



### *Handle with prayer*

#### **News – ANiC and AEN**

#### **New congregations welcomed to ANiC**

- **New Song Church (Scugog / Port Perry, ON)**, led by the Rev Dr Brent Stiller, rector, and the Rev Bruce McCallum, associate priest, is now a parish in ANiC.
- **Church of the Resurrection (Halifax, NS)**, led by the Rev Stephen Ashton is ANiC's first congregation in Nova Scotia. It is currently considered a "project".
- **[St Andrew's \(Delta, BC\)](#)**, formerly an ANiC project, is now recognized as a church plant. The Rev Dr Mike Dobson is rector.

ANiC has three types of congregations: projects, church plants and parishes. For more information, see ANiC's [church planting page on our website](#).

#### **Countdown to synod 2011, clergy day and lay conference**

Time is running out to join the more than 200 delegates and observers already registered for synod, November 2-4. An updated agenda is [posted on the ANiC website](#).

Church planters and those interested in church-planting will be pleased to know that Canon David Roseberry, who leads the Anglican1000 movement, will be at synod.

Please pray for the Victoria organizing team and volunteers working on last minute preparations, the speakers and all participants.

#### **An invitation for Anglican Orphans – and those with a heart for “Orphans”**

The ANiC Council has recently endorsed a proposal to explore the potential of developing a “virtual” church plant as part of the Anglican Network in Canada. The vision is to use technology – primarily the internet – to communicate and to develop a fellowship which would provide support and encouragement for isolated Christians who live where there are no biblically faithful Anglican churches. If you are an “orphan” yourself or are interested in helping to explore the development of such a ministry within ANiC, please contact Mark Larratt-Smith [by email](#) or call (613)476-6539.

#### **Speaker announced for clergy retreat, March 20-22**

The annual ANiC clergy retreat at Cedar Springs, just south of Abbotsford, BC, will feature [Dr Lyle Schrag](#), director of the Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development at the Northwest Baptist Seminary. Dr Schrag has served as a short-term missionary with the Slavic Gospel Association, as the director of the Office of Christian Outreach at Wheaton College, and for 24 years as the Senior Pastor in churches in Chicago and Vancouver areas. He holds degrees from Wheaton College and Graduate School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

#### **Diocese of Sydney synod sends message to ANiC churches**

The synod of the Diocese of Sydney asked that the following message be sent to four Vancouver-area ANiC congregations: St John's Vancouver, Good Shepherd Vancouver; St Matthias & St Luke's, and St Matthews, Abbotsford:

*“The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney wish to extend our prayers and support to you in this time of transition and change. We praise God for your commitment to upholding Scripture and your willingness to contend and suffer for the faith. You have been a great example in grace, wisdom and humility to Bible-believing Christians, both here in Australia, and around the world. We pray the Lord's richest blessings on your fellowship as you continue to*

*proclaim, rejoice and grow in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the grace of God will ring out from you in the great city of Vancouver, to the glory of God.”*

### **Vancouver concert, November 6**

Two Vancouver-area ANiC parishioners are collaborating with the Vancamerata Chamber Ensemble to present *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi – which is billed as “*a beautiful baroque opera about the love of Mary the mother of Christ watching Christ die on the cross*”. The opera features baroque soloists Pauline Hale, of St John’s Vancouver and Angela Witzke-Larson of St John’s Richmond. It will be performed on November 6 at 3pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 320 E 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver – which is also the new home of ANiC’s St Matthias and St Luke’s. Please come and bring your pre-Christian friends to enjoy good music which could lead to a stimulating chat about spiritual matters. For more information see [www.vancouverlutheran.org](http://www.vancouverlutheran.org).

