



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Welcome to ANiC's first parish in Calgary

ANiC now has a parish in Calgary. The congregation of about 80 families held their first service May 1 in rented premises, leaving behind their former building. They will be taking some time to recalibrate their vision for ministry in their community and consider a name for the church. For now, they will be known as the *ANiC Calgary Project* and will meet at 1pm in the facilities of New Life Community Church at 7642 22 Street SE, Calgary. On May 6-8, Bishop Trevor Walters will be in Calgary to officially welcome the congregation into ANiC. Then, on May 15, an 8:30am Book of Common Prayer service will be added to the 1pm Eucharist.

Please pray for this fledgling parish and especially for the special services this coming weekend.

Welcome to three new ANiC priests

Bishop Donald Harvey has welcomed the Rev Jonathan Gibson (Calgary, AB), the Rev Ruth Lillington (Calgary, AB) and the Rev Jonathan Wong (Toronto, ON) as priests in ANiC. The Rev Gibson was the long-time rector of the Anglican Church of Canada's St Augustine (Calgary, AB) and is now rector of ANiC's newest congregation, the ANiC Calgary Project. Jonathan's reasons for leaving the Anglican Church of Canada and joining ANiC are [posted to the ANiC website](#). As is [his first sermon](#) at the new ANiC parish.

The Rev Ruthy Lillington is honorary assistant to the Rev Gibson in the new ANiC Calgary Project.

The Rev Jonathan Wong was ordained and served in the Diocese of Singapore before coming to Toronto in 2009 to study at Wycliffe. He is active in Christ The King Toronto.

Prayer requested

- **Bishop Charlie Masters** has been unwell and is taking time off to recuperate, returning to his duties as ANiC national director and Suffragan Bishop for Central and Eastern Canada in June. Please pray for him and for Judy, his wife. Also please uphold Bishop Don Harvey who is temporarily assuming Bishop Charlie's ecclesial duties and John MacDonald who has taken on Bishop Charlie's duties as national director until his return. Parish intercession through out the month of May would be appreciated.
- **St Aidan's (Windsor, ON)** will be in court beginning May 9 in London. Please uphold in prayer Pastor Tom Carman, the parish leaders and the congregation during this time. Pastor Tom says, "*It is unfortunate that the diocese was unwilling to wait for the outcome of the case currently under consideration by the Supreme Court of Canada, avoiding this unnecessary expense. But God is good and we are confident He will provide for all our needs.*"
- **Discernment of Vocation Event (DOVE)** – Please pray for the DOVE gathering ANiC is holding this weekend near Hamilton. The three-day event allows those who believe God is calling them to ordination – either as a priest or deacon – to meet with a group of assessors to test their call. Each candidate is able to meet one-on-one with three different assessors to explore the validity of their call and their readiness for ministry. The assessors then help candidates determine if they are ready now, need training and development, or should consider other career paths. There will be 14 candidates attending the DOVE this weekend.

ANiC parishioners are reminded to complete a survey

If you haven't yet completed the ANiC survey, please do so as soon as possible. The deadline is

May 14. All ANiC parishioners 18 and older are asked to participate in this short survey. The information gathered will help ANiC's development team plan for ANiC's growth and sustainability. For more information and to take the survey now, please [see the ANiC website](#). Parishioners without Internet access can get paper copies of the survey from their rector. Thanks so much!

Parish news

[St Andrew's Church](#) (Delta, BC) is seeking a part-time minister (16 hours per week). The job description is [posted](#) on the [St Andrew's website](#). May 31, 2011 is the deadline for applications.

[Holy Trinity Anglican Church](#) (Marlborough, MA) – On Saturday, May 21 Bishop Don intends to ordain Bruce Alden Thayer as a Deacon (transitional) in the Church of God. Dr Thayer, a retired surgeon who recently completed his theological studies at Trinity School for Ministry, will be part of Archdeacon McKinnon's staff. Please pray for him, his wife Susan, and their family.

