



Handle with prayer

ANiC news

ANiC and ACNA events calendar

June 30, 4pm – Ordination to the diaconate of evangelist Tom Lo of Good Shepherd, Calgary
June 30, 3pm – Ordination to the diaconate of Marty Fraser at Good Shepherd, St Catharines, ON
October 21-26 – GAFCon 2 international gathering in Nairobi, Kenya
October 31 – November 3 – ANiC Clergy Retreat in New England
November 9 – ANiC's electronic synod at 1:30pm eastern time
November 5-7, 2014 – Gathering of ANiC synod at a location to be determined

Welcoming our newest church: Good Shepherd (South Asian) in Calgary, AB!

A new church plant, Good Shepherd (South Asian) in Calgary, Alberta has joined ANiC. The forming congregation is currently led by rector warden Rajiv Singh, with Bishop Stephen Leung acting as priest-in-charge.

Please pray for this congregation which is ANiC's first ministry among the large South Asian community in Canada. Pray specifically for the search of for a rental venue for Sunday service. Currently, the congregation meets in Rajiv's home. Also pray for God's provision for a priest.

Calgary ranks third in Canada in proportion of visible minorities, just behind Toronto and Vancouver. The South Asian community in Calgary, mainly Indian and Pakistani, is the second largest visible minority group. The vision of this ANiC church plant is to reach out to those who speak Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi. Many of them miss their cultural and religious customs – worshipping the Lord in their own language(s) and singing geet (hymns) and zaboors (psalms) which give them spiritual nourishment.

Ordination and confirmations

On **June 30** at 4pm, **Tom Lo** will be ordained a deacon (transitional) by Bishop Stephen Leung at [Good Shepherd Cantonese](#), Calgary, 503 - 30 Ave NW Calgary, AB. Please pray for Tom and the growing Chinese congregation in Calgary. And if you can, do encourage Tom by your attendance.

Also on **June 30** at 3pm, Bishop Charlie Masters will ordain **Marty Fraser** as deacon (transitional) at [Good Shepherd Church, St Catharines ON](#). Marty has served as lay pastor of the congregation at [The Way in Stayner, ON](#) (Wasaga Beach area). Please pray for Marty and for God's blessing on the people of The Way.

A confirmation service is planned at [Christ The King \(Toronto, ON\)](#) on **June 23** with Bishop Charlie Masters presiding. On June 2, Bishop Trevor Walters confirmed eight parishioners at [Saint Matthew's \(Abbotsford, BC\)](#). And on June 16 Bishop Stephen Leung confirmed three at [St Matthias and St Luke \(Vancouver, BC\)](#).

ANiC parish jobs

We have a number of [job openings posted](#). Do you know someone who should apply?

- Rector, Good Shepherd (St Catharines, ON)
- Priest-in-charge, Good Shepherd (South Asian) Calgary, AB
- Rector at Christ the King (Edmonton, AB)
- Rector (part-time) at Faith Anglican in Embrun, ON (near Ottawa)
- Parish administrator at St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa, ON)
- Receptionist (part-time) at St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa, ON)

- Youth & family ministry coordinator (part-time) at Emmaus (Montreal, QC)
- Executive Director, St John's Vancouver

Welcoming Jessica back

ANiC is blessed to have Jessica Underdown returning on July 8 to her former role as executive administrative assistant in the ANiC diocesan office in Burlington, ON. She left earlier this year to pursue an opportunity in the corporate world but discovered that that her heart is for ministry. We missed you Jessica and are so grateful that God is calling you back!

ANiC council sets dates for future synods, revises MOUs, deals with canons matters

Meeting in Ottawa June 6-7, ANiC's Council has decided to bring several minor changes to ANiC's canons to the electronic gathering of synod this fall.

Also, in order to fully align with ANiC's canons, the Memoranda of Agreement (MOUs) signed by ANiC congregations has been rewritten. This will mean that all ANiC congregations will need to review and resign these revised MOUs. Congregation leaders will receive a letter on this matter in the next few weeks.

