

# Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

August 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

The “buzz” is building for the events planned for September 10. We will have our last ADV Synod meeting to affirm the start of the Diocese of the Mid Atlantic, then will have a brief first Synod meeting of the new diocese to elect a Standing Committee, and then will celebrate the investiture of our first bishop, John Guernsey. This day is a hugely significant one in our continuing development as a family, and I am really looking forward to the activities, as are many others. We are expecting over a dozen bishops to attend Bishop Guernsey’s investiture, including Archbishop Duncan, Bishop Minns, and Bishop Bena. It will be a time of great joy, as well as a time of thanksgiving to God for the way He has blessed our efforts here in Virginia and the mid-Atlantic. We truly have much to be thankful for!

As we approach this great day, I remember back to our humble beginnings. It was only six years ago that as Truro Church’s new Senior Warden, I was invited to attend a meeting of wardens and rectors of churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. That group had started meeting together periodically to try to find a way forward as a group in view of the turmoil that was tearing through the Episcopal Church. It is hard to describe what those early meetings were like – we were confused, angry (sometimes with each other), hurt, fearful, and uncertain as to direction, timing, and destination. We all knew that what we prayed for – an orthodox Anglican presence in North America – didn’t exist at the time, and we weren’t sure what to do next. We didn’t even know what to call ourselves! But out of that group was ultimately born a Coalition, then the Anglican District of Virginia, and now the Anglican Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. What a journey!

This will be my last newsletter introduction as Chairman of ADV. I have been blessed beyond words by the privilege of being a part of the birth and growth of this group, and it is an experience I will always remember. Perhaps one of the greatest feelings I have as I watch this transition is knowing that we are in such good hands with our new bishop, and with the outstanding candidates we have for the new diocesan standing committee. The future of our new diocese is bright!

Dan Van Ness, Truro’s current Senior Warden, sent me a wonderfully gracious note after our constitutional convention in May. In that note, he pointed out that in a few years, few

will remember us – most people will assume that the diocese has always been here, and will give little thought to how it was created. It is a humbling thought, and most likely true. But as he pointed out, the One we serve will not forget – and I pray He is pleased by our actions.

And just as I thank God for letting me be a part of this adventure, so I thank all of you for being part of it with me. It has truly been an amazing journey, and I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. Thanks for the ride!

In Christ,



Jim Oakes  
*Chairman of the Board*  
*Anglican District of Virginia*

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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**

Would you save a baby's life?



## **SPOTLIGHT**

Over 4,300 children are alive today as a result of previous *40 Days for Life* campaigns. When their mothers saw someone praying outside the abortion facility and holding a sign with a positive pro-life message, they changed their minds about getting an abortion and allowed their babies to live. They also spared themselves a lifetime of regret.

This fall, from **September 28 – November 6**, simultaneous campaigns will be held in many cities. Everyone who participates in a vigil agrees to pursue peaceful solutions, to show compassion, and to reflect Christ's love to everyone, including those who work at the abortion clinics. Please prayerfully consider your part in this work that God is doing. For more information, or to volunteer to help, go to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com), where you will be able to find the location of the vigils in your state.

There are campaigns being planned for the following locations in Virginia:

[Alexandria](#) [Charlottesville](#) [Fairfax](#) [Falls Church](#) [Manassas](#) [Newport News](#) [Richmond](#) [Roanoke](#) [Virginia Beach](#)

**[Read the full story.](#)**

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

## **Brotherhood Sunday in a Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic Parish**

*By Susan Brooks Thomas*

On Sunday, July 10, more than 145 Christians from two churches in the Northern Neck of Virginia gathered under a tent on Northumberland Highway in Heathsville for a picnic. St. Stephen's Anglican Church hosted First Baptist Church of Heathsville, reciprocating in a second annual "Brotherhood Sunday." The two congregations describe their partnership as an important bridge across denominational, cultural and racial barriers for the cause of Jesus Christ. One member observed on Sunday, "Today we celebrate as one tribe."

**[Read the full story.](#)**



*The Anglican Church in North America*

*Presents*

The Second Annual

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and  
Biblical Jordan**

February 21 through March 2, 2012

\$2,599.00, airfare not included (Airfares  
range from \$1100.00 to \$1300.00  
depending on your departure city).

Led by:

Bishop William and Mrs. Loisjean  
Ilgenfritz

This special invitation is open to members  
in the Anglican Church in North America.  
At the present time, there are 15 places  
available.

Please call Kathryn Waller at  
Connoisseurs Tours 1-800-856-1045, or  
[click here to email](#) a request for a copy of  
the itinerary for this tour and to register.

[Brochure](#)

## **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](#).

### **September 9-11: In Remembrance: Interactive Sculpture Meditation Garden**

*In Remembrance* is a “pop up” (temporary) contemporary, interactive, sculpture installation.

The installation commemorates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11 and will be on display from 9am to 11pm Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 11. Truro Church’s installation underscores both the Washington Arts Group and the church’s commitment to finding ways to implement reconciliation through the arts. The Washington Arts Group is a 501c3 established in 1978 to encourage spirituality in the arts and to connect art with life and human need. Visitors are encouraged to interact with the art and record their thoughts and reflections in a book of remembrance provided on site. The installation is free and open to the public during viewing hours. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### **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](#).

### **September 17: Women’s Day Conference at Church of the Apostles with Rev. Shirley Morris: Living Proverbs 3:5-6**

In times of anxiety, grief, suffering, and uncertainty, it can be tempting to lean on our own understanding. Rev. Shirley Morris will help women counter that all-too human response by reminding us to trust in the Lord, acknowledge him in all our ways, and allow him to direct our paths.

WHEN: Saturday, Sep 17, 9:00am-3:00pm (Check-in and light breakfast at 8:30am)

COST: \$20

LUNCH: Box lunches are available for \$5 and must be reserved no later than Wednesday, Sep 14. You are also welcome to bring your own non-perishable lunch.

CHILDCARE will be available for children up to age 10 with advance registration ONLY. Cost will be \$10 per child, maximum of \$20 per family. Requests for childcare MUST be received no later than Sunday, Sep 4, by contacting Pam Marsh at 703-591-1974, or [PMarsh@ChurchoftheApostles.org](mailto:PMarsh@ChurchoftheApostles.org).

TO REGISTER: Send an email to [Info@ChurchoftheApostles.org](mailto:Info@ChurchoftheApostles.org); or call the office at 703-591-1974 (M-F, 9am-4:30pm).

**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.

**September 25-28: The Healing Center at Orkney Springs Fall Retreat - Healing as we Heal**

This conference, hosted by The Healing Center at Orkney Springs, features Canon Mark Pearson and his wife, Dr. Mary Pearson. Read more details and register [here](#).

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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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Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic  
10520 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(address until Sept. 2011)

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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 (CANA), 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.