



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Bishop Donald Harvey named Dean of ACNA

Our moderator, Bishop Don has been appointed Dean of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) by Archbishop Robert Duncan. This appointment was unanimously ratified by the ACNA Executive Committee. As dean, Bishop Harvey will support our Primate by representing Archbishop Duncan at various events and meetings both within North America and internationally when the Primate is unable to attend. The Primate's increasingly hectic schedule was causing concern and, with the recent appointment of three suffragan bishops for ANiC, Bishop Don now has more flexibility in his schedule. See the [full news release](#).

Vancouver area congregations appeal court decision

The four Vancouver-area ANiC parishes have filed an appeal of Mr Justice Stephen Kelleher's November 25th BC Supreme Court decision in order to allow the congregations more time to discern whether they should proceed with the appeal. By filing an appeal before the 30-day deadline, the congregations are keeping their options open. See the [news release](#) for more details.

Parish and project news

St George's (Ottawa) – Prior to Christmas, the Rev Paul Donison presented "The 5 minute Christmas story", a dramatic performance taken word-for-word from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Standing outside the church building in downtown Ottawa, Rev Donison gave repeated performance over the lunch hour attracting crowds of office workers and shoppers who also enjoyed carols sung by a St George's choir and received invitations to Christmas services. A number of Ottawa media covered the story including CBC, [the Ottawa Sun](#), and [the Ottawa Citizen](#).

St George's (Burlington/Lowville) – On the weekend of Feb 26-28, Bishop Malcolm Harding will lead a spiritual renewal conference entitled, "Leaning into the wind of the Spirit" at [St George's in Burlington](#). This promises to be a time of spiritual blessing and transformation. For information on this Burlington conference, please email [Betty Pistol](#) or call 905 873-1918 and [see the brochure](#). If you would like Bishop Malcolm to minister in your parish, please see [website for information](#).

St Paul (Stoney Creek, ON) - Bishop Don will celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul with [St Paul Anglican Bible Church](#) on January 17. Visitors are welcome. Services are held at 3pm at John Knox Christian School, 795 Hwy 8, (just east of Fruitland Rd) Fruitland (Stoney Creek).

St Hilda's (Oakville, ON) – The [January Anglican Planet](#) features St Hilda's many community-oriented initiatives, including its annual "garage sale give away" event. Commenting on these initiatives, the St Hilda's rector, the Rev Paul Charbonneau is quoted saying, "*We're really adamant about not taking any money... We want to express the tangible love of Christ for people... There's a surprise element. It opens the door for people to share; it leaves the door wide open.*" The article states "*St. Hilda's is renowned for its generosity to the community... many in Oakville are experiencing the tangible grace of God -- with no strings attached.*"

St Timothy's Anglican Bible Church (West Island, Montreal) – On Sunday, January 3, St Timothy's held an *Evening Extravaganza of Praise & Prayer* to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the congregation's founding. Over 60 members and friends braved a snow storm to join the celebration.

St Aidan's Ministries – The first information meeting for one of the two church plants St Aidan's (Windsor, ON) is nurturing was held last week in Chatham, ON and the [Peterborough Examiner reported](#) on the meeting.

Holy Trinity (Marlborough, MA) – [Photos](#) and [a video](#) from the recent ordinations of four deacons by Bishop Don Harvey at Holy Trinity are now posted to the parish’s website.

Ordering Ginger Group books online

You can now order the Anglican Agenda Series books – authored by the “Ginger Group” and edited by Dr J I Packer – via the [ANiC website](#). You can also order ANiC lapel pins, pens and a variety of other items. Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) pins can be ordered via the [ACNA website](#).

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

- Jan 12 – Meeting of ANiC Examining Chaplains in Toronto
- Jan 13 – Meeting of Archdeacons and Bishops in Toronto
- Jan 13 – [St Aidan’s Ministries](#) meeting in Belle River, ON to discuss a church plant
- Jan 14 – Meeting of Bishops in Toronto
- Feb 26 – 28 – St George’s (Burlington) – Spiritual renewal conference with Bishop Malcolm
- Mar 16 -18 – 5th Annual [ANiC clergy retreat](#) at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)
- Mar 18 – [Ministry leadership seminar](#) at Heritage Seminary, Cambridge ON
- Apr 7-9 – [reFocus Canada](#), a preaching and theology conference, in Burnaby, BC