Council also set the following dates for synod gatherings:

9 November 2013 – electronic synod at 1:30pm eastern time

5-7 November 2014 – location to be determined

Cuba calling

Bishop Trevor Walters and a small team of ANiC members recently returned from Cuba where they were exploring opportunities to partner with Biblically faithful Anglicans in Cuba. Already, ANiC's Mountain Valley Mission (Squamish, BC) has partnered with the church in San Pablo, Hoguein. You can read a report from the trip and see some photos on the Rev Barclay Mayo's [blog](#).

For many years, Bishop Charles and Claudia Dorrington (of the Reformed Episcopal Church or REC) which, like ANiC, is a diocese in the ACNA) have been working in Cuba where the "*harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few*". You can see photos of Bishop Dorrington's ministry in Cuba [on YouTube](#).

Now ANiC churches have the opportunity to join this ministry. As ANiC's coordinator for the Cuban ministry, Barclay+ will be contacting parishes about opportunities to be part of what God is doing in Cuba. The plan is to take representatives from at least three more ANiC parishes to Cuba in January 2014 to see the work first-hand. If this might interest you and your congregations please [email](#) Barclay+ or call him at (604) 815-8309.

Life-changing trip to Israel

October 31 to November 11, the Rev Sharon Hayton is leading a Shoresh Study Tour to Israel. For information and pricing on the trip this fall, [email](#) Irene Bryant or call 778-440-1677. For a complete itinerary of the trip, see www.cmjcanada.ca.

The 46 "pilgrims" from Saint Matthew's (Abbotsford, BC), who recently returned from a Shoresh Tour in Israel, rave about the experience. Cathy Bailey comments on how well they were cared for by the organizers and calls it a "*stellar experience*" and the "*trip of a lifetime*". Bonnie and Brian Earle write "*Shoresh Study Tours provides an experience that changes the way you read your Bible and hear scripture – it brings it to life! The history and geography of the Holy Land, especially that from Old Testament times, is something that we (as cradle Anglicans) had never really studied extensively. Learning Old Testament history makes the entire New Testament much more meaningful and walking in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples throughout the area surrounding the Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem is so amazing it has to be experienced...*"

Dr Packer challenges our ethic of self-sufficiency and adulation of strength

Dr J I Packer's most recently published book is on a counter-cultural topic. In [Weakness is the Way](#) he examines 2 Corinthians, draws on his own experience and that of others, and teaches us "...the

importance of embracing our own frailty, and... [looking] to Christ for strength, affirmation, and contentment.” It helps us find “...the path from discouragement to freedom in light of our all-sufficient God.” You can also read a review of the book [here](#).

Uganda bound

The Rev Geoffrey and Rosalind Dixon, members of Christ's Church Oceanside (Nanose Bay, BC) are returning to Uganda for two months leaving September 3. This is their sixth tour of duty under [Africa Community Technical Service](#); they are working with church leaders in a Discipleship Training Program. After receiving the training, the Ugandan church leaders have taken on the responsibility of going back to the villages and teaching their own people to be Christian disciples. Last year, the first course (Life to the Full) was translated into the local language, making it easier for the leaders to teach their people. Starting with 24 students six years ago, now more than 500 have taken the training in the Anglican Diocese of Ankole.

Congratulations Karen!

Karen Stiller was honoured by the Canadian Church Press and given the A C Forrest Memorial Award for her article “[A Visit to the World's Newest Country](#)”. The award is presented for excellence in socially conscious religious journalism. Karen is senior editor for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's [Faith Today magazine](#) and is married to the Rev Brent Stiller, rector of ANiC's [New Song Church](#) (Port Perry, ON). You can subscribe to [Faith Today online](#) at no cost.

