

NOVEMBER 2011



THE APOSTLE



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

MINISTRY IN REVIEW

~ REACHING NORTH AMERICA WITH THE TRANSFORMING LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST ~



BELOVED IN THE LORD:

Beloved in the Lord:

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be yours in abundance.

We are two-and-one-half years into our life as the North American Province. The word I use most frequently to describe what God has done with our kingdom efforts is favor. Reminiscent of the words the angel Gabriel speaks to the Virgin Mary, we have been highly favored in virtually every aspect of our life.

We have dioceses from coast to coast and from the Arctic Circle to the Caribbean. We have increased from 700 congregations to over 1000. We called for 1000 church plants, and already there are nearly 200. (And remember that church plants increase geometrically!) Mission partnerships abound with Anglicans and other Christians at home and abroad. Faithful worship texts in the great Prayer Book tradition are beginning to appear. Ecumenical dialogues have been opened, almost always at the request of others, those who see us as their potential allies in promoting Christian orthodoxy and strengthening a voice in the public square. Giving has matched the need. Read what follows in this report and join me in gratitude and thanksgiving.

The challenges ahead have to do with captivating disciples, multiplying congregations and transforming communities. These three challenges will give us focus for Assembly 2012, where we propose to gather the whole Church in 2012, for the first time since Bedford/Plano in 2009. Leaders will come from all over the Province and all over the world. This gathering will give us evidence of the strides in these areas of our day in and day out labors at every level of Church life.

Finally, we have the challenge of stewardship in these very difficult economic times. As we have had God's favor, so we need yours. My conviction is that there is no investment any one of us can make where dollars are better stretched or the product more effective for life transformation than in what you give to the Anglican Church in North America.

Thanks for your part in the movement these pages chronicle.

Archbishop and Primate,
Anglican Church in North America

THE OTHER DAY I was having coffee with a leader in our Diocese, whom I greatly admire. This person remarked to me "your presentation at the Provincial Council meeting this past June was very encouraging when you shared a list of accomplishments of the Church in its short two year history." Later when I returned to the office, I reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that I had given. After flipping through all of the slides, I realized that perhaps I had actually *understated* what the Lord has accomplished through us in this historic movement in only 24 months!

Much of the great committee and task force work of the Church is included in the progress reports and articles that follow. Beyond what is provided in this inaugural report and fundraising appeal are the tangible measurables - or the things to which we refer as "Services of Subsidiarity." This is defined as the idea that the Provincial Office should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at either the Diocesan or Parish level. This would include important functions of the Provincial office such as Missions & Program Support, Central Communications, Member Resources (*Health, Disability, Life, Property & Casualty Insurance; Church Retirement Plan; Central Job Board*) Committee Organization & Resources, Meeting Planning and Database Management to name a few.



Brad B. Root

These gifts should be celebrated and shared to ensure the longevity in our mission of Reaching North America with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ. However, they must also be respected and preserved.

This is why I must ask for your support. Financially, the Anglican Church in North America is solvent and has maintained a balanced budget from day one. This is another example of the Lord going before us. You will read in the Treasurer's Report about how the Anglican Church in North America is to be supported through Diocesan contributions. Presently, a little more than a third (35%) of our budget is supported by our member Dioceses. As individuals are able to increase their giving to their parish and parishes are able to increase their giving to their Diocese and Dioceses are able to increase their giving to the Province, eventually our budget will be fully funded by this model. Based upon current giving trends and revenue models, we project Diocesan giving to fully fund the Provincial Budget on or around Fiscal Year 2015/2016. For a new organization of this magnitude, this really is quite exceptional and highly achievable, I might add. Until then, we must faithfully rely on "extraordinary giving" which is defined by any other revenue to the Church other than Diocesan support. That is where you come in!

