

VERGERS / ACOLYTES

Albert White

Nathan Duncan and I as all of our parish family cannot contemplate of our role as Vergers in this parish without being reminded of the loss of our Mentor, advisor and very close friend David Sparks.

Of the 1646 members of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church only about 300 are designated as Fellows; those who have passed the formal “Course of Training for a Verger”. He was one of the first after the Guild’s founding in 1989. But for the commitment and ministry of David and the original members, the Verger movement in the Episcopal Church would have never become what it is, a lay ministry that is an Outward and Visible Sign of an Inner and Spiritual Grace.

David’s legacy is one that has inspired several new faithful volunteers to serve as Vergers at All Saints’. Meetings have begun on a weekly schedule to train this group and to enhance the abilities of our existing crew. Nathan and I are grateful for the additional support of this ministry.

We currently have five teams of acolytes ranging from the fifth through twelfth grades. An experienced acolyte serves at the 8:30 service and teams of four are called on for 10:45. In the past year we have added the fourth acolyte at 10:45 to carry a clergy cross in the procession. Our goal is to expose them to a wider experience sooner in their acolyte careers and we have begun to see the fruits of that effort. We are able to migrate young people from torch bearer to server. This will result in a core of acolytes who can serve in a higher capacity in support of the parish and each other.

As always we thank the parents for their support of the acolytes. We understand that the demands on our youth with their ever more crowded schedules can be a challenge. I can unequivocally declare that my participation and experience as an acolyte is at the root of my love and commitment to the Episcopal Church.