



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Full synod coverage on the AEC blog

If you can't come to synod, you can follow along as Kate live-blogs it on [the AEC blog](#).

Synod 2011 theme: “Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, and today, and forever.”

Registration for ANiC's synod, conference and clergy day is now closed with a capacity crowd of 209 coming together in Victoria, November 2-4.

Please make synod a top prayer priority this week.

Prayer for Synod 2011

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose only Son, our Lord Jesus, never wavers or changes, but is constant and steadfast in His covenant love and mercy toward the Church, meet with us in power at our upcoming synod we pray. Give wisdom and strength to those who are seeking You for direction and strategy. Endue our bishops with the courage of the Apostles as they seek to lead Your people in the power of the same Spirit that was given at Pentecost. Protect us from making any decision that is not in keeping with Your perfect will for ANiC, and forgive us for the many times in the past year that we have ignored the promptings of the Spirit and relied on our own strength and human wisdom. May our eyes be firmly fixed on Your blessed Son, the author and finisher of our faith – who is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. This we fervently ask in the name of that same Son, our Saviour and Coming King, Jesus the Christ.

Welcoming another congregation

A new ANiC project has formed in Kelowna, BC. This is ANiC's first congregation in the BC Interior. The Rev Bruce Chamberlayne is giving pastoral leadership to this forming church community which meets regularly on Wednesday evenings. If you know friends in Kelowna who need Christian fellowship in the Anglican tradition, please put them in touch with the Rev Chamberlayne – by calling 250-212-9569 or emailing bchamberlayne@hotmail.ca.

The Kelowna project is the third congregation to join ANiC in October. The others are Church of the Resurrection, Halifax, NS and New Song, Port Perry/Scugog, ON. Please support all three new congregations in prayer and by telling friends who live in those communities.

ANiC has three types of congregations:

- **Projects** are forming congregations, aiming to grow into church plants, which have applied and been formally accepted as projects in ANiC
- **Church plants** generally are more established congregations, usually with pastoral leadership, growing attendance, and regular Sunday worship which have applied for and received formal recognition as church plants in ANiC;
- **Parishes** generally are well established, with pastoral leadership, membership and financial stability, and formal organizational structures – which have applied for and received formal recognition as parishes in ANiC.

For more information see ANiC's [church planting page on our website](#).

Anglicans in the Elora – Fergus – Centre Wellington region invited to meetings

Those living in the vicinity of Elora, Fergus and Centre Wellington (in Ontario) who are interested in connected with like-minded Anglicans, are invited to meet with the Rev Zena Attwood and Mr

D'Arcy Luxton on Sunday afternoons at 2:30pm at The Brew House on the Grand, 170 St David Street S, Fergus. These informal gatherings will run each Sunday in November. For more information call 519-846-0483.

Welcoming another priest...

The Rev Chris Zoepfel has been appointed rector of The Open Gate Anglican Network Church (Victoria, BC) effective February 1. Chris and his family currently serve at [Holy Trinity](#), Meridian, Idaho – a congregation which is part of the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA), a ministry partner with our province, the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

ANiC priest's book gets five star review

The November edition of *Christianity Today* is set to publish a review of the Rev Dr Craig Bartholomew's new book, *Where Mortals Dwell: A Christian View of Place for Today*. The review should soon be [available online](#). The Rev Bartholomew, of Church of the Epiphany (Hamilton, ON), is a professor of philosophy, religion and theology at Redeemer University College. The book explores the important role of "place" in the Scripture narrative.

Good Shepherd concert raises "extraordinary donation" for mission

Winsor Yung of [Good Shepherd Vancouver](#) says "Praise the Lord for His provision". The 415 people attending Good Shepherd's "From Thy Bounty 2011" fundraising concert on October 22 gave beyond expectation, donating almost \$38,000. This is almost double the target set by concert organizers. The concert featured performances by the BC Children's Choir, Grace Melodia, and the Vancouver Academy of Music Stradivari Ensemble.