The financial need this year to subsidize and fully fund our budget is approximately \$500,000. The total subsidy of "extraordinary giving" needed until the Province is expected to be self-sustaining in 5-6 years is approximately \$2.5 million. All gifts in any size are an investment in the founding of the Anglican Church in North America. Please give as you are able. No gift is too small! Additionally, please prayerfully consider a gift to the Founders' Fund (\$10,000 or more) or incorporating the Anglican Church in North America as part of your estate or planned giving plans. For more information on either the Founders' Fund or our Planned Giving Program please contact me at (724) 266-9400 or email me directly at brad.root@anglicanchurch.net.

Without your prayers and financial gifts, much of what the Anglican Church in North America supports would not be sustainable through this early season. For this we remain in your debt. I hope you enjoy this first edition of *The Apostle*.



Click here to donate

With tremendous blessing & thanks,



Brad B. Root
Chief Operating Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Archbishop’s Message by Archbishop Robert Duncan 2

Fundraising Appeal by Brad B. Root 3

Money is a Spiritual Matter by Bishop John Guernsey 5

Financial Position by William F. Roemer 6

Planned Giving 8

Assembly 2011 by The Venerable Canon Dr. Jon I. Lumanog 9

The Anglican 1000 Movement by The Rev. Canon David Roseberry 10

ARDF 2011 Report by Canon Nancy Norton 12

Ecumenical Relations by Bishop Ray Sutton 13

Prayerbook and Common Liturgy by Bishop Bill Thompson 15



A house built in the early 1900s, located in Ambridge, PA, has become home to our Provincial Office

THE BIBLE SAYS that our decisions about money and possessions are spiritual decisions; they affect, for good or ill, our relationship with God. The Bible addresses the issue of our finances over 600 times and Jesus talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God. What does Scripture say about money? It can be summarized this way:

- 1. God is the giver of all that we have.** What we possess is not earned, but is a gift from God. In the wilderness before they entered the land of milk and honey and gained riches beyond anything they had known before, the people of Israel heard this warning from Moses, “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18). Or as Paul puts it, “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).
- 2. We are accountable to God for what we do with what He has given to us.** We are managers, not owners. Jesus told the story of a master who entrusted three of his servants with his wealth, giving to one five talents [each talent was worth thousands of dollars], to another two talents and to the third one talent. After a time, the master came to settle accounts with them. To two of the servants he said, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.” But to the third he said, “You wicked and slothful servant...! So take the talent away from him and give it to him who has the ten talents” (Matthew 25:14-30). God will one day call us to account for how we have handled our money.
- 3. One aspect of being a trustworthy steward is giving.** Giving brings us closer to God. Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide for yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in heaven that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:32-34).
- 4. As we give, we are called to tithe, to return to God at least 10% of what He gives us.** “All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord” (Leviticus 27:30). Jesus confirmed the tithe as the standard for Christians when He said, “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter [love and justice] without neglecting the former [tithing]” (Luke 11:42).
- 5. God wants us to give in thankfulness and joy.** “What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?...I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving” (Psalm 116:12, 17). We give not begrudgingly out of guilt or duty or pride. We give thankfully for all that Jesus has done for us.



The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey

As a church founded on Scriptural authority, the Anglican Church in North America is committed to living out biblical principles in our daily lives. May the Lord give us the grace to trust Him fully with our finances and become truly biblical followers of Jesus.

In Him,
The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey
Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Dear Fellow North American Anglicans:

As a former bank CEO I have penned many “letters to shareholders” and it is indeed my pleasure to pen yet one more to you as Anglican “shareholders” in my role as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman of the Anglican Church in North America. Elsewhere in this report you have heard from Archbishop Duncan, COO Brad Root and other committee chairs, so I intend to confine my remarks to our past financial performance and future projections.



Bill Roemer

We have much to be thankful for on the financial front as we approach our 30th month. First and foremost - we are solvent! Praise God! Our September 30, 2011 balance sheet shows total Assets of almost \$455,472, total liabilities of \$150,410 which includes a \$111,501 mortgage on our Provincial Office in Ambridge, PA, and a net worth of \$305,062 (please excuse the corporate lingo).

