



ANGLICAN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ADVance

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Welcome Archbishop Duncan

We are finalizing plans for Archbishop Duncan's visit to the Anglican District of Virginia, and I am excited at the prospect of welcoming him here. Although he has visited with us before in Northern Virginia, this will be his first official visit with the Anglican District of Virginia. We are honored to have him.

I remember the first time I met Archbishop Duncan. Tom Wilson (former ADV chair and former Senior Warden of the Falls Church) and I were struggling with a number of issues in the summer of 2006, among which was gaining an understanding of our place in the wider Anglican Communion, and what options were available to our congregations as we contemplated our future. We asked Archbishop Duncan to meet with us and help us understand what was going on around us. Although he didn't know us, he agreed to have coffee with us one Saturday morning when he was in town. He was generous with his time and counsel, and was a real help to us in a time of great uncertainty.

I have thought about that Saturday a number of times since then, and in particular have reflected on the fact that this man who didn't know us at all, and who had plenty of problems of his own, was so willing to spend a Saturday morning with us to help us consider our future. It says a lot of good things about the nature of the man, but also about the nature of our Anglican Communion, where we have an understanding that we all need each other, and that the body of Christ is not one isolated congregation - or even a small group of congregations - but that we are all interconnected, and we all need each other.

I have seen this same dynamic expressed on my trips to Africa. I have by now become used to the experience of walking into a church I have never seen before, in a place I have never been, and feeling right at home. As we launch this series on what it means to be Anglican, I start with a clear understanding that among other things, being Anglican means being connected to a nationwide and a worldwide body of believers. As we continue to build on the foundation that has been laid with ADV, it is vital that we keep that fact in mind.

We are indeed privileged to have Archbishop Duncan with us, and I am also looking forward to hearing the other distinguished speakers that will address Anglicanism in the months ahead. What an exciting time to be an Anglican in God's church!

Jim Oakes
Chairman
Anglican District of Virginia

Anglican District of Virginia News

ADV to Kick off Anglican Insights Series with ACNA Archbishop Duncan on Saturday



One of the Anglican District of Virginia's goals is to strengthen families and the community, and that has led to the creation of ADV's new "Anglican Insights" series, a speaker series and monthly newsletter articles that explore the topic of Anglicanism.

"We want to do our part to equip the next generation of Anglicans with the tools they need to understand the foundation of our faith," said ADV Chairman Jim Oakes. "We will know more about that foundation by learning about what it means to be an Anglican Christian."

To that end, ADV is kicking off its speaker series with Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) Archbishop Robert Duncan on Saturday, March 13.

"We recognized a need within ADV to provide resources and insight from prominent Anglican Christians about what being an Anglican means. Archbishop Duncan has played a prominent role in shaping orthodox Anglicanism in the U.S., and we are excited to hear what he will share with us," Oakes said.

The March 13 event, to be held at The Falls Church, 115 East Fairfax St., Falls Church, Va., will begin at 9:00 am with Morning Prayer, followed by Archbishop Duncan's address and a time for the audience to ask him questions. The event is

open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

Archbishop Duncan is the Bishop of Pittsburgh and primate of ACNA. Best known beyond Pittsburgh for his role as moderator of the Anglican Communion Network and the Common Cause Partnership, Archbishop Duncan has proven to be an extraordinary leader at a critical moment in Church history. At the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop Duncan attended the 2007 Primates Meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, to speak on behalf of orthodox Anglicans in the United States. In December 2007, he was elected moderator of the Common Cause Partnership. The Anglican Church in North America's constitution names the moderator as the province's initial archbishop.

The second installment in the Anglican Insights speaker series, to be held on Tuesday, June 8 at 7:30 pm at The Falls Church, will feature Os Guinness, author, social critic and senior fellow with the EastWest Institute in New York. This event is also free and open to the public.

"We hope that everyone in ADV and in their communities will come and hear Archbishop Duncan and Os Guinness to learn more about Anglicanism," Oakes said.