The donations will support the two projects that [Asian Mission in Canada](#) short-term mission teams were involved with this past summer. Good Shepherd and the Asian Mission in Canada, a ministry of the ANiC, have long-term commitments to both of these projects:

- Relief and development work among the Karen refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border
- Care of disabled orphans in Changsha and Sanmenxia, China

November 13 – International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

On November 13, please join churches around the world in marking the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Check the [website for free resources](#) that you can use in your church.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

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.

Mar 20-22 – [ANiC clergy retreat](#), Cedar Springs, WA

June 7-9 – ACNA Provincial Assembly, Ridgecrest, NC

News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

ACNA releases 2010 statistics

Brad Root, chief operating officer with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) reports that not all ACNA churches reported last year meaning our province's statistics for 2010 are not complete. However, based on the information received, ACNA has compiled a [summary report](#) which Brad explains in a letter [posted on the StandFirm website](#).

At the end of 2010 there were a reported 659 churches in ACNA dioceses. In addition, there were 293 churches in organizations with which ACNA is partnering in ministry. Of those churches reporting, the average Sunday attendance was almost 50,000. Combined estimated average Sunday attendance for all churches was over 78,000, and estimated membership – churches were

not asked to report membership – for ACNA churches and our ministry partner churches was projected to be almost 104,000. Of the over 3000 baptisms reported, almost 1000 were people aged 30 and over, indicating a significant number of new Christians.

ACNA and ARDF leaders meet with bishops from the Sudan

The [ACNA website](#) describes the meeting recently attended by Canon Jack Lumanog, ACNA, and Canon Nancy Norton, Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF), in Egypt of bishops from north Sudan. Following the separation of (north) Sudan from South Sudan in July, Christians in the north have come under intensified persecution as that state becomes more radically Islamist. Similarly Christians in Egypt are more frequently targeted as Islamists gain more political power in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring” revolution.

An Egyptian priest asked the North Americans for prayer, saying, *“Canon Jack, pray for us because we are suffering in Egypt physically. And Anglican Christians in Egypt will pray for you as you are suffering spiritually and theologically in America.”*

The ACNA’s report states, *“The [Sudanese] bishops shared projects of relief and development which needed financial assistance... ARDF... [is] working on connecting these projects with the needed financing.”* ARDF-Canada (or ARDFC) is the Canadian affiliate of US-based ARDF.

ACNA in the news

Pittsburgh Post Gazette – October 26 2011 – [Property litigation involving... Diocese is over](#)
Church of England Newsletter – October 21 2011 – [Pittsburgh property loss for Duncan](#)

News -- Canada

Arrangements for shared episcopal ministry begin to take shape in Montreal

The [Anglican Journal reports](#):

“Bishop Leonard Whitten, retired bishop of Western Newfoundland, will provide some guidance to several clergy and parishes in the diocese of Montreal who disagree with its bishop’s positions on same-sex marriage if details of a tentative agreement can be worked out.

“The tentative agreement on “shared episcopal ministry” was disclosed by Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal Friday, Oct. 27, in his address at the opening eucharist of the annual diocesan synod. He described the move as a pastoral response to the concerns of parishes and clergy unable to accept positions he and the diocese have taken on the issue in recent years...

“Bishop Clarke said in his address that the accord is “a pastoral response to a need that needs to be addressed.” He said parishes and clergy availing themselves of the arrangement would still ultimately be under his authority...

“Bishop Clarke told the diocesan synod a year ago that he planned to move ahead on the shared episcopal ministry in the new year. The 2007 synod asked the bishop to authorize a liturgy for the blessing of duly solemnized civil marriages and this was done last year. At least two such blessings have taken place without fanfare since then.

“However, there have been protests in recent months against the induction of partnered gay priest, Very Rev. Paul Kennington, as the dean of Montreal and rector of Christ Church Cathedral and the ordination as a deacon of a partnered gay man, Rev. Robert Camara. Canon [Bruce] Glencross said the six priests involved in the new agreement with Bishop Whitten are the same ones who signed a protest against Deacon Camara’s ordination...