Our fiscal year ends on June 30, and in each of the first two years we ended up with a balanced budget and even very modest surpluses. In FY 2009-10 our revenues and expenses were roughly \$875,000 and in FY 2010-11 they jumped to \$1.3 million, largely as a result of funding Anglican 1000 and other major programs of the Church. For the current fiscal year we are projecting another break-even year at the \$1.6 million level, assuming “extraordinary giving” to the Church continues. Please refer to the following Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget pie charts.

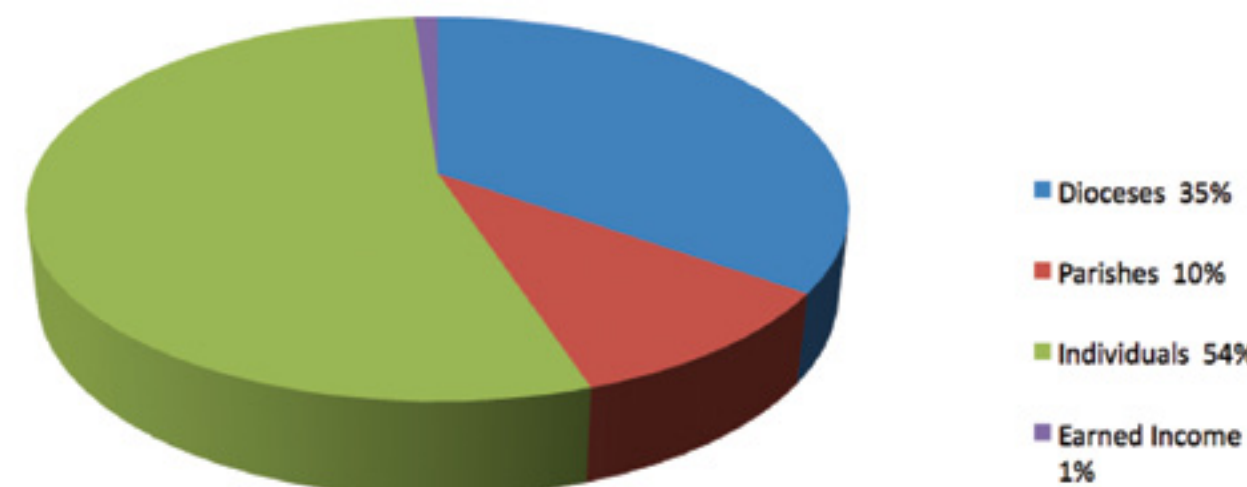
As with any start-up organization, it is imperative to have sufficient cash reserves to cover not just the expected but the unexpected as well. That is the role of the Founders’ Fund which Brad has mentioned in his report. The current balance is approximately \$125,000 and with God’s blessing it should become significantly higher as the calendar year draws to a close. In order to make sure we don’t wait too long to make any mid-course corrections in our operating budget, the Provincial Council in June approved a joint recommendation from the Finance and Executive Committees which requires the Finance and Development Committees to caucus immediately if the Founders’ Fund ever falls below \$100,000. Needless to say, your prayers and financial support are strongly encouraged to keep that from happening.

It is no secret that as the Province continues to grow our model of “tithing,” our diocesan tithes alone will not keep pace with our immediate financial needs. However, it is expected that this anomaly will correct itself by FY 2015-16 when diocesan tithes are projected to fully support the operations of the Province. Until then, we will continue to seek “extraordinary giving” and financial support from “shareholders” like you and me. Is there a better investment in these troubled economic times? I think not!

In closing I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent work of The Rev. Ron McKeon as our dedicated and competent CFO. He certainly makes my job easier and I am sure the same holds true for Brad and the other devoted staff members.