Parish and regional news

[Grace Anglican \(Calgary, AB\)](#) has a newly appointed rector. The Rev Robert Stringer will take up this ministry effective August 1. While they sought a new rector, this vibrant congregation has been led this past year by their faithful associate priest, the Rev Ruthy Lillington.

Be sure to email your parish news to [Marilyn Jacobson](#). During the summer months, the newsletter will be issued monthly, so please provide your parish news well in advance. Thanks!

Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) news

Read ACNA's magazine online

The latest edition of our Province's magazine, [The Apostle](#), is now online. It features stories on Anglican Chaplaincy, a new Anglican publishing house, and ARDF's work in the Congo.

Church planting regional gatherings

Anglican1000, ACNA's church-planting catalyst, is holding seven regional events around North America beginning in mid-summer in Seattle and ending spring 2014 in Toronto. “*There will be tracks for church planter assessment, training and coaching as well as leadership development, congregational development, youth ministry, campus ministry, global mission, and more.*”

Check the dates and locations below and plan to attend the one nearest you. For more information, see the [Anglican1000 website](#).

- Seattle, WA – August 5-10
- Boston, MA – September 16-21
- Houston, TX – October 7-12
- Phoenix, AZ – January 13-18, 2014
- Atlanta, GA – Feb 10-15, 2014
- Chicago, IL – March 10-15, 2014
- Toronto, ON – May 20-24, 2014

ACNA DVD entertains while effectively explaining Anglicanism

The ACNA is promoting a DVD of a “... *delightful one-act play... [that] answers the question “What is Anglicanism?”* The 45-minute drama, which is getting excellent reviews, is entitled *Surprising Merrily*. The storyline focuses on a television talk show host's “...*prickly interview of historical Anglicans Thomas Cranmer, Richard Hooker, and C S Lewis.*” Dr J I Packer has given the

production his stamp of approval, calling it, “*Sound, stimulating, satisfying. A first-rate introduction to real Anglicanism.*”

The DVD was produced by Hollywood professionals and is said to be accurate and entertaining without being “churchy”. It is intended to help ACNA members understand the distinctives and be able to explain Anglicanism to others. The DVD is suitable for viewing at home or by entire Church congregations. You can read more and see a trailer [on the ACNA website](#).

[Anglican House Publishers](#), the ACNA’s newly created publishing company, will **gift one copy to churches** which promise to screen the play for their congregation. To request your free copy, send an email to merrily@ahpub.org. For those congregations which might be interested in staging the one-act play themselves, it is available in print (hardcover) on [Amazon](#).

ACNA leadership meetings this week

Please pray for God’s hand on the meetings this week of the Archbishop’s Executive Cabinet, ACNA’s Executive Committee, the Provincial Council and the College of Bishops.

The Falls Church (Virginia) denied appeal

The Virginia Supreme Court [has denied](#) the petition of The Falls Church, which is one of the largest congregations in the ACNA, for a rehearing. This leaves intact the original decision which took away most of their substantial properties – both land and funds.

Ancient Future conference

Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA recently hosted the [Ancient Evangelical Future Conference](#). Video of the keynote sessions is available [on AnglicanTV](#).

Tornado relief

Please continue to pray for the people of St James in Oklahoma City as they spearhead ACNA’s efforts to bring aid to the victims of the tornadoes which devastated the Oklahoma City area. St James is part of ACNA’s International Diocese under Bishop Bill Atwood. More information is [on the ACNA website](#). Also Bishop Atwood writes about the disaster and relief efforts [on the American Anglican Council website](#). And in light of this tragedy, Dr Albert Mohler discusses the “[Goodness of God and the reality of evil](#)”.

Anglican Communion

Archbishop of Canterbury meets Pope Francis

Archbishop Justin Welby had an audience with Pope Francis in Rome last week. Archbishop Welby is reported to have told Pope Francis that “*It is only as the world sees Christians growing visibly in unity that it will accept through us the divine message of peace and reconciliation.*” The pope urged the Archbishop to promote the sacredness of human life and the importance of the traditional family unit. The pope also thanked Anglicans for trying to understand the creation of the Anglican Ordinariate within the Roman Catholic Church and said he hoped it would result in Anglican liturgy becoming more widely known and used by Catholics worldwide. The full addresses of both Pope Francis and Archbishop Welby are on the Anglican Communion’s [news website](#).

