

These Archived Blogs are listed from oldest  
October 18, 2015 to newest June 10, 2023

# Atlanta to Host 2017 VGEC Annual Conference



October 18, 2015

On October 3, 2015, Terry Hughes, Chair of the VGEC Annual Conference Committee, announced that the MEG Chapter was selected to host the 29th Annual Conference of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church in 2017. Our Chapter expects to host the largest assembly of vergers in history from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. This is an accolade to our Chapter for being the largest and most active chapter in the US.

## Organizational Meeting

An initial organizational meeting will be held Saturday November 7 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM at the Cathedral (Room 239) for all willing to serve on the host committee. We are seeking those vergers with expertise in particular areas and/or those that have a desire to be a part of this highly rewarding experience.

The MEG Chapter Board appointed Chuck Dale to be the Chair of the Host Committee. Co-Vice Chairs are Lorie Tola and Phillip Knight. Subcommittee Chairs will be appointed to manage important functions of the conference.

All vergers in the Diocese are invited to pitch in and help. This call for volunteers is specifically directed at the 66 vergers in the Diocese that have paid memberships in VGEC and the 50 vergers that are paid members of the MEG Chapter.

To RSVP, contact [vergeratlanta@earthlink.net](mailto:vergeratlanta@earthlink.net) to let us know how you would like to serve. If you can not attend the November 7 meeting, but would like to serve, please advise accordingly. There will be another Organizational Meeting in either December or early January. Some functions will need to get started right away, and others will become active later.

To view the award winning proposal submitted by the MEG Chapter to the VGEC, please [click here](#).

# Host Committee Initial Organizational Meeting



[November 25, 2015](#)

The initial meeting of the VGEC 2017 Host Committee was held November 7, 2015, at the Cathedral of St. Philip. In attendance were Chuck Dale – Chair (St. Augustine's) and Co-Vice Chairs Lorie Tola (St. Patrick's) and Phillip Knight (St. Teresa's). Members attending were Kay Anderson (St. David's), Martha-Sue Blythe (St. Martin's), Yolande Collins (St. Simons'), Ernie Forde (St. Paul's – Atlanta), Julia Gable (Holy Trinity), Steven Granade (St. David's), John Haeger (Christ Church – Norcross), Dawn Hampton (St. Peter's), Kelly Kautt (All Saints'), Beth King (Cathedral of St. Philip), Jim Landers (St. David's), Lynn Randolph (All Saints'), Pamela Robinson (St. Peter & St. Paul), and Ken Singleton (St. Paul's – Atlanta). Sixteen vergers expressed their desire to serve on the committee, but were unable to attend the initial meeting.

The committee members were brought up to date with the initial planning for the 2017 Conference. There was a group discussion and initial consensus that we would begin the Conference with a Thursday evening Evensong service, A Friday morning Eucharist, Saturday devoted to VGEC business meeting, seminars, an evening reception and banquet, and on Sunday the Festive Eucharist at the Cathedral with Bishop Wright.

A preliminary report on selecting the Host Hotel was presented. Other discussion topics included selecting the various meal venues, a keynote speaker, and an official photographer. Projects agreed upon to begin soon included fundraising efforts to help defray some our costs, budget and finance controls, developing a welcoming video, streaming the major church services, having real-time communication services available to the attendees, planning for spouse/companion excursion and developing a local transportation plan.

The next meeting of Host Committee will be Saturday, January 9, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Cathedral. Please mark your calendars. This will probably be the only meeting of the entire Host Committee in 2016. During the year, the various subcommittees will meet periodically either in person or by telephone/video depending what will work best for their members.

# Vergers Serve at Annual Council

December 1, 2015

The 109th annual Diocesan Council met Nov. 13 and 14, 2015, at the Infinite Energy Center (Gwinnett Conference Center) with more than 500 clergy and lay delegates attending. Members of our Verger Chapter played a significant role in facilitating the meeting by leading the opening worship service, serving as tellers, and other miscellaneous duties.

Vergers who volunteered to serve as Tellers included Head Teller Karl Sachsenmaier (Cathedral of St. Philip), Martha-Sue Blythe (St. Martin's), Robin Dake (St. Matthias'), Paul Davison (St. Christopher's), John Haeger (Christ Church – Norcross), Cheryl Josephson (St. Martin's), Phillip Knight (St. Teresa's), Jim Landers (St. David's), Jim Parks (St. James'), Ken Singleton (St. Paul's – Atlanta), Linda Salmons (St. David's), Ruth Anne Tatum (St. Martin's), Lorie Tola (St. Patrick's), and Kathryn Turman (St. Patrick's).



## **Tellers counting ballots during the Business Session of Annual Council**

Pictured from left to right: Karl Sachsenmaier, Linda Salmons, Paul Davison, Jim Landers, Martha-Sue Blythe, Phillip Knight, Ruth Anne Tatum, Kathryn Turman, and Jim Parks.

Photo: Bill Monk

For additional photos of Tellers in action, courtesy of Bill Monk, [click here](#).

**Lorie Tola and Cheryl Josephson staff the Verger Display Table.**



**Please notice the brand new MEG Chapter Banner.**

**Photo: Bill Monk**

# MEG Chapter Board Meeting



May 10, 2016

The MEG Chapter Board of Directors met on April 16, 2016, with a full agenda. This was the last Board meeting to be chaired by Lorie Tola, Chair. A quorum was present. The Chapter currently has a balance of \$1252.00 after donating \$500.00 in support the Acolyte Festival. We have 38 paid Chapter members. Board reports received included a report on the VGEC 2017 Annual Conference.

The slate of nominees for the 2016-2018 Board were presented and approved. An amendment to the bylaws was approved for presentation at the Summer Assembly meeting.

The Board will encourage participation of all vergers at the Rainbow Village Concert in June and the Acolyte Festival in September. The complete, detailed minutes of the Board Meeting are posted on the MEG Chapter Web Site and are found by [clicking here](#).

# VGEC Annual Conference Host Committee Update



May 11, 2016

The Host Committee is chaired by Chuck Dale with Lorie Tola and Phillip Knight, Co-Vice Chairs. There are 33 active members on the committee. The committee has:

Contracted with the Marriott Marquis hotel to be our Headquarters hotel

We successfully negotiated an outstanding room rate of \$135.00 per night

We are in the process of producing a "Welcome to Atlanta" video.

Reserved an Atlanta display table with Atlanta and Diocese promotional items for the Spokane conference

Begun the process to design the "Save the Date" cards to be mailed after Easter 2017 to every Episcopal parish in the US and the entire VGEC database

We will be able to fund the Conference within budget (although it will be tight)

Developed a tentative agenda for the Conference as follows:

Thursday: Evensong and dinner at the Cathedral

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will serve a BBQ dinner

The Cathedral Bookstore will remain open late

Dale Adelman will lead the Cathedral Choir

Bishop Whitmore will preach

Friday: Celebrative Eucharist at St. Luke's

**Trey Clegg will assemble a mass choir from throughout the Diocese**

**Saturday: VGEC Business Meeting, Workshops, Reception and Banquet at the Marriott Marquis**

**Our Bishops and other dignitaries will join us for the reception and dinner**

**Sunday; Festive Eucharist at the Cathedral**

**Dean Candler will celebrate and Bishop Wright will preach**

**If you have a desire to serve on this important committee, please contact**



# Goodbye from Lorie



June 10, 2016

Lorie displaying her farewell gift of gavel and plaque

**Photo: Curt Yarbrough**

Fellow Vergers:

I'd like to take a moment to thank St. Peter's for hosting our 2016 summer assembly meeting in Rome, Georgia. A thank you to those who prepared the altar and those who prepared the buffet with a special "Thank You" to Dawn Hampton, who created a wonderful setting for this year's meeting.

Thank you Bishop Whitmore for your steadfast support for the vergers in the dioceses of Atlanta and thank you Suzie Whitmore for providing us with another opportunity to serve at the Rainbow Village fundraiser this month.

Here are some highlights from the last 2 years:

The first question we asked ourselves was "How can we motivate more vergers to come to chapter meetings"? Our first answer was to create more relevant, informative meetings in geographically dispersed parishes. Fellowship and the opportunity to share information has been important. The Q & A sessions with Bishop Whitmore, over the last two years, have provided us with knowledge to promote strong leadership, and guidance to encourage our growth.

Last year, the Verger Customaries were created and distributed with the help of the Bishop's office. They were sent to all rectors, in nearly 100 parishes around the diocese.

This board put a strong focus on communication. With Chuck Dale, as Communications Chair, we took communications to a whole new level. This has improved our visibility and created more opportunities to serve throughout the diocese: Hearts to Serve in 2015; the Renewal of Vows in 2015; Annual Councils in 2014 and 2015; a Ministry Fair; the upcoming Rainbow Village fundraiser; and Acolyte Festival on September 10th.

An important decision was made by the Commission on Liturgy and the MEG Verger Chapter to postpone the Acolyte Festival. More time was needed to streamline the registration process and to encourage more acolyte participation. A new date of September 10th has been secured with both Bishops Wright and Whitmore leading the attendees.

As a board we determined it was time to invest in a new logo and created a banner for display at council, the VGEC conference, and beyond. It will be displayed at the 2016 VGEC Conference in Spokane, WA. September 22nd through September 25th.

Under this board's guidance and specifically with Chuck Dale's support we secured the VGEC 2017 conference for Atlanta and extended an invitation to and received an acceptance from Presiding Bishop Curry to participate.

I would like to take one last opportunity to thank the MEG Board of Directors for 2014-2016. It has been an honor to serve as your Chair. It has been a time of growth as an individual, a verger, and a servant of God.

Thank you for the opportunity to grow with you.

Lorie Tola

Retiring Chair of the MEG Chapter

# Summer Assembly 2016



June 15, 2016

Vergers from the Diocese of Atlanta pause for a photo at their June 4 summer assembly in Rome with Bishop Keith Whitmore, and The Rev. Janice Bracken Wright. In front with the bishop are Lorie Tola and Suzie Whitmore.

Photo: Curt Yarbrough

## The Gathering and Holy Eucharist:

The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church met for their Summer Assembly on a beautiful June 4th day in Northwest Georgia. We were hosted by St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome. Thirty-seven vergers, clergy, and guests participated in the gathering. Nine vergers joined the MEG Chapter for the first time when they paid Chapter dues.

After registration, fellowship, coffee, and pastries, we gathered together for Eucharist. The Right Reverend Keith B. Whitmore, Assisting Bishop of Atlanta, was Celebrant and Preacher. Bishop Whitmore was assisted by The Rev. Janice Bracken Wright, Associate Rector of St. Peter's with a full complement of Acolytes and Altar Ministers for the service. Participating were J. C. Albritton, Brian Hampton, Alex Hodges, Tricia Richards, Bryant Steele, Curt Yarbrough and Freida Yearly. The ushers were Nat Massey and Sue Anderson, and Wanda Cantrell was the organist.



The Bishop, The Rev. Wright, JC Albritton, Lorie Tola, and

Verger and meeting host, Dawn Hampton

Photo: Bill Monk

Bishop Whitmore's homily focused on the lectionary for the day: Collect from Proper 4, the 2nd Letter to Timothy and the Gospel of Mark. He deftly wove these three strands as one, noting that they perfectly reveal the verger's ministerial components: **order, faithfulness and generosity.**

## INFORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP:



The Bishop's Forum

During our dialogue with our great friend, the Bishop, we touched on a number of topics. The fascinating ability of our teacher was his ability to turn almost all queries into definitions of our role as vergers.

- Which language (Rite 1 or 2) to use for a healing service? **Doesn't matter, as long as the liturgy is consistent in tone. It's part of our role to ensure that glaring incongruous elements are not present.**
- Congregants don't like incense? **Great liturgy requires all of the senses be engaged. The Bible mentions only two smells: Incense and Brimstone. We prefer incense. Our job is to find pure incense and good charcoal that won't offend.**
- Many like the Doxology at the Offertory? **Yes, but it doesn't make any theological or liturgical sense to be there. We should know why and be prepared to object to the misplaced sentimentality of its misuse.**
- Why are EMs unknowledgeable about the theology of Holy Eucharist? **It should be the job of the verger to train them to know why they serve at the Chancel. This would be an important role the Verger Chapter to play to serve the Diocese.**

Bishop Whitmore's remarks might be summarized that Worship is the act by which we give worth to God. Our actions as vergers must be designed to bring **order** to that process. We Episcopalians, as a people of the Book, need to examine our actions concerning Liturgy and judge those actions in terms of **faithfulness** to the words and rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer. Because we give our time and talent in this pursuit, we experience Sunday worship in a very different fashion from our fellow Parishioners. This is our **generosity**, our widow's mite.