[St Timothy's Anglican Bible Church](#) (Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC), on Montreal's West Island, is holding a "Great Garage Giveaway Sale" on Saturday, June 25 – following the example of St Hilda's (Oakville, ON) and other churches. The congregation is also planning a youth barbeque possibly including a Christian band. Work is underway to generate media coverage – in both French and English. Pray for good contacts and opportunities to minister to community members.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

May 7, 10am-4pm – St Matthias & St Luke's (Vancouver) [bazaar fundraiser](#)

May 14, 6-9:30pm – St John's (Vancouver) Malawi mission team fundraiser

May 21 – [Holy Trinity](#) (Marlborough, MA) – Ordination of Bruce Thayer to the diaconate

May 28 – Moncton, NB [church planting workshop](#)

June 6-20 – Asian Mission [short-term mission trip](#) to Thailand and the Karan refugee camps

June 25 – [St Timothy's](#) (Montreal, QC) garage sale giveaway and youth barbeque

June 30 – July 14 – Asian Mission [short-term mission trip](#) to China, working with disabled orphans

June (TBD) – Marlborough, MA [church planting workshop](#)

July 22-24 – [St Matthias & St Luke's](#) church camp with Bishop Don

Nov 2 – ANiC Clergy Day & laity spiritual life conference – both in Victoria, BC

Nov 3-4 – [ANiC synod](#), Victoria, BC

On the front lines: Growing and planting churches

Parish profile: All Saints' Anglican Church (Rutland, Vermont, USA)

[All Saints'](#), a mission of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, (Marlborough, MA), is a bright light in a dark and economically challenged community. Begun just over two years ago, All Saints' has an average Sunday attendance (ASA) of 50 parishioners who gather in a small rented Lutheran church building at 4pm on Sunday for a mass in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. All Saints' also offers worship on most holy days.

Father Deacon Dwight MacPherson, who gives spiritual leadership to the parish under the oversight of Archdeacon Michael McKinnon, says the congregation is growing and likely will grow much more when All Saints' is able to move to Sunday morning services in addition to the late afternoon service.

While the congregation struggles financially, the deeply depressed local economy also provides tremendous opportunity for ministry in faithfulness to God's call. Many of All Saints' ministries – and there are many! – are undertaken in collaboration with other Bible-believing churches in town, including the Salvation Army, Lutheran, Methodist and Baptists. Some ministries are focused on feeding and caring for the poor and homeless, while others minister to shut-ins, hospital patients and nursing home residents.

An annual summer Vacation Bible School is a highlight for the children, while monthly men's breakfasts attract many from outside the church. The men's group plans to become known as "Helping Hands", offering handyman services to community members in need. This summer, All

Saints' parishioners are planning a "Summer Fling" community fair, followed by a fall outreach "Taste-of-Chocolate" event, featuring a Celtic band.

But All Saints' isn't just about doing good works. Every ministry is evangelistic, tangibly demonstrating God's love and earning the right to share the Good News of forgiveness and acceptance into God's family through Jesus Christ. And community members are noticing. Referring to All Saints', a non-churched community leader recently told Father MacPherson that he'd never seen such a little light shine so brightly.

Practical ideas for planting and growing churches

Bishop Ron Ferris has developed some very practical suggestions for those involved in planting and growing new churches. You can access the document on the [ANiC website](#).

Upcoming conferences for church planters and leaders of new churches

ANiC's church planting working group has organized a series of regional conferences this spring offering insights for both planting new churches and growing existing congregations. Upcoming conferences include:

Moncton, NB	May 28	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Marlborough, MA	June (TBD)	Contact the Ven Michael McKinnon

News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

New ACNA brochure

Our province, the Anglican Church in North America, has developed [a very attractive brochure](#) for the use of member congregations. It showcases the ACNA's mission and explains our core beliefs. ACNA churches are encouraged to download this tri-fold brochure and get it professionally printed for use by parishioners and the public.

