



A Light in the Sacristy

A newsletter for and about the Altar Guilds in the Diocese of Iowa



FROM THE BISHOP

Thoughts offered by The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe at the Memorial Service for Elinor Kornhauser

My prayers are with you all as you give thanks to God for Elinor. She was a wonderful woman of deep devotion and a great lover of the Church. She always seemed several steps ahead of me on what was going on, and I was sorry not to have known her earlier in my life. Bob was always a faithful companion, never got in the way of her refusal to let her physical limitations stop her from serving God and the Diocese at the top levels of the Board and as Diocesan Altar Guild Directress. In fact he made that service extend through his loving care.

I did not know her in other capacities as probably many attending her service this weekend did. I realized this, however: that there are in this Church and world people who treat you as person, priest or bishop, with the dignity and respect you may not yet have managed to muster for yourself. Elinor was one who knew what a bishop in the Episcopal Church was about, and lifted up to that standard, whether worthy or not. She has made her impact on my life, and I am only sorry that circumstances have prevented me from honoring her as her bishop as I would have wanted more personally than through this testimony. I give thanks to God for her life and loving ministry, and rest assured that she is enjoying that reality of grace wherein life for God's children is changed not ended.

+Alan

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Director:

Martha Hippee
407 28th St.
Des Moines, IA 50312-4405
(515)244-5824

Newsletter preparation:

Jeanne Roland,
St. Mark's, Des Moines
JeanneHR@q.com
(new email address)

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

In Loving Memory of



**Elinor T. Kornhauser
1929 - 2007**

It is with great sadness that I report the death of our much loved co-director of the Diocesan Altar Guild on July 31, 2007 in Mason City, Iowa. A memorial service was held August 4, 2007 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Manson City, with Rev. Wendy Abrahamson officiating. Interment took place in the columbarium at St. John's.

Occasionally I read bits and parts of a book by Wayne Muller, "How, Then, Shall We Live?" Recently I read some paragraphs that reminded me of Elinor's dedication and love of her Altar Guild and it's work. Altar Guild filled her life with purpose and happiness. "...when we do what we love, we are performing an act of worship..*" Despite a terrible accident that left her crippled, Elinor was ever courageous and determined. I was impressed by her cheerfulness and smiling face. "What do you love? You gain courage from what you love. When you know where your treasure lies, when you know what is, for you, sacred and right, then you are filled with a clarity of purpose and a breathtaking capacity to act on what you believe** As Jesus reminds us, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

(continued on page 2)

SACRISTY SECRETS



Use a hair dryer to remove wax from your brass, silver, etc.

Line your silver storage closet with pacific cloth. This will keep your silver bright and clean.

Use a rubber mat in the bottom of your sink when washing silver, etc. - this prevents scratching.

Add 1 tablespoon of TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) to boiling water to remove wax from your followers. May be found in paint and hardware stores.

Always rinse polish off all metal items before they are put back in use. This will prevent black marks appearing on linens.

Use white gloves when handling lacquered items. Oils from your skin can be damaging.

Use a Pam-type spray inside votive candle holders for ease in removing wax.

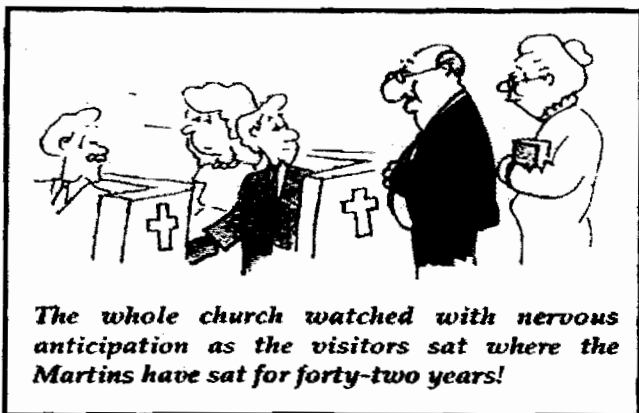
Inventory your sacristy for insurance purposes. Photograph everything.

