

John Townsend

I have entertained the idea of becoming more involved in the workings of the Guild for a number of years. I see the Guild as a vital and growing ministry within the larger church, not only as a ministry of welcome, but also as a ministry to the Vergers themselves. The support, education, fellowship and experiences offered to me as a new Verger have been instrumental to the continued growth of my faith. If I can offer but a small portion of that experience to new members, by introducing them to the Guild and its resources, I will feel the satisfaction of sharing my faith, perhaps not with words, but with actions.

I began my journey of faith as a Cradle Episcopalian, born and raised in the Diocese of New Hampshire, baptized at Christ Church, Exeter, confirmed at St. Christopher's, Hampstead where I began service as an acolyte and chorister. Many years later, after returning to NH from 4 years in Spain, I joined the Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua NH, where I became active in parish life, serving on the Fellowship Committee, a 3 year term on the Vestry, and becoming a Eucharistic Minister, a Eucharistic Visitor and Acolyte Master for the Youth Acolyte Corps. I was appointed Verger on Palm Sunday of 2001, serving under then Head Verger, the late Paul Jauron. I completed the Vergers' Training Course, and received my verge in San Diego in 2009. I have since worked with the Altar Guild and the Lead Eucharistic Minister to revamp and modernize the customs for the Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers & Visitors and the Acolyte Corp. I am also mentoring a new Verger, who is working to complete the Vergers' Training Course. I also serve as a Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, and to the Southern Convocation of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire, where I recently presented a program on the Verger Ministry.