Prayer for victims of tornados

You are asked to pray for those affected by the devastating tornadoes that ripped across southern US states recently, leaving 340 dead and thousands injured. A [statement from the ACNA](#) says, *"The Anglican Church has 18 member congregations in the state [of Alabama, the worst hit] and while reports from clergy and staff are still coming in, no injuries or fatalities within our parishes have been reported. To our knowledge, none of our member churches in the South was completely devastated, but several experienced property damage, including torn off roofs and fallen trees... We humbly request your prayers for all who have been affected and for our parishes as they not only discern what must be done within their own bodies, but reach out to help the grieving and assist in the relief efforts."*

New bishop for new ACNA diocese

Bishop Rogers Ames [was installed](#) as the first bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes, a recently formed ACNA diocese which includes 21 churches in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

Our Primate's Easter message

In his [Easter message](#), Archbishop Robert Duncan contrasts the darkest night when Jesus was in the tomb with the brightest day when he arose. Archbishop Bob writes:

We who gather here for worship on this Easter near the beginning of the 21st century face a world of competing ideologies and pagan savageries. The choice remains one of whether night will follow day, or day will follow night... Jesus presents the choice. His cross and empty tomb present a doorway into a very different future, the difference (and the doorway) between night and day. Our call is to live in the day, both by deed and by word. Our call is to the transformation of the world with the love and light of Jesus. We can help one another to live abundantly in the day, and we can help others to choose Jesus and the new day He offers. It is a matter of life and death, of day and night... In thanksgiving for what Jesus has done for us, let us be agents of the same Easter choice for others. We know that day does follow night for those who make the Easter choice.

US legal update

- **Virginia** – The legal case involving seven ACNA parishes in Virginia [began again](#) last week and is expected to take six weeks.
- **Texas** – The Episcopal Church [has launched](#) another law suit against the parish, rector and three trustees of ACNA's St Francis (El Paso, TX) seeking up to \$750,000 in punitive damages from each of the defendants. Dr Felix Orji, formerly a priest at what is now ANiC's St John's Vancouver and newly elected bishop in ACNA, is rector of St Francis.

News -- Canada

Anglican Church of Canada news

- **Diocese of Moosonee contemplates dissolution** – The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that the future of the financially strapped Anglican Church of Canada Diocese of Moosonee will be decided by its synod in June. One option is to dissolve and transfer its 26 parishes to other dioceses. The diocese covers part of northern Ontario and northern Quebec.
- **Canons resign** – The [AEC blogs notes](#) that two priests have resigned as canons of the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal due to their conviction that the appointment of a Dean in a partnered same-sex relationship goes against clear Scriptural teaching.
- **Toronto church authorized to proceed with same-sex blessings** – An email from St John's West Toronto announces that, "*Effective immediately, St. John's Church West Toronto has been designated by Archbishop Colin Johnson as the first Anglican parish in Toronto permitted to celebrate Same Gender Blessings.*"

Leadership conference in BC

The Anglican Coalition in Canada, one of ANiC's partners, is holding a church leadership conference featuring Dr Terry Walling. It will take place May 25-27 in Richmond, BC. For information see the [ACiC website](#).

Traditional Anglican congress in Victoria

A [congress of traditional Anglicans](#) will be held in Victoria, June 1-4, gathering parishioners from the Anglican Catholic Church and the Anglican Province of Christ the King – both rather small denominations. The conference will focus on reaffirming the *Affirmation of St Louis*, which dates back to 1977 when some congregations left the established North American Anglican Churches when the ordination of female priests was at issue. While some in these congregations are planning to join the Roman Catholic Church's Anglican Ordinariate once it is set up in North America, others including those attending this conference, oppose this move. David Virtue [provides more detail](#).

More Canadian news

Church of England Newspaper – April 29 2011 – [Canadian 'no' to communion without baptism](#)

News – United States

Links to more US news

Church of England Newspaper – April 21 2011 – [Covenant anti-democratic and un-Anglican, Los Angeles says](#)

News – International

New chairman of GAFCon Primates Council elected

Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, primate of the Anglican Church of Kenya, and a former student at Wycliffe College (Toronto), has been elected chairman of the GAFCon Primates Council at their meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. He takes over from Bishop Greg Venables who stepped down as Primate of the Southern Cone last fall. [The announcement from GAFCon](#) asks for pray for the GAFCon Primates, that they would be "*faithful to God's call*". It also reminds us that "*GAFCON is made up of Anglican archbishops, bishops, clergy and laity from around the world. We include*

Provinces that contain the majority of the active membership of the Anglican Communion. We joyfully acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ, believe in the trustworthiness of God's Word and the transforming power of God's Spirit."

