

# The VERGER'S VOICE

Of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America  
"Service through Worship + Worship through Service"

## Vergers at General Convention

For the first time, the Vergers Guild had a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Anaheim California, July 10-17. Many thanks goes to those who made time to attend the convention and staff the booth. Among those were, Pat Allen, Kate Pendzuk, Margaret McLarty, Danny Meador, Rick Smith and Andrew McLarty. Thousands of visitors stopped by the booth to visit during the 10 day event. The booth back wall displayed photos of vergers in action. Many of the pictures were those that members had sent in as a result of a request made on the VList. They included images of vergers training acolytes, crawling beneath pews in work clothes running wiring to audio/video equipment, setting up prior to the service, organizing large events and giving church tours. These pictures were featured in hopes to raise the awareness to visitors the work behind the scenes that is often not understood as a major part of what the verger does. A display table featured completed training courses and information on items available in the Guild Shoppe. Also photographs of past Conferences were displayed. Education, Training and Service were the topics emphasized. All who staffed the booth were very pleased with the many contacts that were made. We are receiving follow up inquires and seeing clergy from new areas to the Guild beginning to incorporate vergers in their services. Inquires for training courses and new memberships are arriving for the Guild.

Visitors to the booth were pleased to share stories of the vergers from their home parishes or learn about our ministry of service. Quite a lot of literature was passed out to those who stopped by. Visitors to the booth were given a stadium cup with logos of the Verger's Guild and the 2009 General Convention on each side. These were very popular items. The novelty of the souvenir cup was the feature that it changed color from translucent white to purple as cold liquid is poured in. The cup became the hot item of the Exhibit Hall. It was the subject of some delegates' blogs as well.

As the days of the show progressed, people sought out our booth to get one of the cool purple cups. A delegation from the House of Bishops came and asked if we would give them a dozen. A priest from England made a donation to the Guild and took 20 for vergers in London. On the last day of the Convention, when after the last service, the Presiding Bishop was handed two cups, she asked, "are these the ones that turn purple?"



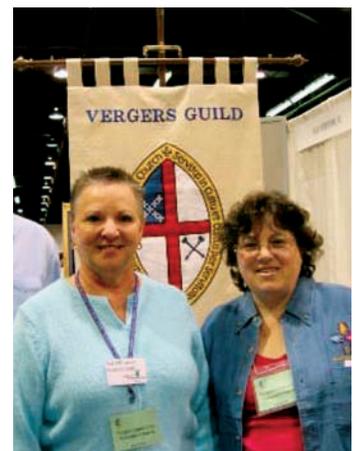
Educational and membership material is displayed with the verger "purple" cups.



Greeting a visitor, Kate Pendzuk, Rick Smith and Danny Meador tell about our ministry.



Andrew and Rick pack up the VGEC Banner after the show.



Pat Allen and Kate Pendzuk greet visitors.

## Vergers serve in 2009 General Convention Worship



Master of Ceremonies Margaret McLarty and Presiding Bishop Kathryn Jefferts Schori at the Closing Eucharist of 2009 General Convention in Anaheim.

The Daily Eucharistic services this year at General Convention were scheduled for mid day as an intentional time for all to gather in worship and anchor the work of the Convention. Guild President, Margaret McLarty was asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies for all the services and as a member of the Worship Team. This group included the altar guild, floor manager, music director, visual arts, sound engineers and deacons guild members that formed a core group

providing a framework to support the different presiders, preachers, lectors and intecessors for the different services.

On the Sunday for the Festival Eucharist and UTO Ingathering, the Worship Committee called on the Guild to provide support in marshalling the four processions leading into service and coordinating the presentation from the UTO Ingathering offering. There were about 9000 people



Char Vinik, Kate Pendzuk, Rick Smith, PB Edmund Browning, PB Katharine Jefferts Schori, Margaret McLarty and Danny Meadors at the 2009 General Convention Festival Eucharist.



Deacon Vincent Jang of San Francisco serves along side of Bishop Prince V Singh of Rochester and Margaret McLarty on Day 6.

in attendance. Amid liturgical dancers, streamers and columns of Bishops, Vergers Danny Meadors, Rick Smith, Char Vinik and Kate Pendzuk coordinated four processions as they entered the Anaheim Convention Center hall. As master of ceremonies, Margaret McLarty, coordinated the platform and assisted with the entrance of the Presiding Bishop, Kathryn Jefferts Shori who was accompanied by the immediate previous Presiding Bishops, Frank Griswold and Edmund Browning.

The worship at General Convention featured a rich combination of liturgies and readings in many languages. The visual arts, music and dance enhanced the spirit filled services. Preachers were inspiring.

As the Guild had hoped, vergers were used in the General Convention worship as an integral part of the planning and execution of the liturgies. Andrew McLarty served as sound booth liturgical coordinator. All the bulletins for 10 days of worship listed the following acknowledgement:

*Hundreds of volunteers have worked together to make today's worship service possible. In particular, we owe our thanks to the tireless efforts of the National Altar Guild Association, The North American Association for the Diaconate, The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, and the General Convention worship committee.*



Andrew McLarty, Margaret McLarty, Carol Wade, Frank Wade, and Sandy Webb

*A special thanks goes to The Rev. Carol Wade, Chaplain to the House of Bishops and Canon Presenter at Washington National Cathedral and The Rev. Frank Wade, Chaplain of the House of Deputies and Sandy Webb, Floor Manager for General Convention and VTS seminarian for including the vergers in such an active role at General Convention. Pictured here with Andrew McLarty, Sound and Margaret McLarty, MC who served with them on the Worship Committee.*



Andrew McLarty prepares to assist with microphone testing for the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams after he vests for the Day 2 service of General Convention 2009.

