

Each parish priest assigns tasks specific to the needs of that individual church. Vergers assist



in training acolytes and other lay ministers, welcoming visitors and giving tours. Helping to plan and execute special services falls in the list of



verger duties. With special attention to detail, most of the verger's work is done well in advance of the liturgy.

Find out more about this ministry of service.



## Officers of The Vergers' Guild

- |                                      |                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
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| 2009 Conference Chair                | Brooks Mason                                    |
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|                                      | Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. |



2007 VGECC Conference in Miami and Nassau



# Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church



*“Service in  
Worship  
and  
Worship through  
Service”*

[www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org)

## The Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church



Our Guild supports its membership through education, service and fellowship.

The Guild offers a self study training course. Even for the experienced lay minister, it is helpful in forming the verger's understanding of how best to support the worship of the parish as prescribed by the rector. One is not required to take the course to be a member of the Guild, however, doing so results in being awarded a Certificate of Completion. A course graduate is recognized as a Fellow in the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church.

Since its founding in 1988 the Guild has met annually in different and exciting locations all across the United States, Canada and Nassau. The gathering includes the annual business meeting, workshops on liturgy, worship, touring local churches and sightseeing. These times together are invaluable in building strong bonds of friendship and support. The Guild also fosters the formation of local chapters which are quite popular as well.

Vergers serve the church in a ministry of welcome. Often the visitor will see the verger in a simple cassock moving about the church preparing for worship. The verger should be able to respond to any inquiry concerning the upcoming service, church facilities or current

program offerings. The verger's logistical support allows the priest more time for pastoral and sacramental responsibilities.

We often say that every parish has a verger whether he/she is identified as such. Some typical verger duties are assigning, training and checking in lectors, chalice bearers, acolytes and prayer intercessors. The verger coordinates with the Altar Guild and Funeral Guilds. In some parishes the verger checks lighting and sound. This is specific to each church.

Some parishes process the verger at all liturgies and others only on Festival days. Especially helpful with visiting clergy or special services, the verger checks on additional seating, hospitality and welcoming newcomers. Most parishes, either small or large, and clergy who incorporate the verger position wonder why that wasn't done earlier.

Please call or contact me if you have any questions about the Ministry of Verger for your parish.

In Peace,

*Margaret McLarty*

President  
margaret@vergers.org



### *Join the VGEC*

Membership is \$40.00 year, and is open to all persons, lay and ordained, interested in and supportive of the office of Verger in the Church today. There is a membership application on the website [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org) or mail VGEC Membership, 7802 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas TX 75225