



THE VERGERS GUILD OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF ATLANTA VERGER CHAPTER

2020 – 2022 MEG Chapter Board Members

Chair
Vacant

Vice Chair
Yolande Brunson Collins
St. Simon's Episcopal Church, Conyers

Yolande Brunson Collins grew up in Macon, GA and attended a Baptist church that her grandparents helped to found in the 1897. Her early education was at a Catholic School, where she became familiar with and very attached to the liturgy. After many years of attending the Baptist church because it was expected, she and her young daughter were invited to an Episcopal service, and she immediately felt “at home.” She was confirmed in 1988 at the Absalom Jones Chapel at the Atlanta University Center and later worshiped at The Church of the Incarnation in southwest Atlanta, where she served as a Lector, on a search committee, and on the Vestry as Senior Warden.

Upon moving to Conyers in 2004, Yolande became a member of St. Simon's. She actively serves as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Verger, and Acolyte Coordinator, and she creates the quarterly Ministry Schedule. Yolande has been an active member of the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter and the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church (national) since 2013. She has served as a Diocesan trainer for Safeguarding God's Children since 2012.

Yolande is a member of and volunteer for two national women's organizations which provide service to the underserved in the Metro Atlanta community. She is a retired certified Peace Officer, having worked for both the Georgia Department of Corrections (adult) and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice in the areas of management and training. Yolande enjoys cooking and baking, and she and her husband, Toby Dryer -- also an active member of St. Simon's --, enjoy traveling together, working to beautify their yard, and hopping in the car and driving around Georgia on day-trips to see the beauty of the state. Together they also enjoy the fellowship and interaction with their church family.



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Treasurer

Mark Adkins

St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven

Mark was born in Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom and baptized into the Church of England at All Saints Church, Long Ashton, Somerset, UK. He was subsequently confirmed into the Church of England in 1976 by the Bishop of Guildford whilst attending Charterhouse School. Mark became a member of St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven, GA in 2015 where he is a Verger, Eucharistic Minister, Intercessor, and an enthusiastic member of the Choir.

Although British Mark has lived for much of his life in Georgia as a result of his family emigrating to the US in 1967. Most of his education until university, however, was in the UK where he attended firstly the Downs School (near the city of Bristol) and then Charterhouse School located in Godalming, Surrey. As for university Mark attended Georgia State University's business school obtaining a BBA in Finance. Whilst at GSU he also joined the Atlanta office of Barclays Bank PLC and for the next 30 years enjoyed a banking career with Barclays, Fleet National Bank and Bank of America. Now retired Mark enjoys spending his free time, traveling, reading, and enjoying music.

Training

Jim Landers

St. David's Episcopal Church, Roswell

Jim Landers is a member of the Vergers Guild at St. David's Roswell. He was installed as a Verger in his parish in February 2012 and is also a Life Member of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. Jim has been a parishioner at St. David's since 1988 and has served in several lay ministry and parish governance positions, including Senior Warden and Parish Treasurer.

Jim and his wife Ellen live in Virginia Highland

and have two adult children. Jim is employed as a financial analyst in the energy business. He holds a BA degree in English and Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA degree from Emory University.

Secretary

Julia Gable

Holy Trinity Parish Episcopal Church, Decatur

Julia is a lifelong Episcopalian and has been a member of three parishes, all in the Diocese of Atlanta. She was baptized at St. Thomas' in Columbus, and moved to Atlanta and St. Martin in the Fields when she was one year old. She has been a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Decatur since 1997. Julia enjoys parish life and has served in many ministry areas at Holy Trinity including worship, adult Christian formation, finances, vestry, and stewardship. She currently serves as a verger, Eucharistic Minister, and choir member. Julia also serves on the Diocesan Commission on Stewardship.

After serving as a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Trinity for several years, Julia was asked to consider the verger ministry, and she trained to be a verger in 2014. Veteran vergers DeDe Clark and Scott Miller set the tone for verger service—reverent, organized, flexible, supportive, and nurturing. They mixed in camaraderie, good humor and fun, providing an excellent model for verger training.

Julia joined the Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild in 2015 and served on the Host Committee of the 2017 VGEC Annual Conference held in Atlanta. Julia likes the behind-the-scenes aspects of the verger ministry. So many people—in fact, ALL the people! - are involved in worship, and the verger's role is to support everyone in doing their part. A good verger is a thoughtful host, coach, greeter, manager, gopher, utility player (a baseball term for a teammate who is familiar enough with all the different roles so as to support everyone and be



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able to fill in for many of the positions if needed). Flexibility, hospitality, and grace go a long way any time, but for sure when you're verging.

Julia graduated from The University of the South and Virginia Tech and currently analyzes public health data as a statistician at RTI International. She is a baseball fan and enjoys listening to Braves games on the radio. She has nine nieces and nephews and four great nieces, and this her 31st year of being a proud aunt.

Membership

Martha-Sue Blythe

St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven

Martha-Sue Blythe joined the Episcopal Church after wandering aimlessly (spiritually) for many years. Diving right into the thick of the fray she began her journey through EFM and was one of the surviving 7 out of 16 that began the program.

A member of St. Martin in the Fields in Brookhaven, GA, Martha-Sue has several active ministry involvements at her parish. For the last fourteen years Martha-Sue has done all the weekly assignments for Visiting Eucharistic Ministers. She has served as co-President of the St. Clare Chapter of Daughters of the King where her leadership drove a declining organization to new heights and accomplishments. Membership expanded and Saturday monthly meetings are bulging at the seams with visitors and members.

Martha-Sue is an active Verger, Eucharistic Minister, Intercessor, and Eucharistic Visitor. She can always be found in the sacristy on Sunday's doing her part to ensure the service comes off smoothly. She has also served on or is serving: the Altar Guild, the Funeral and Wedding Service Team. She has also served the MEG Chapter in a variety of positions including: Secretary, Membership Chairperson and Vice Chair. Martha-Sue currently serves on the New Chapter Development Committee for the National Vergers'

Guild. She has a passion for getting things done, building growth, membership and involvement in organizations and for ensuring there is seamless communication within an organization.

Martha-Sue spends her free time commuting back and forth to Atlanta from her permanent residence inside Callaway Gardens. Her hobbies include golf, biblical and spiritual reading for reflection, communicating with others and service to her faith.

Communications

Kay AnderSon

St. David's Episcopal Church, Roswell

Kay joined St. David's Church of Roswell, Georgia, in early 2005 after being absent from church since 2002. Baptized and raised as a Roman Catholic in Wisconsin and then moving to Georgia in 2002, Kay found herself lost at a few Southern Georgia Catholic parishes. Living across the street from St. David's Church, Kay decided to walk into the church and never walked back out. As a single mom to 3 children, Kay found that St. David's was not only her spiritual outlet, but also her new family.

Kay has been serving as a Verger since October 2015 for all services and was welcomed to the Hispanic ministry with Padre Antonio Brito. In addition, Kay serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and Welcome minister. Kay was invited to attend a MEG Chapter meeting in 2016, was asked to become a member-at-large and has enjoyed learning how all the churches in the Diocese of Atlanta are different and yet the same.

Kay, a previous Georgia law enforcement officer, earned her graduate degrees in business management and accounting. She currently owns an accounting firm managing multiple corporate and personal accounts while managing her nonprofit for young people financial learning and supporting her college attending identical twin sons and her 16-year-old daughter.