serve God in His church in this most Holy Ministry. It is a great privilege to prepare the Holy Eucharistic. One learns so much in this ministry which cannot help but deepen his/her faith.

We are exploring other venues for our meetings so that it will be more convenient for our members in Louisiana and Mississippi to attend. We will continue to have great speakers, informative, creative workshops and interesting field trips.

We will have our first virtual membership meeting on June 12 at 10:00 am Central Daylight Time (11:00 am Eastern Daylight Time). Please let us know if you wish to join us via ZOOM (see Registration Procedure below). Hopefully, our next meeting will be in person. I hope to see you in the near future, first via ZOOM, and then soon face to face.

With God's Peace,

Ann McCormick, President
3071 Dumbarton Rd.
Memphis, TN 38128
ann.mcc413@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

To participate in the virtual meeting, 2021 dues must be paid. Complete the membership form (Page 6) and send it along with your check to Treasurer Phyllis Bruce. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Phyllis at 251-680-2764.

If you indicate that you wish to attend the virtual annual meeting on June 12, please send an email to Phyllis at pobruce46@gmail.com, when you put your check in the mail. This will ensure that you will be counted as paid for voting purposes even if your check has not been received by June 12th. When Phyllis receives your email, you will be registered for the virtual meeting. **Anyone whose 2021 dues were paid prior to receipt of this newsletter is automatically registered for the virtual meeting.** Prior to the meeting a link for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you, along with a copy of the most recent (2019) general meeting minutes and treasurer's report.

There is no registration charge, but if you wish to make a donation to help offset the speaker's fee, please enclose a separate check with "donation" on the memo line. If the total amount of donations exceeds the speaker's fee, the remaining amount will be sent to the Presiding Bishop's Annual Appeal as a donation from the Province IV Altar Guild.

If you wish to have a "practice session" prior to the actual meeting, please contact Phyllis Bruce and she will be happy to arrange it.

**PROVINCE IV ANNUAL MEETING
Via Zoom**

**June 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time (11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time)
*** Please adjust accordingly if you are calling from an area NOT on Daylight Time *****

Speaker: Mary Bea Sullivan

Topic: Reconnecting and Renewing in Altar Guild Ministry



Mary Bea Sullivan is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director, retreat leader, and entrepreneur. A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Mary Bea currently serves as Associate Rector at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Ala. She loves **sharing stories** and aspires to listen devoutly to life—to people, nature, and to the stirrings of the Spirit. Scripture tells us we are all made in the **image and likeness of God**. Sometimes hanging out sharing stories in sacred space can help us to uncover that image in ourselves and one another.

The Business Meeting will include election of new officers, who will be installed and immediately assume office. Their term will run from June 2021 - June 2024 (*assuming that this is agreeable to the membership -- a vote on length of their term, along with any other Bylaws amendments deemed necessary, will be deferred until we are able to hold an actual in-person meeting with discussion/input from all parties.*)

The Nominating Committee report is found on Page 4. **Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the annual meeting on June 12, 2021.** If you are interested in serving in as an officer, you can nominate yourself or ask someone else to nominate you! If you know someone who is willing to do so, please nominate them!

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee, composed of Sarah Hill, Peggy Curlin, and Dianne Walters, has met via email and come up with a proposed slate.

President:	Martha Noble Langston
Vice-President:	David Deal
Treasurer/Secretary:	Phyllis Bruce

The positions of Treasurer and Secretary are being combined for the present time. The new President will need to appoint a Nominating Chair and an Editor for this newsletter. (Familiarity with Word or some other newsletter program would be helpful for the Editor.) As we look forward to an in-person meeting in June 2022, we will also need one or two people to handle Hospitality. If you are interested in learning more about these positions or would like to serve the Province IV Altar Guild in any capacity, please let the new President know of your interest.

Brief bios of each nominee is found below.

Nominee for President:



Martha Noble Langston is the current Vice President of Province IV Altar Guild. She is a native of Gadsden, Alabama, and was confirmed at The Episcopal Church of The Holy Comforter. Martha resides in Birmingham, Alabama, and is a member of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church. She has been the Directress of Saint Stephen's Altar Guild and of the Alabama Diocesan Altar Guild. In addition, she serves as Co Chairman of the Liturgy and Music Committee for the Diocese of Alabama. Her lifelong career has been as a Registered Dietitian. For leisure, Martha and her husband, Larry, enjoy traveling in their RV and following University of Alabama sports events.

Nominee for Vice-President:



David Deal was confirmed an Episcopalian on March 25, 1985. The first 20 years he was a member at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Enterprise Alabama and the past 15 years at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Dothan Alabama. David has served on the Vestry 6 years and has served as both Junior & Senior Warden at Epiphany. He has served most of this time on the Altar Guild, sang in the choir, and worked with the Acolytes both training and serving.

David was appointed as Verger at Nativity by Mother Ede Plovanich and re-appointed by Father Peter Wong when he became the Rector, serving in this capacity for over 10 years. He has been involved in many other committees in the church.

Nominee for Treasurer/Secretary:



Phyllis Olivier Bruce is the current Treasurer of the Province IV Altar Guild. She was received into the Episcopal Church at St. Paul's, Daphne, Alabama, in April 1999. Phyllis has served a term on the Vestry and completed the four-year EFM course and is co-chair of St. Paul's altar guild. She married Jere Bruce in 1972 and was a devoted wife until his death in 2010. She has two grown children, John and Meagan, and one grandson, age 12. Phyllis retired in 2008 from a career as a budget analyst with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to all her church activities, she enjoys working in her garden and traveling whenever the chance arises.



PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

INDIVIDUAL OR HOUSEHOLD - Membership open to anyone interested in the ministry of serving the altar.

ANNUAL DUES Individual \$20 Household \$30 *(Includes spouse/partner or family member)*

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone(s): _____ E-Mail: _____
Your Parish: _____ Your Diocese: _____
New: _____ Renewal: _____

PARISH OR MISSION - ANNUAL DUES \$20. Membership for any Episcopal parish or mission, or any associated Episcopal group at the parish level (AG, ECW, etc.). A recipient for Province IV Altar Guild mailing may be designated.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Attn: _____
Diocese: _____
New: _____ Renewal: _____
Name of Newsletter Recipient if other than above: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
New: _____ Renewal: _____

DIOCESE - ANNUAL DUES \$30. Membership for the Office of Bishop, Diocesan Altar Guild, Diocesan Episcopal Church Women or any other diocesan Episcopal group. A recipient for Province IV Altar Guild mailing may be designated.

Name of Bishop or Group: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
New: _____ Renewal: _____
Name of Newsletter Recipient if other than above: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
New: _____ Renewal: _____

Please make your check payable to: **PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD**

Mail application and check to: **Phyllis Bruce
402 Circle Drive
Fairhope, AL 36532-2603**

I want to attend the Virtual Annual Meeting on June 12, 2021: _____ YES _____ NO

PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS & BOARD

(Original terms extended to Annual Meeting to be held in June 2021)

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PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Thanks to Dianne Walters, you can now order any style shirt or any other monogram-able item from Lands' End and have the Province IV logo embroidered on it. Go to the web site www.landsend.com to choose merchandise and then call 800-587-1541 to place the order. Tell the representative you want the following monogram:

Logo #1116018.

Company Name: Province IV Altar Guild

Store Login ID: altarguild

Store URL: ces.landsend.com/Province_IV_Altar_Guild.