“Bishop Whitten, now 75, was a priest and bishop in Newfoundland for 41 years and retired in 2003 after six years as bishop of Western Newfoundland. Since retirement, he was active with a group called Sharing of Ministries Abroad, or SOMA, which organizes short-term teaching ministries abroad. He was director of SOMA for five years and has worked in Malaysia, South Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Mexico, the United States and the Arctic. He is also active in training for a group called Anglican Renewal Ministries...”

AEC blog covers the Diocese of Ottawa's activity at St Alban's

Since ANiC's Church of the Messiah congregation walked away from its building – St Alban's, Ottawa – as a result of a negotiated settlement earlier this year, the Diocese of Ottawa has been working to plant a new congregation in that building. The [AEC blog has found some interesting tidbits](#) about the activities at the new St Alban's. For example, the diocesan newspaper reports that *"The hymn list... included songs by Van Morrison and Leonard Cohen. And the words for the Prayers of the People owed much to Helplessness Blues by the Fleet Foxes."*

A [second AEC blog post](#) notes remarks made by Bishop John Chapman in his charge to the Diocese of Ottawa synod regarding that negotiated settlement between the two ANiC congregations in Ottawa and the Anglican Church of Canada diocese. Again Bishop Chapman misleadingly says that the diocese's ownership of the two properties involved was established in the negotiation. In fact the complex settlement saw one ANiC parish – now called St Peter and St Paul's – retain its property while the other – now known as the Church of the Messiah – gave up its property based on a financial transaction. The agreement required that the specifics of the settlement not be disclosed. For more information see [ANiC's 13 February 2011 news release](#).

News – USA

New president for Nashotah House seminary

The [Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel reports](#) that [Nashotah House Theological Seminary](#) installed its new dean and president, retired South Carolina bishop the Right Rev Edward Salmon on October 27. He succeeds the Rev Robert Munday.

TEC dioceses to merge

The [Eau Claire, Wisconsin Leader-Telegram reports](#) that the Episcopal Church dioceses of Eau Claire and Fond du Lac will merge to form a new diocese in northern Wisconsin. Conventions of the two dioceses have approved the merger which is expected to be implemented in 2013. Combined, the two dioceses have 55 congregations – most quite small.

Dwindling membership

[VirtueOnline reports](#) that, based on the latest attendance figures for the Episcopal Church (TEC) *"...in 26 years there will no longer be anyone attending an Episcopal church"*. TEC has experienced steady declines in average Sunday attendance ranging from three to five per cent per year over the past five years. The [Christian Post also notes](#) that an official Episcopal Church [fact sheet shows](#) the membership of that church has fallen below two million; at its peak in 1966, TEC membership stood at 3.6 million. Citing a number of factors, including the departure of many for the Anglican Church in North America and other denominations, one commentator also says, *"The spread of universalist theology within Episcopal seminaries has extinguished the urgency of winning souls..."* [The Christian News Wire notes](#) that average Sunday attendance in TEC – which was 657,831 in 2010 – is less than one-third of its official membership numbers.

Charges again Bishop Lawrence send chilling message

Writing on the [TitusOneNine blog](#), the Rev Gavin Dunbar an Episcopal Church rector in Georgia writes, *"...the message being sent by these charges (as by the evident hostility of the Presiding Bishop) is that conservative dissent will not be tolerated within the Episcopal Church, and that significant theological differences will be resolved by coercion. One could hardly devise a stronger incentive for conservatives to leave... This case raises a question for us: given the ascendancy of the agenda of "indiscriminate inclusivity" in the Episcopal Church - will there be a secure place in the Episcopal Church for the conscientious dissent of those who hold to historic Anglican doctrine and worship?"*

Other US news

Church of England Newspaper – October 28 2011 – [US Executive Council rejects... Covenant](#)
 Church of England Newspaper – October 28 2011 – [US diocese asked to rehabilitate Pelagius](#)

News – International

GAFCon meetings planned for 2012 and 2013

Canon Phil Ashley, [writing in the latest American Anglican Council newsletter](#), reports on his attendance at a Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA) planning meeting in London. He says:

“Next year, there will be a conference of about 200 leaders from the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans held in London in the spring. The theme of the gathering will be “Jesus Christ: Unique and Supreme,” based on Colossians 1:15-20...

