



Patricia Cropper

*Episcopal Church of the Incarnation,
Bloomingdale*



One of the most important particulars to know about Patty Cropper is that she survived motherhood of five boys! That is a daunting life achievement, but that pales next to her dedication to her extended family, friends, and most importantly to Church of the Incarnation. Patty hails from Ohio, but we feel she really found herself home when she settled in Bloomingdale with her husband Walt and began attending the small family church known as Church of the Incarnation, affectionately known as COI.

Patty joined the Incarnation family over 20 years ago at our 8 AM service. It didn't take Patty long to utilize her talents. Her first charge was as a member of the Altar Guild. Quickly mastering all the duties, she became the resident expert of how to clean and repair all things Guild related. As COI went through a downsizing period, the traditional 8 AM Rite I service melded into the 10 AM Rite II service which she bore with grace from her 4th row pew. However, with Patty's resolve and vision, Incarnation adopted both Rites during the yearly church seasons, which makes for a richer worship experience for all. Not only is Patty the head of our Altar Guild, she put her sewing skills to task and single-handedly made two complete sets of altar linens, one in blue for Advent and a red set for multi-congregational worship services like Pentecost. From choosing the perfect fabric at a local fabric store, down to the finishing details and hand stitching, our new altar linens reflect her dedication and love for her church family.

Sewing and Altar Guild aside, Coffee Hour would not be possible without the delicious morsels she prepares each week for our fellowship hour and our monthly Pot Luck lunches. Complete with all goodies served in beautiful bowls and dishes. Epiphany Tea is served with treasured tea pots and fine china place settings, parties are resplendent with all details meeting with Patty's seal of approval, complete with white linen table cloths and beautifully presented food.

From helping clean the church inside and out, leading Morning Prayer when our Vicar is away, representing COI at Annual Diocesan Conventions, lending her voice to song, working at our local Food Pantry, heading our ECW, and giving homebound parishioners rides to and from church, she keeps a "mom's" eye on us all. Patty is not just a member of COI, she is COI!

The Rev. Dr. Marc Strong

Rector