The Bishop's discussion was followed by a wonderful lunch of ham and cheese quiche; spinach and artichoke quiche; tomato aspic, three different salads, followed by apple cobbler and ice cream. Amy Summerlin and Sunny Knauss prepared our feast.



Chris Palmer hard at work

Photo: Curt Yarbrough

The Cathedral Bookstore, thanks to Chris Palmer, made available a wide selection of reference materials and books to aid vergers in their ministry. Sales were brisk; clearly our members like to continue learning to become better vergers.

### **Special Presentation:**



Special Presentation by

Suzie Whitmore

Photo: Curt Yarbrough

Suzie Whitmore, a Board Member of Rainbow Village, gave a wonderful presentation that totally engaged the attendees. Rainbow Village's mission is to transform lives for homeless families with children of North Metro Atlanta. The ministry is a community-based, transitional housing program that promotes self-sufficiency.

The Rainbow Village program provides intervention for adult residents, but if the cycles of homelessness, poverty and domestic violence are to be broken, they must model good habits and critical life skills to the children. Children must be taught to live self-sufficient lives. Ideally, their parents teach them how, but sometimes their residents can't teach what they don't know or don't have the ability to model. Rainbow Village works together with both the adults and the children, providing them skills for a lifetime that they will be able to pass down for generations to come.

Each family invited to participate in the program moves into a fully furnished home where they may live for one to two years. The furnishings in their homes are theirs to take with them when they move to provide a sense of continuity in the transition. Rainbow Village has the capacity to serve 18 homeless families at a time with their current facilities. After a successful capital campaign, they will be able to serve 30 families on site.

The MEG Chapter has been invited to assist in one of Rainbow Village's fundraising efforts. They are celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a day of BBQ, music, and fun with world-renowned band Banks and Shane. Vergers of our Diocese will usher, assist the Rainbow Village staff, and assist the Brotherhood of St. Andrew as they serve BBQ.

## **Business of the Chapter:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lorie Tola, followed by an opening prayer, approval of the 2015 Assembly Minutes, and a report from the Treasurer Karl Sachsenmaier. There is over \$1,200 in the treasury; \$500 was contributed to fund the Acolyte Festival in September.

Ken Singleton gave a report on the September 10 Acolyte Festival. Yolande Collins announced she would be conducting a Safeguarding God's Children training session on August 13 at the Cathedral. Chuck Dale provided the Communications report, followed by a report on the progress the VGEC Host Committee is making towards hosting the biggest Conference ever.

The following Chapter Officers were elected by acclamation for the 2016 – 2018 Term:

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>PHILLIP KNIGHT</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>MARTHA-SUE BLYTHE</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>ROLANDO THORNE</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>KARL SACHSENMAIER</b>
<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>RUTH ANNE TATUM</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>CHUCK DALE</b>



**Chuck Dale, Ruth Anne Tatum, Phillip Knight (Chair), Rolando Thorne and Karl Sachsenmaier.  
Not shown: Martha-Sue Blythe  
Photo: Curt Yarbrough**

Mary Beth Westmoreland presented an amendment to our bylaws formally acknowledging our tax exempt status as an auxiliary organization of the Diocese. She moved for acceptance. The motion was approved numinously. Ruth Anne Tatum reminded everybody that numerous training opportunities through the national VGEC were available: free trial memberships for 6 months, reduced dues for seniors, reduced price for training course which could be completed as a group, a large archive of customaries archived for research.

At this point retiring Chair, Lorie Tola turned over the gavel to our new Chair, Phillip Knight.



Lorie Tola presenting the MEG gavel to Phillip Knight

Photo: Bill Monk

The first official act of new Chair Knight was to present, with our thanks, an engraved gavel and plaque to retiring Chair Lorie Tola. He then thanked the gathered assembly for their confidence in him and our new Board. He intends to lead us in a dialogue oriented to “in- reach,” an exploration of our motto ***Service in worship, and worship through service.*** We have concentrated for a few years on leadership: we lead congregants and ministers on Sundays, and are called to lead people of the community the other six days of the week. As an organization, he feels it is time we provide our members with the inner tools, the spiritual foundation that they need to carry on this ministry of leadership. We often speak to one another about the lonely challenges of our ministry. Would that we as oft mention the special joy! The MEG Verger Chapter has a tremendous amount of work ahead of us, eight public functions in the next 18 months. We will need to remember the joy in serving.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.

# How Many Episcopalians?



July 7, 2016

How Many Episcopalians does it take to set up a BBQ tent?  
A Bishop and 4 Vergers

A Bishop and four Vergers setting up tents for the BBQ dinner

Photo: Bill Monk

The MEG Chapter of the Vergers' Guild was asked to assist Rainbow Village in celebrating their 25th Anniversary at the Duluth Town Green, a beautiful outdoor park with a huge fountain. We were entertained by the world-renowned band Banks and Shane and fed delicious BBQ prepared by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Oh yes, there was birthday cake, too. Four Vergers volunteered their time, talent and plenty of sweat equity. It was very hot that day but, fortunately, no rain. The Vergers were Ruth Anne Tatum, St. Martin's; John Haeger, Christ Church – Norcross; Lorie Tola, St. Patrick's; and Chuck Dale, St. Augustine's. They were rewarded with special commemorative shirts.





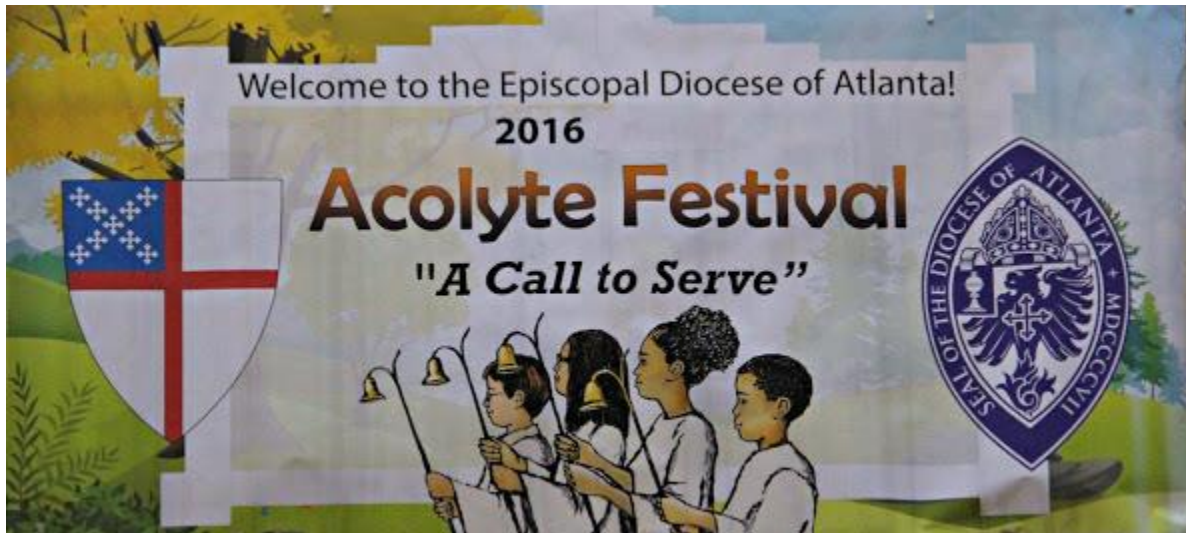
Taking a well-deserved break are (front row L-R) Ruth Anne Tatum,  
Bishop Keith Whitmore and Lorie Tola.  
(back row L-R) John Haeger and Chuck Dale

Photo: Bill Monk

The Anniversary Celebration was a great success with proceeds of \$11,500! It was a delightful day to celebrate the success of families that have broken the cycles of homelessness, poverty and domestic violence. We were all blessed by the inspirational testimony of Karla and the impact Rainbow Village had on her and her children's lives.

For more information on Rainbow Village and to contribute to this important ministry, [please click on this link:](#)

# Successful Acolyte Festival



September 16, 2016

## Diocesan Acolyte Festival

### HUGE SUCCESS!

September 10, 2016

By all standards the Acolyte Festival was an unqualified success with nearly 200 folks in attendance. We saw many, many happy faces on all the Acolytes. If you were unable to attend, you missed an exhilarating and wondrous experience.

Our acolytes learned why Episcopalians celebrate the liturgy as we do. They attended several informational workshops. They all participated in Acolyte Olympics for team building. The older youth participated in a panel discussion that was entitled "Once an Acolyte...Always an Acolyte" highlighting that the skills learned as an acolyte are skills that they will use again and again as they move forward in school and their career.

Both Acolytes and adults were treated to an extensive Q&A session with Bishop Wright that covered a wide range of subjects. The Acolytes were not bashful and asked meaningful questions. In Mikell Chapel Bishop Whitmore led a Q&A session with Senior Acolytes and Acolyte Coordinators.

Saving the best for last; the Festive Holy Eucharist service was truly a highlight. Participating in the Procession were over 30 Acolytes with significant roles in the service, 13 Vergers, all the assembled Acolytes and Chaperones/Sponsors, and Bishops Whitmore and Wright.

Bishop Whitmore was the Celebrant, and Bishop Wright was the Preacher. He delivered an inspiring homily, standing among the assembled, that all Acolytes could understand and enjoy. He was truly animated.

The music provided by Trey Clegg and the ladies of The Spelman Glee Club was uplifting and powerful.

At the conclusion of the service, the Acolytes were released by Parish so that each Acolyte could be photographed with her/his Parish and Bishops Wright and Whitmore. What a glorious day it was!



Bill Monk provided these photographs. He has published four albums of photographs and videos of the 2016 Acolyte Festival. To view these albums, [click here](#).

Ken Singleton, Verger, St. Paul's - Atlanta created these collages for everyone.





# Vergers Storm Spokane



October 3, 2016

Atlanta Vergers welcoming all vergers to Atlanta

Chuck Dale, Cheryl Josephson, Martha-Sue Blythe, Yolande Collins, Phillip Knight, Ruth Anne Tatum Not Shown: David Neville

The “Welcome to Atlanta” presentation and invitation to the 29th Annual Conference was a highlight of the Annual VGEC Conference in Spokane. The event will be hosted by the MEG Chapter on October 12-15, 2017 in Atlanta.

There was a brief introduction before we presented the “Welcome to Atlanta” video; and, when the applause subsided, we reviewed the key elements of our agenda. We were a hit! Our video presentation was very effective. After the Conference, Scott Smith, President of the National Vergers’ Guild, advised in an e-mail “I was absolutely blown away with the video and the presentation that you guys did!”

The seven Atlanta Vergers and two spouses were the largest delegation from any Diocese save that of the host Diocese of Spokane. Our presence magnified our support of the Annual Conference and visually demonstrated the importance of attending the Conference in Atlanta.

The MEG Chapter Commissioned a two-page promotional flyer to be included in the registration packets. This flyer will also be distributed to all of the delegates attending Annual Council in November.

Throughout the Conference we staffed a display table in the Spokane Guild Shop Room promoting the Atlanta Conference. Proudly displayed were our attractive Host Logo Banner on a beautiful banner stand along with Atlanta Tourist information brochures and pens and pencils for all. These items were courtesy of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB).

Other meeting highlights included a wonderful pasta dinner prepared by the women of the Cathedral of St. John’s and a glorious Choral Evensong led by the Cathedral Choir. Friday began with breakfast and morning prayer followed by a number of workshops and a tour of the Cathedral.



The Right Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori

Friday's highpoint was the Keynote Address by The Right Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori. She was introduced as "Pretty darned Reverend," since she is now the former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, when she was titled "The Most Reverend." She led the Vergers in an exploration of some important themes of our ministry- ordering, removing barriers, and bending.