Bishops continue dialogue “with great hope”

The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that 18 bishops from around the communion completed a fourth meeting intended to promote reconciliation and healing divisions in the Communion. The Anglican Church of Canada has taken the lead in organizing these meetings and reports that while divisions over sexuality remain, friendships among the bishops are forming. This latest meeting focused on – and seemingly attempted to position as synonymous – reconciliation efforts in the context of: South Africa’s apartheid (South Africa); Canada’s mistreatment of First Nations peoples; and the divisions within western Anglican churches resulting from differences in theology and morality. Future meetings are planned.

International news in brief

Canada

- **Diocese of Rupert's Land** – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Anglican Church of Canada diocese has “...release a protocol for the pastoral practice of blessing same-sex unions... in response to a 2012 request by synod...”
- The [Vancouver Sun reports](#) that a three-day national convention of polyamorists recently concluded in Vancouver. Building on the logic that resulted in legal legitimization of same-sex marriages, the polyamorists – people with multiple partners, who try to distinguish themselves from polygamists because religion plays no part in the arrangement – are demanding the same legal recognition as other “couples”. A spokesperson said, “*It would be nice...to have households where our spouses are equal under the law, and... in terms of pensions, and inheritances and property division*”.
- Vancouver, BC [Voices Together](#) event – On July 1 at 5pm Christians from all over the Metro Vancouver area will gather in Rogers Arena for worship and praise to God. Tickets \$12.

United States

- **South Carolina** - A Federal Court judge [has thwarted](#) the Episcopal Church's (TEC) attempt to move its dispute with the now independent Diocese of South Carolina from the state court to the federal court. Judge Weston Houck ordered that the case be returned for adjudication to South Carolina state court - where legal precedent would seem to disadvantage TEC's case. See canon lawyer Alan Hayley's legal analysis [here](#). Writing in the *Church of England Newspaper*, George Conger [discusses](#) recent contradictory court rulings on church property cases in the US.
- **South Carolina** - [VirtueOnline reports](#) that “*The retirement savings of more than 80 non-clergy employees of the Diocese of South Carolina and its parishes are being held hostage by their former pension plan at the Episcopal Church (TEC).*”
- **Conformity** - [Anglican Ink reports](#) on a TEC proposal that would vet episcopal candidates based on their conformity to TEC “political orthodoxy”.

England

- **Women bishops** – The Church of England's House of Bishops has crafted [a new legislative proposal](#) to enable women to become bishops. This will be debated by General Synod in July. Forward in Faith [responded](#) saying the proposed legislation “*sweeps away existing legal security*” for those who cannot accept the oversight of female bishops and called for General Synod to “...choose a way forward which build on the existing arrangements rather one which destroys them.”

Commentator, Julian Mann [says](#) the House of Bishops proposal imposes “a uniform, secular model of leadership on parishes” and suggests that “*The liberal establishment is desperate to get this legislation through the General Synod... because it is terrified of the [political] backlash from... the British Parliament*”. In its [statement](#), Reform said the proposal was the “*least generous*” of the available options and “*would leave many evangelicals in an impossible situation*”, excluding many from ministry in the Church of England.

- Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali [believes](#) that, if the Queen signs a same-sex marriage bill, she would be breaking a promise she made in her coronation to “*uphold God's laws*”.
- **Same-sex marriage legislation** – As legislation allowing same-sex marriage was debated in the House of Lords, Archbishop Justin Welby gave [a speech](#) which, while opposing the legislation, is widely regarded as disappointingly weak-kneed and a missed opportunity. The blog [Christian Medical Comment notes](#) that the Archbishop's speech failed to “...mention God, Jesus Christ, the Bible or even the historic position of the Church of England. Nor does it explain how the Christian concept of complimentary heterosexual marriage is a creation ordinance for all mankind ... Welby's speech was a wonderful

opportunity to speak for Christ and Christians and to explain why Christians believe that marriage is so precious and should not be redefined. Sadly, for both church and society, it was an opportunity he largely missed and some of the concessions he has made are very worrying indeed.” Canon Phil Ashey of the American Anglican Council [expresses](#) similar concerns.

- **Atheism and barbarism** – The Chief Rabbi in Britain Lord Sacks [wrote a profound article](#) published in *The Spectator* (and reprinted in the [National Post](#)) which both exposes the superficiality of the New Atheism and the vulnerability of a society, like Britain, which has abandoned its moral compass and compromised the ethical foundation upon which it was built. His comments include:

“The history of Europe since the eighteenth century has been the story of successive attempts to find alternatives to God... After this cost humanity two world wars, a Cold War and a hundred million lives, we have turned to more pacific forms of idolatry ...

“In one respect the new atheists are right. The threat to Western freedom in the twenty-first century is... from a religious fundamentalism combining hatred of the other, the pursuit of power and contempt for human rights. But the idea that this can be defeated by individualism and relativism is naive almost beyond belief... The barbarians win. They always do.

“The new barbarians are the fundamentalists who seek to impose a single truth on a plural world. Though many of them claim to be religious, they are actually devotees of the will to power. Defeating them will take the strongest possible defence of freedom, and strong societies are always moral societies. That does not mean that they need be religious. It is just that, in the words of historian Will Durant, “There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.”

“...I have not yet found a secular ethic capable of sustaining in the long run a society of strong communities and families on the one hand, altruism, virtue, self-restraint, honour, obligation and trust on the other. A century after a civilization loses its soul it loses its freedom also. That should concern all of us, believers and non-believers alike.

France – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that up to 1 million people marched in Paris, France to express their displeasure at same-sex marriage being legalized in that country. Protests throughout the country have been ongoing despite surprisingly arbitrary and brutal police actions including arrests, beatings and gassing.

Scotland –The [BBC reports](#) that “*The Church of Scotland's ruling General Assembly has voted to allow actively gay men and women to become ministers.*”

Tanzania – Archbishop Justin Welby [joined](#) a reported 3000 worshippers at the enthronement of the newly elected Primate of Tanzania. Unfortunately, the election was beset by scandal and charges of outside interference and bribery.

Eritrea – Persecution of Christians in Eritrea – a country known to be among the worst in the world and sometimes called the “North Korea of Africa – is [reported](#) to be getting worse. An estimated 3000 Christians are imprisoned, many in metal shipping containers without ventilation or sanitation.

South Sudan – The [Anglican Communion News Service reports](#) that more than 2000 South Sudanese Anglican Christians were confirmed in just eight days recently as Bishop Moses Deng Bol toured his diocese. The bishop reported that most were adult converts to the faith.

Malaysia – Around 3300 young people [attended](#) the Diocese of Sabah’s recent youth camps. These camps are offered in English, Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia. Bishop Albert Vun (Sabah) was a speaker at ANiC’s regional assembly in Vancouver last April.

Soul food

Resources

Persecution of Christians – Monsignor Silvano Maria Tomasi, a top Vatican official, [reports](#) that 100,000 Christians are killed every year around the world because of their faith. He cited the Middle East, Africa and Asia as the worst places for the deaths but added that “Christians were also forced to leave their homes and see their churches destroyed in some parts of the world, and were often subjected to rapes, kidnappings and discrimination”.

Abortion – ACNA Bishop John Guernsey [writes his diocese](#), urging all to take action on abortion and infanticide. He suggests: prayer for the abortionist, supporting [Anglicans for Life](#), “discovering God’s gracious forgiveness and healing for those affected by abortion, staying informed, volunteering at a Christian crisis pregnancy centre, and joining Marches for Life.