### **Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support**

Oct 29 – [Bible-in-a-Day seminar](#), St John’s Richmond, BC  
 Oct 29 – Pastoral Care of Women, [St George’s \(Burlington, ON\)](#) conference, Crieff Hills  
 Nov 2 – ANiC Clergy Day, Victoria, BC  
 Nov 2 – ANiC [lay conference](#), Victoria, BC  
 Nov 3-4 – [ANiC synod](#), Victoria, BC  
 Nov 10-11 – Anglican1000’s [Liturgy & the Arts conference](#), Durham, NC  
 Nov 13 – [International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church](#)  
 Mar 6-8 – Anglican 1000’s [2012 Church Planting Summit](#) in Plano, TX.  
 June 7-9 – ACNA Provincial Assembly, Ridgecrest, NC

### **ANiC in the news**

Anglican Planet – September 26 2011 – [Court deprives Windsor congregation of property](#)

### **News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)**

#### **Diocese of Pittsburgh disappointed by court decision**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from Archbishop Bob Duncan’s diocese of an earlier lower court ruling. Archbishop Bob [writes his people](#) saying, “*We remain committed to reaching a negotiated settlement with the Episcopal Church diocese. In light of this judgment by the courts, we will redouble that commitment to reaching a final resolution of all issues between the Episcopal Church diocese and the Anglican diocese through negotiation. We intend to persevere in our mission, which is to be Anglican Christians transforming our world with Jesus Christ.*”

#### **Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic gets new office facility; church gets new building**

The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic [announced](#) that All Saints’ Church (Woodbridge, VA) has moved into its newly constructed building which will also house the diocesan offices.

#### **ACNA stats on the way**

Our province, the Anglican Church in North America is set to release provincial statistics, says Brad Root ACNA chief operating officer. Responding to a [StandFirm post](#) Brad said his office is compiling these statistics and they should be published in a few days. The delays in publishing parochial data, he said, are due to problems implementing a new data collection system.

#### **ACNA governance at a glance**

The ACNA has [posted lists](#) of officers and members of its courts, task forces and committees.

### **News -- Canada**

#### **Anglican Coalition in Canada (ACiC) to ordain priest in Vancouver, October 28**

The Rev Benjamin Paulus will be ordained to the priesthood, October 28, at 7:30pm at First Church of the Nazarene, 998 East 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. Ben currently serves as a deacon at ACiC’s [Immanuel Church in Vancouver](#). All are invited. Clergy are invited to robe; Colour of stole is red.

## **Bishop of New Westminster enlists Canterbury's help to find a rector for St John's**

According to the [Diocese of New Westminster website](#), Bishop Michael Ingham told his diocesan council that Archbishop Rowan Williams is “*well aware of the diocese's situation regarding recent court decisions*”. And that “*Bishop Michael asked him if he would consider casting his eye around the communion for a possible interim appointment for St John's, Shaughnessy. Archbishop Rowan said that he would and when he bid Bishop Michael farewell told him that “thoughts were forming”*”.

## **Confessional Lutherans in Canada discuss failure of dissent within the church**

[Solid Ground](#), the orthodox network within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the counterpart of Anglican Essentials Canada, met recently to discuss their denomination's move away from “*scriptural authority, confessional faith, and transformational theology*”. You can [read addresses](#) given at the conference entitled, “*The failure of dissent and new beginnings*”.

In an [interesting speech](#) that touched on the transitions ahead for congregations leave their long-time denomination, Dr Luther Schwabe said “*...Be of good cheer. The real church, which is a spiritual and not an organizational entity, is as alive as ever. My ecclesiology has changed. Leaving a denomination does not mean leaving the church. It may simply mean a fresh start as it was in the case of Martin Luther. Those who left the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation did not leave the Church of Jesus Christ. We are not dividing the real invisible Church. ... These are good times for the Church of Jesus Christ. Our congregations will not have all that many lukewarm Christians anymore...*”

Please pray for these faithful Lutherans.

## **Diocese of BC selling church buildings**

The [Anglican Essentials blog notes](#) a *Victoria Times Colonist* article reporting that the Diocese of BC is selling seven church properties: All Saints Church and St Columba's Church in View Royal, St Alban's Church and St Saviour's Church in Victoria, Brentwood Chapel Hall in Central Saanich, St Andrew's Church in Cowichan, and All Saints Church Hall in Crofton.