- Ordered freedom is the basis of all life. Ordered freedom fairly well describes our Prayer Book and Liturgy and is a pretty good goal for most of our Christian ministries. Ordered freedom usually requires the use of some type of container, of either physical or mental construct.
- A lengthy description of containers probed the values and pitfalls of some barriers created by containment. Think of a garden curbing keeping out the weeds, but also limiting growth of the plants within. Some critical barriers to leadership are ego, habit, and fear
- Verger, the very name we choose, based on the Latin word for a green stick or branch, implies flexibility. Think not only of adaptability at the last possible moment on Sunday morning to allow a young acolyte to participate, but even deeper, think of our need to bend, to incline our wills to that of the divine.

The Vergers from Atlanta found the Bishop to be warm, engaging, and inspirational. Her address and subsequent conversation at the Sunday forum were intellectual home runs!



Atlanta Vergers participating in the Annual Business Meeting

Ruth Anne Tatum, Cheryl Josephson, Martha-Sue Blythe, Phillip Knight, Chuck Dale, and Yolande Collins

Not Shown: David Neville

Saturday also began with breakfast and morning prayer. The Annual Business Meeting and election of VGEC officers was conducted by Scott Smith, President. Atlanta received a choice spot on the agenda for our presentation and invitation. While folks were still talking about the excitement of going to Atlanta, we boarded buses for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for a scenic cruise of Lake Coeur d'Alene. After

we returned to our Spokane hotels, we quickly dressed for the Verger Banquet and Fellow Recognition presentation.



Vergers from the Atlanta pause during the Annual Banquet for a photo.

Phillip Knight, Martha-Sue Blythe, Yolande Collins, Cheryl Josephson, Ruth Anne Tatum and Chuck Dale

Not Shown: David Neville

Sunday began with a Bishop's Forum where Bishop Katharine responded for an hour to intelligent, challenging questions from the Vergers assembled. Eucharist began with over 130 vested Vergers escorting the Clergy of the Cathedral and Bishop Katharine in a grand presentation of full Episcopal "smells and bells" tradition. Bishop Katharine preached. At the conclusion of this exhilarating service all vergers gathered for the Official Conference Photo, which is now posted on the VGEC Web Site Home Page. We said our goodbyes to everyone by saying "Hope to see y'all in ATLANTA in 2017!"

\* \* \* \* \*

## More on the Spokane Conference

Atlanta Conference Promotional Flyer is posted on the MEG Chapter Web Site. The "Welcome to Atlanta" video will be posted shortly.

Photographs and videos of the entire Spokane Conference are available on the VGEC web site [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org). You do not need to be a member of VGEC to access the photos and videos.

The 28th Annual Conference also available at [#VGEC28](https://www.facebook.com/VGEC28) on Facebook. A direct link to all the photos is on [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/vgers/), and the videos on Verger TV.

# Host Committee will meet August 26, 2017



November 15, 2016

The VGEC Annual Conference Host Committee will meet August 26, 2016 from noon to 3:00pm at St. Martin's in Pierce Hall..

[St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church](#)

3110 Ashford Dunwoody Road  
Atlanta, GA 30319

404-261-4292

<http://www.stmartins.org>



# Travel from Airport to Marriott Marquis



December 1, 2016

The MARTA fare is only \$2.50 one way. However, you must have a new **Silver Breeze Card** which costs an additional \$2.00. Buying a Breeze Card in person is your best bet for same-day travel and for the duration of your stay in Atlanta. Breeze vending machines are located at all MARTA stations. The Breeze Card is a long-term use card; is durable; allows the loading and reloading of various fares; and is meant to be kept for future use and reloading.



If your plans are to only use MARTA for your travel to and from the airport and hotel, and you want to save \$1.00, we suggest you purchase a paper Breeze Ticket for \$1.00. Add the round-trip fare of \$5.00 and the total will be only \$6.00. The paper Breeze ticket is for limited use, it is not reloadable, and will expire in 90 days. If you decide later to take another MARTA trip, you may have to purchase another paper Breeze ticket for \$1.00! If you buy the silver Breeze Card initially for \$ 2.00 you can reload additional fares as often as needed. And you will have an Atlanta souvenir!

MARTA trains are conveniently located near the baggage claim in both airport terminals. You do not even have to go outdoors, just take the escalator up to the trains. Take either the Red Line or the Gold Line. They depart every 15-20 minutes. Exit the train at the Peachtree Center stop (N-1 Station). Turn towards the direction of the train (north) and go up the escalator. After a few steps, there will be another escalator (a really long one). At the top, you are just 5 minutes (indoors) away from the Hotel. Walk through the Food Court to the end, turn left, then turn right at the ATM. Follow the signs to the Marriott Marquis.



**On Thursday, October 13, 2017, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Verger Greeting Hosts (wearing bright blue smocks with the VGEC Logo) will be stationed at critical locations to help guide you along the way.** When you reach the Marriott Marquis, the VGEC Registration Desk will be immediately to your left. You will be on the Atrium Level. Take the convenient escalator down one floor to reach the Hotel Registration Desk.

## DETAILED DIRECTIONS

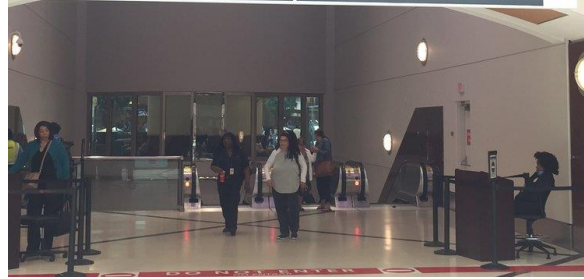
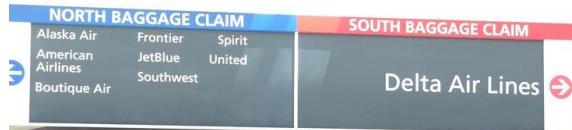
A detailed slide presentation has been created to aid in traveling from the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to the Marriott Marquis Hotel. The slide show below begins as you exit security at the airport and ends at the VGEC Registration Desk at the hotel.



You may have joined the presentation in progress. Please let it cycle until you see this symbol, which signifies the beginning:

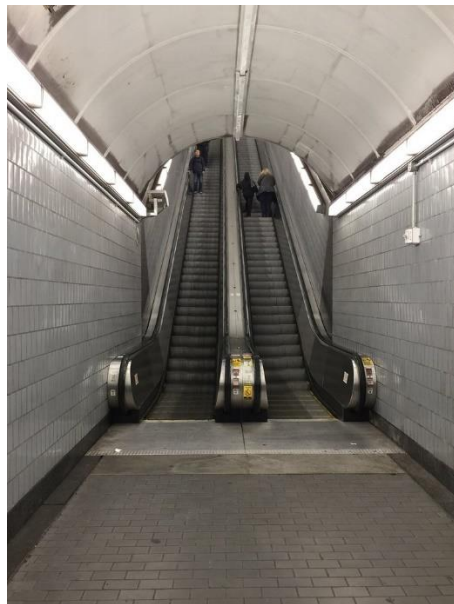
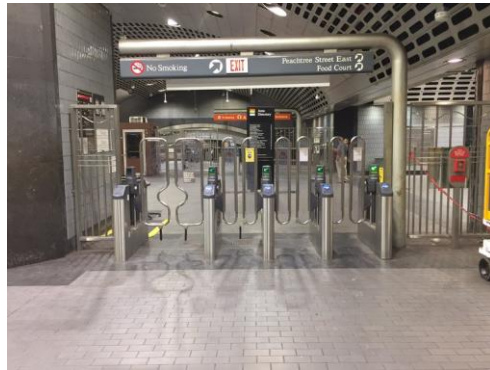
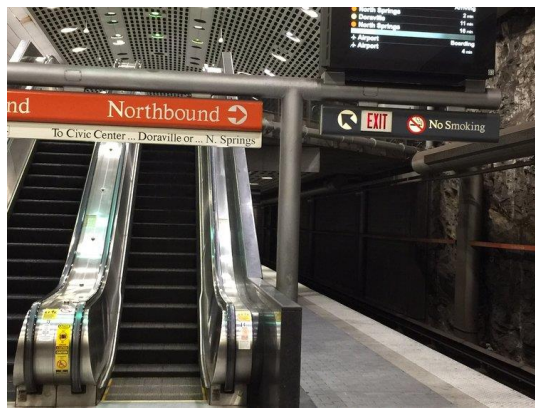
Vergers attending the Annual Conference may want to Bookmark, or add to Favorites on your mobile phone before you leave home. When you arrive in Atlanta just open the link. **For best viewing, please hold your phone horizontally.** You can enlarge the photos for easier viewing.



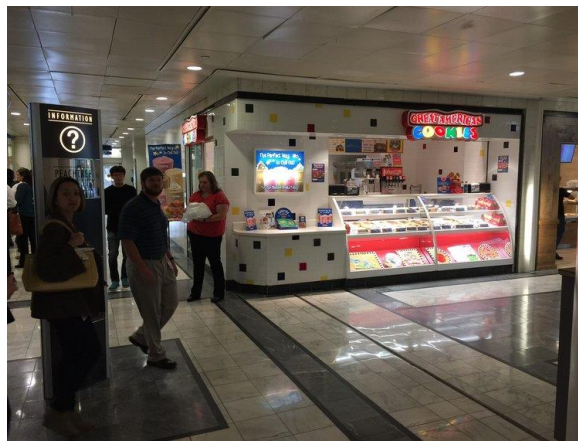




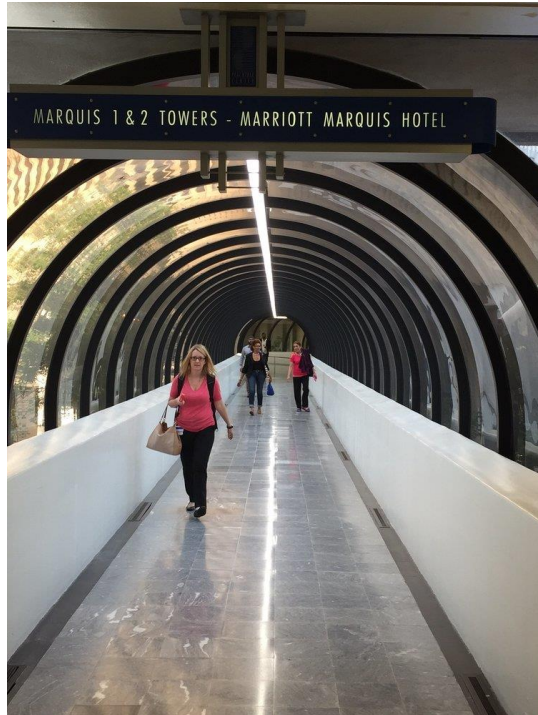


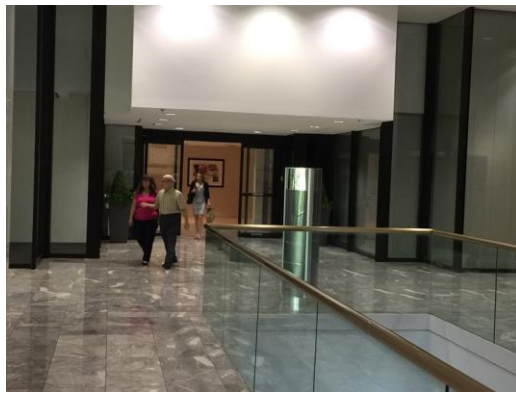


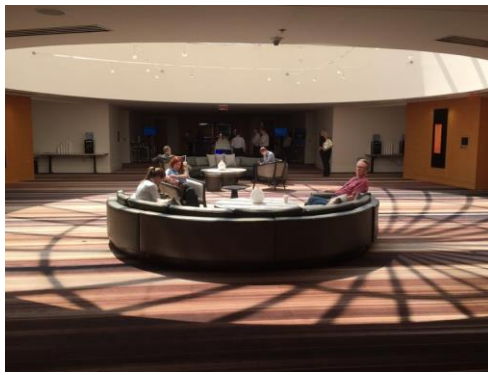












Drawing the Circle Wider



# ATLANTA *Welcomes You*

Vergers' Guild Annual Conference 

October 12-15, 2017

# VGEC Annual Conference Host Committee Meets



December 10, 2016

Executive Committee pause in their deliberations for a group photo

Martha-Sue Blythe, Phillip Knight (MEG Chapter Chair), Ruth Anne Tatum, Scott Smith (VGEC President), David Neville, Yolande Collins, Beth King, Lynn Randolph, Kay Anderson, Rolando Thorne, Duke DuTeil (VGEC Treasurer), John Haeger and Chuck Dale (Host Committee Chair).