ADV is featuring monthly essays by a variety of sources including ADV rectors and other leaders who will answer, "Why I'm Anglican," in its newsletter, ADVance. The Rev'd John Yates from the The Falls Church, and Bishop David Bena, contact bishop for ADV, have already contributed pieces. Look for more essays from Father Harold Hammond from Shepherd's Heart, the Rev'd David Glade from Christ the King, the Rev'd Jeff Cerar from St. Stephen's, the Rev'd Patrick Ware from Winchester Anglican, the Rev'd Jonathan Pietschman from Holy Cross Anglican Church, the Rev'd David Harper from Church of the Apostles, the Rev'd Becki Neumann from South Riding Anglican Church, the Rev'd Mark Sholander from Christ the Redeemer, and others.

ADV is also creating a resource center on Anglicanism at its website, www.AnglicanDistrictofVirginia.org.

"What better way is there to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ than by having a solid foundation on who we are as a body of believers, and what we believe? Our 'Anglican Insights' series will help provide us all with that foundation, so that we can better impact our communities for Christ," said Oakes.

For questions about the Anglican Insights series, please contact James Guthrie at (703) 273-1300 or email james.guthrie@anglicandistrictofvirginia.org. To receive the monthly "Why I'm Anglican" pieces in the ADV newsletter, ADVance, sign up at www.AnglicanDistrictofVirginia.org.

Virginia Supreme Court to Hear Church Property Case in April

On Wednesday, March 3, the Anglican District of Virginia was notified that oral arguments in the church property case brought by The Episcopal Church and Diocese of Virginia will be heard by the Virginia Supreme Court sometime during the week of April 12-16, 2010.

"Our parishioners have exercised their religious freedom by staying true to the

Gospel, and have tried to do so in a way that avoided the need for government interference in our affairs. We continue to regret the necessity for defending ourselves in secular court, but remain fully prepared to do so and are confident in our legal position," said Jim Oakes, Chairman of the Anglican District of Virginia.

"In the meantime, our doors continue to be open wide to all who want to worship with us. We are ready to put this litigation behind us so we can focus our time, money and effort on the work of the Gospel," Oakes said.

All in ADV are encouraged to continue to be in prayer for the members of the Virginia Supreme Court as they review the briefs that have been filed in advance of the oral arguments.

On Friday evening, April 9, at 7:30 pm, the Anglican District of Virginia is gathering for a service of prayer and celebration of Holy Eucharist at Church of the Apostles located at 3500 Pickett Road in Fairfax, Va. All clergy are invited to vest (white stoles). Members and friends of the ADV congregations are invited to come together to pray and worship for the ongoing legal proceedings.

"The Lord has blessed us time and time again throughout the litigation, but we must remain faithful in prayer not only for the members of the state Supreme Court, but for our own legal team while resting in the knowledge that ultimately He is in control and is ruling over the entire situation," Oakes concluded.

Missions at a Glance

ADV Members to Leave March 27 for "Mission Haiti 2010"

The video and images following the devastating Haiti earthquake on January 12 served as a shocking reminder to many of us about the current state of the poverty-stricken country. While the needs following the massive 7.0 magnitude quake continue to be great, the challenges facing the rest of the country from a lack of clean water to political corruption seem daunting as well.

But the La Croix, Haiti, New Testament Mission is making a difference and changing lives in the region, not just tackling the symptoms of the country's problems. On March 27, a team of nine men, including young teens mostly from ADV parishes, will head to La Croix to lend a hand.

The La Croix Mission, located about 70 miles north of Port-au-Prince, was not damaged in the recent earthquake, and is actually still recovering from a series of

severe hurricanes that hit about a year and a half ago. The Mission is, however, trying to assist many of the refugees and those who have traveled north to its clinic seeking medical care.

Initially, the plans for the week-long mission trip came out of last year's ADV Men's Spiritual Life Weekend and an inspiring address by Pastor Vaugelas Pierre, who founded the Mission and continues to oversee it today. In addition to members from Church of the Holy Spirit and Truro Church, team members from an area Methodist church and McLean Bible Church will be going as well.

Pastor Pierre, a native Haitian, started the Mission in 1984 after leaving the country for a time and sensing a call from God to return and do what he could to instigate change.