The blog also [highlights a report](#) that the Diocese of New Westminster's St John's Shaughnessy has a Sunday attendance of 28 now that the St John's Vancouver has left their former building.

## **Huron College names Muslim as Program Chair**

[National Post columnist Barbara Kay notes](#) that the Anglican Church of Canada's Huron College has named a convert to Islam as its new chair of Islamic Studies. Kay writes, “*This appointment ups the ante on controversy already swirling over the Chair's funding. Much of the \$2-million endowment was provided by the membership of two organizations — the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) and the Virginia-based International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) — both of which are alleged to be influenced by Islamist ideology.*”

## **More Canadian news**

Anglican Planet – September 26 2011 – [Six clergy protest Montreal ordination](#)

LifeSiteNews – October 13 2011 – [Supreme Court of Canada homosexual 'hate speech' case could be decisive for religious freedom](#)

## **News – USA**

### **More on the Episcopal Church's attack on South Carolina's Bishop Mark Lawrence**

The key charges leveled against Bishop Mark Lawrence by the Episcopal Church (TEC) are [posted on the StandFirm website](#). These include: amendments to the diocese's charter, constitution and canons; failure to prevent parishes from leaving TEC and failure to sue those that had left; his statement that the diocese is a “*sovereign diocese*”; removal of references to TEC on the diocesan – and many parish – website; a mention of Bishop Lawrence in an ACNA document; derogatory statements made by Bishop Lawrence regarding TEC, including saying it preached a false gospel; ordaining his son to the priesthood after he had been ordained a deacon in ACNA.

The Diocese of South Carolina's [website](#) provides a summary of a recent emergency meeting of the clergy and succinctly notes the issues at stake in the crisis.

Commenting on the uncanonical procedure employed by TEC in its frenetic attack on Bishop Lawrence, the [Anglican Communion Institute \(ACI\) concludes](#): *"unless we have entered a Kafkaesque realm of canonical jurisprudence, one cannot be found to have "abandoned" The Episcopal Church if one has unarguably complied fully with the Constitution and canons and one's ordination vows. But this appears to be the realm in which Bishop Lawrence now finds himself. For he is being fast-tracked for abandonment when all the leaders of the church, including the Disciplinary Board itself, implicitly must have concluded that these matters do not rise to the level that they even "may" constitute a violation of the canons or Bishop Lawrence's ordination vows."* Additional papers examining TEC's uncanonical and unethical actions are [on the ACI website](#).

The [Church of England Newspaper says](#), *"While removing him from the House of Bishops would silence his voice, it will also provoke a constitutional crisis for the Episcopal Church, canon lawyers tell The Church of England Newspaper. The national church's Title IV Disciplinary Canons — which went into effect in July [and which TEC is using to attack Bishop Lawrence] — do not have legal force in South Carolina following amendments to its bylaws made by the diocesan convention. The South Carolina Supreme Court has also nullified the Dennis Canon, saying the national Church rule that property is held in trust for the diocese and the national Church is invalid in that state — effectively placing the diocese and its property beyond the reach of the national Church...."*

Support for Bishop Mark Lawrence is building internationally. Bishop John Harrower, Bishop of Tasmania, recently [wrote a letter of strong support](#). He writes:

*I write so that my recognition and support of you as a Brother Bishop in the Anglican Communion may be clear and unambiguous, and to assure you of my prayer for you and your leadership team at this time... not only are the revisionist pursuits of certain parties clearly no longer bounded by the fundamental witness of the gospel in Scripture, but the means of that pursuit seem no longer bounded by the common human wisdom of good grace and fairness.*