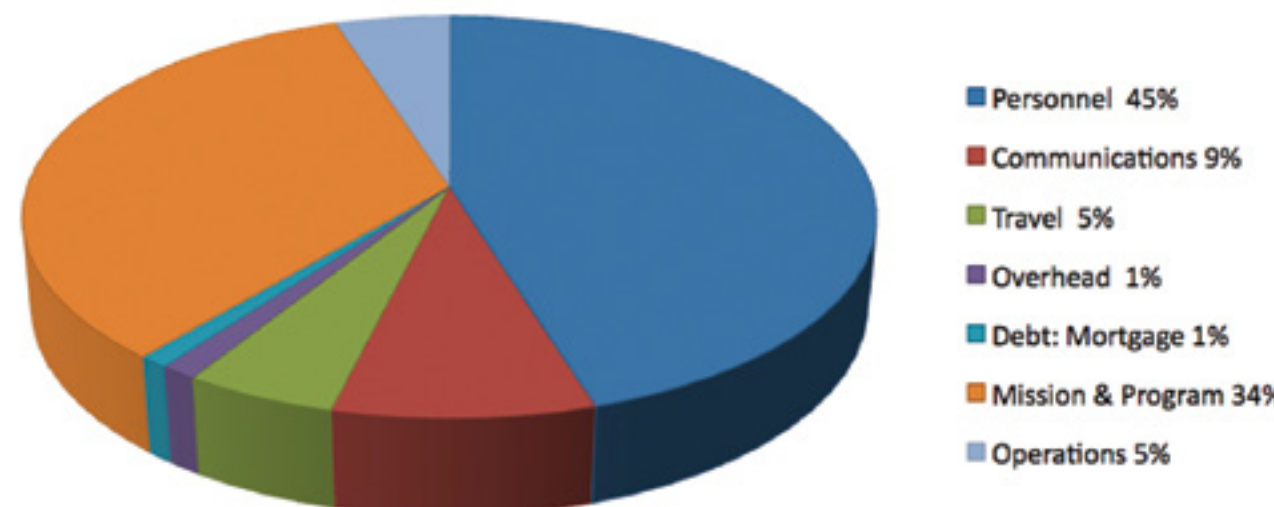
Respectfully submitted,
William F. Roemer
Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman

Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget: Source of Funds



Total Budget: \$1,624,509

Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget: Use of Funds



Total Budget: \$1,624,509

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING A GIFT to help support our mission. We know that if you make a contribution, it will be because you believe in what we do, and because you want to help make a difference in the lives of others. But we'd also like to make sure you benefit from making a gift to us.

How does this happen? You may be surprised to learn that some of the best gift plans also improve the donor's financial and tax situation.



The most common donations are outright gifts, such as cash or a check, which we receive right away. But many times, people want to hold on to their money and other assets for now, just to be sure they can meet their family's future financial needs. These people are usually delighted to learn that we have excellent alternatives that allow them to still make a gift.

One of these options could be right for you, too. They're known as "planned" gifts. They can be revocable—a charitable bequest in your will, for example—so that you can change your mind at any time. Or, they can be irrevocable—just as outright gifts are—so that you benefit from an immediate income tax deduction. The attraction of irrevocable planned gifts is that they are deferred. You part with an asset today, but the actual giving of the asset to us is put off for a while—often until after your lifetime (and that of a surviving beneficiary, if you wish). Until that time, you receive benefits from the gift.

For example, with a charitable remainder trust, you receive lifetime income from the asset after it's placed in a trust, and then we receive the remainder of the trust after you die. Or, you could deed us a remainder interest in your home and still retain the right to live in it for life. At any rate, the key feature of planned gifts like these is that they provide important benefits to the donor, as well as the charitable organization.

The following are gift plans from which to choose to match your goals. Bequest In Will, Outright Gift of Cash, Outright Gift of Securities, Gift of Insurance, Gift of Retirement Assets, Gift of Real Estate, Charitable Remainder Unitrust, Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Charitable Lead Trust.

We're here to answer any questions you might have about planned giving. We can examine your particular situation and, together with your attorney and/or financial advisors, help you find ways to support our mission while ensuring your family's financial security. **Please call our office at 724-266-9400 and contact Brad Root or Beth Feather for more information.**

The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice please consult an attorney.

