

Diocesan Altar Guild Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention

The 2005 annual meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild was held on October 11, 2005 beginning with the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Cancell at Trinity Cathedral, assisted by our Chaplain Father Arthur Powell and Deacon Denise Cavaliere who delivered the sermon which was relevant to the importance of the "behind the scenes" work of Altar Guild members throughout our many parishes.

The Treasurer reported a total of \$12,859.86 in the Treasury. The Purchasing chairman reported that vestment kits were sent to each of our eight convocations and some of those sets are on display here at convention at the Altar Guild table. Seamstresses are in desperate need and instruction is readily available for anyone interested in doing this important needlework.

Four sets of vestments were sent to St. Bernard's in Bernardsville following their disastrous fire and five sets were provided for Liberia. Other sets will be offered to churches affected by the hurricane.

Following the business meeting the Reverend Alan Salmon acted as auctioneer for an Ecclesiastical Flea Market with items provided by parishes throughout the diocese which were no longer needed by them but in great demand by others. The unsold items will also be offered to churches damaged by hurricanes. A proceeds check for \$1, 000 was forwarded to Episcopal Relief and Development for hurricane relief.

Two Executive Board meetings were held during the past year, the spring meeting held June 15, 2005 was hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Ocean City and the fall meeting held September 12, 2005 was hosted by Saint Bartholomew's of Cherry Hill.

A sincere thanks to all members of our parish Altar Guilds for your devoted service to God and his congregations. The Altar Guild is the "housekeeper" for the Lord's house. It sets the table and puts the house in order for Him and his worshipers. It is a very rewarding and enjoyable ministry and I would encourage you to come and join us in this important service for the Lord.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy D. Miller, Directress

Education for Ministry Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention

The goal of Education for Ministry (EFM) is to prepare adults for Mission and Ministry in the Church. While a large chunk of the four-year program of study deals with the Scriptures, EFM is much more than a mere Bible study: it is a way of integrating faith fellowship, and theological thinking with the life of the believer. Such topics as Old and New Testament, Worship, Ethics, Church History, and Modern Theology are important components of the seminar meetings. EFM is a program administered through the Seminary of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

There are currently seven seminar groups that meet in various parishes of the Diocese. This year we were excited to see the growth of two new groups: Church of the Atonement, Laurel Springs; and Christ Church, New Brunswick. Locations of other seminar groups are in Church of the Advent, Cape May; St. Peter's, Medford; Trinity, Princeton; Christ church, Shrewsbury; and Christ Church, Tom's River.

In 2006, we hope to plant three additional groups at St. Peter's, Freehold; St. George's, Rumson; and Grace Church, Haddonfield.

The third Mentor Training Event of the Diocese of New Jersey was held November 13-15, 2005 at Ocean Grove. Six persons successfully completed Basic/Inservice Training and eight completed a Formation Training on Worship. The Diocese will again host its Annual Mentor Training Event in Ocean Grove on November 12-14, 2006.

When it come to adult education, I believe EFM has been the best kept secret of the Episcopal Church. Come unmask the secret. We welcome all who are interested in exploring more about their faith and practice. You may contact me at 732-741-2220 or e-mail ChristChurchShrewsbury@att.net.

Faithfully submitted by The Rev. Lisa Sauber Mitchell
Diocesan Coordinator for EFM