Canon lawyer Alan Haley has a number of articles examining the conflicts of interests and know biases of all the members of the "kangaroo court" – the Disciplinary Board for Bishops – which will be considering Bishop Lawrence's fate. In [one article](#), he concludes: *"In sum: there is no one currently involved with the governance of the Episcopal Church (USA) who is impartial enough to judge Bishop Lawrence, or to appoint his judges. All charges should be dismissed without further delay. The longer this kangaroo court drags things out, the more apparent will it be that its procedures have been rigged from the outset."*

### **TEC's Washington National Cathedral surviving by cannibalizing trust funds**

An [article on VirtueOnline](#) details the financial mismanagement at the Washington DC National Cathedral, including drawing on trust funds to pay operating costs and extravagant new programs. In an effort to get unrestricted access of one trust fund, the Washington Diocese has now begun legal action against the bank managing that trust fund. The trial is set for January 23.

### **Anglican Perspective video**

The [October 12<sup>th</sup> Anglican Perspective video](#), a two-minute commentary, discusses Steve Jobs, the impact he has had on the world, and the fact that he was born to an unwed mother who chose adoption rather than abortion. Canon Phil Ashby notes the Scriptural basis for the pro-life position.

### **TEC convention motion would enact three-year "trial" of same-sex blessings**

The [Episcopal News Service reports](#) that TEC Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music will presents the Church's 2012 General Convention with a motion calling for a three-year church-wide "trial" of a same-sex blessing liturgy. The commission will also call for a rethink of marriage. *"[W]e realized there is great need for the church to reflect more generally – in light of changing societal and cultural realities, and a whole range of changes in civil law – on how we understand marriage."*

## TEC mission organization withers while faithful mission organizations thrive

The [Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission](#) (EPGM) [has disbanded](#). EPGM never recovered from the loss of membership – suffered following the Episcopal Church’s (TEC’s) unbiblical actions in 2003 – and money – when TEC’s General Convention withdrew funding in 2009.

Over the past decade, many Biblically faithful Anglican mission agencies have regrouped under the umbrella of the Anglican Global Mission Partners. Dr Robert Munday, president and dean of Nashotah House Seminary [writes](#):

*“...the [Anglican Global Mission Partners](#) continue to meet twice annually, usually hosting a missions conference... Their meeting, two weeks ago, at St. James Anglican Church, in Newport Beach, CA, was in conjunction with the [SALT Missions Conference](#). Their Spring 2012 meeting will be at [Nashotah House Theological Seminary](#), and they are planning a [Re:Mix Youth Missions Conference](#) at the same time.*

*“The agencies that are a part of [Anglican Global Mission Partners](#) (AGMP) have continued to grow. For instance, [SAMS](#) (formerly the South American Missionary Society) has changed its name to the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders. The number of missionaries being sent from SAMS has nearly doubled in the past decade, and they are now a worldwide organization, with missionaries on every continent.*

*“The [Anglican Global Mission Partners](#) (AGMP) itself has grown through the number of new organizations that have joined since the split from EPGM. A personal observation: One would think that the contrast in the histories of the two entities since the split—even the contrast in sheer vitality between the two organizations—might be enough to convince TEC that they made a wrong turn somewhere.”*

Bishop John Guernsey, one of ANiC’s 2011 synod speakers, is chairman of one member of the Anglican Global Mission Partners – [Sharing of Ministries Abroad \(SOMA\)](#).

## Historical heresies reemerging in the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta [is to consider a resolution](#) explicitly supporting Pelagius and his theology – [a theology](#) which rejected the core Christian doctrines of original sin substitution atonement and justification by faith and which was condemned in the 5<sup>th</sup> century for being heretical. The StandFirm in the Faith blog [has compiled](#) five historic heresies that have reemerged in the Episcopal Church – and undoubtedly in other descendent, theologically liberal churches.

