

St. John's Episcopal Church Vergers Report for 2021

The Vergers of St. John's are a group of experienced and trained lay servers who assist the Clergy with planning, organizing, and conducting the various worship services. Service as a Verger is at the invitation of the Rector. Most of what we do is "behind the scenes," usually well before the services begin.

The COVID-19 pandemic which started in 2020 and continues today has forced many changes to the role of the Verger. We have set aside our robes, virges, and written service customaries and instead operate cameras and video switchers, microphones and mixers, and laptop computers. A major part of our role at St. John's is to broadcast our worship services and to welcome and support our remote parishioners. It's a very different role that was never covered in Verger Training, but it's a role we take on willingly and enthusiastically.

Since we have resumed in-person and hybrid services, another part of the Verger role is to help make those services as safe as possible. In concert with the clergy and liturgical planning team, the services have been scaled down to be shorter – less singing and fewer readings. Seating in the church has been designed, and re-designed, to encourage safe social distancing. Yes, we're the ones responsible for the beloved (*not) ***"Please do not sit in this pew"*** signs. Hopefully, when conditions improve, we can relax some of the restrictions and move to a more relaxed worship experience.

The Vergers at St. John's:
Bill Cox, Fay Jones, Marvin Rasmussen, and Sandra Ward