“[In 2008], the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) took place in Jerusalem, which gave birth to the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, a global movement committed to the renewal and reformation of the Anglican Communion around a common confession (The Jerusalem Declaration). GAFCON was not just a moment; it is a movement.

“The purpose of the 2012 leadership conference will be to gather existing and emerging FCA leaders – laity, clergy, theologians, youth, bishops, women and men – to promote the ongoing renewal and reformation of the Anglican Communion. These leaders will truly represent this global movement of Anglicans all over the world. We hope and pray this will set the stage for a larger “GAFCON II” meeting to be held in 2013...

“[When asked] “Is it worth continuing the battle within the present structures of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion?” Archbishop [Eliud] Wabukala [of Kenya and Chairman of the GAFCon Primates Council] reminded us of the East-African revival. Like GAFCON and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, it, too, was a movement and not just a moment. The East African Revival was a Holy Spirit-directed movement that cut across tribes and races from Rwanda to Tanzania. It was a revival within the Anglican church where the people involved in it spoke out against sin in the church, stood up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and influenced each other. The East-African revival gave birth to a new generation of leaders who ultimately renewed those Anglican Churches so that millions of people could come to faith in Jesus Christ.

“This is another reason why the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans exists – to faithfully point out sin in the Church, stand firm for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and renew the Anglican Communion. Like that great revival, we are part of a Holy Spirit movement, empowering existing and emerging Anglican leaders who will renew and reform the Anglican Communion.”

From around the Communion and the world

Sudan – [Barnabas Fund reports](#) that (north) Sudan’s president has announced plans to impose an Islamic constitution and strengthened Sharia law. It reports this raises *“the threat level for Christians and other non-Muslims in the country.”*

Libya – The [Christian Science Monitor reports](#) that Libya’s transitional leaders are emphasizing the Islamization of Libya and have confirmed that Sharia Law will rule. The report states, *“Just as in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt, Islamists have emerged from yet another Arab Spring uprising as the most powerful group in the country. How far they will go will be decided at the ballot box — in Tunisia this week, in Egypt in November and in Libya within eight months.”*

Eritrea – [International Christian Concern reports](#) that three more Christians, imprisoned for practicing their faith, have perished in military prison camps due to harsh conditions, starvation and denial of medical care. The report states that about 1500 evangelical Christians are believed to be in prison solely because of their faith. Please pray for the church in Eritrea, for the families of those imprisoned, and for an end to government persecution.

Thailand is experiencing its worst flooding in 50 years. Flood waters have swamped much of the country, submerging rice fields and shutting down hundreds of factories; over 900,000 families and businesses have been affected and hundreds of lives have been lost. [Christ Church Bangkok](#), where one of ANiC’s suffragan bishops, Bishop Stephen Leung, preached last June, reports that it

has not yet been flooded, but has sandbags around the building as a precaution. However, a number of parishioners are affected. Please pray for Thailand and the Anglican ministries there.

New Zealand – Christ Church Cathedral [will be at least partially demolished](#) due to damage suffered in the earthquake last February. Salvageable parts of the building will be incorporated into a new structure mixing old and new elements.

England – St Paul’s Cathedral in London is reopening after being closed for over a week due to an encampment of “*Occupy London*” protestors on its grounds. With plans forming for the eviction of protestors and the cathedral’s reopening, the Canon Chancellor of the cathedral, Gilles Fraser, announced his resignation. Fraser had welcomed the protestors earlier. [Writing in the Huffington Post](#), the Rev David Ould speculates Fraser’s departure was due to differences with the dean of the Cathedral over St Paul’s response to the protestors.