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FOR THE FIRST TIME since Bedford/Plano in 2009, we eagerly anticipate the next gathering of the whole church for Assembly 2012. Preparations are already underway. You and all the faithful from the Anglican Church in North America are invited to attend!

Assembly 2012 will be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, just outside of Asheville, North Carolina. Offering more than just meeting space, Ridgecrest will also provide both lodging and meals to attendees, ensuring one convenient location for meeting participants.

Following meetings of the Archbishop's Cabinet, Executive Committee, the College of Bishops, and Provincial Council earlier in the week, Assembly 2012 will begin on Thursday, June 7th and run through Saturday, June 9th and is open to the public. It will feature the following speakers as well as other special guests from the worldwide Anglican Communion:

- **Dr. Ed Stetzer**, President of LifeWay Research and sought after authority on missional church planting
- **The Baroness Caroline Cox**, Honorary Chair of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund
- **The Rt. Rev. Rennis Ponniah**, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Singapore, will be our daily Bible teacher
- **The Rev. Dr. Michael Youssef**, founder and Rector of Church of the Apostles in Atlanta, Georgia with more than 3,000 members and President of Leading the Way, a worldwide radio and TV evangelistic and teaching ministry
- **The Most Rev. Robert Duncan**, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America



www.ridgecrestconferencecenter.org

As the Planning and Design Team, led by The Rev. Steve Wood (Vicar General of the Diocese-in-formation of the Carolinas and Rector of St. Andrew's Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC), prepares for the event, their prayer is that Assembly 2012 will equip each of us to *Captivate Disciples, Multiply Congregations and Transform Communities*.

Please pray about joining us for Assembly 2012 at Ridgecrest, NC. We pray that all attendees will be wonderfully blessed by this gathering of God's people experiencing awesome worship, amazing speakers, extraordinary fellowship and take-away learning for your continued edification.

Stay tuned for registration details on the ACNA website: www.anglicanchurch.net.



Canon Jon (Jack) Lumanog

The Venerable Canon Dr. Jon I. Lumanog
Canon for Provincial and Global Mission



The Rev. Canon David Roseberry

IN JUNE 2009, Archbishop Duncan was installed during a ceremony at Christ Church Plano in Texas. Instead of focusing on where the Anglican Church had come from or what it was against, he said, “in the next 5 years, I want us to plant 1000 new churches ... we can do that and we can help each other do that ... some will plant many, but there shouldn’t be any among us who aren’t trying to plant some.” In essence, he changed the subject of the church. To date, we have seen 180 new works (at various stages) raised up by the Lord!

Anglican 1000 was formed in response to the Archbishop’s call under the leadership of the Rev. Canon David Roseberry. Anglican 1000 doesn’t plant churches. We are not the church planting arm of the Anglican Church. We are a movement of churches, leaders,

rectors, bishops, dioceses, networks and others who are embracing the call to plant churches. We work as one of the sparks to rapidly catalyze the planting of Anglican congregations and communities of faith here in North America. At a staff level, our work concentrates on resourcing and celebrating the church planting work we are all doing together. We accomplish this through online/electronic communication, strategic gatherings and conferences, alongside coaching and consultation.



Church Planting Summit and Regional Events

In January 2011, we gathered approximately 350 leaders together in Plano, Texas for the second annual Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Tim Keller and Bishop Todd Hunter. Plans are already well underway for our third church planting summit to be held in March 2012. The annual Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit is quickly becoming a “don’t miss” time when we gather the whole family together for resourcing and celebration!

Throughout the year, we have also partnered with several dioceses to host regional events focused on church planting during the last year. These have been opportunities to tailor the equipping to the specific needs of a given context. For example, the gathering in the Anglican Diocese of New England was focused on small groups. An event in the Gulf Atlantic Diocese focused on casting a vision for church planting and a burden for those who are far from Jesus. The Anglican Network in Canada hosted a whole series of Plant and Grow gatherings focused locally on church planting. In 2011, we have seen the vision for church planting take root locally all over the Anglican Church.