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UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

We regret that it was necessary for us to cancel the Diocesan Altar Guild Workshops to have been held at Trinity Cathedral on October 6th. The cathedral, Dean Harris, and chair, Karen Brooks are looking forward to hosting the workshops in 2008. Our spring newsletter will bring news of dates, programs, workshop offerings, etc.

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The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for forty-two years!

DIRECTOR'S LETTER *(continued from page 1)*

We shall all miss Elinor, her smile, her joy in sharing knowledge, her bravery, her wonderful dedication and devotion. Barbara Christie Altar Guild Director, St. Paul Church, Council Bluffs wrote: "...perhaps she is mending the little angels' britches and starting a new fair linen." Indeed, she undoubtedly is doing just that.

Blessings and Love,

Martha

** Wayne Muller, "How, Then, Shall We Live?"*

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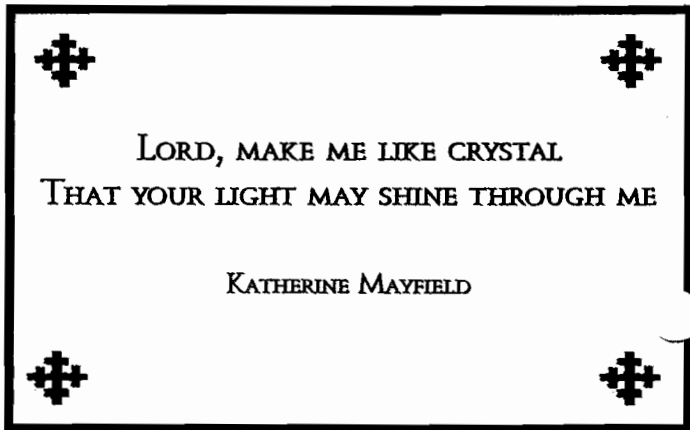
SAINTS EVERYWHERE

The Living Church, *October 29, 2006*

Every church has its own saints. They are not officially acknowledged or included on the church's calendar of saints' days, but they are "unofficial" saints nonetheless. Many of them have labored tirelessly without recognition, and even without being noticed by their fellow parishioners. They have visited the sick and shut-ins, organized prayer chains, fed the hungry, read the Daily Offices alone in empty churches, telephoned lonely parishioners, performed all sorts of menial tasks, and shared their time, talents and treasures in countless ways. Those saints have led lives of holiness, even though they have lived the same as we do - a life of temptations, sorrows and joys.

On All Saint' Day (Nov. 1) we are reminded that we are fellow citizens with the saints, in union with those holy ones now departed. We share much in common with those who have gone before us - a common faith, and a common hope because we have a common salvation given us by Jesus Christ. On this day let us remember those godly people, ensuring that their deed and their lives are not forgotten.

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LORD, MAKE ME LIKE CRYSTAL
THAT YOUR LIGHT MAY SHINE THROUGH ME

KATHERINE MAYFIELD

September 19, 2007

Pat H. Crane
180 Middletown Avenue
Wethersfield, CT., 06109-3805

Mrs. Martha Hippee
407 - 28th Street
Des Moines, IA 50312-4405

Dear Martha,

I have just finished putting together the next issue of Epistle and while writing about Elinor I reread your letter informing me of her death. I write you now to apologize for not writing for your fall newsletter as you requested. I am so sorry. Your letter was put with the information sent to me by Elinor's priest and the e-mails I received from Lisa and I have not reread them until today.

Elinor was my friend and partner in service to the Lord for so many years that I cannot remember when or where we first met. She was just always there and we shared information about our work and families over the telephone when we did not see each other in person. We got together at National Altar Guild meetings and even after her terrible accident she made the effort to come to Ashville, N.C. to the Liturgical Arts Conference where I was teaching. Her impaired mobility made getting around at the conference center very difficult but she just kept smiling and her daughter and husband aided her in every way possible. I was terribly honored to have her write the review of my workshop for the Epistle following the last Triennial meeting of the National Altar Guild. Elinor was an amazing woman and an inspiration to those of us doing the Lord's work.

