

# Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

August 11, 2011

Dear Friends,

Meg and I were blessed by a quiet, domestic vacation this summer. Having been traveling 90% of the time in our visits to churches in our former, non-geographical diocese, it was nice to be able to stay at home and do some long-overdue home projects. One of those neglected tasks was cleaning the garage and going through some old family papers, which had come from my parents' home many years ago. I learned that my great, great grandfather Jesse was the Superintendent of Congregationalist churches in Iowa in the 1850's and 1860's. A little Google research turned up an online copy of a church history volume that included my ancestor's quarterly report to the churches. It seems that things really do run in families. I read these words:

"We have the following from the report of Superintendent Guernsey: 'I have this quarter travelled not less than three thousand miles; visited twenty-eight mission fields; attended four associational meetings and two councils; assisted in the dedication of one church; preached twelve times and made many other addresses.'"

It sounds familiar—except that he did it on horseback!

My great, great grandfather went on to highlight the laying of new railroads that would soon come to the state and he was passionate about the opportunities for sharing the Gospel and planting churches that were before them. He exhorted the church leaders, saying, "A field promising a richer harvest it would be difficult to find."

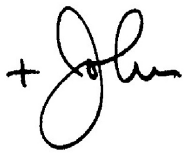
That, too, sounds very familiar. At the launch of our new diocese, "a field promising a richer harvest it would be difficult to find." As Jesus put it, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" (John 4:35).

Our work in response, Jesus told us, must begin in prayer. "He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest'" (Matthew 9:37-38). Prayer is key. Jesus tells us to pray before He even says, "Go." It was the great teacher on prayer, Dr. A.J. Gordon, who said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."

The challenge of mission before us can be exhilarating...and overwhelming. Only the power of God released in prayer is sufficient to the task. As we start our life together in this new diocese, let's renew our commitment to make prayer central to all that we do. Pray for those you know who don't yet know the Lord. Pray for your congregation and its leaders. And please pray for me, as well.

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ" (Colossians 4:2-3).

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John". The signature is stylized and cursive.

The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey  
*Bishop*  
*Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic*

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### ***Special Announcements***

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, September 10 at Truro Church, Fairfax, Va.

9:00 a.m. Brief opening session of Annual Synod to take the required action to put our new Constitution and Canons into effect and to elect the members of the Standing Committee. Synod then recesses until November 18-19.

11:00 a.m. Investiture as first Bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. Archbishop Robert Duncan, presiding.

Fri.-Sat., November 18-19 at the new All Saints' Church, Woodbridge, Va.

Annual Synod reconvenes with a focus on mission, featuring a testimony by each church and fellowship about what the Lord is doing through you.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

**A Civil War Anniversary Becomes an Opportunity for Outreach**

We'd like to offer a hearty congratulations to the Rev. Clancy Nixon and his wife,

## **SPOTLIGHT**

**Lay and Clergy Nominees for Synod Council Selected**

Elected members of the Standing Committee will be voted upon at a brief

Ginger; Historic Ministries founder Jim Craft; and the Rev. John Nuzum for the successful outreach and evangelism ministry during the 150th anniversary observances of the First Battle of Manassas, and the great publicity in the August 1 Washington Post Prince William section.

[Read the full story in The Washington Post.](#)

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#### **August 14: Historic Anglican Service at Union Church**

Come join in a historical Protestant Episcopal Morning Prayer and Holy Communion service as it would have been conducted in 1861 with period hymns at the 100-year-old Union Church in Brentsville. (12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 20136). Service: 10:00am - 11:00am. Minister: Rev. Thomas A. Costa, D.D. This event is absolutely FREE to the public, so bring your friends, family and neighbors for fun and goodies! More details:

<http://www.historicfaith.net/calendar>

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*Does your parish have a story to tell? [Let us know!](#)*

#### **Anglican 1000 – Fall Events – Spread the word!**

*Anglican1000 is an initiative of the [Anglican Church in North America](#) and her ministry partners to raise up Anglican congregations and communities of faith across North America to reach people with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.*

opening session of the Annual Synod, to be held at Truro Church, in Fairfax, Virginia, on Saturday, September 10, 2011, beginning at 9:00am. During this session the Synod will also take the required action to put the new Constitution and Canons into effect. The Synod will then recess until November 18-19, 2011.