"Pastor Pierre feeds and educates over 3,500 children each school day in seven locations with a staff of several hundred. He also operates a medical clinic, a birthing center, a grain mill, and a farm. All are ministry opportunities," said The Rev. John Nuzum of Church of the Holy Spirit who has traveled to the area several times over the years and helped coordinate the upcoming trip.

Education is one of the Mission's top priorities given that half of all school-age children in Haiti do not attend class, mostly because they can't afford schooling. Today, the children who attend preschool through 12th grade at the Mission also get uniforms, shoes and a hot meal. But sadly, for many, it's the only meal they'll have during the day.

Nuzum explained that there are three specific projects they'll be taking on while there, including helping with Pastor Pierre's new housing initiative. One of the projects is to put corrugated roofing materials on new houses that are being built on concrete foundations, with electricity and propane for cooking. Considering what many of the families come from, this would be a big step up, Nuzum explained. "It would be like going from a shack to a decent house in the United States," he said. "We're also going to be using an Amish furniture design to make benches that can be used as school desks to seat four to six children," Nuzum said, adding that Pastor Pierre has several plumbing projects that they'll be assigned to as well.

Nuzum said he feels the trip will be eye-opening, particularly for the younger members of the team who'll get a taste of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, plagued by disease, malnutrition, and an 85 percent unemployment rate.

"The Lord will provide opportunities for those who go to share their testimony, teach, pray, and befriend those He puts in their path. The La Croix New Testament Mission is an amazing ministry laboratory for those who have never gone into another culture to minister or for those who want to explore being in the mission field."

Pastor Pierre reports that because of the earthquake there is a nationwide revival taking place in Haiti. In the last month, several hundred people have given their lives to Christ at public meetings sponsored by the La Croix New Testament Mission. Pastor Pierre also noted that several witch doctors have made very firm commitments to receive Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Nuzum noted that he and the rest of the mission team are requesting that ADV pray both "for protection and that the will of God will be done, especially during divine encounters."

The work of the La Croix New Testament Mission is supported by numerous churches of different denominations throughout the United States and there is an ongoing need for sponsors of school children. To learn more and get involved, visit: <http://www.lacroixhaitimission.org/index.html>.

Art/Music/Justice Coming to The Falls Church

God's Masterpiece: How Do We Use His Gifts to Us?

By Allison Yates Gaskins, member of The Falls Church

In 2008, a group of Christian singers and songwriters led by Sara Groves and Charlie Peacock banded together to take the Art/Music/Justice tour on the road. The purpose behind the tour was to use the framework of songs and creative arts as a platform for raising awareness of injustice around the world, and to inspire followers of Christ to live fully integrated lives - incorporating their faith into all aspects of daily living.

From April 16-18, 2010, we have the privilege of bringing Art/Music/Justice here to The Falls Church for a special weekend event. Over the course of those three days, through special concerts and seminars, we will have the opportunity to talk in new ways about stewarding our lives well. The purpose behind this event is threefold:

1. We will be challenged to think in new ways about what it is that God has given each one of us. What are my passions? My skills? My circumstances? What does it mean to believe that these come from God, for his good purpose, to be used by Him for his glory?

2. We will cause one another to ask, "How can I more fully use what I have been given, to glorify God and to build his kingdom?" Our seminars on April 17 will offer ample opportunity, with teaching by a variety of gifted speakers, to probe into some of these questions at a more personal level.

For example: "What if I don't think I have anything to offer?" "How can I even know what my gifts are?" "What if all I have is pain? How can God use that?" "I can't go overseas to serve the poor." "What does it mean to live justly right here, right now?"

3. Finally, we will celebrate the ways that so many individuals with ties to TFC are already "using what they have" to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

For example, Shep Owen will join us on Sunday morning, April 18. The son of TFC missionaries Sam and Lynn Owen, Shep grew up in Falls Church and in Nairobi, Kenya. Shep now serves as the director of Food for the Hungry's northern Kenya

projects, working in conjunction with Blood: Water Mission (a global non-profit organization started by Jars of Clay) to provide famine relief and clean water. Shep is using some of his furlough time to come and share with us all that God is doing in northern Kenya, and to offer ways that we might partner with him as well.