Weariness in ministry – Tim Challies [recommends](#) the book *Serving Without Sinking*.

Sexual assault victims – Tim Challies also [recommends](#) the book *Rid of My Disgrace*, calling it “...a frank and powerful book that is completely drenched in Scripture. It interprets the ugliness of sexual assault in light of the Bible and offers the deepest healing and restoration through the gospel of Christ’s completed work”.

Seduction of sin – The Blazing Center blog [lists and refutes](#) five seductive lies Satan uses to entice us to sin.

Congregational worship – Saying the “sound” of corporate worship should be the congregation singing, Justin Taylor, writing on the Gospel Coalition blog, [offers](#) three criteria of congregational worship:

- If we, the congregation, can’t hear ourselves, it’s not worship
- If we, the congregation, can’t sing along, it’s not worship
- If you, the praise band, are the center of attention, it’s not worship

Homosexuality and genetics – “*Eight major studies of identical twins in Australia, the U.S., and Scandinavia during the last two decades all arrive at the same conclusion: gays were not born that way.*” The conclusion is that sexuality is overwhelmingly determined by one’s experiences and reactions to those experiences. Read more [here](#).

Homosexuality and the Church – [Dr Albert Mohler calls](#) the Church to courageously defy political correctness. He concludes, “*We sin if we call homosexuality something other than sin... This great moral crisis is a Gospel crisis. The genuine Body of Christ will reveal itself by courageous compassion, and compassionate courage. We will see this realized only when men and women freed by God’s grace from bondage to homosexuality feel free to stand up in our churches and declare their testimony—and when we are ready to welcome them as fellow disciples. Millions of hurting people are waiting to see if we mean what we preach.*”

Pornography – Covenant Eyes, which advises and supports those wanting to resist online temptation, [offers](#) 33 reasons to flee pornography. Tim Challies [discusses](#) the theological implications of pornography and concludes by citing 1John 3: 6, 8, 9 &10 which begins, “No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning...” He says:
Pornography desecrates the one thing in all of creation that God values above all [human beings]; pornography makes a mockery of that great portrait God has given us of Christ’s faithful, compassionate love [marriage]...

Funerals – Consolation or catharsis? A [Pateos article](#) contrasts two types of funeral services: one which centres on the departed and indulges emotional anguish; and the other which centres on God’s Word which acknowledges grief and channels it into contemplation and prayer. The author writes:

“The dead person’s only hope is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is the only hope of the grievers at the funeral, who, having been forced to confront the reality of death, tend to be uniquely receptive to spiritual truth.

“My pastor would deflect attention from the person who died to the Person who died and rose again. He would preach Jesus — the cross, the atonement, the imputation of His righteousness, the resurrection — as the victor over death, hell, and the grave.

“He would not preach this into a vacuum, but into the hearts of the grieving family and friends. He would connect Christ’s resurrection to the resurrection of their loved one and to theirs.”

Suffering – Professor Don Carson, in a recent lecture, [offers](#) six pillars of the Christian worldview which support us as we go through suffering.

Creative evangelism – The Australia Bible Society hands our free Gospels of Matthew to show-goers at the Sydney opening of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. You can see a short video [here](#).

Young atheists – *The Atlantic* features [a fascinating article](#) about how and why young people left religion and embraced atheism. After extensive research, the author concluded:

- Ages 14-17 were decisive
- Most of the young atheists had attended church and were reacting to the shallowness of the Christianity they witnessed. They longed for authenticity but were disillusioned.
- They respect Christians who take the Bible seriously and believe it so passionately they actively engage in evangelism. Said one, “Christianity is something that if you really believed it, it would change your life and you would want to change [the lives] of others. I haven’t seen too much of that.”

The author concludes “...these students were, above all else, idealists who longed for authenticity and having failed to find it in their churches...”