ANiC in the news

- Abbotsford News – Dec 29 2009 – [Anglican Churches file appeal](#)
- Canadian Christianity – Jan 6 2010 – [Anglican parishes appeal](#)
- Anglican Planet – Dec 27 2009 – [Supreme Court ruling mixed](#)
- Anglican Journal – Jan 8 2010 – [ANiC trustees appeal court decision](#)

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Church planters summit: Feb 22-23 in Plano, Texas

Registration [is now open](#) for the *Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit* at Christ Church, Plano, Texas on February 22-23. Father David Roseberry who is leading the charge on the [1000 new churches](#) initiative, says, “*Church planters, students, young church leaders, bishops, and committed laity from around the continent will gather together for intensive learning and networking sessions. We will share best practices, learn from some of the top leadership in the church planting movement, and hear real church planters tell their story from the frontiers of the mission field.*” Speakers include: Archbishop Duncan, Ed Stetzer, Bishop Todd Hunter, William Beasley, Bishop Doc Loomis and David Roseberry.

Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada expects charitable status soon

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC). We are hopeful that CRA will grant charitable status for the Canadian aid organization soon and ARDFC is already preparing to undertake a malaria prevention project in Kenya. ARDFC is the Anglican Church in North America’s international relief and development arm and ARDFC will allow Canadian Anglicans to donate to specific international aid projects. Since its founding in 2004, ARDFC has partnered in 96 relief and development projects in 32 countries, and has made nearly \$4 million dollars in grants. Currently, it is focusing on: a multipurpose community center in Gambella, Ethiopia; a farming project in the Sudan; and a microfinance project in Bolivia.

Church of England synod set to debate recognition of ACNA

[Ruth Gledhill reports](#) that when the Church of England synod meets in February, it will consider a private member’s motion “calling for the Church of England to declare itself ‘in communion’ with the Anglican Church in North America”. A simple 50 per cent majority is needed to pass the motion.

ACNA launches new website

ACNA has unveiled an improved website at www.anglicanchurch.net. The website connects seekers with one of the more than 765 ACNA churches in North America via its online database and map. ANiC is now working to update listings for our parishes in that database. For those interested in seeing what our detractors have to say about the website [see here](#).

News shorts – Canada

Double tragedy strikes Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) leadership

Please keep Anglican Church of Canada leaders in your prayers as they cope with the sudden and tragic deaths of both [Canon Geoffrey Jackson](#), General Synod's senior development officer and [Gini Pollesel](#), wife of Archdeacon Michael Pollesel, General Secretary of the ACoC. Archdeacon Pollesel was also injured in the car accident that killed his wife.

Diocese of Toronto to host Bishop Gene Robinson

The Cathedral Church of St James in the Diocese of Toronto [invited](#) the controversial Episcopal Church bishop to preach January 10.

Diocese of Montreal to offer blessing for same-sex couples

The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that Bishop Barry Clark is now allowing priests in the Diocese of Montreal "...to bless same-gender couples who have been civilly married. Montreal becomes the fourth diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada to offer a sacrament for same-sex blessing."

Diocese of BC bishop calls for return to Christian beliefs

The [AEC blog](#) draws our attention to a column by Bishop James Cowan in the recent Diocese of BC newspaper in which the bishop identifies growing heresies as a cause of the decline in Anglican churches on Vancouver Island. He concludes, "...unless we couple reduction and restructuring with spiritual renewal and the reclamation of those aspects of faith which are both central and essential to Christianity the downward trends of Anglican 'religion' on these islands will continue."

Bishops pessimistic that sexuality issues will be resolved by General Synod

Reporting on observations by pastoral visitors deputized by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the [Anglican Journal reports](#) that ACoC bishops are generally pessimistic that there will be "any clear resolution of the divisive issue of sexuality at the church's upcoming General Synod in Halifax this June... however, the gathering is bound to be "a watershed both for the (Anglican Church of Canada) and for its wider relations with the Anglican Communion." The article quotes one bishop saying, "We have no heart for any more arguing and certainly have no more energy left; we just wish it would all go away!"

Changes to ACoC pension fund to "cost more, pay less"

The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that "The Council of General Synod (CoGS) has approved changes that will increase the employer contribution paid by dioceses and reduce the amount of pension earned by plan members."