Click [here](#) to learn more about background information for the lay and clergy nominees for the Standing Committee of the Diocese; specific language from the Constitution and Canons (adopted in May 2011) that describes the composition; and powers and duties of the Standing Committee.

[Simeon Fellowship](#) – September 2011

The Simeon Fellowship is a peer-to-peer fellowship of rectors to facilitate and encourage Gospel-centered Anglican church planting throughout North America by emulating the life and ministry of Charles Simeon. The Simeon Fellowship features:

- Fellowship
- Annual Gathering - (Save the Date - September 12-14, 2011)
- Several Meet-Ups
- Commitment to Fund Church Planting from the Members
- Commitment to Raise Up and Support New Leaders from the Members

### **MORE DETAILS**

[Anglican Worship](#): a conversation on liturgy, formation, mission & art – November 2011

Pastors and leaders, students and artists, church planters and liturgists – join the conversation! **Anglican Worship: a conversation on liturgy, formation, mission, and art** is a three-day event to equip leaders in the church with a deeper understanding of the formative power of Anglican worship. We will unfold the ethical, missional, theological, doxological, and artistic beauty of Anglican liturgy and put it to practice through worship.

### **MORE DETAILS**

[Church Planting Summit](#) – March 2012

The 2012 Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit will be held **March 6-8, 2012** in Plano, TX. Featured speakers include **Scot McKnight, Mike Breen, and David Taylor**. Anglican church planters and leaders from across North America will be making presentations, field reports, and

hosting workshops. This is our third annual conference, which is an opportunity for everyone who is part of this exciting movement to gather for equipping, worship, encouragement, networking, prayer, and reports from the mission field.

## [MORE DETAILS](#)

### **EVENTS & ANOUNCEMENTS**

#### **“Why Anglicanism?” Compilation Booklet Now Available**

A compilation booklet of our written essay and lecture series on the meaning of Anglicanism, along with a study guide for personal reflection or group study, is now available. The articles inside the “Why Anglicanism?” booklet come from a variety of different leaders, ranging from Archbishop Robert Duncan of the Anglican Church in North America to many of our own rectors. Our hope is that all who read this booklet will gain deeper understanding of the Anglican faith and, in so doing, draw closer to Christ. For the printable “Why Anglicanism?” booklet, please click [here](#). To read the text online, click [here](#).

#### **August 25: Heaven is for Real, hosted by Church of the Apostles**

*Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back* by Todd Burpo and with Lynn Vincent. [See the write-up](#). This is a powerful little book that will bless everyone that reads it. You'll love the book. David Harper said that he was very moved and encouraged by it. Hostess: [Martha Birdseye](#), 2708 Curzon Court, Vienna; Leader: Deirdre DiGirolamo.

#### **September 14: New Healing Prayer Class at The Falls Church**

Save the date and register now for the Wednesday evening healing prayer class. This is its sixth year in a row. Send your name, parish, email and phone number to Chuck Cook: [ccook04@earthlink.net](mailto:ccook04@earthlink.net) or 703-354-5469. Click for [flyer](#).

**Saturday, September 17: Prayer Book Society presentations and open discussion at Truro Church.** The rich teaching and devotional resources of classic Anglican Books of Common Prayer, including the American 1928, will be addressed by PBS President the Rev. Gavin Dunbar, Rector of St. John's Savannah, Georgia, and Executive Director the Rev. Jason Patterson, Rector of St. Andrew's Asheboro, North Carolina, in a public gathering from 10 to 12 noon including open questions and discussion. The Prayer Book Society USA is grateful to Truro Church for their kind hospitality. Everyone is invited to attend and take part.

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**Jobs:** <http://www.anglicandistrictofvirginia.org/jobs>  
*(Note, if you have submitted a job to be posted and the position is no longer open, please let us know by replying to this email!)*

**Announcements:** Do you have an event announcement or story idea for the ADVance News? Please use the following form to submit items. This will greatly improve our capacity to publicize ADV member parish events and stories. Thank you in ADVance!  
<http://www.anglicandistrictofvirginia.org/submitstory>

**Events:** [For other upcoming events, check out the ADV Event Calendar!](#)

[Bishop's Visitation Schedule.](#)

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The [Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic](#) is a regional diocese of the Anglican Church in North America. Many of

its congregations continue to be in partnership with the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANAm), a missionary branch of the Church of Nigeria. The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic is dedicated to reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic consists of 31 member congregations and nine mission fellowships.