Gospel Coalition conference – Video is [now posted](#) from the 2013 Gospel Coalition national conference – themed “His Mission: Jesus in the Gospel of Luke”. Audio of the translated talks are also available in a selection of languages, including Mandarin, Farsi, French and Spanish.

Hymn – The [website Cripplegate.com reports](#) that the well-known hymn, “*I have decided to follow Jesus*” originated in India. This hymn, long associated with evangelistic meetings, was birthed from the martyrdom of a recently converted Indian family in the late 1800s. When confronted with death if he did not recant, the husband/father was reported to have said, “*I have decided to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back.*” When his children were murdered before his eyes, he reportedly said, “*The world can be behind me, but the cross is still before me.*” And after seeing his wife pierced by the arrows, he said, “*Though no one is here to go with me, still I will follow Jesus.*” A prominent Indian evangelist of that day took these words and wrote the first uniquely Indian hymn, setting it to a traditional Hindustani melody.

Singles – An [excellent article](#), provocatively titled “*I don’t wait any more*”, is “must” reading for single Christian women (and men) – and those who care about and spiritually nurture them.

Inductive Bible study – Canon Phil Ashey [discusses](#) how his Bible Study group of 52 people does inductive Bible study, deeply engaging everyone from 8-78 years old.

Reaching Muslims with the Gospel – In an [informative interview](#) about Islam and reaching Muslims with the Gospel, Abdul Saleeb says that we are wrong to assume that Islam is a monolithic religion; there are deep tensions and divisions between the many distinct Muslim communities. He also encourages us to see the immigration of Muslims to the west as an opportunity to reach those who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pithy advice for pastors – The Rev Thabiti Anyabwile [recounts invaluable advice](#) he’s received from our pastors.

“Remember: You preach for an audience of One.”

“Teach and pray. Love and stay.”

“Surround yourself with A+ guys.”

“All my problems are in my own heart.”

“Not all disagreement is opposition.”

“...how do you want to be remembered when you die?”

“When will you relinquish your passive approach to friendship?”

“Rest before you get tired.”

Small churches are the next big thing – Karl Vaters [claims](#) that small churches offer the intimacy young Millennials crave. But they won’t sacrifice quality – sound Bible teaching, authentic relationships, practical ministry opportunities, competent musicianship, and good child-care – for intimacy.

Just for laughs

Pastor Tim Challies [fanaticizes](#) about what it would be like if preaching was like playing baseball...

...one decent sermon out of three would rank you among the superstars.

...a local celebrity would deliver the sermon’s opening illustration for you.

...there would be color commentary throughout. "Now Phil, I didn't expect him to go straight to an illustration there, did you? He tried that last week and it fell completely flat. And now let's go to Bob at Preaching Central to see what's going on at other churches in the area."

...as you walked to the pulpit you'd hear someone in the crowd yell, "Hey preacher, preacher, preacher, preacher...PREACH!"

...you’d call for a stretch and a song between the sermon's second and third points.

...you’d have to put up with people walking the aisles during the sermon shouting, "Get your peanuts here! Ice cold beer!"

...the church bulletin which would cost \$5 and have a glossy picture of you on the cover.

...a guest preacher would be booed when he walked to the pulpit.

...the pastor would sign a big endorsement deal and then have to wear Dockers every Sunday.

...you would be allowed one sermon illustration that came just a little too close for comfort. But on the second one a deacon would rush the pulpit and pummel you.

...after every one of your three points someone would toss you a fresh Bible.

...the elders would light off a few fireworks at the end of a winning sermon.

...the young and hip pastors would roll up their pants and wear the high socks.

Thoughts

“If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.” ~ St Augustine (posted on the [American Anglican Council's Facebook Wall](#))

“Material prosperity and physical health do not invariably accompany faithfulness to God. But spiritual health and prosperity do.” ~ William Greathouse (posted on [Tim Challies' blog](#))

And now a Word from our Sponsor

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.