



*Diocese of the*  
**MID-ATLANTIC**  
Anglican Church in North America

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December 24, Christ the  
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January 7, Bishop's Day with  
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January 7-14, Meg in Uganda to  
speak at the Annual Retreat for  
the Wives of the Bishops of the  
Church of Uganda

January 8, TBD

January 14, Bishop's Day with  
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snow date

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January 27-29, South Riding  
Church, South Riding, VA

January 30-February 1,  
Archbishop's Cabinet and ACNA  
Executive Committee,  
Tallahassee, FL

December 15, 2011

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Dear Friends,

The prophet Zechariah, whose book is appointed to be read in the daily lectionary this week, began to speak the Word of the Lord to the people of Jerusalem in 520 B.C. The Jews had begun to return home from their exile in Babylon. They had started to rebuild the Lord's Temple, which had been destroyed by the Babylonians. But the people gave more attention to improving their own homes and the Temple had been neglected. Like his contemporary, the prophet Haggai, Zechariah called the people to turn back to the Lord and complete the work on the Temple so that the worship of the Lord could be renewed. Zechariah declared God's promise that the Lord had "returned to Jerusalem with mercy" and that His house would indeed be rebuilt (1:16).

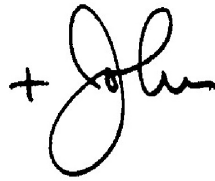
But the Lord's greatest promise was not merely about architecture, but it was a promise that He Himself would be there, abiding with His people. "I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst" (2:5). He would be their protection outside the city, since Jerusalem had no walls of defense. And His very presence would be within the city as He once again came to dwell among them.

These promises would be only partially fulfilled in that generation. The greater fulfillment came in Jesus, when, 40 days after He his birth, He was brought into the Temple by Mary and Joseph and presented to the Lord.

This was understood and proclaimed by a devout man named Simeon, to whom the Lord had revealed that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He took the baby Jesus in his arms and, inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prayed, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

As we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's coming at Christmas, may we never forget that what truly matters in our churches is the presence of Jesus among us. Not programs, not buildings, not budgets, but the glory of the Lord in the person of Jesus. Let's seek Him with all our hearts and let's share Him with those who don't yet know Him.

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

[Read or share this online.](#)

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## **Bishop Guernsey Visits Anglican Church of the Valley**

*By Doug Cochran, Vestry Member, Anglican Church of the Valley*

**"He will reveal His will to you if you truly seek it."**



Bishop John Guernsey was welcomed with special joy on his first visit to the Anglican Church of the Valley (ACOTV) in Staunton, Va., December 9-11. It was a visit marked by abundant friendship and food, by a sprinkling of pageantry and pride, and by new energy and exciting ideas.

From his lodging in a cabin a mile back in the forest, Bishop Guernsey and his wife emerged for a Friday supper and Saturday breakfast with the church vestry and clergy. He heard of the history of this growing, self-started church, and its hopes.

The Bishop spoke to those present on how to truly hear God. Coming alive in Christ, he said, restores our ability to discern God. He advised us to make time in our materialistic world to be with God, and to let the Lord speak to us through Scripture. He cautioned, “Your ability receive God’s word is determined by our willingness to do what he says.”

[Read the full story here.](#)

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## **A Journey from Baptist Pastor to Anglican Priest**

*By The Rev. Daniel Mochamps, Adjunct Priest, St. Stephen’s Anglican Church*

**Let’s be companions on our way to Christmas because “the light from heaven is about to break upon us” (Luke 1:78b).**



So, here we are, in the Advent season one more time. Waiting. Waiting for the coming of the baby, the coming of the Messiah, the one who changes our lives, redeemed from the monotonous passage of an undifferentiated time in which all days and all Sundays would be pretty well the same. Redeemed from living and walking without end toward a vague foggy horizon. Here we have an inn, a relay, a stopover; we can breathe, meditate, eat and drink, get some rest and spend time with other wayfarers. This is Advent, this is the Church Year, designed throughout the centuries of the history to help us on our way to discover and live

the Kingdom of God.

It was in 2009. I had resigned from my latest Baptist church, we were looking for our next place of service, and when I heard Katrina my wife mentioning that there was an Anglican church near her Adult Day Care Center, I immediately said: let’s go see that church.

[Read the full story here.](#)

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## **The Mission with a Heart in the Heart of the City:**

**How the Mission Can Save Your Life**

*By Rob Taylor, Sr. Warden, St. Brendan’s in the City*

In 2006, the DC Government determined that a shelter for the homeless was the best use for the historic Gales School at 65 Massachusetts Ave., NW. The city was concerned about not only renovating the decrepit structure but also providing services for the community. After failing to sell the facility, the District requested proposals for a long term



lease.

Out of three applicants, the proposal submitted by Central Union Mission (where St. Brendan's in the City worships) was selected.

A huge task lies ahead: we must restore the historic structure and convert modest classrooms into a large dining/meeting room, remodel an attic and basement into useful space and add 5,000 square feet for a kitchen and pantry. We will provide sleeping and bathroom areas for over 150 men per night and house our offices, classrooms and counseling areas for all our expanded men's ministry activities.

The Mission is scheduled to turn over our current R Street facility to our buyer by October 2012. So our first big prayer request is for a solution to our temporary location challenge. The sale of 1350 R Street will provide over half of the funds for the new facility, but we're trusting God's blessing through donors, foundations and other sources to provide the final five million dollars.

[Read the full story here.](#)

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## New Testimonies from Synod

**“They were all amazed at the greatness of God,...marveling at all that Jesus did.”  
(Luke 9:43)**

Listen to newly posted testimonies from The Rev. John W. Yates II, speaking of the healing ministry at The Falls Church, and The Rev. John Nuzum, speaking about his ministry through Church of the Holy Spirit, [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

03.06 – 03.08.12

**Anglican 1000 Church Planting  
Summit**

[Info Link](#)

03.23 - 03.25.12

**Diocesan Men's Weekend**

Speaker: Bishop Guernsey. Stay  
Tuned for Registration Details.

[Info Link](#)



## **Save the Dates!**

### **Deacons' Day with the Bishop: January 7, 2012**

A day for the vocational deacons of the Diocese with Bishop Guernsey on Saturday, January 7, 2012 (snow date: January 14), 9:30am – 3:00pm at All Saints' Church in Woodbridge, Va.

### **Stewardship Workshop for Clergy and Vestries: March 10, 2012**

For Rectors and other clergy, ALL Vestry members, stewardship chairs and any other interested persons, Bishop Guernsey will be teaching about biblical and practical stewardship principles on Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:30am – 3:00pm at All Saints' Church in Woodbridge, Va. He has taught the financial stewardship education course at Virginia Seminary for 12 years, as well as led stewardship education workshops in dozens of parishes and dioceses.

### **Men's Spiritual Life Conference: March 23-25, 2012**

The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic will once again host the Men's Spiritual Life Conference at the lovely Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Our speaker this year will be our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey. Bishop John would like to take this opportunity to get to know the men of the Diocese.

Please mark your calendars and spread the word! For more information check out our website at [www.anglicandoma.org](http://www.anglicandoma.org). Registration will be open soon.

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The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic is a regional diocese of the Anglican Church in North America dedicated to reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. The Diocese consists of 35 member churches in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and northeastern North Carolina.