But why ART, MUSIC, and JUSTICE?

Good question. I'm so glad you asked!

ART - The Bible clearly states that we are God's own art. In the Falls Church's small group studies last fall, many of us were struck by Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The New Living Translation says "We are God's masterpiece." Each of us is God's own beloved creation, and His call upon our individual lives is to live purposefully in light of that fact. In addition to this, our creative, Creator God has given us imagination and the capacity to see and experience him visually through "the creative arts."

Clearly this is a medium that speaks more to some than others. In many contexts, art is a powerful tool for healing and redemption. We are going to celebrate that throughout our AMJ weekend as well, with seminars that highlight some of the creative arts and help us discern our own "personal art" (spiritual giftedness), and with a TFC art exhibit.

MUSIC - We will be hosting two fantastic concerts at TFC as part of Art/Music/Justice. Sara Groves will be in concert Friday, April 16, and Jars of Clay on Saturday, April 17. Both concerts will be in our Main Sanctuary, and tickets are available via the TFC website. You can get a good preview of the music on each of the musician's websites (www.saragroves.com and www.jarsofclay.com).

These are not only multiple award-winning artists, but also thoughtful, well-spoken individuals who care greatly about God's word and Kingdom work. Sara's music is piano-driven and lyrically rich; she tells stories with her songs. She makes it her goal to "ask the larger questions about what Jesus is doing in our world, and how we can be the art of God." Much of Sara's music has been inspired by the ministry of International Justice Mission (IJM), and she will tell these stories throughout the evening.

Jars of Clay are storytellers too, though their music has more of a rock and roll edge. These gentlemen have been using their musical gifts for 15 years as a platform to motivate and inspire believers to "walk their talk." If you prefer lower volumes, come hear Sara. If you want to rock out a little bit, come to Jars of Clay. If you want it all-come to both! You will be encouraged, inspired in your faith, and you might even find yourself singing on the way home.

JUSTICE - We are clearly told in Micah 6:8 what the Lord expects of each of us: "He has showed you...what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." But what does that look like on a daily basis? What could it look like? What does it mean to seek justice locally? Globally? What does the fully integrated life of the believer look like? This April, we are going to have the opportunity to ask these questions of ourselves, and then, to step out in faith and start living the response!

The event is open to all ADV parishes. For complete information on the conference seminars and the two concerts, go to the special Art/Music/Justice website at <http://www.ArtMusicJustice.com>. Ticket Sales: All tickets and registration are through the TFC website www.thefallschurch.org/AMJ. Prices: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS Friday, April 16 - 7:30 pm Sara Groves Concert, tickets \$18 advance/\$20 at the door. Saturday April 17 9:00 am to 4:00 pm AMJ Seminars (and Art Exhibit), \$30, 7:30 pm Jars of Clay Concert, tickets \$25 advance/\$30 at the door. COMBO (package including all 3 events): \$70.

Events and Announcements

Bishop Minns' Visitation Schedule:

March 14, 2010 - Christ the King Anglican Church - Alexandria, Virginia

Bishop Bena's Visitation Schedule:

March 21, 2010 - The Falls Church - Falls Church, Virginia

April 11, 2010 - Truro Church - Fairfax, Virginia

May 2, 2010 - Shepherd's Heart - Fairfax, Virginia

May 16, 2010 - St. Stephen's Heathsville, Virginia

Earthquake Relief Efforts in Haiti and Chile

Thanks to all ADV members who have already donated to help Haiti and Chile rebuild after the countries were hit back-to-back by devastating earthquakes. Reports show that aftershocks in Chile are still causing significant damage. Anglican Relief and Development has placed a donation button at <http://www.anglicanaid.net/?/mail/page/22> for donations for Chile relief and recovery and will be working to offer concrete support for the work of the Diocese of Chile in the weeks ahead. Those wishing to donate to the ongoing Haiti relief efforts can follow the link provided above as well. Another highly rated charity is Falls Church, Va.-based CrossLink International which is helping to get medical supplies including antibiotics, aspirin, surgical and hospital equipment to Christian medical teams. Payments can be processed online at the following link: <http://www.crosslinkinternational.net>.