Strategic Gatherings

Anglican 1000 also hosted three strategic gatherings in 2011. These gatherings were intended to serve as spark plugs for the whole movement. So, in August 2011 *Caminemos Juntos* (“Walking Together”) was held as a strategic consultation on Hispanic/Latino ministry in August. We must improve in this area to effectively plant churches that truly reach North America – all of North America – with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

In September 2011, we gathered the (Charles) Simeon Fellowship for their annual meeting. This is a peer-to-peer network of almost 40 rectors who covenant together to raise up new leaders and help plant new congregations in their local contexts. We have had almost 300 potential church planters

contact Anglican 1000. We have a process in place for follow up and initial screening (built around a new church planting candidate assessment tool) before we help connect them locally to a diocese or network that has the jurisdictional authority to help them take their next steps. However, we cannot passively wait on leaders to come to us. The Simeon Fellowship is an effort to call some of our best leaders to intentionally raise up and replicate new leaders for this work. We want to move from having a leadership funnel to having an effective leadership pipeline. The Simeon Fellowship is a key piece of that pipeline.

Finally, we gathered almost 100 leaders in Durham, NC in November for Anglican Worship: a Conversation on Liturgy—Formation, Mission, & Art. Church planting is entrepreneurial, pioneering work. It is often done with limited resources in less than ideal circumstances. So, as Anglican Christians, we wanted to talk about how the challenges of church planting line up with our rich liturgical and artistic heritage and ethos. It is important that we don’t just plant churches, but that we think through what it truly means to plant Anglican churches. These three strategic gatherings have helped us to focus on reaching the right people, helped us build a leadership pipeline, and allowed us to check that we are working to plant deeply rooted Anglican churches.

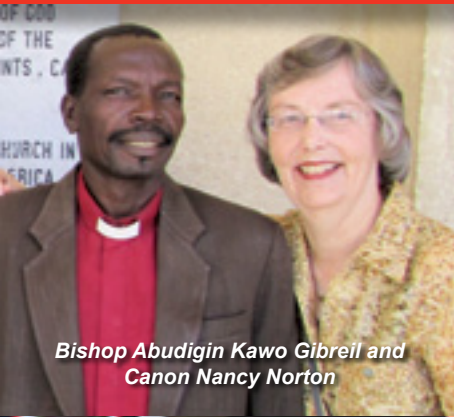
New DNA

Truly, the response to the Archbishop’s Call has been extraordinary. It is remarkable to see what has been done already. New DNA is fueling this work. That new DNA is a missionary calling. It is the DNA that will be necessary in the short term as we pursue the call to plant 1000 churches, but it is also the DNA that must become deeply engrained in us as we lay a foundation for reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.



All Saints, Dallas

In Christ,
David+
Chairman, Anglican 1000



Bishop Abudigin Kawo Gibrell and Canon Nancy Norton



IN 2011 the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) celebrated seven years of providing relief and development aid for our economically poor, but spiritually rich, brothers and sisters around the world in the Anglican Communion. To date, the organization has delivered over \$4.9 million in funding for 106 development projects impacting people in 32 countries, while strengthening partnerships with Anglicans across the globe. In addition, over \$1.3 million in relief funding has been provided for disasters in several countries including Indonesia, Haiti, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Chile, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda and Myanmar. ARDF has been embraced as the official relief and development arm of the Anglican Church in North America with a body of Global Trustees, including seven Anglican Primates. Baroness Caroline Cox serves as the Honorary Chair of ARDF.

This past year ARDF implemented a strategic initiative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). With God's provision and your financial support, six projects have been funded providing the necessary resources to engage communities by increasing access to schooling, boosting household income, improving agriculture and food security, engaging at-risk youth, and implementing conflict resolution and trauma counseling programs. At the same time, ARDF's partnership this year with these 6 Anglican dioceses in eastern DRC has built up their capacity to lead and serve their local communities.

