

Keeping The Faith

A newsletter from the
Southeastern WI Chapter of the American Anglican Council
Volume 4 Issue 3 Summer 2010



We issue a call to unleash the multiplication of one thousand new congregations within the Anglican Church in North America in five years and set in motion a movement that will yield an ever-greater harvest in years to come for the Glory of God. - Archbishop Robert Duncan , The Anglican Church in North America

Where are we since that bold proclamation by Archbishop Duncan was issued last year? What has happened since the Anglican 1000 Movement gathered in late February in Plano, Texas and Canon David Roseberry likened the effort to Nehemiah's rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem, Fr. William Beasley encouraged Christians to step out with courage with his "Look Up and Step Out" presentation and missiologist Rev. Dr. Ed Stetzer challenged us to spend at least 25% of our time hanging out with non-believers?

When the Annual Provincial Council of ACNA met in Amesbury, Massachusetts, in early June, Archbishop Duncan reported: "When we gathered in at Bedford fifty weeks ago, we were 17 dioceses (or dioceses in formation) plus representatives of the 22 networks of the Anglican Mission. As we gather here in Amesbury, we will, God willing, emerge as 20 dioceses, plus our Ministry Partners." Two emerging Dioceses are now confirmed—the Diocese of the South, headed by Bishop-elect Rev. Dr. Foley Beach and the Diocese of the Great Lakes. Headed by Bishop Roger Ames, the Great Lakes Diocese includes congregations numerous in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Twenty churches in 4 states, representing 1,500 congregants, are now in the new Diocese of the South. 14 Congregations in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, with more than 1,500 congregants, represent the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

ACNA now has 614 congregations in 20 Dioceses. More than 200 other congregations are ministry partners with the Anglican Church,

including the congregations of the Anglican Mission (AMiA) which changed its status from a founding Member to Ministry Partner.

ACNA's church data base currently includes five churches in Wisconsin:

- ✝ St. Stephen's Anglican Church –Cedar Grove
- ✝ St. Edmund's Anglican Church—Elm Grove
- ✝ All Saints Anglican Church-Milwaukee

Ministry Partners

- ✝ Light of Christ—Kenosha
- ✝ Bread of Life –Madison

Are there people working fervently to create additional churches? Here is a recent update submitted about Fr. Tom Duncan who is pursuing opportunities in Central Wisconsin and the "Northern Frontier": "In May, Fr. Tom Duncan contacted over 70 people in Central Wisconsin and in the Oshkosh-Appleton-Green Bay corridor who in the past have expressed interest in the work of the AAC and in Anglicans for Life. He has been pleased to hear back from numerous individuals who are interested in helping develop

(continued on page 2)

Worth Noting.....

There are a number of websites to turn to for information on the Anglican Church. Among them are:

www.virtueonline.org

www.standfirmfaith.com

www.anglicanchurch.net and the newsletter at

sbjgauthier@yahoo.com

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(churches, continued from page 1.)

the emerging Anglican work in Wisconsin. Fr. Tom and Rita are following up with personal phone calls, trips to Wausau, Appleton, and Green Bay, and with e mails and letters to these interested parties.”

Taking note of Rev. Dr. Ed Stetzer’s challenge to spend time with those who do not strongly connect to a church, Deacon Phillip Anderas has begun the Holy Cross Fellowship in Milwaukee and focuses on pastoral care for students at Marquette.

Are there other additional orthodox churches in Wisconsin?

Yes! According to the AAC who keeps records of churches who have chosen in past years to be separated from the mainline Episcopal Church, there are close to eighteen listed in Wisconsin: Anglican Catholics, Charismatic Episcopalians, Anglican Province in America, Orthodox Old Catholic, Anglican Province of Christ the King, Polish Nationals, United Anglicans and others. If you would like to receive additional information about these churches, please contact the AAC by calling them toll-free at 800-914-2000 or visiting their website, www.americananglican.org.