Canadian Anglican news

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 23 2009 – [Priest arrested on child porn charges](#)

Anglican Journal (letter to the editor) – Jan 1 2010 – [Simply un-Christian](#) (regarding litigation)

Anglican Planet – Dec 27 2009 – [Bishop MacDonald: "Catholicity is at stake"](#)

Parksville Qualicum News – Dec 17 2009 – [Proud of their parish](#)

VirtueOnline – Jan 2 2010 – [The fictional world of Canadian Anglican Archbishop Fred Hiltz](#)

Anglican Journal – Jan 1 2010 – [CoGS looks to the future](#)

News shorts – United States

Dr Radner declares TEC of past two centuries "is no more"

In [a paper posted](#) to the Anglican Communion Institute website, Dr Ephraim Radner says, "The Episcopal Church, as it has been known through the past two centuries, is no more, in any substantive sense. TEC is simply no longer the church filled with even the strength of purpose we saw only 10 years ago... That church, shimmering still with some of the vibrancy of love spent for the Gospel seen 140 years before, even 90 years before, is now gone. And TEC will not survive in any real continuity with this past and its gifts." He goes on to say that TEC's active membership has plummeted nearly 20 per cent in the last 10 years, seminaries are closing, and "The Anglican intellectual tradition that is embodied by and that has derived from TEC is bankrupt". While seeing

fault on all sides, he then enumerates evidence of the “*moral unraveling of TEC*”: litigation, public vitriol on blogs, the perversion of canonical order, ignoring pleas of Communion leaders, and theological innovation to accommodate sexual immorality.

Although he acknowledges that “*TEC has become the (necessarily shrinking) institution of the aging, who have less and less to offer...*”, he remains hopeful based on the Anglican Covenant and in “*...the reinvigorating reconfiguration of existing and healthy dioceses, and the refashioning of broken ones and the building up of new things.*”

TEC backs taxpayer funding for abortion

The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that “*...the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice released a letter endorsed by the Episcopal Church... and other liberal religious groups expressing their opposition to an amendment to the health care reform bill before Congress that would remove abortion funding from the proposed legislation.*”

US litigation update

The [LA Times reports](#) that St Luke’s (La Crescenta, California) [is appealing](#) a California court ruling, asking the US Supreme Court to rule on it’s property dispute with the Diocese of Los Angeles and establish a uniform approach for state laws to follow in church property disputes.

US church in the news

Ft Worth Star-Telegram – Dec 25 2009 – [Fort Worth’s Episcopalian split tops 2009’s religion news](#)
CrossWalk – Dec 24 2009 – [Rising from the ashes: The new Anglican Church](#)

News shorts – International

Anglican Covenant

The revised and now final draft of the Anglican Covenant has had a mixed reception. You can read the [full Covenant](#), see [the revisions](#) to the last draft, see [a commentary on those revisions](#), see how [Provinces responded](#) to the earlier draft, and read [the cover letter](#) to the Provinces signed by the Secretary General.

An [Anglican Communion Institute \(ACI\) commentary](#) focuses primarily on who may and may not affirm the covenant and urges churches and dioceses to commit to the Covenant as soon as possible. In discussing a provision for churches not currently listed on the Anglican Consultative Council’s rolls, they note that the Covenant says “*The Instruments of Communion may invite other Churches to adopt the Covenant using the same procedures as set out by the Anglican Consultative Council for the amendment of its schedule of membership. Adoption of this Covenant does not confer any right of recognition by, or membership of, the Instruments of Communion, which shall be decided by those Instruments themselves.*” From this, the ACI concludes that these procedures appear to be “*flexible and responsive to developing circumstances*”.

A former Archbishop of Southeast Asia and Nepal, **the Right Reverend Moses Tay**, is [reported by the Christian Post](#) to strongly oppose the Covenant, going so far as to “*...advise fellow Anglican leaders not to waste their time on church structures which the Bible describes as dung and instead to concentrate on the supreme tasks of evangelism and discipleship, which he has succeeded in doing in America.... To me, at best, it [the Anglican Communion Covenant] is whitewashing so the Church remains one and is not split; a lot of crack underneath is not shown.*” Saying the covenant would not solve the essential problem of the Communion – which is a crisis of biblical orthodoxy – he said, “*The Anglican Covenant cannot be of God because if you try to keep the light and darkness together, righteous and immoral together, to say we are a church, it’s disparaging the meaning of covenant... the covenant is a very sacred thing... [It is] God saying, ‘You will be Mine.’ ... If you are using the sacred word to include dirt; that use of the word is an abomination.*”

[The Rev Dr Leander Harding](#) reflected, “*When I was a young man and entering into a business contract for the first time, I asked my father for some advice about the enforceability of a particular contract. He told me that if a man’s word wasn’t any good, his paper wasn’t any good either. In*

many cases the current chaos that we are experiencing in the Churches of the Anglican Communion is not a result of a lack of articulated rules and procedures of church discipline, but is the result of an unwillingness by those charged with the stewardship of the order of the church to enforce such discipline as has already been established. This version of the Anglican Covenant is a minimalist document. It does clarify issues of communion life and order and provide an agreed-upon process for handling disputes. It can be a real instrument for growth in truth, unity and mission, but only if those to whom the responsibility has been given to be stewards of the church's order have the necessary moral courage to fulfill their office."

