



Archangel

July and August, 2017



What Is a Vergger

The office of vergger has its roots in the earliest days of the Church's history and it shares certain similarities with the former minor orders of "porter" and "acolyte." Generally speaking, verggers were responsible for the order and upkeep of the house of worship, including preparations for the liturgy, the conduct of the laity, and even grave-digging among many other duties in the church.

.A familiar sight in English cathedrals and on television broadcasts of royal weddings, funerals, verggers have maintained the buildings and furnishings of the Church, led the liturgy, and served God in the church for many centuries.

In medieval times, the vergger (spelled "virger" in England and older texts) was the Protector of the Procession. The vergger led the way for the procession as it moved from the vestry around the church or cathedral and into the front doors.

The vergger had to be the first person in the procession as they cleared the way for the thurifer, crucifer, acolytes, choir, and sacred ministers by swinging the virge in front of them.

Even though the history of vergging and verggers goes back over 700 years, the ministry of service and welcome from the verggers of the Episcopal Church is thriving in the twenty-first century! Today's verggers are laypersons who serve the church in a ministry of service and welcome. Often the visitor will see the vergger in a simple cassock moving about the church preparing for worship. The vergger is able to respond to any inquiry concerning the upcoming service, church facilities or current program offerings.

The vergger's logistical and behind the scenes support allow the clergy more time for pastoral and sacramental responsibilities. It is often said that every parish has a vergger whether or not they are identified as such. Some typical vergger duties are, assisting the priest with preparation of worship service, the assigning, training and checking lectors, chalice bearers, acolytes and prayer intercessors. The vergger often coordinates with the altar guild and funeral guild. In some parishes the vergger checks lighting and sound.

The precise duties of the vergger will be specific to each parish church. For instance, in some parishes the vergger will process at all liturgies and in others, they only process on Feast or Festival days. Especially helpful with visiting clergy or special services, the vergger checks on additional seating, hospitality and welcoming newcomers. Most parishes, either small or large, and clergy who incorporate the vergger position, wonder how they ever did without verggers.

So why did I become a vergger, I have always had a passion for service, shown by the work I did with differently-abled students, with those dealing with dementia, and the groups I was a member of .

Now, I am retired, and one of the differently abled group. So what to do now.

I have served on altar guild and as a licensed worship leader. In the past several years I have found myself wanting to know more about how worship services are put together and what the rules are. I also know it takes a team to make a worship service work seamlessly.

The verggers training has offered me the opportunity to learn. I have learned a lot and there is still more to learn.

Do I have all of the answers, No but I now know where to search for the answer.

Catherine Noakes

Birthdays

July

- 4 David Noakes
- 6 Nicholas Conner
- 7 Mary Bell,
Cameron Blankenship
- 8 Gerald Moore
- 16 Rosemary Walker
- 18 Michelle Moran
- 19 Sharon Vasiloff
- 26 Pearl Clark
- 29 Vicki Davis
- 31 Gifford Scott

August

- 2 Mary Shindler
- 7 Sally Rainey
- 9 William Christmas
- 10 Elliott Shindler
- 16 Sandi O'Mery
- 17 Martie Warriner
Caiden Hunt
- 18 Daniel Scott
- 20 John Anderson
- 28 Amy Burcham
Stephanie Little
- 30 Joe Lyman
Casey Burcham

Anniversaries

July

- 4 Mantovani & Bev Gay
- 8 William and Barbara Smith
- 26 Tom and Milly Thompson
- 29 Lanny and Sally Rainey



August

- 14 Herb and Paula Greene
- 16 Bob and Emma Wilson
- 22 Don and Noni Hogwood
- 26 Jeff and Theresa Hunt

Pick-Up Choir



On June 11th, we began "Pick-up Choir" for the summer. Please come and join us on Sunday mornings, as we pick up our music around 9:30am, practice it, and then sing it for the 10:00am service. If you love music, and you love God, this could be a new "venue" of service to Him.

Melanie Moran

Thank You

I want to thank my church family for your prayers, calls and cards when I was in the hospital and at home recovering a little over a month ago. I am doing fine now and back to my old self again.

Again I bless you all for what you did.

In God's love,
Pearl Clark



Vergar Catherine Noakes

Feeding Program

We will serve lunch at the Hope Center in Petersburg on Tuesday, July 18 and Tuesday, August 15. If you can provide food, please use the sign-up sheet in the parish hall. Michael Vasiloff is the contact person for both months if you have questions.

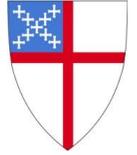
POT LUCK LUNCH is the first Sunday of each month immediately following worship. Bring food to share and enjoy the fellowship.

LUNCH FEEDING PROGRAM: Tuesdays, July 18 and August 15 at the Hope Center in Petersburg.

SEPTEMBER ARCHANGEL DEADLINE:
Monday, August 21, 9:30AM.



St. Michael's Episcopal Church



Web: www.StMichaelsChurchOfColonialHeights.org

E-mail: stmikeschurch@verizon.net

Facebook: St Michael's Episcopal Church Colonial Heights

Diocesan Website: www.diosova.org

Vestry

The Rev. Canon James Drinard Smith, Rector pro tem

Frank Ditri

Jane Elliott

Dale Frazier

Larry Lewis

Catherine Noakes

Torsten Peterson

T. O. Rainey

Tom Thompson

Bob Wilson

Mary Bell, Register

Karen Anderson, Treasurer

Michael Vasiloff, Youth Director

Youth Ministry News

We celebrated the Van Elsacker family last Sunday with our church at White Bank as they leave for Washington state. They will be missed.

At White Bank the youth shared their thoughts and experiences at May weekend. Joseph Gay spoke about his life in EYC and about graduating from VCU. I want to thank Stephon Simmons and Joseph Gay for helping as adult leaders at May Weekend.

I want to give a special thanks to Helen Wagner and Kelly Vasiloff for all they do to help me with EYC.

The EYC will be leading the Feed the Hungry program for the months of July and August on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

There will not be any Sunday school for the youth once the summer schedule starts.

The EYC will start back up on September 10 with Sunday school and the first evening meeting.

Your servant,
Michael

A stylized graphic of the word "SUMMER" in large, bold, colorful letters. The letters are yellow and orange. Above the letter 'M' is a smiling sun character with a face and rays.