The Executive Committee of the Host Committee met at St. Luke's on December 3, 2016, with Scott Smith, VGEC President, and Duke DuTeil, VGEC Treasurer. A great deal of work was accomplished to refine our plans to host the 29th Annual Conference of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church on October 12-15, 2017.

The details of our conference will go "live" on the National VGEC Web-Site on January 2, 2017. Links to both Conference Registration and Hotel Reservations at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta will be available on-line, and will be published in the next issue of *Rubrics*. We encourage all Diocese of Atlanta Vergers to register for both early.

# Vergers Serve at Annual Council



Tellers taking a break from counting ballots from several runoff elections during the Business Session of Annual Council

Photo: Bill Monk

December 15, 2016

Vergers serve in record numbers during the 110th annual Diocesan Council on November 18 and 19, 2016, at the Georgia International Convention Center, College Park, Georgia. More than 500 clergy and lay delegates were in attendance. Members of the Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild played a significant role in facilitating the meeting by leading the opening worship service, serving as tellers, and performing other miscellaneous duties.

It has been widely reported that a big part of the success of this year's Council was the well-organized Holy Eucharist Service led by the Vergers, and the expeditious counting of multiple ballots by the Tellers. The quick reporting of the voting results was very much appreciated by the Delegates. The organization of the Vergers and their skill in performing all duties efficiently and quietly was recognized by all in attendance, especially the Office of the Bishop.

Vergers who volunteered to serve as Tellers included Head Teller Karl Sachsenmaier (Cathedral of St. Philip), Head Verger Phillip Knight (St. Teresa's), Martha-Sue Blythe (St. Martin's), Robin Dake (St. Matthias'), Janice Davis (Holy Spirit), Paul Davison (St. Christopher's), Thomas Democko (Epiphany), Owen Dorsey (Cathedral of St. Philip), John Haeger (Christ Church – Norcross), George Hinton (Incarnation), Tony King (St Paul's – Newnan), Jim Landers (St. David's), Scott Miller (Holy Trinity), Jim Parks (St. James'), Craig Perkins (St. Teresa's), Ric Sanchez (Holy Family), Ken Singleton (St. Paul's – Atlanta), Ruth Anne Tatum (St. Martin's), Rolando Thorne (Incarnation), Lorie Tola (St. Patrick's), Kathryn Turman (St. Patrick's) and Lisa Van Tassel (Atonement).

## VGEC 29th Annual Conference in Atlanta



January 1, 2017

Welcome to Atlanta flyer

# Guest Verging at the Rectors Installation at All Saints' - Warner Robins

By Paul Davison

St. Christopher's – Perry

Former Training Officer of the MEG Chapter



Photo – Bill Monk

January 8, 2017

The Rev. Scott Petersen, rector of All Saints' Church in the nearby city of Warner Robins, asked me to verge at his installation of January 8, as they had never had a verger in recent memory (if ever). I was very happy to serve, but there were some challenges. Although I had served at my own rector's installation last year, now I would serve at a church that was unfamiliar in front of parishioners who neither knew me personally nor the ministry of the verger. (Introducing the ministry of the Verger was a reason Fr. Petersen asked me to serve and for my acceptance.)

I asked him to provide me a copy of the service ahead of time and to set up a meeting at the church so I could see it for the first time and that we could walk through the service. Although there were no problems with the service itself, there were some "technical details" which hadn't been considered. For example, the rector is given symbols of his ministry. What does he do with them? (Answer: he gives them to the Verger, who puts them on the altar.) In any service, details like that are part of the Verger's skill set and when you aren't as familiar with the place or people, working through them ahead of time is vital. Having experience with doing an installation service with Bishop Wright didn't hurt. For example, it is his practice that the new rector, not him, be the Celebrant.

On the day, everything flowed well. (Anything that didn't was discreetly covered over, in the best Verger style.) The service was well-attended, with guests including most of the clergy of the Macon Convocation, the mayor of Warner Robins, the base commander and head chaplain at Robins AFB, and other local clergy. I led several

processions, including escorting a lector to the lectern and leading the offertory procession. I found a way to work incorporate one of All Saints' Ushers, who has the potential to become a Verger (fingers crossed). The service was very moving and well-received and Fr. Petersen told me afterwards that having a Verger available was a great benefit. Bishop Wright seemed pleased to have a Verger available, especially when he could hand me his gift from the parish—a large wrapped bottle!

I hope that this introduction to the ministry of the Verger will encourage at least one member of All Saints' to see a call to become a verger. I advised Fr. Petersen that the Chapter would be very happy to help with any training he required.



# 2017 VGEC Annual Conference in Atlanta

January 14, 2017

**We encourage all Atlanta Vergers to attend**



Drawing the Circle Wider

**ATLANTA**  
***Welcomes You***

Vergers' Guild Annual Conference  
October 12-15, 2017



**For comprehensive information on the Conference**

[click here](#)

**To register for the Conference**

[click here](#)

**To book a room at the Marriott Marquis**

[click here](#)

During the Winter Assembly Business Assembly, there was confusion regarding the conference details. Below is a summary of key information:

- The 29th Annual VGEC Conference will be held October 12 -15, 2017.
- Registration is \$225.00 to attend the entire Conference (Thurs -Sun)
  - It is required that all registrants be members of VGEC.
  - It is preferred that Diocese of Atlanta Vergers are Chapter Members of the MEG Chapter.
  - Registration includes dinner on Thursday, lunch on Friday and reception and banquet on Saturday.
  - The practice that the VGEC has followed for years is that members' and guests' rate for the Conference is the same. The expense of the Conference is not in the cost of the sessions. The expense is in the food, transportation, decorations, snacks, welcome bags, the banquet, and other expenses that are common to everyone.

- **Only the Thursday Evensong, Friday Holy Eucharist, and Sunday Holy Eucharist are open to the public**
- **Conference Headquarters is the Marriott Marquis**
  - **Registration and Exhibit Hall**
  - **All workshops and business sessions**
  - **Reception and banquet**
  - **All conference provided transportation originates from and returns to the Marriott Marquis**
- **If you choose to stay at the Marriott Marquis**
  - **Registrants are eligible for the steeply discounted room rates (\$135 vs. \$259+).**
  - **Discounted parking rates are available for registrants.**
  - **Riding MARTA to and from the Marriott Marquis is recommended.**

# Winter Assembly 2017



January 21, 2017

Vergers from the Diocese of Atlanta pause for a photo at their January 21 Winter Assembly at the Church of Incarnation in Atlanta with Bishop Keith Whitmore. Kneeling are Music Director, Trey Clegg, MEG Chair, Phillip Knight, and our Host, Rolando Thorne. Flanked on the left is Deacon Chris Faucette and on the right is Canon John Thompson-Quarthey

Photo: Bill Monk

## **The Gathering and Holy Eucharist:**

The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church met for its Winter Assembly on a dark and stormy January 21st day in Southwest Atlanta. We were hosted by The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Forty-six vergers, clergy, and guests participated in the gathering. Nine vergers joined the MEG Chapter for the first time when they paid Chapter dues.

After registration, fellowship, coffee, and pastries, we gathered for Eucharist. The Right Reverend Keith B. Whitmore, Assisting Bishop of Atlanta, was Celebrant and Preacher. Bishop Whitmore was assisted by The Rev. Deacon Chris Faucette and The Rev. Canon John Thompson-Quarthey with a full complement of Acolytes and Altar Ministers for the service. Trey Clegg was vibrant as the organist and pianist.



The Deacon, The Bishop, and Vergers' Guild member and meeting host, Rolando Thorne

Photo: Bill Monk

Bishop Keith Whitmore's last sermon to the assembled Vergers of the Mark Emory Graham Chapter proclaimed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as written in Mathew 16:13-19. In Bishop Whitmore's typically adroit blend of wit and pragmatism, the congregation was led on a journey from recognition (St Peter was a stumbling, blind every-man!) to a sense of our own Christ-driven purpose. To summarize and distill this sermon down, to reduce this message of hope and purpose to a few pithy *bons-mot* would do the reader a disservice. Our friend Bill Monk recorded this sermon, and you [can view it here](#). It is nine minutes well spent.

## Information and Fellowship:



Dialog with The Bishop

Photo: Bill Monk

During our time with our friend and advocate of the Verger Ministry, the Bishop, we touched on several topics. The session was bitter-sweet knowing that this was the last time we would be enlightened by him. As is his custom, our teacher responded to most questions by turning them into descriptions of our role as Vergers. These were not textbook responses, but rather teaching moments.

## Farewell to our Bishop:



MEG Chapter Chair, Phillip Knight, Presentation to Bishop Keith

Photo: Bill Monk

Bishop Whitmore has been steadfast in his support to the Ministry of the Verger since his first meeting with us in 2008. Including today, he has graced us with his presence at Assemblies eleven times. The Mark Emory Chapter felt it incumbent upon us to thank him for his service with a suitable set of gifts that would be an appropriate expression of the devoted relationship the Chapter has come to share with the Bishop. Chair Knight presented our Bishop with a Holy Card of St Thomas and an inscribed copy of "The Case of the Dirty Verger" by Malcom Noble. The inscription is as follows:

January 21, 2017

To our friend, Bishop Keith Whitmore:

Perhaps a man's bookshelf is reflective of his personality. This cheeky little volume then deserves a place on the shelf between the *Summa Theologica* and *Cur Deus Homo*, as a reminder of two essential truths:

- 1) *Life without whimsy is wasted.*
- 2) *MEG Vergers should be well supervised*

With the utmost affection, respect, and gratitude,

**The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church**

Following the heartfelt thank you from Bishop Whitmore which brought tears to everyone, the finale was to serenade the Bishop. With Trey Clegg's fervent musical accompaniment, the Vergers rose to sing an enthusiastic rendition of the Vergers' Theme song: *I AM THE VERGER IN THE MORNING*. The entire serenade was captured on video by Bill Monk. [Click here](#) to enjoy a chuckle or two.



The Bishop thoroughly enjoying the serenade from MEG Chapter Vergers

Photo: Bill Monk

Following this momentous goodbye, we joined in fellowship by breaking bread with a variety of sandwiches provided by the good people of Incarnation. For dessert, we were treated to a homemade carrot cake adorned with the MEG Chapter logo and prepared by our host Rolando Thorne.



The Cathedral Bookstore's Chris Palmer Photo: Curt Yarbrough

The Cathedral Bookstore, thanks to Chris Palmer, made available a wide selection of reference materials and books to aid Vergers in their ministry. Sales were brisk; clearly our members like to continue learning to become better Vergers. The Bookstore also provided an ample supply of books for our service project supporting Emmaus House.

### **Keynote Address:**



Canon John Thompson-Quartey

Photo: Bill Monk

The Rev. Canon John Thompson-Quartey was our featured speaker. Although metempsychosis is not a tenet of Anglican faith, it would explain a few things about Canon John. This gentleman could have been a snow salesman in Alaska! Seriously infectious in his enthusiasm, he managed to sell a roomful of boisterous, energetic Vergers on the notion of the necessity of daily contemplation on the lessons of the Daily Office.

Canon John was asked to address the concerns of a fretful Board member about the spiritual needs of the Vergers, as they undertake the daily and weekly tasks of their ministry vocation. Oh, foolish Vergers, who thought the solution would be “talk to someone” or “Delegate more” or even “Does your chapter have a Chaplain?” Wrong, wrong, and wrong. The strength and vitality lies within each of us; the fuel for our lives need just be revealed. Again, it would do the casual reader of these lines a disservice to spoil Canon John’s remarks by over-simplification-- [here's the link](#) to a video recording. View it, enjoy Canon John’s wonderful humour and clarity of message. Then dust off your Daily Office Book, and set aside some time each day to charge your lamps with oil!