Lisa tells me that there will be several others sharing the work begun by Elinor and I can imagine that this is true. Her spirit will live on in those who remember her and keep those memories in their hearts.

I wish you and all of Elinor's co-workers God's peace.

Pat

(Pat Crane is Managing Editor of the "Epistle".)

INSIDE THE SACRISTY

Pat Crane
Managing Editor, "Epistle"

We are now entering the final quarter of the church year and most churches are getting back into their regular routines after a relaxing summer schedule. So are parish altar guilds. Because today a guild usually has its own method of preparing for the celebration of the Eucharist in its own worship space, members should have a carefully prepared manual which addresses the altar guild ministry there - comprehensive and easy to follow. This time of year is a good time to review - perhaps edit - these manuals as well as to review general guidelines for altar guild work.

Altar guild members on duty for a given weekend usually find it convenient to work on a Saturday morning. Spending a few moments in prayer (together or separately) before beginning to work allows time for setting aside worldly activities and refocusing on the special chores ahead. Readyng the worship place comes first -- mopping and dusting, polishing if necessary, checking linens and candles, arranging flowers, and doing whatever else is needed in each place. Arranging the vestments for the convenience of the officiating clergy may be done on Saturday or on Sunday before the first church service. How they are arranged depends on the vestments to be worn and the available space.

To prepare the altar, the first step is to remove the cloth "protector" and check the "clean white cloth" (rubric p. 402) altar cover (the "fair linen") to be sure that it IS clean and wrinkle free. After that it is necessary to follow the instruction in the parish manual. How and when the table is set for a parish celebration of the Eucharist depends on what is customary in that parish. For example, the altar may stand ready and waiting until the Offertory at the Eucharist. If there are "oblacioneers", the altar guild places bread and wine in suitable containers on a table in the nave and the oblacioneers present them to the celebrant (or the Deacon) at the Offertory. If there is a Deacon, setting the table is the Deacon's responsibility (rubrics p. 322 & 354) and done according to the Deacon's training. The altar guild has placed the needed vessels and linens on the

credence table, ready for the Deacon. In the absence of a Deacon, altar guild workers set the credence and altar according to parish custom, as described in the parish manual.

There is much reference today to "unity in our diversity." Altar guild work has become a stellar example of this. Every week across the Church we prepare diverse places for the one great sacrament of our life together. Through our diversity we find unity.

TERMS

- *Protector* - Cloth placed over the fair linen (clean white cloth (BCP p. 406) between services to protect it.
- *Corporal* - Square of linen placed in the center of the altar used as a placemat for the bread and chalice.
- *Service of the word* - The first part of the service
- *Chalice* - The cup into which the wine and water are poured
- *Paten* - The plate or shallow bowl containing the bread.
- *Priest's Wafer* - Slightly larger form of the Peoples wafers
- *Oblacioneers* - Presenters of the bread and wine



CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA

Fran Cobb

In 2006, The Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey gave a record number of gifts to mariners – 16,210 hand-knitted items.

- 7,996 of these gifts were distributed to deep-sea mariners coming into the Port of New York & New Jersey
- 4,264 knitted scarves went to America's river mariners
- 3,950 gifts were given to Gulf Coast mariners.

To make all this possible, the Institute received hand knitted articles from almost 4,000 knitters representing every state.

Quite a feat, isn't it? Knit a gift and be a part of all this. Maybe you could be the 4,000th knitter! To get you going on this, we've included patterns for the seamen's scarf and the mariner's scarf. They are as easy as can be. Try them. Find other items on the SCI web site www.seamenschurch.org

And all those gifts are greatly appreciated; here are some excerpts from responses received from the recipients.

"I'd like to thank you and all diligent knitters for these unexpected presents and for their prayers for our safety."

"I had to work all of the Christmas holidays and New Years too. It is always very hard being away from my loved ones during the Christmas holidays. One thing that always helps is the kindness that is shown through Seamen's Church."