[The Rev Matt Kennedy of Stand Firm in Faith](#), expressed his reservations: "My problem with the Covenant is that it enshrines the Communion itself as... the norm by which all other norms, including scripture and tradition, are to be normed. Many leaders in the ACNA support signing the Covenant. I am not there yet. I think the Covenant is a sub-Christian document."

[A S Haley, aka the Anglican Curmudgeon](#) in a lengthy analysis said, "How will the Covenant be able to bring unity out of such discord? That is just the problem -- it won't; it cannot... The reason is that the Archbishop of Canterbury has largely allowed ECUSA and ACoC to call their own shots... in reality he has little authority to do more, and even less inclination to assert any more authority than he already has asserted... Those who are pushing for its adoption will want to sign it just as a means of differentiating themselves from ECUSA and the ACoC... it appears that the Primates of the Global South will endorse the Ridley Draft [as early as next April](#). And to tell the truth, it will only be by signing on to the Covenant that the Global South will be able to participate in the use of its mechanisms to limit the further damage being done by ECUSA and ACoC... it is a fair guess that at least three-fourths of the member churches of the Communion, and perhaps even fourth fifths or more, will sign on to the Covenant."

Additional analyses:

Religious Intelligence – Jan 7 2010 – [Confidence in the Covenant?](#)

Covenant Communion – Jan 6 2010 – [Is the Anglican Covenant Non-Anglican?](#)

Anglican Mainstream – Dec 20 2009 – [Reflections on an Anglican Covenant](#)

Leander Harding – Dec 2009 – [Response to the Announcement of the Anglican Covenant](#)

Traditional Anglican Communion leader responds to pope's offer

In [a recent address](#), Archbishop John Hepworth of the Traditional Anglican Communion, has indicated receptivity to the Vatican's recent overtures. He says, "Catholic communion is not an idea, nor the acceptance of a set of beliefs. It is standing together at the Altar of God, affirming one faith and receiving together the one Body and Blood of the Christ who is God and brother. Our bishops have realized from the start of our separation from the Anglican Communion that it was a separation of pilgrimage. Pilgrimage must have a goal. Our goal was the healing of catholic disunity, that Anglicans had sought and then abandoned."

News from around the Communion

Zimbabwe – [Zimbabwean media report](#) that the deposed, pro-Mugabe ex-bishop of Harare, Nolbert Kunonga, continues to use his political influence to subvert justice, have police arrest Anglican leaders and prevent parishioners from worshipping in their churches all in contravention of court orders. The news reports stated that "...pro-Kunonga police units went around most of the Anglican parishes in the high density areas of Harare threatening parishioners who were trying to attend services on Christmas Eve – and this despite an agreement achieved in court to allow services to proceed undisturbed. The [Anglican Journal](#) quotes the current Bishop of Harare, Chad Gandiya, saying, "As Anglicans it seems we have no legal recourse in this country... The police are interfering in our church services without restraint, and continue to defy existing court orders. The police are supposed to be protecting us but they are the ones harassing us."

Global South - In a [National Post article](#), reporter Charles Lewis documents the shift in Christianity's "centre of gravity" to the developing "global south".

Nigeria – Ruth Gledhill [reports in the Times](#) that there has been more violence unleashed by a radical Muslim sect in northern Nigeria with eight deaths. She says, “...religious violence has already cost the lives of over 50,000 people since 1999...”

West Indies – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that “The Bishop of Barbados, Dr John Holder has been elected Primate of the Church of the Province of the West Indies” – replacing Archbishop Drexel Gomez.

Persecution of Christians

Muslim countries – The Wall Street Journal carries [a rare article](#) entitled *Islamic Christianophobia* which documents some of the hardship and violence endured by Christians living in predominantly Muslim countries. It states, “...few groups have suffered as grievously as Christians in Muslim lands. Fewer still have suffered with such little attention paid.... In its annual World Watch List, Open Doors ranks eight Muslim countries among the 10 worst persecutors of Christians. The other two, North Korea (which tops the list) and Laos, are communist states. Of the 50 countries on the list, 35 are majority Muslim. In many Muslim lands, conversion to Christianity carries a death sentence.