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**Visit Our Website:**  
**[www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org)**

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### **Officers of The Verger's Guild**

President..... Margaret McLarty  
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Vice President ..... Pat Allen  
Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky

Secretary..... Dianne Betts  
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Training Course Registrar..... Kate Pendzuk  
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Church of the Resurrection, Franklin, Tennessee

President Emeritus ..... David Jette  
Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York, NY

2009 Conference Chair ..... Brooks Mason  
St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, California

2010 Conference Chair ..... Duke Duteil  
Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

Nominations are being accepted for the two offices of Secretary and Treasurer of the Guild. According to the ByLaws, these offices are filled by election of the general membership to serve a three year term. This year the election will be conducted at the annual meeting which is held during the Oct. 22-25, 2009 conference at St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, California. In order to make a nomination contact Guild Vice President, Pat Allen (nellalex@aol.com or 606-253-2276) The officers of the Guild are expected to attend all conferences and midyear board meetings and do so at their own expense.

## **The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, San Diego, California will host the 2009 Conference.**

The Very Rev. Scott Richardson, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Paul in San Diego invites the Guild to the 21st Annual Conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. The conference, which is from October 22-25, is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Vergers, explore the practical and spiritual issues of our ministry, and visit the beautiful city.

The conference opens on Thursday evening, October 22 with a wine and cheese reception in the Queen's Courtyard, followed by a Service of Compline. There will be two workshops Friday morning. Sr. Barbara Quinn, RSCJ, of the Center for Christian Spirituality at the University of San Diego will lead a morning workshop, "The Hidden Face of Hope." Dean Richardson will then share reflections on "Holy Communion," a helpful way of dealing with the varieties of human relationship. After the noon Holy Eucharist and lunch, Verger 101 will be offered as a roundtable discussion for members. In the evening, the renowned Cathedral Choristers and the St. Cecilia Choir will lead The Feast of St. James Evensong, at which Bishop James Mathes will Officiate. The conference banquet in the cathedral's Great Hall will follow. Saturday morning the Guild Annual Business meeting will take place. On Saturday evening, Vergers will convene for a dinner cruise on San Diego Bay. Following the 9:30 Forum on Sunday morning, Vergers are encouraged to vest (no verge or hats) for a conference photo session and outdoor Procession to the 10:30 Holy Eucharist with choir, organ, brass, and timpani.

Our host hotel is Park Manor Suites, a historic boutique-style all suite hotel. Located in walking distance from St. Paul's Cathedral, it provides the perfect central location in San Diego. It is on the edge of Balboa Park West and next to the world renowned San Diego Zoo, the Old Globe Theatre and many fine museums. Other local San Diego attractions including the Hillcrest neighborhood, San Diego Convention Center, Sea World, The Gaslamp District, Little Italy, the Cruise Ship Terminal, Old Town, Coronado Island and the beaches are just minutes away. [www.parkmanorsuites.com](http://www.parkmanorsuites.com) If you have any questions, please contact Canon Brooks Mason, Head Verger of St. Paul's Cathedral and the coordinator of the VGEC Conference. Canon Mason can be reached at 619.298.7261, ext. 325, or [masonb@stpaulscathedral.org](mailto:masonb@stpaulscathedral.org).

### **THE CONFERENCE IS STILL ACCEPTING LATE REGISTRATIONS AT \$200 PER PERSON.**



VISIT [WWW.VERGERS.ORG](http://WWW.VERGERS.ORG)  
OR CONTACT CONFERENCE CHAIR,  
BROOKS MASON  
619.298.7261, ext. 325  
[bmason@stpaulscathedral.com](mailto:bmason@stpaulscathedral.com)

The registration form may be found here:  
[http://www.stpaulcathedralvergers.org/VGEC\\_regfrm.pdf](http://www.stpaulcathedralvergers.org/VGEC_regfrm.pdf)

**We hope to see you all in Sunny San Diego!!**

St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego  
[www.stpaulcathedralvergers.org](http://www.stpaulcathedralvergers.org)

# Verger Communications - Three important updates.

## The Web - internet

Many of our members logged on to our site this summer and got an ominous warning about the site being infected, which it was. After several attempts to rid it of the virus, it was apparent that a new option was needed. The Guild is now using the host vendor, Digital Faith, which is a major provider to many Episcopal churches and dioceses. If anyone of you wishes to publish a chapter site in conjunction with the VGEC site, that can be arranged. The Guild would like to begin a technology conversation with web savvy vergers. Please contact me if you have an interest in learning more or being a web assistant editor. [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org)

## Newsletter - print

As always Newsletter articles are always welcome. We are constantly looking for contributions to put in the newsletters. Please contact Margaret McLarty if you are willing to assist with the writing and editing of the newsletter. Our hope is to be more regular in producing on a quarterly basis. Your content is needed.

## VList - email

The VList was also a victim of the summer virus. Based in the same system of the former website, the VList was also shut down. Mike Malone did a great job getting the the list back up and running. Some spam filters blocked notification so please make sure you are back with us. People wanting to join the Vlist should go to <http://groups.google.com/group/vlist> Sign in to your existing Google account or create an account. This is not your old Verger password. If you are a member of another Google group, it will be the same account. Ask for the group **VList**. Once you are a member you can also invite others to join, and they do not have to create their account.

IN THIS ISSUE:  
Verger's at General Convention .....page 1  
Verger's serve in 2009  
General Convention Worship .....page 2  
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul,  
San Diego, California will host  
the 2009 Conference.....page 3

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