ADV Rectors Answer "Why I'm Anglican"

As part of the Anglican District of Virginia's efforts to explore the meaning and significance of Anglicanism, rectors from member churches and other leaders will be discussing "Why I'm Anglican" on a monthly basis in this newsletter. The Rev'd John Yates from The Falls Church and Bishop David Bena, contact bishop for ADV,

have already contributed pieces. Bishop John Guernsey's comments were featured in the last issue. Look for more essays from Father Harold Hammond from Shepherd's Heart, the Rev'd David Glade from Christ the King, the Rev'd Jeff Cerar from St. Stephen's, the Rev'd Patrick Ware from Winchester Anglican, the Rev'd Jonathan Pietschman from Holy Cross Anglican Church, the Rev'd David Harper from Church of the Apostles, the Rev'd Becki Neumann from South Riding Anglican Church, the Rev'd Mark Sholander from Christ the Redeemer, and others. For more information or to view recent essays on the topic, visit www.AnglicanDistrictofVirginia.org.

ADV to Kick off New Anglican Insights Series with Archbishop Bob Duncan - March 13, 2010

To kick off the Anglican District of Virginia's new "Anglican Insights" speaker series exploring the topic of Anglicanism, Archbishop Bob Duncan of the Anglican Church in North America will speak on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Come and hear Archbishop Duncan as he addresses ADV for the first time. The event will begin at 9:00 am with Morning Prayer, followed by Archbishop Duncan's address and a time for the audience to ask him questions. This ADV Anglican Insights event will be held at The Falls Church, 115 E. Fairfax Street, Falls Church, Va., 22046. For questions, please contact James Guthrie at (703) 273-1300 or email james.guthrie@anglicandistrictofvirginia.org. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Benefit concert for Five Talents - March 19, 2010

Truro Church Concert Series & George Mason University will present a benefit concert for Five Talents International and a masterclass featuring: Wei Yu, Member of the New York Philharmonic (cello), with Keuna Lee (piano). The concert will take place on Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. in the Truro Church Main Sanctuary, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax, Va. A freewill offering will be taken to support Five Talents International. The masterclass is free and open to the public. It will take place on Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. and will be hosted by George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Va. For more information contact: kboyd@trurochurch.org.

Prayer Service for Church Litigation - April 9, 2010

On Friday evening, April 9, at 7:30 pm, the Anglican District of Virginia is gathering for a service of prayer and celebration of Holy Eucharist at Church of the Apostles. All clergy are invited to vest (white stoles). Members and friends of the ADV congregations are invited to come together to pray and worship for the ongoing legal proceedings. Church of the Apostles is located at 3500 Pickett Road in Fairfax, Va.

Jars of Clay, Sara Groves to Perform at The Falls Church - April 16-18

Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 16-18. The Falls Church will host the Art/Music/Justice Conference with special events to include concerts by Sara Groves (4/16) and Jars of Clay (4/17), an art show featuring Falls Church artists, a

day of engaging seminars (4/17) and special music and visitors at 11 am worship on 4/18. You will be challenged to see what God is doing around you, hear what He is saying to you personally, and act on these things in tangible ways. More information is available at <http://www.artmusicjustice.com/> and tickets are available at www.thefallschurch.org/AMJ.

Church of the Apostles to Hold Parenting Seminar - May 8, 2010

Church of the Apostles is bringing in Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting, to teach a parenting seminar on Saturday, May 8 from 8:45 am - 2:30 pm. The theme is "Strengthening the Conscience to Help Children be Internally Motivated," which is designed for parents of children ages 2-18. Children ages 4-12 are also invited as part of a separate track. (Limited childcare for infants to age 3 will be available with advance registration only.) The cost is \$15 per adult, \$5 per child. Box lunches will be available for an additional cost. For more information, please email Kristin Colligan (kcolligan@churchoftheapostles.org) or call 703-591-1974, ext 3011.