## Other US news

Reuters – October 12 2011 – [South Carolina Episcopal diocese sees crisis over gay rights](#)

Anglican Curmudgeon – October 17 2011 – [The kangaroo court should resign...](#)

Anglican Communion Institute – October 17 2011 – [South Carolina: Upholding the Church’s discipline by upholding the constitution](#)

## News – International

### GAFCon / Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA) update and prayer requests

The secretary of the GAFCon Primates council writes (by email):

*Dear Friends and supporters,*

*Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus. Please remember in your prayers, the Primates of the GAFCON/FCA Primates Council.*

- Please pray for their discussions and ongoing work, especially as they plan the proposed Leadership conference in 2012 and GAFCON 2 in 2013.*
- Thank God for the arrival of Bishop Martyn Minns in London and accommodation and an office for his work.*
- Pray for financial resourcing and thank God for donations which have come in.*
- Please pray that God’s word and the work of the Gospel will go forward throughout the Anglican Communion.*

- *Pray for Bishops and others in leadership who are currently being harassed for belief in the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 1:3)*

*In His name,*

*Archbishop Peter Jensen, General Secretary, Primates Council, GAFCON/Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans*

### **Church of Kenya focuses on theological training to counter liberals' push into Africa**

Eager to bolster theological training in his province, Archbishop Eliud Wabukala – current chair of the GAFCon Primates Council – has appointed a Biblically faithful British clergyman and theologian to head St Julian's Centre, Limuru and develop it into a key theological training resource for the region. [VirtueOnline reports](#) that the Rev Charles Raven, known for his book *Shadow Gospel: Rowan Williams the Anglican Communion Crisis*, will begin his ministry at St Julian's in early 2012.

The Rev Raven writes about the strategic importance of developing theological education in Africa: *"... the struggle for the global integrity and faithfulness of the Anglican Communion [is entering] a new phase. The energies of Western liberals are no longer being put so much into the widely discredited 'instruments of unity' but into the development of bilateral and relational links [with African dioceses] which effectively bracket out doctrinal issues through a lack of transparency and the use of 'indaba' strategies.*

*"...it is clear that the focus of their efforts is Africa where the majority of global Anglicans are now to be found. For instance... the Archbishop of Canterbury's intensive round of visits to African provinces [followed] soon after the unprecedented principled absence of many African Primates from the Dublin Primates' meeting in February. It is also interesting to note that the Anglican Communion Office in London has recently announced that it is seeking to appoint a Communications Officer in Nairobi so that 'Anglicans everywhere hear about the successes and challenges of fulfilling God's mission in differing contexts'. Given that the funding for this post is coming from Trinity Wall Street, a major funding vehicle for TEC projects around the world, it is very unlikely that false teaching in TEC and the West will be presented as anything other than Anglicanism in a 'differing context' about which we need 'conversation'."*

Another example of western liberal activists seeking to export their morality and theology to Africa was [a conference](#) just held in South Africa cosponsored by the Chicago Consultation – a TEC group dedicated to *"strategies for advancing the inclusion on GLBT [gay lesbian bisexual transgender] people in the sacramental life of the Church"*.

### **Bishop Nazir-Ali warns of Muslim extremists' ideology calls for global domination**

[Writing in the Telegraph](#), Bishop Nazir-Ali, ANiC's keynote speaker at our 2010 synod, says, *"At the heart of extremism is an ideology, a world-view... its ultimate aim is a single Islamic political, social, economic and spiritual entity."* He provides a very insightful overview of the Muslim world, including the so-called "Arab Spring", of which he says *"well-organized Islamist programmes are at the fore"*.

Bishop Nazir-Ali [now has a website](#) where you can follow his activities and writing.

### **From around the Communion and the world**

**Ireland** – Theologically conservative clergy in the Church of Ireland met recently to discuss their options in light of the church's seemingly ineffectual episcopal response to a senior clergy's same-sex partnership. Bishop Wallace Benn, Bishop of Lewes and chairman of the Advisory Council to the GAFCon Primates, [was reported](#) to have spoken at the meeting. Meanwhile the bishops of the Church of Ireland [have called](#) for a *"major conference in spring 2012"* to discuss same-sex clergy partnerships and *"wider issues related to human sexuality"*.