Ministry Partners

What is a Ministry Partner? According to ACNA’s Constitution and Canons, an entity such as a seminary, monastic order or ministry organization, or a Diocese, congregation or other entity that is not a

Member of the Church, may apply in writing to the ACNA Provincial Council to become associated with the Church as a Ministry Partner.

A Ministry Partner may belong to another denomination of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, or be independent, so long as it subscribes without reservation to the Fundamental Declarations of the Church.

Ministry Partners may have representatives attend functions or gatherings of the Church upon invitation of the Archbishop, and may attend functions and gatherings of any constituent jurisdiction of the Church upon the invitation of the Bishop with jurisdiction.

Representatives of Ministry Partners may have seat and voices as determined by the Archbishop or Bishop with jurisdiction. They may withdraw from affiliation or have their affiliation ended with or without cause.

AMiA’s decision to become a Ministry Partner of ACNA rather than continue as a full membership partner came as result of difficulty in maintaining its identity as a missionary outreach of Rwanda. The revised status allows it to maintain a level of connection to ACNA while continuing to function as a missionary movement committed to church planting under the spiritual and canonical authority of Archbishop Kolini and the Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda. The transition to Ministry Partner is seen as a positive development for all concerned.

Spirit, Soul and Body - Andrew Johnson, SEWAAC President

Greetings Everyone,

These certainly are interesting times that we live in. In this issue we have included an update from the Annual Provincial Council of ACNA where two new dioceses were confirmed and it was announced that ACNA now has 20 dioceses and 614 congregations with more than 200 other congregations as ministry partners. ACNA is well on its way to meeting the proclamation for a 1000 churches proclaimed last year by Archbishop Duncan. There are now many options to take part in congregations and services all around our area as well.

In our last newsletter I shared some thoughts and experiences on discerning God’s will. In a similar vein, I’d like to share with this issue some notes on the relationship between the soul, spirit and body and how we are either subject to a relationship with God or to other things that we allow to inform us. These thoughts have been put together from a series of notes dealing with various subjects that all come back to understanding how we are subject to what is informing us, be it God or other things. The following is not intended to be an answer but rather a starting point for further discussion and meditation. I hope you can find some value from my notes and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

The Holy Spirit is God; He is the great comforter and guide given to those who welcome Him, seek Him and make themselves ready and available to Him. The mind is what allows us to think. It drives our actions and reasoning. The mind, emotion and will are all part of the soul which describes a man’s personality. The soul is subject to either our relationship with God or whatever else we allow to inform us. In Romans 12:2 Paul says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (continued on page 3)

The soul is where our feelings come from, our understanding of what is right or wrong and whether something is good or bad. Paul has called us to renew the mind, which is part of the soul, so we are able to discern God's will.

Our body is our physical being, the house that stores all of what physically makes us up and it is subject to what our mind tells it to do. When all is in alignment (Figure 1), the soul is being guided by the spirit, the Holy Spirit, living in us and guiding us. The body is guided by the mind, which is part of the soul and is guided by the spirit. Reading God's word helps bring the soul and Spirit together – helps to renew our soul and align our life with God.



Figure 1: Aligned - Spirit, Soul and Body

When the soul and the spirit are separated their relationship within us may become confused. Further, the spirit in us may or may not be of God! (Figure 2)



Figure 2: Lost - Soul, Body and [maybe] Spirit

The soul gives us that gut instinct, that feeling deep down inside. The soul produces feelings based on what is influencing us, God or other things. If the Holy Spirit is influencing the soul, we will want to do what is right and according to God's

will first, and above all else. But, if the soul is separated from the spirit we may be being led by other things (Figure 2). That is, we may be being led by what seems right to our own desires or what society tells us is acceptable, which may or may not be God's will for us. In that case we may be putting society first and just fitting in God's will where and when we can or want to, if at all.

