

# **ALTAR GUILD**

## **Parish Ministries of St. Paul's Cathedral**

The Altar Guild has 16 active members as well as some retired members who join us when they are able, especially our famous fun activities.

All of our activities that take place regarding the services begin and end in a room called the sacristy which literally means the "room of holy items". In this room our teams of two or three working a two week interval prepare the Altar, not only for the weekly services, at both altars but for funerals or weddings or any other special activity where holy vessels and linens are needed.

It is our responsibility to prepare the linens and the silver to look their absolute best, washing, ironing, folding, buffing the silver, changing the hangings to the appropriate colour, ordering the flowers for memorials and special occasions. We also pull together when it is time to decorate for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. This is a very fun time as much laughter and banter is shared between the workers.

Jim Waldie is our muscle for the Altar Guild and we all treat Jim very well as he does much of the heavy lifting for us as well as buying the wine and the candles, taking care that the Advent wreath and Christmas tree appear and disappear at appropriate times. As well, Jim assumes the responsibility, with a little help from some friends, that the brass and silver is bright and shiny for Christmas and Easter.

The guild meets five times a year and some of these are followed by a lunch. We are thinking of having an early evening meeting for people who are perhaps thinking of joining but are unable to make the day time meetings.

We are looking forward to an opportunity when we are able to put on display our silver and brass and talk to folks about the work that we do in our little room with a fancy name.

We welcome the Dean Ken Gray to our meetings and it is imperative that the Altar Guild works closely with the Ministry team to ensure that our work is indeed worthy as we strive to serve as we are in service to our God.

Miriam Baskin

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