Then, just days later, the [Guardian reports](#) that “*The perceived dithering and divisions of church officials over the protest camp outside St Paul’s in London have claimed a second major scalp with the resignation of the cathedral’s dean, the Right Rev Graham Knowles. The dean – whose job is sufficiently senior that a replacement must be approved by the Queen – announced that mounting criticism over the cathedral’s handling of the situation made his position ‘untenable’.*”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in [a public statement](#), called the resignations, “*very sad news*”

Soul food

Just for fun

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Resources

Bishop Ron Ferris recommends the movie "**Courageous**", now [showing in local theatres](#). This Christian movie communicates a positive message about fatherhood and faith.

Reformation Day, October 31 – Many Christians mark Martin Luther’s nailing of the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Castle Church door on 31 October 1517. [The Gospel Coalition website has an interesting historical account](#) of the events leading to the Reformation, including how Luther escaped martyrdom and was kidnapped for his own safety. However, the article argues that the Reformation is not over and “*that the gospel itself is at stake, just as it was in the 16th century.*”

Profiting from abortion

[LifeSiteNews reports](#) that aborted fetal cells are used in research for new PepsiCo products which the company says will result in “*great tasting, lower-calorie beverages.*”

In a [second LifeSiteNews article](#), we are told that “...most people would be shocked if they knew the extent to which fresh aborted fetal tissue and aborted fetal cell lines are used in biomedical research.” However, a new not-for-profit company, Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute of Seattle, is “dedicated to providing scientific research, education and resources to encourage safe, moral, pro-life medicines and therapeutics.”

The article reports that Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute “...is also investigating the health consequences of aborted human DNA and cellular contaminants in medicines. And that includes the “hot button” issue of childhood vaccines. According to their website, www.soundchoice.org, 90% of children vaccinated in the last 10 years were most likely injected with aborted fetal DNA components. Sound Choices’ founder, stem cell scientist Dr Theresa Deisher, indicates “there is evidence to suggest that fetal DNA contaminants could lead to serious health consequences and may be contributing to the rise in childhood leukemia, autism and other autoimmune disorders” She says, “Even the FDA has acknowledged the dangers of having fetal DNA contaminants present in our vaccines. Just how dangerous remains to be seen, but it’s unconscionable not to do the research and find out.”

Celebrating baby number 7 billion; the myth of over-population

[Writing in LifeSiteNews](#), Steve Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute and the author of *Population Control: Real Costs and Illusory Benefits*, says the birth of the seventh billion person on earth is a cause for celebration. He notes that “the so-called “*population explosion*” has been [driven by] a real explosion in health and longevity” and that as the world’s population has increased, life has been getting better – contrary to doomsayers’ predictions. He says:

“By nearly every measure of well-being, from infant mortality and life expectancy to educational level and caloric intake, life in Africa, Asia, and Latin America has been getting dramatically better... World food and resource production has never been higher... In fact, under-population, not overpopulation, is the real threat that much of the world faces today. Some 80 countries representing over half the world’s population suffer from below replacement fertility — defined as less than 2.1 children per woman. The populations of the developed nations today are static or declining... Countries with below replacement rate fertility will eventually die out. It’s just a question of time. Even in the developing world family size has shrunk, from around 5 children per woman in 1960 to less than 3 today. And the decline continues.

“According to the UN’s “low variant projection” — historically the most accurate — the population of the world will peak at 8 plus billion in 2040 or so, and then begin to decline. High fertility rates are becoming rare. The UN numbers for 2010 show only 10 countries with population increase rates at or above 3.0 percent. By 2050, persons aged 65 and above will be almost twice as numerous as children 15 years and younger. The economic consequences of population aging will be closing schools, declining stock markets, and moribund economies.

“Let us also join together in celebrating the birth of Baby Seven Billion. He or she is a sign of our future, our hope and our prosperity. People are our greatest resource. Extraordinarily gifted people have helped to enrich civilization and lengthen life spans. But the fact is everyone, rich or poor, is a unique creation with something priceless to offer to the rest of us.

“Baby Seven Billion...is not a liability, but an asset. Not a curse, but a blessing. For all of us.”

Please pray...

For **ANiC’s clergy day, conference and synod** this week in Victoria and for all traveling to attend.

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 **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 Anglican Church ministries in **Thailand** during this time of wide-spread flooding.

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

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need... In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-10