**Zimbabwe** – The [Voice of America reports](#) that, shortly after Archbishop Rowan Williams' visit to Zimbabwe, a Zimbabwe high court has ordered that an Anglican mission hospital be restored to the legitimate Anglican Church. A lower court had awarded the property to a rouge ex-communicated bishop, Nolbert Kunonga, who enjoys the support of the country's dictator, Robert Mugabe. [The](#)

[Zimbabwean reports](#) that Kunonga has seized 90 churches, 70 houses, schools and other properties from the legitimate Anglican Church in the county. The article is pessimistic that the situation will change.

[According to The Herald](#), a government of Zimbabwe publication, President Robert Mugabe lectured the Archbishop of Canterbury saying that “homosexuality was against morals, cultural values and Christian teachings”. The Archbishop is reported to have said that “The church does not allow same sex relationships and that is common ground across the Anglicans” and that the condoning of this practice by the Episcopal Church in the US and the Anglican Church of Canada “do not represent the general line”.

**Zambia** – The [Telegraph reports](#) that the newly elected president of Zambia urged the Archbishop of Canterbury to “send more missionaries”. Dr Rowan Williams was in Zambia as part of his three country African tour.

**Sydney, Australia** – The Diocese of Sydney’s synod [opposed adoption](#) of the Anglican Covenant.

**England** – Church of England (CoE) bishops have been [publicly challenged](#) to match the boldness of Roman Catholic bishops in defending traditional marriage.

The [Telegraph reports](#) that 28 or 30 dioceses to have voted to date have voted in favour of allowing women bishops in the Church of England. Anglican Mainstream reports that the Dioceses of [London](#) and [Chichester](#) opposed the motion.

**Egypt** – Following the brutal army attack on a peaceful demonstration killing 25 Coptic Christians and injuring hundreds more, Archbishop Mouneer Anis, primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East and Bishop of Egypt, [wrote](#) of the cause of the violence and how Christian and Muslim leaders have met to seek a solution. Later, he [wrote](#) of an encouraging “miracle” – overhearing a Muslim intellectual complain to the Grand Imam’s advisor about the growing hatred toward Christians and identifying the need to correct false teachings about Christians in Muslim books.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has joined others in expressing concern about the treatment of the Christians [according to the Church Times](#). The [ACNA has more](#) on the crisis and asks us to pray for peace, for those injured and bereaved, and for justice and political equality for Christians.

[Writing in the National Post](#), Father Raymond de Souza worries that this is a portent of a growing war on Christians in Egypt. In [an interview in Holy Posts](#) – a *National Post* blog – Paul Marshall of the Hudson Institute, notes that “*The official start date of the Coptic Church is 54AD. The church was there 600 years before Islam. It makes them one of the oldest Christian churches. Egypt was one of the most Christian countries in the world before Islam and home to some of the greatest Christian theologians the world has seen.*” Now, however, Coptic Christians comprise only 8-10 per cent of the population and are considered second-class citizens, facing systemic discrimination. With attacks on Christians and churches increasing, the police, government and military are covering-up incidents rather than prosecute perpetrators or protecting the Christians.

**Sudan** – In the Muslim north Sudan, “*Local authorities have threatened to demolish three church buildings... as part of a long-standing bid to rid Sudan of Christianity...*” [reports Compass Direct News](#). One of these churches is part of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

**Somalia** – [Compass Direct News reports](#) that another Christian – a 17 year-old boy – has been captured and beheaded by militant Islamists. The parents had been holding secret Bible studies, but “*The militants, who have vowed to rid Somalia of Christianity... had been monitoring [them]...*”

A [Christianity Today article](#) describes the horror faced by refugees fleeing Somalia for camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. It reports, “*Somalis running from famine toward the Dadaab camp in Kenya must run one more gauntlet before they reach refuge. Bandits hide in the thorny bushes dotting the sand, waiting to steal anything that refugees haven’t lost already. Refugees are running from East Africa’s worst drought in 60 years. Tens of thousands have died and the death toll may reach*