The North American Board of Trustees is responsible for the business and fundraising responsibilities of the organization. There are 15 North American Trustees who represent the Diocese of Fort Worth, the Mid-Atlantic Diocese, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Diocese of Western Anglicans, the Anglican Network in Canada, the Anglican Diocese in New England, the REC Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, the Gulf Atlantic Diocese and the Anglican Mission in the Americas. We are extremely grateful for these individuals and the gift of their time and talent that they give so generously.

In 2012 ARDF will continue development projects in the DRC and will be working on relief follow-up in the Horn of Africa. Other projects are in the research process and include food security and medical projects in West Africa, HIV/AIDS education in South Africa, capacity building in Sudan and Southern Sudan and expanding vocational training programs in Egypt. Also, in 2012 we look forward to participating in the Provincial Assembly at Ridgecrest in June where Baroness Caroline and our Global Trustees (Primates) plan to join us.

However, none of ARDF's work, whether it's been providing aid in the midst of a natural disaster or training poor farmers in the DRC, would have been possible if it weren't for the Lord's leading and the generosity of His people. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Blessings,
Canon Nancy Norton
Executive Director



Kenyan school children in uniform. Students who can not afford a uniform are unable to go to school.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH in North America has been blessed by the immediate interest of other Christian bodies to have dialogue and some level of relationship with us. This is important for any Christian jurisdiction that is part of the Church Catholic and not a sect. One of the tragedies of Western Churches departing from the Faith Once Delivered is the collapse of the great ecumenical work that had been building through the 20th century. In confirmation of God's favor on the ACNA, He seems to be transferring the Anglican mantle of responsibility for ecumenical work to our jurisdiction. This is born out by the quality and number of groups who have responded to us. The following is a summary.



The Rt. Rev. Ray Sutton

At present we have entered dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox through the Orthodox Church in America. A concordat has been formed between St. Vladimir's and Nashotah House seminaries. We have had four meetings, have embraced larger agreements between the Anglican Communion and Orthodoxy, and we're working on a book together to describe the historic relationship between these two, non-papal catholic jurisdictions: Orthodoxy and the Anglican Way.

We have had two meetings with the Roman Catholic Church via their Archbishop of ecumenical concerns, the Most Rev. Wilton Gregory in Atlanta, Georgia. Our own Archbishop, the Most Rev. Robert Duncan, has already participated in two important documents with the Roman Church dealing with cultural matters, the Manhattan Declaration and an Amicus Curia upholding traditional marriage in California. We have also discussed conferences on topics such as Marriage and Pro-Life where our scholars could jointly produce statements and documents to help the wider Church.

(Continued on page 14)

Three Lutheran groups have requested various levels of involvement with them. The first is the new North American Lutheran Church. This group has emerged from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that parallels The Episcopal Church. I have spoken at their first two conventions, having given the sermon at their opening service of worship. They have recognized and designated one of our own seminaries, Trinity School for Ministry, as the seminary where they will send their candidates for ministry. Unlike us, they have no theological institutions for their already nearly 200 congregations and growing. Also, they have requested and it has been approved by our Provincial Council and College of Bishops to use our clergy where they have vacancies. I fully expect that we will be able to be in intercommunion with this jurisdiction within a short period of time.

Second, the historic and Biblically faithful 173 year old Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has entered into dialogue with us. We are the only non-Lutheran jurisdiction with whom they have ever had dialogue. We have had three meetings at our different seminaries (Concordia St. Louis, Reformed Episcopal Philadelphia, Concordia Ft. Wayne) and we're scheduled to meet at Nashotah House in spring of 2012.

Third, we even have a group of Lutherans forming who believe in the historic three-fold ministry. They have asked if they could form a diocese within the ACNA. Our own confessional documents such as the 39 Articles are based on theirs. They want apostolic bishops and to have an Anglican home, so we have been working toward the formation of an Augustana Diocese in the ACNA.

