

# Anglican Province of America



The Most Reverend Walter H. Grundorf, D.D., Presiding Bishop

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## BISHOP'S EPISTLE

**Haitian Relief Effort:** The APA has set up a Haiti Relief Fund. If you or your church wish to give to this fund please send donations to: D. J. Fulton, C/O Haiti fund, 9489 Brown Rd., Jonesboro, GA 30238. Please note the correction to the address street number from the email notification sent earlier. Please make out checks to "APA" and be sure to notate "Haiti Relief Fund" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued prayers for the people of Haiti.

Happy New Year and a Blessed Epiphany Season to all. Thank you for the Christmas cards and remembrances from so many of you. I have heard some reports on Christmas Services that are very encouraging and also in certain places where the weather was so bad that Services were cancelled. Those of us in Florida are presently having the coldest weather in 25 years (where is Al Gore's global warming when you need it). At least we haven't had any snow as of yet.

As each New Year swiftly comes, we as a church face new opportunities and challenges. We are entering a new decade and wonder where did the last one go? The challenges in the world in which we live become ever larger as we face growing opposition to Christianity even in our own nation. Will our country devolve into just another western nation like our counter-parts in Europe where the once Christian countries now are closing church doors for lack of interest? Will the United States remain as a beacon of freedom and opportunity based upon our Judea-Christian principles and values? These concerns and others have caused a group of prominent Christian leaders from Orthodox, Catholic, and Evangelical circles to release an historic document Friday, November 20, 2009, known as the Manhattan Declaration, ([www.ManhattanDeclaration.org](http://www.ManhattanDeclaration.org).) The Declaration issues a clarion call to Christians to adhere to their convictions and inform civil authorities that the signers will not, under any circumstance, abandon their Christian consciences. "We are Christians who have joined together...to speak and act in defense of these truths...We pledge that no power on earth, cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence." In the Declaration drafted by Dr. Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University; Dr. Timothy George, professor at Samford University Beeson Divinity School and Chuck Colson: "We will not participate in abortions, embryodestructive research, assisted suicide, euthanasia or any other anti-life act. Nor will we bend...to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriage or the equivalent or refrain from proclaiming the truth about morality, immorality, marriage and the family."

Strong statements by Christians such as the framers of this Declaration should encourage all of us to remain resolute in our determination to stand firm in our faith. The challenges may be great, but greater is He that is in us that he that is in the world. I pray that each of you will make a determination by the help of God, to resolve in the New Year to be faithful in your prayer life. It is easy to let this slide when the pressures of time come upon us. Without the grace of God enabling us, we cannot succeed in our vocations. There are so many people in the world in which each of us live, who need the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The influences of the culture around us are pulling our younger generation away from the Lord and toward the counterfeit of happiness in the world the flesh and the devil. We have the tremendous opportunity in the restless world in which we live to have an influence for good and for the peace that only comes from knowing our Lord.

May the Lord bless and guide each of you as we all journey into the unknown called the future. May we in confidence know we can always count on our Lord's presence with us even to the end of the world.

Faithfully yours,

*+Walter*

### APA Mission Board Appointed

As part of the revised Strategic Plan, I have appointed a Mission Board to serve with our Coordinator of Missions, Deaconess Tina Jenkins. The clergy appointed are: Fr. Chris Gardener, Fr. Paul Gerlock, Fr. David Haines, Fr. Bill Perkins and Fr. Johann Vanderbijl. Lay appointments are: Chairman and Champion: Deaconess Tina Jenkins, Judy Ellis and Mary Grundorf. There is the possibility of further appointments from DMA and DOW as these two dioceses are committed to supporting the missionary efforts of the APA.

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

## New Trip to India

Fr. Johann Vanderbijl and Fr. David Haines will be journeying to our Church in Andhra Pradesh at the end of January and early February 2010. The purpose of the return visit is to certify the election of a new Diocesan Bishop, to do a review of the documentation of work at the Eye Clinic and to visit the village churches in the District that we were unable to visit on the last trip due to time and weather. They will have a very full schedule. I, and the rest of our Province, appreciate these men taking on this challenge. Especially in our present-day world, travel is not always pleasant so we ask that you pray for the success of their visit and safety as they travel.

## Episcopal Visits and Confirmations

Usually the early part of the New Year is recovery time from Christmas and preparation for Lent and Easter. As a result, church planning for an Episcopal visit is typically postponed until later in the year. This creates the problem of limited options on available Sundays as we move farther into the year. I encourage you to keep this in mind as you are arranging your calendar for an Episcopal visit.

## News from Diocese of the Eastern US

### Annual Parish Reports for DEUS Due March 1

It's that time of year again for every parish and mission to turn in their Annual Parochial report to Bishop Grundorf by March 1. **Please be sure you are using the most current form.** A copy was sent to each church via email and is included in this Epistle. The form can also be downloaded from our website at [www.anglicanprovince.org](http://www.anglicanprovince.org). Look on the left side of the home page for "Parish Tool Box" -click on it and then click on "Annual Report DEUS".