*750,000 before the end of the year. The worst part of the drought is in Somalia, and refugees are pouring out because aid agencies cannot get in."*

The Islamist Al-Shabaab's controls the worst hit areas of Somalia, keeping out aid agencies and extorting bribes from any willing to pay to reach the starving within Somalia. *"Al-Shabaab probably gets some of any aid that groups bring to its territory... Aid groups can get food to Mogadishu, but still have a hard time getting it to the starving. Corrupt guards and officials take as much as half..."*

### **More international news**

Church of England Newspaper – October 14 2011 – [Sydney synod begins](#)

VirtueOnline – October 18 2011 – [The deteriorating world of Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams](#)

BBC – October 22 2011 – [Discontented Anglicans confident of global backing](#)

Church of England Newspaper – October 21 2011 – [Harare court halts purge of Anglican teachers](#)

Church of England Newspaper – October 21 2011 – [Zimbabwe court victory for...Communion](#)

### **Soul food**

#### **Resources**

**New liturgical resource** – The recent Sydney synod was presented with a development version of [Common Prayer](#) for examination, use and feedback. It is intended as *"a resource for gospel-shaped gatherings in the evangelical Anglican tradition"*.

**Prayer Book** – The current issue of the [Anglican Planet](#) has several articles on the virtues of the *Prayer Book*. Bishop Stephen Andrews (Anglican Church of Canada Diocese of Algoma), in ["How cool is the Prayer Book?"](#), relates how young people at last summer's Cranmer's Conference were inspired by the *Prayer Book*. Similarly, Judy Pollard Smith, in ["Who knew the BCP would appeal to foreign students?"](#), discusses her parishes' use of the *Prayer Book* and its appeal to foreign students attending nearby McMaster University in Hamilton.

**Systems for churches that save stress, time, energy and money** – A [brief posting on the Sydney Anglican website](#) outlines eight systems for a healthy church and a link to a resource that will help you define and develop these systems.

#### **Anglican Unscripted video newsmagazine**

In the [October 17<sup>th</sup> edition](#) you will find:

- A Church of Sudan bishop, a former "lost boys", discusses the situation in the Sudan
- The Diocese of Sydney's position on the contentious issues of lay presidency
- The controversy threatening to divide the Church in Ireland
- The Archbishop of Canterbury success in spotlighting persecution of Anglicans in Zimbabwe
- TEC's attack on the Diocese of South Carolina and specifically its bishop, Mark Lawrence.

In the [October 24<sup>th</sup> edition](#) you'll hear:

- A fascinating discussion of the Anglican Covenant in which it is declared to be dead
- The heretical theology of Pelagius and the pointlessness of some TEC diocesan conventions
- An insightful discussion of an incident in China, the resulting soul searching and the opportunity for the Gospel
- Two good stories that reveal the dark side of the US Episcopal Church

**Unrealistic expectations** – [Writing on the Gospel Coalition website](#), Prof Paul Tripp advises:

*"Sin has cast this world into trouble... this world isn't functioning as it was designed to... We live in a world of rebellion and sin, neither a part of the "good" that God created... Why is this so important...? We have not taken seriously what the Bible says about the fallen world... Because of unrealistic ministry expectations, [pastors] don't prepare well for the difficulties of building a healthy, God-honoring community of faith. Consequently, they are caught short and unprepared, as sin within and difficulty without rear their ugly heads in the life of their church..."*



*As I've worked with churches, I've seen how all of this sets up a tendency for the pastor and his leaders to play to one another's weaknesses instead of their strengths. Instead of preparing themselves with the wisdom principles of God's Word and seeking the enabling power of God's grace, they sadly learn how to be politically strategic and personally protective... "But it's vital that you live with eyes and heart open to what Scripture says... If you do, you'll live in a way that's humble and needy, seeking the grace and wisdom that you so desperately need and that God so willingly and lovingly gives..."*

### **Are you called to ministry?**

[AnglicanTV](#) has several series of recorded lectures given to Trinity School for Ministry students that could help you determine if you are "called".