Anglican District of Virginia Men's Spiritual Life Weekend - June 4-6, 2010

The annual Men's Weekend is scheduled for June 4-6, 2010 at the Clarion Hotel and conference center in Shepherdstown, WV. Please begin making plans now to attend this great weekend. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

ADV Synod - October 2, 2010

Save the date now for the Anglican District of Virginia Synod Meeting in 2010. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, retired Bishop of Rochester in the Church of England.

ADV Spotlight

Modern Day Implications of Shari'a Law

By the Rev'd Canon Julian Dobbs, Founder, CANA's Church & Islam Project

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the global community has been saturated with carefully nuanced descriptions that explain the Muslim faith to a world that had previously given little attention to this 7th century religion.

Unfamiliar words such as jihad and shari'a have become familiar concepts that are presented by world leaders and others to describe, and in many cases, defend Islam's restlessness with western culture and civilization.

Many Muslim leaders have become skilled operators at negating adverse information about Islam by presenting the Islamic faith as a peace-loving, peace-promoting way of living with nothing the western world needs to fear. Furthermore, in an attempt to appease Islam, which exerts an over-proportionate influence on foreign policy, global financial markets and the media, western governments have

shaped their agendas to ensure, in some cases through legislation, that Islam and the prophet Mohammad are protected from any critique that might dishonor the Islamic faith. Thus, societies that were founded on a Judeo-Christian heritage have capitulated to Islam, giving the Muslim faith a platform to strategically influence the global community through the introduction of shari'a law.

In a surprising development, some leaders within the Christian community are now speaking in defense of Islam and promoting new faith relationships where Christians and Muslims promote understanding and reconciliation making the world a better place for all.

At a recent 'dialog' between Christianity and Islam at Washington's National Cathedral, senior Christian and Muslim leaders including Dr. Ahmad El Tayeb, president of Sunni Islam's foremost center of learning, Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, and Bishop John Chane, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, committed themselves and appealed to fellow believers to promote respect for all human life, religious freedom as an integral part of human rights and to confront issues of unjust treatment, violence and oppression of women and children.

While these are commendable goals, it is difficult to know exactly how these Christian leaders intend to make tangible and measurable progress in their 'dialog' while Islam has no intention to amend the draconian and medieval aspects of shari'a law.

In Islam, Jews and Christians are given second class status. There are restrictions placed upon them which are designed to reinforce their second class standing. Of serious concern is Islam's apostasy law which prescribes the death penalty of any Muslim male who leaves the faith and refuses to return to Islam. There are other penalties such as the loss of inheritance rights and the annulment of marriage - all to be reinstated or returned when the convert returns to Islam.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every individual has the right to change their religion or belief. However, some nations who were signatories to this declaration continue to openly permit the inexcusable suffering of converts from Islam. Recent fatwas [religious opinions issued by Islamic scholars] provide evidence that many leaders within Islam continue to see apostasy as a crime punishable by death.

In Islam, women are considered to be 'toys' who are to satisfy the desire of their husbands. Under some circumstances they are permitted to be beaten and their testimony is worth less than that of a Muslim man. The treatment of women according to shari'a law is graphically portrayed in the movie "The Stoning of Soraya M." This is an incredibly emotionally charged true story that depicts the modern day testimony of an Iranian village's persecution of an innocent woman, who in 1986 was buried to her waist in her hometown square and stoned to death by her husband and fellow villagers all in accordance with shari'a law.

There are many documented present day cases that provide evidence of the continuing brutality of shari'a law. A recent USA Today report stated that Muslim men had been accused of 6 'honor killings' in the United States over the past two

years. In Islam, honor killings are permitted when someone [usually a woman] has brought shame on a Muslim family.

One of the most recent examples is that of 20-year-old, Noor Almaleki in Peoria, Arizona, who was killed in November 2009 when her father intentionally drove over her in a parking lot because she had brought shame on him and his family. Arizona prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty in this case so that there is "no appearance that a Christian is seeking to execute a Muslim for racial, political, religious or cultural beliefs."

It is unclear how the participants of Washington Cathedral's dialog intend to promote respect for all human life and confront issues of oppression of women and children while Islam continues to promote and endorse the cruel and indefensible edicts of shari'a law. It is time for leaders in the global community to call Islam to account and to support the small minority within Islam who are calling for reform.