In the beginning God was with us. The Holy Spirit was in us and connected to our human soul, providing a direct bridge between our humanity and God (Figure 1).

When we walk according to our own desires, according to the flesh, the Holy Spirit may not be able to be our comforter, to help guide us to God, and may not even be in us at all. Humanity without God's Spirit lives according to what it allows to inform its soul – our desires and society imposed norms – not necessarily what God is telling us to do. In this case the soul is separated from God's Spirit and is influenced by our own desires; desires of what seem fair, desires of what we want; desires of what society wants us to do. These desires can be, and quite often are, influenced by a different spirit than God's and may not be aligned with God's will.

As once lost Christians become reformed (figure 3), the Holy Spirit is present in their lives again. But the Holy Spirit isn't necessarily connected to the soul, leading our thoughts and actions. Our human soul may still be predominantly influenced by what the world is saying, not necessarily by our



Figure 3: Reformed - Soul, Body and Spirit

relationship with God. We want to do what's right and follow Jesus, but only to the extent that it fits in with what we feel is right, what we feel is justice and according to our own desires. We will do what God wants after we take care of what we want or what society tells us is right. Someone in this position may reason, "God wants us to enjoy our bodies; we should be able to do with them what feels good and makes others feel good," or "God welcomes all of us, regardless of what we do (no sin), we are good so whatever we do must be good" without regard to God's word written.

Whether we refer to ourselves as Episcopalian, Anglican, Presbyterian or any other denomination I pray that we do as Paul calls us to do; "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Rom 12:1 -2)

With much love and a deep desire for peace,

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Johnson

Don't Miss The Boat!



Just a gentle reminder...

The 2010 SEWAAC Fund Drive is nearing completion and we still need your help!

To date, including the match, SEWAAC is at 71.2% of our \$5,000 goal or \$3,560. Some matching funds remain available to help your gift grow in a very meaningful way, dollar for dollar!

Don't just watch this giving opportunity disappear from sight when the Drive ends on June 30th. Please send a SEWAAC contribution to Bill Chapin at 2430 W. Cedar Lane, River Hills, WI 53217. Or, call in a pledge at 414 352-4586! It would be greatly appreciated.



Adoption is an Option

The SEWAAC Anglicans for Life Chapter was pleased to be a co-sponsor of a program on April 26th at UW-Whitewater entitled, Adoption is an Option. It was designed to present alternatives to abortion to UW-W students. Emceed by James Hartwick, SEWAAC Chapter's AFL Board Member (right), the program featured personal testimonies by mothers who spoke about both the grief of adoption and the joy experienced. In the words of Andrew Johnson, SEWAAC president who attended, "the testimonies were very heart tearing and warming at the same time." Wendy Rhodes from Bethany Christian Services, an area agency providing adoption services, also spoke.



James Hartwick, Assistant Professor-UW-Whitewater, SEWAAC AFL Board Member

The program was the combined effort of many of UWW's Campus Ministries: UWW Students for Life, UWW Catholic Student Coalition, UWW Navigators, UWW United Methodist Campus Ministry and the FURNACE.

In addition to Andrew Johnson, the event was also attended by Sue Gahagan, SEWAAC AFL Chapter President and Angie Schlossberg, Board Member.

The organizers hope to repeat the program at UW Whitewater in the Fall and are considering making the program a prototype for use on other campuses.

The SEWAAC Chapter is looking for new members to add to the dynamism of the organization, both on the Board and as helpers for future events.

Please e mail Sue Gahagan to express your interest in serving this vital organization: sewaf1@rocketmail.com.



Wendy Rhodes, Bethany Christian Services

Yes! We have DVD's!

DVD's of both Christianity 101 and Christianity 201 are available for purchase. They feature outstanding speakers: Dean Robert Munday, Dr. Garwood Anderson, Rev. Canon Thad Butcher, and Rev. Canon Douglas McGlynn. Contact Bill Chapin at 414-352-4586 for pricing and subject matter.



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