

St John's Altar Guild has survived and prevailed in the roller-coaster ride of COVID pandemic changes. The Altar Guild was on hiatus from March 2020 - March 2021 due to the constraints of the pre-vaccination COVID-19 pandemic. Only the director served, and only occasionally, as needed for outdoor services.

In preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter, six vaccinated volunteers from the Altar Guild struggled with their pandemic fogged brains and cobbled together the necessities for a joyous outdoor Palm Sunday in the parking lot. The following week the same six people planned for a similar version of Easter Sunday in the parking lot. When rain-wet surfaces made an outdoor Easter unsafe for electronics, all services were moved inside with joy, awe, and a sense of the Spirit's presence in the turn of events. The move inside was easy compared to moving a major observance outside.

In the 8 months following Easter 2021, other vaccinated Altar Guild members returned, retrained, and re-joined their work team in the usual cycle of duties. COVID, however, still loomed. Some members asked to work alone in the sacristy to get their jobs done; others helped by laundering Eucharistic linens brought to them at home. One brought her spouse as her work partner. Some Altar Guild members always wore a mask, others masked only when required.

A few in Altar Guild found it necessary to retire or resign in 2021 due to work, family, or health considerations. Members sadly said goodbye to Linda Villarreal, Jane Hudson, Morgan Corpus, and China Petersen. Remaining members welcomed aboard Maria Caballero and Pamela Eyrick, plus welcomed back Glenda Patterson. In addition, Anne Reed, a long-retired and much beloved Altar Guild member, passed away in July.

The new version of St John's Altar Guild has, of necessity, become adaptable. As COVID waxes, wanes, and mutates, its membership adjusts accordingly and expects to continue adjusting to whatever changes are needed to assist the church in its worship.

Catherine Turner, Director

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