The Christian community has an urgent responsibility to declare the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Throughout history, the Church has been at the forefront of transforming society and challenging unjust structures with the liberating truth of the gospel.

Christians must once again believe with confidence that the gospel can change lives and change the world.

ADV Church Planting

The Bishops' Summit on Evangelism and Church Planting

"Each One Reach One and Every Church Plant One" is the theme for the Bishops' Summit on Evangelism and Church Planting to be held at Church of the Epiphany on May 15, 2010 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. ADV Bishops are calling all clergy and lay leaders for a day to discuss how the ADV can effectively engage Archbishop Duncan's challenge to plant 1000 churches in five years.

This initiative was launched in Plano, Texas during the Anglican 1000 Summit in February, when 320 leaders from the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) gathered to be challenged, inspired, taught, and commissioned. Many leaders from ADV were there, including Bishops Minns and Guernsey. This Bishops' Summit is the next step in the process of inspiring every member in the ADV community to embrace this special challenge.

At this summit you will hear from ADV bishops and other exciting leaders who will

begin to show us how we can take first steps to engage the ADV church community in this mission. More details will follow soon regarding speakers and the agenda for the day.

What Does a Church Planter Look Like?

By Ann Treimann, member of The Falls Church

At the Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit in Plano, Texas, we heard that lay people who have had a radical experience meeting Jesus Christ can plant churches.

We need to give them permission, mentoring, discipling and prayer support. This model is growing churches exponentially in Africa and Asia.

We met the "lay catechists" pastoring and planting a variety of congregations under the supervision of the Rev. William Beasley in the Chicago, Illinois area. For example, in one workshop, we met Mike Niebauer, a musician with a Young Life background who is pastoring a congregation at Northwestern University. Meeting these lay pastors reminded me not only of the church planting in Acts but also of the English settlers in Virginia, gathering under trees and in living rooms to worship, without ordained clergy, who founded our ADV Churches.

We heard from the Rev. Ellis Brust, a southern minister formerly easily recognized by his bow ties and suits. He has been called to plant a church in Orange County, California. He has undergone what Oprah would call a "makeover." He addressed us wearing fashionable jeans and a tussled and gelled hair-do. Church planters are relocating and reinventing themselves to make disciples.

One plenary speaker, Erin Bair, gave us the good news of her (and the Rev. David Hanke's) church plant, Restoration Anglican, Arlington, Va. showing the success of The Falls Church's "Timothy" model.

Also representing the ADV, the Rev. Rick Wright from The Falls Church, and the Rev. Tom Herrick from the Titus Institute, led workshops.

To understand some of these new models of church planting and recognize these leaders, may require us to re-boot.

A panel of seminary deans and professors made clear that exponential church growth will fill the seminaries with leaders hungry for life-giving training. They are shifting their curricula to include more church planting courses, and offering distance learning options.

Our host, the Rev. Canon David Roseberry, rector of Christ Church Plano, reminded us that church planting requires resilience: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

At the summit, a new ACNA task force was formed which addresses campus ministry and theological education. As a steering committee member I hope to make contact with all of you in the ADV with an interest in these fields.

If you would like to contact me, please email at atreimann@yahoo.com.

The Anglican District of Virginia (www.anglicandistrictofvirginia.org) is an association of Anglican congregations in Virginia. Its members are in full communion with constituent members of the Anglican Communion through its affiliation with the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA), a missionary branch of the Church of Nigeria and other Anglican Archbishops. ADV members are a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, a community of 77 million people. ADV is dedicated to fulfilling Christ's Great Commission to make disciples while actively serving in three main capacities: International Ministries, Evangelism, and Strengthening Families and Community. ADV is currently comprised of 27 member congregations and three mission fellowships.

Join Our Mailing List!

Do you have a submission for the ADVance?

ADVance publishes bi-weekly on Thursdays and welcomes submissions and suggestions for articles and events. The deadline for publication is two days prior. If you would like to suggest an idea, contribute a piece, or submit an event listing, please email james.guthrie@anglicandistrictofvirginia.org.