## Service Project:

The MEG Chapter conducted a service project to support Emmaus House by purchasing books for their library. The books are for their middle and high school afternoon program **Youth on the Move**. The books were carefully chosen, developmentally appropriate, and culturally relevant books for youth. The Cathedral Bookstore brought a large supply of books for purchase. The attending Vergers completely bought out the supply of books; the Bookstore will resupply its inventory.



Kenya Smith

Kenya Smith, Director of Leadership Development, spoke of the **Youth on the Move** program which strives to provide middle and high school students with opportunities that will prepare them for success as adults. Students gather in Ezzard Hall at Emmaus House after school, three days per week. Caring staff check in with each student about their day and students receive homework assistance. Students participate in enrichment activities and are encouraged to explore colleges and careers through workshops and presentations as well as engage in discussions and experiences that are motivating and empowering.

After three dozen plus books were delivered to Emmaus house, we received this note:

**Dear Phillip and Members of the Vergers' Guild,**

**Thank you for the donation of books to the Youth on the Move program at Emmaus House. I was so happy to learn that vergers purchased ALL the books the Cathedral Book Store brought to the winter assembly!**

**You are such a great group! Youth on the Move scholars will enjoy the prize-winning African-American novels and non-fiction books, and Emmaus House will benefit from this excellent collection for years. I appreciate the vergers' kindness and generosity.**

Warm regards,

Ann Fowler

Director of Education Services

## **Business of the Chapter:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Phillip Knight. followed by an opening prayer, approval of the 2016 Summer Assembly Minutes, and a report from the Treasurer Karl Sachsenmaier. There is over \$300 in the treasury with \$2500 outstanding loan to the VGEC, which expected to be paid soon.

Training Officer Ruth Anne Tatum reported that, with the assistance of Canon Thompson-Quartey, the Verger Customaries developed in 2014 will be distributed to the current list of Interims and Priests-In-Charge. Chuck Dale gave a brief Communications report, followed by an update on the first three weeks that Conference Registration has been open. Vergers will be attending from as far east as London and as far west as Honolulu. Several Canadian Vergers have also registered.

The Chair announced that our next Assembly will be hosted by St. Bartholomew's in Atlanta. The first officers of the Chapter were installed at St. Bart's on May 22, 1992. We will rejoice in the MEG Chapter's 25th Anniversary with a celebration being led by Bishop Wright. Our Chapter is the second local Chapter of the VGEC and is the largest Chapter, with most number of Vergers of any Diocese in the VGEC.

Vice Chair Martha-Sue Blythe closed the meeting with a prayer.

Bill Monk has created a [Gallery for the Winter Assembly](#) including photos and the three videos mentioned earlier.



# Summer Assembly 2017

June 17, 2017

## Summer Assembly 2017 and 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Mark Emory Graham Chapter



Vergers from the Diocese of Atlanta pause for a photo at their June 17, 2017 Summer Assembly at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta with Diocesan Bishop Keith Rob Wright. Flanked on the far left is St. Bart's Interim Rector, Allan Sandlin. Second from the far right is our Host, Mary Beth Westmoreland.

### **The Gathering:**



Vergers gathering for fellowship, pastries and coffee

The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church met for its Summer Assembly on a beautiful, sunny summer day on June 17, 2017, in northeast Atlanta. We were hosted by St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, our inaugural Parish where on May 22, 1992, our Verger Chapter was officially formed with the election and installation of officers. After all these years our Chapter, the largest in the VGEC, continues to flourish with semiannual meetings and various Diocesan service projects.

Forty-nine vergers, clergy, and guests participated in the gathering. Four vergers joined the MEG Chapter for the first time by paying Chapter dues.

## **Holy Eucharist:**



The Bishop celebrating Holy Eucharist

We gathered for Eucharist with The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, both Celebrating and Preaching. He was assisted by The Rev. Allan Sandlin, Interim Rector of St. Bartholomew's. Organist-Choirmaster, Shannon Gallier, led the St. Bart's choir with inspiring hymns and music.

Bishop Wright's sermon began with a reminder that the Verger ministry is an extension of his ministry to the parishes. Our mission is to provide protection, direction, and decorum in our home churches. We are charged with the provision of these specific tasks, "not exercising our O.C.D. or control issues." In the execution of this assignment, we naturally, become Teachers of the Faith. Faith, however, cannot shine forth from small places,

exclusive spaces, or places preoccupied with superiority. Bishop Wright asked, “what can the Vergers can do to show the Diocese and the world that we are Teachers of the Faith?”

## Information and Fellowship:



Dialog with The Bishop

After our group photo was taken, the Vergers removed their vestments and returned to the Nave for one of the best parts of our meetings: Dialog with the Bishop. During this Q&A session, the floor is open to all to ask questions of interest to the Vergers. Questions ranged from “When will the Prayer Book be revised?”, to “Why is the Altar Missal so hard to understand?” to Open Communion. As one can imagine, there are no simple answers; our Bishop responded thoughtfully and thoroughly. These were great teaching moments. He is a bishop of great wisdom.



Rolando Thorne about to cut our Anniversary Cake

We then continued our fellowship with lunch. During this time, we enjoyed a video slide collage produced and edited by Bill Monk showing Vergers in service for the past 10+ years at previous assemblies, at church, at

Acolyte Festivals, and at Annual Councils serving as Tellers. All this culminated with dessert: a 25th Anniversary Cake adorned with the MEG Chapter logo baked by our own baker extraordinaire, Rolando Thorne.

### Continuing Ed and Service Project:



The Cathedral Bookstore's Chris Palmer

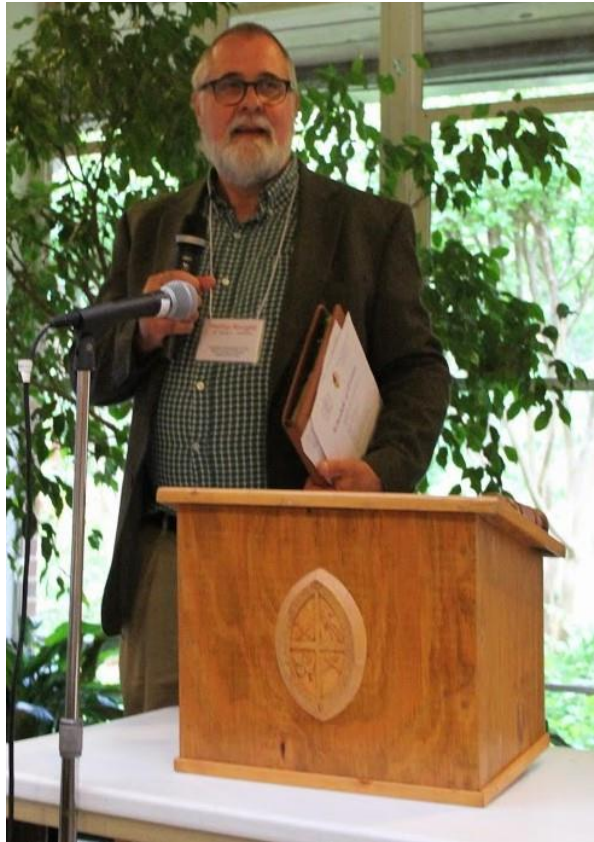
The Cathedral Bookstore, thanks to Chris Palmer, made available a wide selection of reference materials and books to aid Vergers in their ministry. Sales were brisk; clearly our members value continued learning to become better Vergers.



Sharon Campolucci of THCA

Continuing our tradition of supporting a local ministry. Vergers brought in baskets full of toilet paper, bath bar soap, paper towels, and laundry detergent for the benefit of the clients of Toco Hills Community Alliance (THCA). Sharon Campolucci thanked the Vergers for their support which allowed them to fill some of their shelves for the first time in quite a while. THCA is a group of faith communities working together to help Atlanta area neighbors in need, helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Founded in 1998, the group continues to assist individuals and families living in the northeastern part of Atlanta who face the possibility of the loss of housing and/or who are without sufficient food for themselves or their families

## Business of the Chapter:



MEG Chapter Chair Phillip Knight

The amazingly short business meeting was called to order by Chair, Phillip Knight. Financial reports were presented by MEG Treasurer Karl Sachsenmaier and VGEC Host Committee CFO Martha-Sue Blythe. The Chair reminded everyone of upcoming events including the Annual VGEC Conference in Atlanta (October 12-15, 2017), Annual Conference Tellers (November 10-11, 2017) and announced that St. Aidan's in Milton will host our Winter Assembly 2018. Our Assembly adjourned early with a closing prayer led by Martha-Sue Blythe.

All photos in this article were taken by Bill Monk who has also created a [Gallery for the Summer Assembly](#) including photos and several videos.

# 29th Annual VGEC Conference a Huge Success

October 15, 2017

## **The MEG Host Committee Produced the Most Meaningful and Successful Annual VGEC Conference**

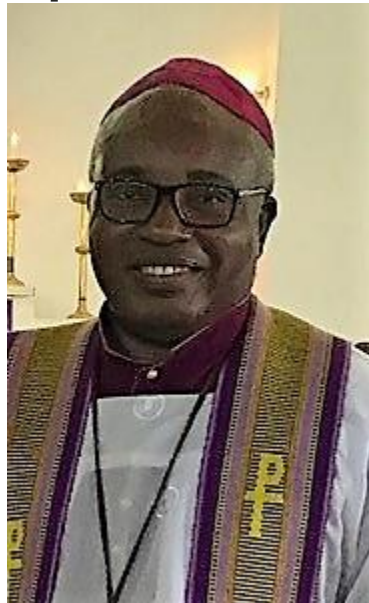


### **Highlights Included**

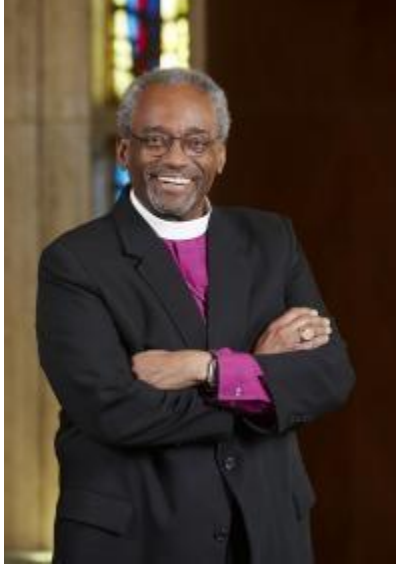
**Three Worship Services**

**Evensong Thursday Evening**

**with Bishop Victor Attah-Baffoe**



**Holy Eucharist Friday Noon**  
**with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**



**Holy Eucharist Sunday Morning**  
**with Bishop Rob Wright**



**And**

**Two Workshops**  
**Celebrating Liturgical Time**  
**with Bishop Neil Alexander**



**Revising the BCP and Hymnal**

**with Dean Sam Candler**





# Winter Assembly 2018



March 16, 2018

Vergers from the Diocese of Atlanta pause for a photo at their February 24, 2018, Winter Assembly at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Milton. Father Reggie Simmons (center) is the Rector of St. Aidan's. Attending Vergers brought food items in support of the Backpacks of Love Ministry. The backpacks held by the Vergers were presented during the Offertory. Photo: Martha-Sue Blythe

## **The Gathering:**

The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church met for its Winter Assembly during a beautiful winter day on February 24, 2018, in Milton, Georgia. We were hosted by St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and we were treated to scrumptious breakfast burritos, donuts, juice and coffee. We were afforded an opportunity to visit with old friends and make new friends. Thirty-seven vergers, clergy, and guests participated in the gathering. Four vergers joined the MEG Chapter for the first time by paying Chapter dues.