From around the Communion and the world

Egypt – The [Church Times reports](#) that Christians in Egypt are less secure since the popular uprising in January. Fearing increased radicalization of the Islamic majority, many are making plans to immigrate to Canada and elsewhere.

Nigeria – The [media report](#) that over 500 are dead following post-election rioting by Muslims in northern Nigeria. However, the Primate of Nigeria, Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, [has indicated](#) that he believes the rioting was planned even prior to the vote – which [international observers said](#) was relatively free and fair, a first for that country. Thousands of Nigerians have fled their homes in the wake of the violence. [Compass Direct News also reports](#) that 200 churches were destroyed.

China – Quoting a ChinaAid document, the [Church Times reports](#) that known incidents of Chinese government persecution of Christians has increased sharply. Many have been arrested, tortured and imprisoned. Asking for prayer, the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada reports](#) that 169 Christians were arrested on April 10 as they tried to attend an open-air church meeting in Beijing.

Solomon Islands – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the earthquake-generated tsunami that devastated northern Japan also caused considerable damage in the Solomon Islands, 3700 miles to the south. A three metre wave washed inland destroying many homes and damaging diocesan property, but thankfully no one was killed.

UK – The Archbishop of York [endorsed](#) Prince William's choice to live with Kate Middleton prior to their recent marriage, saying modern couples want to "test the milk before they buy the cow".

More international news

Church of England Newspaper – April 21 2011 – [West Jerusalem parish reborn](#)

Church of England Newspaper – April 29 2011 – [Kampala Cathedral selling shares](#)

Church of England Newspaper – April 29 2011 – [Anglicans kicked out of doors again... in Harare](#)

Soul food

Of interest

- **Youth website** – Explore *Fevr*, [an award-winning Australian Christian youth website](#).
- **Cost of discipleship** – Dr Albert Mohler [discusses insights](#) offered by research into why some churches grow, while others decline. Several decades ago, one researcher found that healthy churches tend to offer members uncompromising, clear theology and demand high standards of behaviour and belief.

Just for fun

A Sunday school teacher was talking to her class of five and six year olds about going to heaven. She asked, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get in to heaven?"

All the children answered, "NO!"

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get in to heaven?"

Again their response was, "NO!"

She then asked, "So, how can I get to heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "I know, I know. You gotta be dead!"

Please pray...

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families – especially for restored health for Bishop Charlie
 For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, and for their proclamation of the Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ – especially for the newly formed *ANiC Calgary Project* and its special services this weekend

For the four Vancouver-area ANiC parishes and their legal counsel as they await the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on their application for leave to appeal

For other ongoing legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, especially the trial involving **St Aidan's (Windsor)** beginning on **May 9** in London.

For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility

For the **leaders and parishioners of the ACoC dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal costs against ANiC congregations, clergy and wardens

For donations **to the ANiC legal defense fund** which supports parishes involved in disputes with their former dioceses

For the implementation by the Diocese of Maseno West (Kenya) of the [malaria prevention project](#) which **ARDFC** is sponsoring. May God use it to bless Kenyans with better health – and bring many to Christ

For the people of **Japan** and **Christchurch, NZ**. May they turn to God and find comfort and hope

For **persecuted Christians** especially in China, North Korea, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and other Muslim and Communist lands

For countries in **Africa and the Middle East** where radical Muslims are seeking to leverage the political instability to gain control

For repentance and revival in **our hearts and in our nation**, for a hunger for God and His Word

For all those in positions of leadership and influence in the **Anglican Communion**, that they would seek to honour and obey God above all else

And now a word from our sponsor

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!

Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

O you who love the Lord, hate evil!

He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!