

Altar Guild Ministry Report for 2022

The year 2022 saw a gradual return to usual duties and routines in the St John's Altar Guild, a relief after the restrictions and make-do circumstances of COVID-19.. There were still tweaks and adjustments to the communion service, fluctuating attendance, and for the second year, communion wafer shortages due to a supplier going out of business and no wafers having been produced during the year 2020.

Membership

Altar Guild at St John's is comprised of 4 Teams with approximately 4 members on each Team. Each of the Teams is on duty approximately once a month. The 5th Team, recruited from among 1:00 service attendees, serves weekly, doing dishes, cleaning up, and closing down after the 1:00 Sunday service. This Altar Guild also has two Linen Specialists who wash and iron communion linens and table covers from the various services. We tend to refer to them as "linen ladies," although they have also been known to pitch in and help with other needs. Our total membership at present is 21, with 4 of that number currently on medical leave.

Duties

Every service the church scheduled in 2022 had one or more Altar Guild members on duty. We prepared the communion elements and handled whatever other preparations were called for with liturgical hangings, books, linens, candles, bells, ashes, water glasses, silver polish, brass polish, flowers, dripped candle wax, spilled candle oil, and broken glass. Then after each service we washed dishes, cleaned up, and returned items to storage as needed. And what did we do when the water was cut off at Christmas? We simply imported water, in jugs, borrowed an electric water pot, and washed dishes as usual.

Future Plans

Members of the Altar Guild remain ready to serve St John's as needed for all services in the new year. We find our duties a lovely way to serve God and our church.

Catherine Turner

Director of Altar Guild