- Am I called? – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) and [part 3](#)
- To ordination – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)
- To PhD studies – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)
- To [correctional chaplaincy](#)
- To urban ministry – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)

### **Moral deceptions and decisions**

**Pornography's deception** – Research published in *Psychology Today* indicates that pornography exposure desensitized people, is addictive, and reduces ability to respond sexually to one's spouse. [LifeSiteNews says](#) that researchers "...explain that the brain can become desensitized to dopamine, the neurotransmitter that activates the body's reaction to sexual pleasure, through the kind of over-stimulation readily available via the internet's porn culture. The result is that users fall into a chemical dependency, requiring larger doses to achieve the same effect. This phenomenon drives the market for "extreme genres" of porn and decreases an addict's ability to respond to real life sexual encounters."

**Pop culture's desensitization to moral erosion** – A [Christianity Today article](#) demonstrates how Hollywood and pop culture have progressively pulled society toward accepting and embracing unfettered sexual expression – from extra-marital sex, to same-gender sex, now polygamy and soon pedophilia. Sympathetic portrayals of relationship that once would have been considered socially unacceptable have desensitized society and normalized the behaviour. "It began with making what was once marginalized and tolerated seem normal and mainstream by calling into question the very idea of norms. Pop culture excels at perpetuating this kind of relativism..." Polygamy is the current trend, with TV shows such as *Big Love* and *Sister Wives*.

**Same-sex wedding** – [Dr Albert Mohler asks](#), "Would you attend a same-sex wedding?" His response is "...rooted in the nature and history of the wedding ceremony. The presence of witnesses at a marriage ceremony affirms the righteous nature of the union... The traditional Christian ceremony, as reflected in The Book of Common Prayer, asks if anyone present knows of any reason why the couple should not be joined in holy matrimony. That is not intended as a hypothetical question... To put the matter straightforwardly, any Christian who knows that same-sex marriage violates God's Law and purpose for marriage knows... that a same-sex couple should not be joined in holy matrimony... Even if the question is not formally asked in the ceremony, the issue remains. We cannot celebrate what we know to be wrong. Given time, no church, no family, and no individual Christian will escape this question... The time to think about this question is now."

### **Just for fun**

Puzzled, little Joey raised his hand in Sunday School... "Mr Smith, there's something I can't figure out. The Bible says that the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Er... right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?" "Yes, that's right," agreed Mr Smith. "So what's your question?"

"What were all the grown-ups doing?"

[www.mikeysFunnies.com](http://www.mikeysFunnies.com)

**Please pray...**

For **synod** planning and preparations.

For our **bishops, clergy and lay leaders**, and their families – especially those in need of healing.

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.

For ANiC churches in Ontario involved in property disputes: **St Aidan's (Windsor), St George's (Burlington), St Hilda's (Oakville) and Good Shepherd (St Catharines)**.

For **ARDFC's new Congo project** which is helping war-torn communities return to farming and which promotes peace-making. May God use it to bless Congolese and bring many to Christ.

For **faithful Lutherans in Canada** considering their options.

For **persecuted Christians** in Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Sudan and China – and especially for those suffering unimaginable atrocities in North Korea, Eritrea & Somalia.

For restoration of peace in Egypt, for those who have been injured or bereaved, for justice and political equality for the Christians, and for wisdom for Archbishop Mouneer Anis.

For those ministering in the **famine areas in the Horn of Africa**. Pray that the Islamist militias in Somalia will relent and allow aid to safely get to those who are starving. Pray for God's mercy.

For the nation of **Israel**. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

For the **GAFCon Primates & Fellowship of Confessing Anglican** leaders as they plan meetings of Biblically faithful Anglicans in 2012 & 2013. Pray also for the new Anglican Mission in England.

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

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

**And now a word from our sponsor**

*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

*I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."*

*As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.*

*The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.*

*The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.*

*The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

*I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.*

*I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.*

*For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.*

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalm 16 ESV