## **Holy Eucharist:**



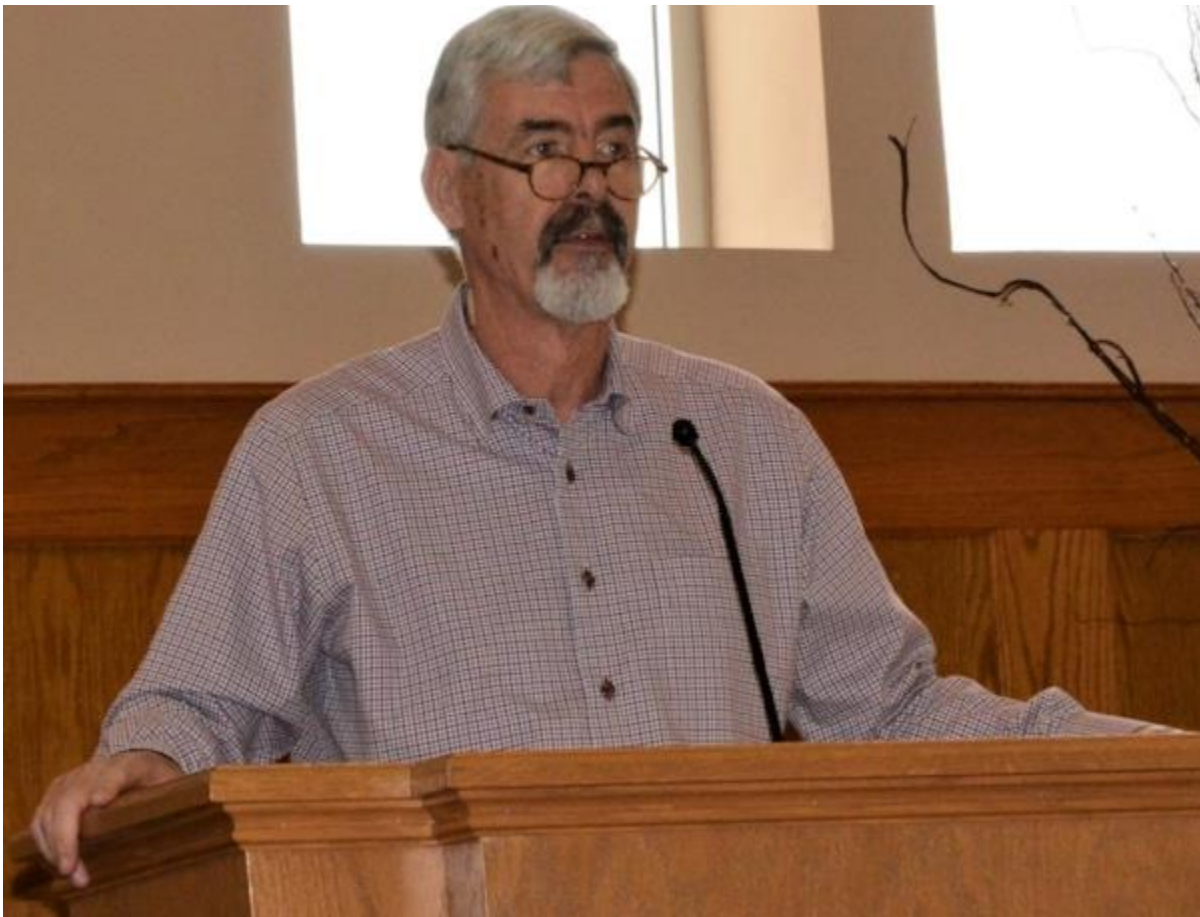
Father Reggie Simmons introduced the St. Aidan's Vergers during the Peace. Pictured L-R: Bob Stecher,

Corrine Hofstetter, Cozy Ledford (Head Verger), Becky Sullivan, and Fr. Simmons. Photo: Marty McPherson

We gathered for Eucharist with The Reverend Reginald Simmons, Rector of St. Aidan's, both Celebrating and Preaching. Charles Higgs, Director of Music Ministries, led the St. Aidan's choir with inspiring hymns and music.

The service was held on the Feast Day of St. Matthias the Apostle. Fr. Reggie Simmons delivered a topical sermon centered about the notion that Vergers are called by Christ to lead the people of the Church. His inspired proclamation of the Good News in Christ was very well received by those in attendance and entreated the MEG Vergers to consider their ministry as indeed a Christian Vocation, a calling.

## **Information and Fellowship:**



The Rev. Canon Lang Lowrey

Photo: Martha-Sue Blythe

After our group photo was taken, the Vergers removed their vestments and returned to the Nave for the Keynote address titled "The Future of the Episcopal Church" given by The Rev. Canon Lang Lowrey, Canon for Christian Enterprises, Diocese of Atlanta. He delivered some sobering data about the decline in Episcopal Church USA membership. The bad news: we can't blame this on the Anglican Church in North America (only 5,200 members) or our politics. The good news: we can't blame our liturgy! The decline seems to be caused by conflict between rectors and congregants: rectors and vestries, and intra-congregational conflicts. The path to growth seems to be clear – evangelize, diversify, and commit to a Christian notion of radical hospitality.

The Cathedral Bookstore, thanks to Kerith Lee, made available a wide selection of reference materials and books to aid Vergers in their ministry. Sales were brisk; clearly our members value continued learning to become better Vergers.

We continued our fellowship with lunch. Vergers were asked to bring their verges to display to the attendees.



Verges and dessert

Photo: Martha-Sue Blythe

**Continuing Ed and Service Project:**



John Ray, founder of Backpacks of Love.

Photo: Contributed by Marty McPherson

Continuing our tradition of supporting a local ministry Vergers brought in baskets full of backpack supplies to support the Backpacks of Love Ministry supported by St. Aidan's. In addition, the offertory was designated for them too. Mr. John Ray addressed the Vergers about this ministry. The ministry is an effort to alleviate food shortage on a local basis. Referrals for this program come from social workers in the area. An ecumenical network of volunteers springs into

action to provide backpacks filled with groceries. John's real message: This stuff isn't rocket science. Just get started, see a need, and fulfill that need!

**Business of the Chapter:**



MEG Chapter Chair Phillip Knight

The remarkably short business meeting was called to order by Chair, Phillip Knight. The opening prayer was "The Vergers Prayer" led by Martha-Sue Blythe. Financial and Committee reports were presented and by MEG Chapter Board members. The Chair reminded everyone of upcoming events including the Renewal of Vows Service and Annual Conference Tellers. Also, Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville will host our Summer Assembly 2018. Our Assembly adjourned early with a closing prayer led by Kay AnderSon. For a provisional copy of the Assembly Minutes, [click here](#).

# Summer Assembly 2018



August 21, 2018

Vergers from the Diocese of Atlanta pause for a photo at their July 7, 2018, Summer Assembly at Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville. The Rev. Canon Richard Callaway is center and The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham to his left is Rector of Grace Episcopal. Attending Vergers bought items in support of Family Promise of Hall County. The baskets of items were presented during the Offertory. Photo: Bill Monk

## **The Gathering:**

The Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church met for its Summer Assembly during a gorgeous summer day on July 7, 2018, in Gainesville, Georgia. We were hosted by Grace Episcopal Church and we were treated to tasty breakfast pastries, juice, coffee, and tea. We were afforded an opportunity to visit with old friends and make new friends. Twenty-eight vergers, clergy, and guests participated in the gathering.



*Photo Credits: Bill Monk; Photo Arrangement: Kay Anderson*

*More details on the Summer Assembly 2018 will be posted soon...*

# MEG Chapter ByLaws Amendments Posting 1 (20190511)

March 12, 2019

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .**

**Spring Assembly - Episcopal Church of the Holy Family  
Jasper, GA - May 11, 2019**

**Spring Assembly - Bylaws Change Vote  
Upcoming Vote at the Spring Assembly Meeting in Jasper, Georgia**

In accordance with the By-Laws of the MEG Verger Chapter this communication will serve as the official posting of proposed By-Law Changes to the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Community and shall be posted as required on the official MEG Verger Chapter web site: [www.vergeratlanta.org](http://www.vergeratlanta.org) under Current News.

*ARTICLE VII - BYLAWS Amendments to these bylaws shall be by majority vote of those Chapter members in attendance at the annual business meeting and shall be effective at that time unless otherwise stated. Any such proposed amendments shall be published on the Chapter web site and in the newsletter at least two months prior to the meeting at which they are presented for a vote. In that notice, members shall be advised of the opportunity to provide written comments or questions to the Chair during that time frame.*

### **Item ONE for Amendment is the Mission Statement of the MEG Verger Chapter.**

This change has been prompted by a number of requests for: donations, sponsorships, promotions, etc. in areas outside the scope of the MEG Verger Chapter. The belief is a few minor tweaks in our Mission Statement may help requestors better understand the Mission of the Diocese Verger Organization. Our Mission Statement is our grounding compass for our organizational direction.

#### **Current Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the Chapter is to promote and support vergers in their ministries throughout the parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The Chapter will create an atmosphere of fellowship to provide opportunities to welcome and assist any verger within the Diocese. The Chapter will be a resource for the exchange of information vital to vergers in performing their duties as well as training when requested. The Chapter will also maintain a close and enduring connection with the National Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church*

#### **Proposed Mission Statement Changes:**

*The mission of the Chapter is to promote and support vergers in their ministries throughout the parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The Chapter will create an atmosphere of fellowship to provide opportunities to welcome and assist any vergers within the Diocese in fulfilling their duties within their assigned parish. The Chapter will be a resource for the exchange of information vital essential to vergers in performing their duties as well as training when requested. The Chapter will also maintain a close and enduring connection with the National Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church.*

### **Item TWO for Amendment are changes to the Treasurer's duties and responsibilities.**

#### **Current Treasurer Duties and Responsibilities:**

*4-2-4- Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Chapter and shall be authorized to receive dues and other funds, make authorized disbursements, keep necessary records of financial transactions, and prepare an annual financial report.*

#### **Proposed Treasurer Duties and Responsibilities Changes:**

*4-2-4- Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Chapter and shall be authorized to: send approved reminders to members for dues due, receive dues and other funds, make authorized disbursements, keep necessary records of financial transactions, and prepare an annual financial report. The Treasurer works closely with the Financial Department of the Diocese of Atlanta, who maintains the financial assets of the MEG Verger Chapter.*

### **Item THREE Amendment is to create a new board position, Membership Chair.**

Currently the Communications chair has a dual responsibility of handling all communications related duties as well as

membership related duties as defined in Section 4.2-6 of our Bylaws below. We believe it is in the best interest of the MEG Chapter to create the Membership Chair board position to assist in expanding the verger ministry within the Atlanta Diocese and to maintain rosters of MEG Chapter current members and of all active vergers within the Diocese.

**Current Bylaw 4-2-6- Communications:**

*4-2-6- Communications: The Communications Chair shall be responsible for making known the activities of the Chapter as considered appropriate by the Board and as approved by the Chair, including posting information on the web site, preparing the periodic chapter newsletter, etc. Additionally, the Communications Chair shall be responsible for maintaining a current roster of all dues paying members of the Chapter and, to the extent possible, a list of all vergers in the diocese.*

**Proposed Bylaw 4-2-6- Communications Changes:**

*4-2-6- Communications: The Communications Chair shall be responsible for making known the activities of the Chapter as considered appropriate by the Board and as approved by the Chair, including posting information on approved web and social media sites, preparing the periodic chapter newsletter and disseminating any other correspondence as requested by the Board Chair.*

**Proposed Bylaw 4-2-7 Membership - Addition:**

*4-2-7- Membership: The Membership Chair shall be responsible for maintaining a current roster of all dues paying members of the Chapter and, to the extent possible, a list of all vergers in the diocese. Ensuring Membership Certificates are sent out and MEG Verger Patches are sent as appropriate to all new members. Membership Chair will lead and direct a Membership Committee which will be responsible for reaching out to all existing and new vergers on a periodic basis with the intention of growing MEG Chapter membership.*

**Item FOUR Amendment is to clarify Vice Chair responsibilities to assist the Chair as needed.**

**Current Bylaw 4-2-2 Vice Chair:**

*4-2-2 Vice Chair: In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall act in his/her place. The Vice Chair shall be nominated to become the new Chair when his/her term as Vice Chair expires.*

**Proposed Bylaw 4-2-2 Vice Chair:**

*4-2-2 Vice Chair: In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall act in his/her place. The Vice Chair will support other duties or lead special projects at the direction of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall be nominated to become the new Chair when his/her term as Vice Chair expires.*

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON MAY 11!**

# MEG Chapter ByLaws Amendments Posting 2 (20190511)

March 12, 2019

## SPRING ASSEMBLY – JASPER, GEORGIA – MAY 11 By-Law Changes – Up-Coming Vote at the Spring Assembly Meeting in Jasper, Georgia

(Current Bylaws verbiage is in *Italics* – Proposed Changes in **Bold**)

In accordance with the By-Laws of the MEG Verger Chapter this communication will serve as the official posting of proposed By-Law Changes to the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Community and shall be posted as required on the official MEG Verger Chapter web site: [www.vergeratlanta.org](http://www.vergeratlanta.org) under Current News.