On the evangelical front we have been involved with the Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism. Archbishop Duncan along with some of our bishops and laity attended the recent historic meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. We have also attended the National Association of Evangelicals meetings as observers. We continue to be involved with both movements to proclaim the Gospel.

One final exciting group that has come to us is the Messianic Jewish movement. Jewish evangelism historically has had its roots in the Church of England going all the way back to the early 1800s. Since WWII Jews have been finding Jesus in large numbers. Many of their groups would like to partner in some way with an expression of the historic Church. They have turned to the ACNA to seek partnership in the Gospel. Together we are beginning to explore ways that we might work with our Jewish brethren to spread the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Based on other contacts, we plan to begin ecumenical dialogue with the Assemblies of God and the Presbyterian Church in America. Significantly, those who believe in the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ are moving toward each other. Incredibly, at a time when we've participated in a realignment of the Anglican world, we find ourselves right in the middle of a bigger realignment. The larger realignment is not about one denomination converting to the other as was the case with the old liberal model of ecumenism. It is about standing together in the Word and the Sacrament to the greatest extent possible that the world might see we are one. And as Jesus said, the purpose of true Gospel unity is that "they might believe" (John 20:21). God is up to something huge. In His Sovereignty He has poured out His favor on the ACNA, calling us to such a time as this. The ecumenical developments are so phenomenal they can only be attributed to Him and His great purposes to which He has called us.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Ray R. Sutton, Ph.D.
Chairman, Ecumenical Relations Task Force

OUR WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD is the foundation of our life together as Anglicans. It is in our worship and by the Word of God that we are united to God and to one another.

As Anglicans, we believe that how we pray forms how we will believe (*lex orandi, lex credendi*). If our liturgy is defective, our theology will be defective as well. Therefore, if we are to have a strong, vibrant orthodox church, it is essential that our liturgy reflect the orthodox faith of Jesus Christ. Many of us in the past have seen the theological result of faulty liturgy bringing forth faulty belief. We cannot have that happen again.



Bishop Bill Thompson

The orthodox content of our liturgy is crucial to having an orthodox church. The Prayer Book and Common Liturgy Task Force was commissioned by Archbishop Robert Duncan in the summer of 2008. Our first task was to survey what our people were using for their liturgies and what their concerns were about this project.

After receiving their feedback, we authored what we have called our "Theological Lens." This document has become our guide for all of the liturgies that we will author. It has been approved by our College of Bishops and the Provincial Council of the church.

In our liturgical work we have taken the path of learning from the past rather than being innovative. As we have noted in the "Theological Lens," we want to have the liturgies of the church be rooted in the tradition of our Anglican heritage while also being accessible to both long-time Anglicans and those new to the tradition. The liturgies that we produce will not be innovative but clearly founded in the historic Anglican Prayer Book tradition.

Archbishop Duncan, in his charge to the task force, has written that he wants our new liturgies to be of such quality that they will commend themselves. In other words, there will be no coercion. That is a challenging charge which we on the task force are committed to fulfill.

Our task force has produced its first liturgy, the Ordinal, which is the liturgy for the ordaining of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. It is now being used throughout the province, and so far has been very well received. A copy may be procured on the ACNA website at: http://www.anglicanchurch.net/media/ORDINAL_2_0.pdf.

We are now working hard on two forms of the Holy Eucharist, and we hope to bring these before the College of Bishops at the June 2012 meeting. The other task which we are working on is the liturgy for Baptism and Confirmation. As these liturgies are approved by the College of Bishops, they will be made available to congregations through links on the ACNA website.

There will be extensive opportunities for congregations and individuals throughout the province to give their feedback to the College of Bishops and our task force. This is a monumental task. Please be praying for us as we seek to be faithful in this endeavor. May God receive all the glory.

The Rt. Rev. William A. Thompson
Chair, Prayer Book and Common Liturgy Task Force
Bishop, Diocese of Western Anglicans



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Provincial Office Staff



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