The article concludes: “It might seem natural that at least some attention would be paid in the West to the plight of these Christians. Instead, attention seems endlessly focused on “Islamophobia”... But the West’s tolerance for its large Muslim populations stands in sharp contrast to the Muslim world’s bigotry and persecution of its own religious minorities.”

A similar [National Post article](#) notes that Saudi Arabia, a western ally, is particularly “horrific when it comes to religious liberty” It also notes that “...64 countries — about one-third of all nations — had “high or very high restrictions on religion... [and] nearly 70% of the world’s 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion...”

North Korea is said to be the harshest persecutor of Christians and [Christian Today reports](#) that persecution in the country is worsening as the economy collapses even more. One person who has escaped the country reports that “It is like a giant prison camp has crossed the land. Starvation spreads out over the entire nation; it has become the norm.”

Egypt – Christians are experiencing increased persecution, including the abduction, forced marriage and conversion of girls. [Spero News reports](#) that five Coptic Christians were killed in a drive-by shooting as they left church on January 7 – the day Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas.

International media coverage

Church Times – Dec 31 2009 – [Anglican Churches sent final text of Covenant – ‘not a penal code’](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 18 2009 – [New call for lesbian bishop to be blocked](#)

The American Conservative – Feb 01 2010 – [Come all ye faithful: Benedict’s counter-reformation](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 11 2009 – [Schism ‘now inevitable’ for Anglican Communion](#)

BBC – Dec 24 2009 – [Archbishop of York condemns Ugandan anti-gay bill](#)

The Independent – Jan 5 2010 – [Pro-Mugabe bishop locks out faithful](#)

Anglican Journal – Dec 30 2009 – [Nearly 70 percent of world faces religious restrictions says report](#)

Soul food

Made in God’s image, marred by sin

Abortion – After years of denying any link, a US National Cancer Institute researcher [has admitted](#) that both abortion and the use of oral contraceptives significantly increase breast cancer risks. This conclusion is corroborated by a recent study by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, as well as by studies conducted in Turkey and China.

Worth reading

The [National Post Christmas Eve editorial](#) clearly and poignantly explains the true meaning of Christmas, taking the reader through the Bible to show how God’s promise to Abraham is fulfilled in

Christ. The editorial says, “*In Christ all things hold together. All things, Christians believe, not just their own spiritual things. In Jesus Christ, to look at man is to look at God. In Jesus Christ, the God who lovingly and freely created the mighty galaxies and the lilies of the field now comes as man to redeem and to save that very same creation.*”

The Anglican Planet recommends [some excellent biographies](#) of Christian saints, including Augustine, Calvin, Wesley, Newton and Wilberforce.

Just for fun

95-year-old Lenora was in excellent health and her pastor thoroughly enjoyed his regular visits with her. But on one visit, she simply wasn't her usual cheerful, encouraging self. He could see Lenora was worried. After some coaxing, she finally confided, "Every one of my friends has died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!" www.mikeysFunnies.com

Please pray...

For our **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes** – especially for a St Aidan's Ministries' church plant organizational meeting in Belle River (Jan 13).

For our **bishops and rectors** – especially for **Bishop Don** in his new role as Dean of ACNA as well as for the meeting of our bishops and leaders on January 12-14.

For **Bishop Malcolm's spiritual renewal mission** at St George's in Burlington, Feb 26-28.

For the **ministry of ANiC congregations**; that we would share the Good News with those around us who need to meet our Lord & Saviour.

For the legal cases

- For the **four Vancouver area ANiC parishes** and their lawyers who are considering proceeding with an appeal of the November 25 court decision. May God grant clarity and unity.
- For the **Windsor case** (involving St Aidan's) which is being dealt with in London, Ontario.
- For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil.
- For sufficient contributions to the **Legal Defence Fund** so that legal costs can be covered and the churchwardens and trustees are not at personal financial risk. The Ontario parishes, in particular, need greater financial support at this time.
- For the **leaders and parishioners of the dioceses** pursuing eviction of and damages against ANiC congregations and wardens in court.
- That **God will be glorified** in all court proceedings.

Praise God for the interim negotiated agreement with the Diocese of Niagara providing stability for **St George's, St Hilda's and Good Shepherd**.

For the granting of charitable status to the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada**.

For the leadership of the **Anglican Church of Canada** grieving two recent deaths.

For our fellow Anglicans and other **Christians facing violent persecution** in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Muslim lands and Communist countries, especially North Korea.

And now a word from our sponsor

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!