**ARTICLE VII – BYLAWS Amendments to these bylaws shall be by majority vote of those Chapter members in attendance at the annual business meeting and shall be effective at that time unless otherwise stated. Any such proposed amendments shall be published on the Chapter web site and in the newsletter at least two months prior to the meeting at which they are presented for a vote. In that notice, members shall be advised of the opportunity to provide written comments or questions to the Chair during that time frame.**

These changes reflect input already received on previous input. The MEG Board would like to get these all cleaned up at our up-coming Assembly.

### THE MARK EMORY GRAHAM CHAPTER THE VERGERS' GUILD OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH DIOCESE OF ATLANTA BYLAWS ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this body shall be "The Mark Emory Graham Chapter (Diocese of Atlanta) of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church," hereinafter referred to as "The Chapter."

### ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Chapter is to promote and support vergers in their ministries throughout the parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The Chapter will create an atmosphere of fellowship to provide opportunities to welcome and assist any vergers within the Diocese in fulfilling their duties within their assigned parish. The Chapter will be a resource for the exchange of information vital essential to vergers in performing their duties as well as training when requested. The Chapter will also maintain a close and enduring connection with the National Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church.

### ARTICLE III – AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION FOR TAX EXEMPT AND OTHER PURPOSES

The *Guild, Chapter*, expressly binding itself and its members, submits itself to the authority of the Constitution of the Diocese and the Constitution of ECUSA, separately or collectively the "Constitution," Canons of the Diocese and the Canons of ECUSA, separately and collectively the "Canons" and the duly elected, installed and serving Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, variously known as the "Bishop," "Ecclesiastical Authority" or the "Ordinary."

### ARTICLE IV – BOARD AND OFFICERS

4-1 Government: The affairs of the Chapter shall be governed by a Board consisting of six **seven** officers as defined in Article 4-2, together with such members-at-large as may be defined under the terms of Article 4-4.

4-2 Officers – Duties:

4-2-1 Chair: The Chair shall provide leadership and vision for the Chapter, shall act as chair of business sessions and



meetings of the Board, represent the Chapter at official functions, and shall perform any other normal duties of that office, including the preparation of an annual report.

4-2-2 Vice Chair: In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall act in his/her place. The Vice Chair will support other duties or lead special projects at the direction of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall be nominated to become the new Chair when his/her term as Vice Chair expires.

4-2-3- Secretary: The Secretary shall maintain the records of the Chapter, undertake all necessary correspondence, assist in scheduling and planning meetings, take minutes of official meetings and act as liaison with other bodies.

4-2-4- Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Chapter and shall be authorized to: send approved reminders to members for **annual** dues *due*, receive dues and other funds, make authorized disbursements, keep necessary records of financial transactions, and prepare an annual financial report. The Treasurer works closely with the Financial Department of the Diocese of Atlanta, who maintains the financial assets of the MEG Verger Chapter.

4-2-5- Training: The Training Chair shall be responsible for conducting periodic educational meetings for the Chapter and shall be responsible for arranging verger training for member parishes when so requested.

4-2-6- Communications: The Communications Chair shall be responsible for making known the activities of the Chapter as considered appropriate by the Board and as approved by the Chair, including posting information on approved web and social media sites, preparing the periodic chapter newsletter and disseminating any other correspondence as requested by the Board Chair.

4-2-7- Membership: **The Membership Chair shall be responsible for maintaining a current roster of all dues paying members of the Chapter and, to the extent possible, a list of all vergers in the diocese. Ensuring Membership Certificates are sent out and MEG Verger Patches are sent as appropriate to all new members. Membership Chair will lead and direct a Membership Committee which will be responsible for reaching out to all existing and new vergers on a periodic basis with the intention of growing MEG Chapter membership. The MEG Chapter Verger Roster is owned solely by the MEG Chapter Board of Directors (BOD). The roster is not for personal use in any manner. If a copy is requested, the request must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson. The MEG BOD will review the request and vote on its merits. Under no circumstances is the official roster to be used for solicitation or to be sold.**

#### 4-3 Election of Board Officers:

4-3-1 Election of board officers shall take place at the annual business meeting as defined in section 6-1 in even numbered years. Board officers shall hold office for two (2) years.

4-3-2 Prior to the annual meeting, the Board shall propose a slate of nominees to be presented at the meeting, including the name of the current **Vice Chair** as the proposed new **Chair**.. Nominations from the floor shall also be accepted at the meeting subject to the consent of the candidate.

4-3-3 All candidates must be Chapter Members (see **per** Article V 5.2.2)—*paid members*.

4-3-4 Voting for each office shall be carried out separately, and the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected and shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they were elected..

#### 4-4 Members at Large – Appointed Board Members:

4-4-1 Members-at-large may be appointed by the Chair of the Board and may act as chairs of committees for specified functions, such as *membership special projects*, bylaws, displays, etc.

4-4-2 The number and spheres of responsibility of the members-at-large shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

4-4-3 No more than three (3) members-at-large may be appointed by the Chair at any time, but shall hold office, and be voting members of the Board, only until the next annual business meeting or until the completion of their assigned duties, **whichever is earlier**.

#### 4-5 Vacancies:

4-5-1 Vacancies in the position of any officer shall be filled by election at the next annual, special, or mid-year business

meeting.

4-5-2 Vacancies may be filled temporarily by the Chair as necessary to ensure the continuity of the duties of that position but such appointments must be ratified at the next meeting of the Chapter.

## ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

5-1 Membership: All vergers in the Diocese are automatically members of the Chapter and can attend and participate in meetings, take advantage of training, materials, fellowship, etc. Payment of dues is required to be eligible to vote.

5-2 Types of Membership: There shall be the four types of membership:

5-2-1 Members are those vergers serving in the Diocese of Atlanta.

5-2-2 Chapter **Members** are those Atlanta Diocese Vergers who have paid their dues to the Chapter.

5-2-3 Associate **Members** are those Vergers from outside of the Diocese of Atlanta who have paid the dues to the Chapter.

5-2-4 Honorary Members are those persons who have been selected by the Board for recognition for their service to the Chapter, particularly retired Vergers, or members of the Clergy. They shall pay no dues and shall not have voting rights.

5-3 Dues and Records:

5-3-1 Membership dues shall be set by the Board from time to time and membership shall be for one year from the payment of dues.

5-3-2 Dues shall be: **billed**, received by and accounted for by the Treasurer.

5-3-3 A roster of Members shall be maintained by the *Communications* **Membership** Chair .

## ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

**Meetings should be set up with thoughtfulness of the membership. Consideration should be given to holding one meeting within the Atlanta Metro Area and one to be hosted by a parish outside the Atlanta Metro Area.**

6-1 Annual Business Meeting: The annual business meeting shall normally be held in *June mid-year of each calendar* year at a parish within the Diocese of Atlanta that has extended an invitation to host the meeting. *And which is convenient to as many members as maybe possible.*

6-2 Acolyte Festival: The Chapter is committed to supporting the acolyte festival sponsored by the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Atlanta in even-numbered years.

6-3 Special Meetings:

6-3-1 A special business meeting of the Chapter may be called by the Board or by written notice from not less than thirty percent of the paid members.

6-3-2 Written notice of such a meeting shall be given at least three weeks prior to the meeting and shall include full details of the reason for the meeting.

6-3-3 Only those matters contained in the written notice shall be considered at a special business meeting.

6-4 Conduct of Business:

6-4-1 The term “written notice” shall include transmission by U.S. mail, by e-mail, or publication in the Chapter newsletter **to all Vergers on the Official Verger Roster.**

6-4-2 All Chapter meetings shall be conducted using Robert’s Rules of Order as a reference.

6-5 **Mid-Year Business Meeting**: Called an “Assembly”, will be held once a year. At a parish within the Diocese of Atlanta or an Episcopal gathering place which is convenient to as many members as possible.

## ARTICLE VII – BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws shall be by majority vote of those Chapter members in attendance at the annual business meeting and shall be effective at that time unless otherwise stated. Any such proposed amendments shall be published on the Chapter web site and in the newsletter at least two months prior to the meeting at which they are presented for a vote. In that notice, members shall be advised of the opportunity to provide written comments or questions to the Chair during that time frame.

Original Adopted June 12, 2010

Proposal as approved January 17, 2015 (clarification 1-19-15)

Amendment approved June 4, 2016

Proposed updates March 8, 2019

***LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE ON MAY 11!!***

# June 30, 2019 – New Verger Installation at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

June 13, 2019

## To All Vergers in the Atlanta Diocese of Middle and North Georgia!

Greetings!!

On Sunday June 30, 2019, we will welcome a new verger into the Diocese of Atlanta! Mr. Larry Roberson will be installed as a verger at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hartwell, Georgia.

Martha-Sue Blythe, MEG Chapter Chairperson, and St. Andrew's Head Verger, Betty Martin, have requested our presence at the 10:00 AM service to show our support for Larry and to strengthen St. Andrew's relationship with the community of vergers in the Diocese of Atlanta.

We currently have two vergers signed up to make the trip to St. Andrew's Hartwell on June 30, and we hope you will join us!

Cassocks, cinctures, and chimeres are appropriate (no Virges please!). **We will gather at St. Andrews's at 9:30 AM on Sunday June 30. Please respond to me at [gabriel5018@hotmail.com](mailto:gabriel5018@hotmail.com) if you would like to participate.** We hope to have a couple of carpools go on June 30 to show our support.

As your new Membership Chairperson, I am excited about promoting the verger ministry and welcoming new vergers to the diocese. Last December, Chairperson Martha-Sue Blythe organized a group of vergers to attend the installation of the first verger at St. Alban's in Monroe – the visiting vergers were well received, the parish met several vergers and learned more about the verger ministry, and the new ministry got off to a strong start.

I'd like for attendance at verger installations to be a regular activity of the MEG Chapter. It is a wonderful way to show our support and make connections in the diocese. So if your parish is planning to install a new verger in the coming year, please let me know about it, so we can celebrate with you!

If you are unable to join us in Hartwell on June 30, please have Larry and St. Andrew's on your prayer list to lift them up in support of this ministry, to the glory of God.

Faithfully,

Julia Gable  
Membership Chairperson  
MEG Chapter of the VGEC

# Notice of By-Law Change - 60 Day Notification

November 12, 2019

## **Notice of By-Law Change 60 Day Notification to be Voted on at Our Winter Assembly**

In accordance with the By-Laws of the MEG Verger Chapter this communication will serve as the official posting of proposed By-Law Changes and shall be posted as required on the official MEG Verger Chapter web site: [www.vergeratlanta.org](http://www.vergeratlanta.org) under Current News.

**ARTICLE VII - BYLAWS Amendments to these bylaws shall be by majority vote of those Chapter members in attendance at the annual business meeting and shall be effective at that time unless otherwise stated. Any such proposed amendments shall be published on the Chapter web site and in the newsletter at least two months prior to the meeting at which they are presented for a vote. In that notice, members shall be advised of the opportunity to provide written comments or questions to the Chair during that time frame.**

Please provide any written comments/questions to: Martha-Sue Blythe, Chair of the MEG Board  
at: [Blythems003@gmail.com](mailto:Blythems003@gmail.com).

***Those present at the January 11, 2020 business meeting, who are paid members in good standing, will be eligible to vote on the proposed by-law change.***

## **Proposed Official Name Change for The MEG Chapter**

### **Current:**

#### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this body shall be "*The Mark Emory Graham Chapter (Diocese of Atlanta) of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church,*" hereinafter referred to as "The Chapter."