Last December, as it does every year, the Institute recognized some of the local volunteers at a nice luncheon, and I saw and visited with Jane Ames, NAGA First Vice President. I'd like to hear from others out there. My email address is cobbfrana@yahoo.com, or write me at 80 Loeffler Rd., G-211, Bloomfield, CT 06002. †

MARINER'S SCARF

Materials: 5 oz. 4-ply acrylic yarn

Needles: Size 6 knitting needles

Gauge: 4 sts = 1 inch, 6 rows = 1 inch

Cast on 40 stitches.

K 8 rows (Garter Stitch).

Now work pattern as follows:

Rows 1-6: K2, (K6, P6) 3 times; K2.

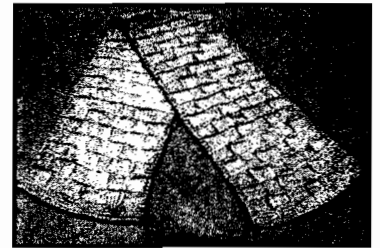
Rows 7 and 8: K across.

Rows 9-14: K2, (P6, K6) 3 times, K2.

Rows 15 and 16: K across.

Repeat rows 1-16 for checkerboard pattern.

Note: you will be alternating a Knit block above a Purl block. Continue in pattern until you have about 32 rows of pattern blocks—39 inches. End with either a 6th or 14th row. K 8 rows (Garter Stitch) and bid off. Do not block scarf.



SEAFARER'S SCARF

Materials: 5 oz. 4-ply machine washable yarn

Needles: Size 6 knitting needles, crochet hook or wool needle for finishing

Gauge: 5 sts = 1 inch 8 rows = 1 inch approximately

Cast on 32 sts with medium tension.

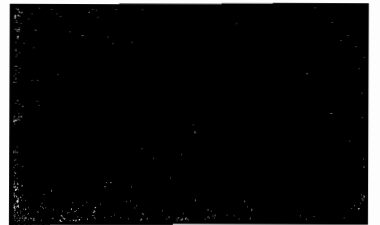
Knit even for 14 inches.

K 4, P 4 for 18 inches.

Knit even for 14 inches.

Bind off with medium tension and weave in all ends.

Note: Measurement of completed scarf (without stretching it) is 6 1/2" wide and 46" long. The 18 inches of ribbing will make the neck of the scarf narrow looking. This makes the scarf denser and warmer around the neck where you need it without adding extra bulk.



Knit Two Purl Two, Knit Two Purl Two

By Georgia Jervey, 2006.

Each year Georgia writes a new poem to include with every knitted gift she sends to Seamen's Church Institute.

As my fingers move more quickly,
My brain waves do the same,
Thinking about the seamen
Who'll wear this on Christmas Day.

What country does he come from?
Did he leave a family at home?
Is the sea very cold and lonely?
Will this sweater keep him warm?

The color might not suit him.
The size may not be right.
But someone cared about him,
Knitting late into the night.

A sweater takes many days to knit.
There is lots of time to think
About the people who sail the world
Bringing goods from every port.

Briefly seamen touch our shores
To unload and then load once more,
Sailing the ocean on choppy seas,
Bringing goods to a hungry world.

For those of us who knit,
We're trying to say we care
About the people who ply the seas
Bringing us products from everywhere.

We know your job is dangerous
And probably lonely too.



▲ Georgia Jervey from New Jersey.

So we've lent our hands to God
To knit these things for you.

He sends his love through us
And we hope you'll pass it on.
It's the thing that matters most
On this brand new Christmas morn.

Love one another as I have loved you
Is what I've always been told.
And if the world would heed these words
What a world we would behold.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.
We wish you could be at home.
But since you can't, God's love we send
So you'll never be alone.

The Before **KnitCHRISTMAS**

Need....

Patterns? ➤

Yarn? ➤

Ready to mail? ➤

Christmas at Sea

Barbara Clauson, Director
241 Water Street
New York, NY 10038
212-349-9090
cas@seamenschurch.org

