

St. Clare's Altar Guild Report, Faye Jacobson, Co-chair

St. David's Altar Guild currently has 20 members which includes three new members for 2023.

Altar Guild duties include:

- Altar set up and clean up for Sunday services as well as any special services such as weddings or funerals.
- Linens: Linens are washed and ironed after each service. Some people prefer linens since it is something that can be done at home.
- Baking bread for the Eucharist: The bakers select their months and usually bake one batch for a month. Baking is also done at home on the baker's schedule. These loaves are placed in the freezer at church and thawed each Sunday as needed. Mtr. Gaelyn is part of this group and provides the gluten free recipe that is used.
- Flower Chart: The entire parish is given the opportunity to provide flowers during the year. There is a flower chart on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place that lists each Sunday. You can sign up for as many Sundays as you wish. The bulletin will give information about the person(s) being honored and by whom. Please send the information for the bulletin to Graydon at info@stdavidscullowhee.org. Flowers can be purchased and delivered to the church, purchased, and arranged by the person donating the flowers or, in season, picked from your own garden or wildflowers from the side of the road. St. David's, traditionally, has supported flowers from nature when in season.

With the easing of Covid we were able to return to a more normal service. The Easter Service was still outdoors by popular request. It was a beautiful day and a lovely service with creative flower arrangements by volunteers on full display.

The Greening, decoration of the sanctuary for Christmas, is another creative opportunity for Altar Guild and any member of the parish who would like to participate. This year we purchased basic fir wreaths from Country Roads, because of the time, energy, and number of hands needed to make wreaths from scratch. Those of us in attendance were able to decorate the wreaths with bows, berries and other donated items from nature. It worked out well and was not an all-day affair so close to Christmas. Donations covered the entire costs of both the basic wreaths and the poinsettias. If any members of the parish have comments or suggestions about this change, please contact me at fayebj50@gmail.com. We would like to thank Stephen and Russ for making our beautiful wreaths for the front door.

The 2022 Altar Guild Brunch was canceled because of an increase in Covid numbers in the area. We hope to schedule the 2023 Brunch in February. It is for current members, former members, and spouses as well as potential members. Mtr. Gaelyn or other members can answer any questions you might have. Hopefully, we can also fill in any blanks in the schedule for 2023. Primarily, the brunch is a time of fellowship since we are rarely all together as a group. We hope you can join us.

Our Church Mouse Extraordinaire, keeper of knowledge, and answerer of questions, for both the Altar Guild and St. David's is now living with her son near Laurens, SC. She and Puddin are happy and settling into their new situation. She is greatly missed. We would like to thank her for all she has done over the years. Most of which was done quietly and without recognition.

The Financial Report for the Altar Guild will be included in the parish Financial Report presented by the Treasurer.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Co-chair Judy Robinson or me, Faye Jacobson at fayebj50@gmail.com. I have served as an Altar Guild member at three

different parishes over the years and can speak from my own experience. St. David's Altar Guild is a unique, close-knit group that values the work we do and each other.