### **Proposed:**

#### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this body shall be "*The Diocese of Atlanta Vergers Chapter of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church,*" hereinafter referred to as "The Chapter."

# Congratulations Martha-Sue Blythe!!!

November 12, 2019

## ***Martha-Sue is Newly Elected to the VGEC Board of Directors***

Diocese of Atlanta, Verger Chairperson, Martha-Sue Blythe has been elected by the membership of the VGEC attending VGEC Annual Conference to a three-year term on the Board of Directors for the VGEC. Martha-Sue has held several committee roles with the VGEC including: Nominating Committee Chairperson, Finance Committee and New Chapter Development Committee-member at large.

**Please be sure to congratulate Martha-Sue on her achievement when you see her & keep her in your prayers as she does this important work!!**

# 2020 - 2022 Nominations

[April 18, 2020](#)

We need you for leadership of the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter.

Please click on the link below to nomination yourself or someone who is ready to lead the chapter into the future of verger'ing in the Episcopal Church.

We look forward to hearing from you.

1. All nominees should be current members of the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter.
2. All submissions are anonymous.
3. Deadline for submission is yet to be determined. Please submit now.

**8/31/2020: Nominations for 2020-2022 are closed.**

# Message from the Chapter Board: Membership Certificates

April 24, 2020

Message from the Chapter Board  
April 24, 2020

We extend our best wishes to you, your families, and your parishes as we all continue to navigate our way through this pandemic. Normally, the Membership Chair sends members an up-to-date Membership Certificate by mail, as dues are received. Since that involves a trip to a business center, and printing on a common-use color printer, for now, we have decided to send Membership Certificates in pdf format, by email. We welcome your comments and thank you for being part of the verger community.



# Special Announcement: Board Vacancy

September 18, 2021

## **Special Announcement**

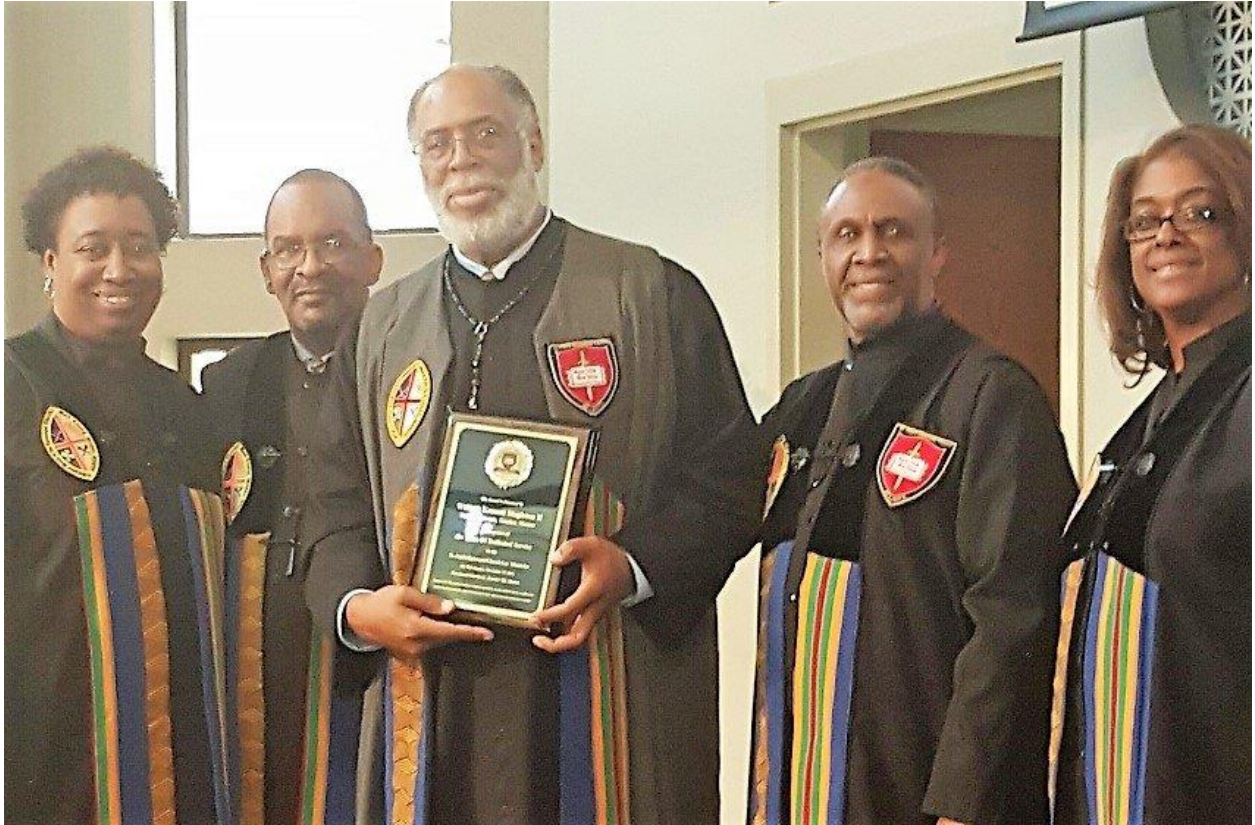
The Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter of The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church (national) announces today that Janice Davis, the chapter Chairman, has decided to step down for personal reasons, effective September 9, 2021. Yolande Brunson Collins, the current Vice Chairman, will fulfill the Chairman's duties, until a replacement is voted into the vacant Chair position.

Davis has served in her current role since June 2020, and prior to that she served for two years as Vice Chairman. During Davis' tenure, she played a critical role in helping steer the Board through the worst of the pandemic. In addition, Davis ensured that Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter members remained connected through an updated website, a regularly published RUBRICS newsletter, the use of virtual meetings, and the implementation of virtual training sessions.

*"Though Janice Davis, a mentor to many, started her term as Chairman in a pandemic, her influence and leadership has made a profound impact on the chapter and its members,"* said Vice Chair Yolande Brunson Collins. Collins continued, *"We certainly thank her for all she has done to sustain the Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter during a time of uncertainty, and we pray God's continued blessings upon her. We wish her the absolute best."*

The Diocese of Atlanta Verger Chapter looks forward to remaining a resource and base for all Diocese of Atlanta vergers. If you wish to consider being a candidate to fill this vacant position, or if you have an interest in serving on the Board in any capacity, please email the Vice Chairman at [vergeratlvicchair@gmail.com](mailto:vergeratlvicchair@gmail.com) with your name, the name of your parish, and a telephone number, and she will contact you.

# William "KEN" Kennett Singleton II, Rest in Peace



Erica Singleton, Robert Byrd, Ken Singleton (middle) , Ernie Forde and Melissa Coleman

**On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2017, the Clergy, Vergers, past and present Acolytes, and the entire Congregation of St. Paul's – Atlanta honored Ken Singleton for 42+ years of service as Acolyte Coordinator and Verger.**

November 10, 1950 - February 27, 2021

William Kennett "Ken" Singleton was born on November 10, 1950, and was one of five children born to William Kenneth, Sr. and Winifred Singleton. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky; but moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1958 and grew up amongst his loving siblings Blema, Gavin, Greg, and Winston.

Ken's life and leadership in the church began at an early age. He initially became interested in the acolyte ministry after observing his great uncle David serve as a Lay Eucharist Minister and his cousin serve as an acolyte. After joining the St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, Ken began his faith journey as an acolyte, committed to serving on the altar every Sunday. He became the spiritual leader and trainer of his fellow acolytes, always leading them in prayers. He continued to serve, lead, and train as an acolyte through his

high school graduation. Ken was often encouraged to join the priesthood; however, Ken's desire was to continue teaching and influencing the youth through acolyte ministry.

Ken attended Duxberry Elementary School, Linmoor Middle School, and Linden McKinley High School. Upon graduating, Ken joined the US Air Force and was stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Arkansas. After honorably serving his country, Ken moved to Atlanta, Ga in 1972 and attended Georgia State University. He began his career with the US Department of Veteran Affairs as a real estate appraiser helping men and women achieve their dreams of homeownership.



His commitment to the church continued in Atlanta. He joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church, under the leadership of Father Hunter. He continued his service on the altar as both an acolyte and a Lay Eucharist Minister. Two years later Father Hunter placed Ken in charge of the Acolyte Ministry, a position he maintained for more than 40 years. Through his ministry, it is estimated that Ken trained and led over a thousand youth in service as acolytes across the Atlanta Episcopal community. Many of those acolytes later became lay readers, Lay Eucharist Ministers, Vergers, priests, and doctors. Ken is fondly remembered for his cool and patient approach to engaging, encouraging, and teaching St. Paul's young acolytes.

In addition to his acolyte ministry, Ken served the church in many capacities. He was elected to the St. Paul's Vestry three times, serving once as Junior Warden. Served on many committees at St. Paul's and represented St. Paul's as a delegate at the Diocesan

Council. He was a member of the Mark Emory Graham Vergers Chapter for the Diocese of Atlanta; served on the Committee on Liturgy for the Diocese of Atlanta, and was chiefly responsible for the Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral in 2016.

In 1978, Ken married his loving wife Mildred Alexis Ingram. Together they raised four beautiful children: Damont, Edith (“Cookie”), Stephanie, and David. Ken was a loving and devoted father and grandfather. His commitment to the church was deepened through his children as they served on the altar as acolytes alongside their cousins and friends at St. Paul’s. Ken welcomed and loved his seven grandchildren: Deosha, De’nae, Lauryn, Solomon, Celah, Chaz Jr. (“CJ”), and most recently his youngest son’s firstborn, David Kennett Shade (“DJ”).

Ken was known for his love of basketball. He noted for often telling his wife, “God created the earth for basketball.” Over the course of four decades, Ken played with various leagues including the Air Force Basketball League, the Burdette Adult League as a member of the Jaguars, and the Atlanta Adult League as a member of the Firebirds. His commitment to influencing the youth extended to courts. During his free time, Ken coached and organized 3-on-3 games for neighborhood youth. He played an essential role in the expansion of Welcome All Park (lovingly known as Ken’s home court).



William “Ken” Kennett Singleton II: Top row, middle position between Rolando Thorne (left) and Phillip Knight (right)

One of Ken's other interests included photography. Ken could be seen at any family or community event with his camera hanging from his neck. He enjoyed photographing and recording family and friends during the holidays and other celebratory events. Ken not only found delight in photography but also in researching his family history. He would share stories of his family with his children and grandchildren.

Ken was a man whose larger-than-life stature was only matched by his larger-than-life love and contributions to his family, his church, and his community. Our memories of Ken will forever be marked by his abundant smile, his cool demeanor, and his gliding stride.

Ken passed away peacefully on February 27, 2021, with family by his side. He is survived by his wife Mildred Alexis; siblings Blema, Gavin, and Greg; his children, Damont (Tonyah), Edith, Stephanie (Chaz), and David (Lauren); his grandchildren Deosha, De'nae, Giavanni, Cela, Solomon, Chaz, Jr., and David, Jr.; his great-grandchildren Israel, Malaysia ("Lay-Lay") and Rashad, Jr. ("RJ"); his brothers-in-law Bruce (Judi), Marvin (Gayle); his sister-in-law Joanne, Cynthia, Ramona, and Marie (Van); his nieces Renada, Tameesha, Tiffany, Jennifer, Jerica, Jerin, and Jasmin (Kenny); his nephews Rashad, Rolando, Ricardo, Jamal, Kennett, Jafar, Akil, Jimmy (Susan), Jason, Mark and Grant; the many acolytes whose lives Ken touched; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; and his many special and beloved friends.

November 27, 2016

# Informal Gathering June 10, 2023



Let us return to socializing and working with each other to be the best Vergers we can be.

On June 10, 2023, Saturday, we will be celebrating Eucharist and having a lunch. We look forward to great conversation and reconnecting with all of you.

10AM - 1PM

St. David's Episcopal Church

1015 Old Roswell Road, Roswell, GA 30076

Check the Rubrics for the RSVP link. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Make sure you catch up with your membership dues at the donation link on the right side of this page. We have an election coming up soon.

*Here ends the archived blogs from the previous website. 3/23/2024*