### Reminder about nominations for Suffragan Bishop DEUS

The election for a Suffragan Bishop was called for at Synod 2009 and the Policy is approved and in place. This is a reminder about the timing of making a nomination and by whom it can be made. Please consult your policy which was in the last Bishop's Epistle if you are making a nomination and follow the directions carefully. **Remember nominations must be filed with the Secretary of the Standing Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the date (June 9, 2010) for holding the election. Sixty days prior would be April 9, 2010.** This is a firm deadline. The Standing Committee Secretary is Dss. Deborah Kidd. Nomination should be mailed to her attention at St. George the Martyr Church, 427 Batesville Rd, Simpsonville, SC, 29681.

## DEUS Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting

It is once again the privilege and pleasure of the Altar Guild of St. Alban's Cathedral to host the annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting. It will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010, commemorating the Feast of the Presentation of the Christ in the Temple, commonly called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will begin with the Mass at 10AM followed by the Rosary, a short meeting, and then a luncheon. The Very Rev. William Perkins, our Guild's chaplain, will be celebrating. Please add this important date to your calendar. All Clergy and Altar Guild members are invited. **Please RSVP** to Sister Linda Burns, Deaconess, at [burnslk50@aol.com](mailto:burnslk50@aol.com) or 407-657-2376 so that enough food can be provided.

## DEUS Standing Committee & Board of Examining Chaplains Meeting

The Meetings of both Committees were held at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Vero Beach, FL, January 13-15, 2010. The Rev. Jonathan Austin (from Texas currently residing in Orlando, Florida), Rev. John Gibson (Mississippi), and Rev. Louis Johnson (South Florida) were recommended by the Board of Examining Chaplains and the Standing Committee of the Diocese for reception into the APA.

## St. John's Church, Greensboro, N.C. takes a step of faith

Bishop Peter Brewer, vicar of St. John's, reports that the congregation has made an offer on a 5 acre piece of property with a small house, in a growth area of Greensboro called Summerfield, N.C. We pray that the Lord will guide them in this effort especially as they are under some pressure to leave their temporary location at a local Lutheran Church.

## Christ the Redeemer Church, Warner Robbins (Fort Valley), GA

Fr. Paul Gerlock reports that the congregation is starting a capital fund campaign to build their church building this year. The Church acquired a 7 acre piece of property a couple of years ago. Church services and parish functions and have been held in the renovated house on the property. Thanks be to God, this congregation which began three years ago under the leadership of Fr. Gerlock has outgrown their facility. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless their effort.

## Fr. Michael Stranz, OSF announces retirement

Citing health issues, long-time rector of St. Francis' Anglican Church, Jonesboro, GA (South Atlanta) announced to his vestry and the Bishop that he plans to retire as of June 1, 2010. Fr. Mike will work closely with the congregation in the process of finding a new priest. This is a great loss to this congregation who have shared a close bond with their rector for many years. Please pray that

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

the Lord will lead them as they anticipate the future and help them in their search for a new rector. Pray also for Fr. Mike that the Lord will watch over him as he deals with his health issues.

## **News from Diocese of Mid-America (DMA)**

*From The Most Rev. Larry Shaver, Bishop Ordinary*

The Diocese of Mid-America is slowly but surely coalescing into a viable entity after months of struggle. The missions and parishes in the diocese are manifesting a growing appreciation for our province and a more orthodox Anglican Church. Every parish in the diocese is contributing regularly to the development of the diocesan budget. There remains a huge need for numerical growth in the further development of evangelical outreach. The parish attendance average is just above 30 communicants each week and the average membership remains under fifty. Stewardship emphasis and evangelism training are key in trying to mature this diocese into long term viability.

It is the hope of the Bishop and the Standing Committee to plant at least one new parish in the diocese either in Northern Indiana or Indianapolis. A decision regarding a new parish will be made this summer (June 2010) at the Diocesan Synod. Also, it is our plan to develop a new work in Little Rock, Arkansas, this year.

## **Annual Parish Reports for DMA Due March 1**

Bishop Grundorf is requesting that all Dioceses in the Province complete the annual Parochial Reports for consistency in report our APA data. A copy is included in this Epistle. The form can also be downloaded from our website at: [www.anglicanprovince.org](http://www.anglicanprovince.org). Look on the left side of the home page for "Parish Tool Box" -click on it and then click on "Annual Report DEUS". For the DMA, please turn in your reports to Bishop Larry Shaver.

## **News from the Diocese of the West**

*From the Rev. Walter Crites, President of the Standing Committee,*

Happy New Year from the APA Diocese of the West! The year 2009 was a non-starter for the DOW, but with a lot of prayer and a bit of effort from your respective ministries, we can strengthen the diocese so that it can be a useful ecclesiastical organization for each of you in the coming years.

Our Presiding Bishop and I are in direct communication, and he wishes us all good health in the New Year.

Bishop Grundorf has suggested that I open a bank account in Arizona in the name of the DOW, which I will do next week. I expect to name a Treasurer pro tem at All Saints' Annual Meeting Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>. I will be seeking ratification of this person until our next Synod

when we can once again seek a treasurer from among the ranks of the DOW.

When I accepted this role, (election as the President of the SC) I had no idea that in the absence of a bishop I (along with the SC) became the Ecclesiastical Authority of the DOW. Of course, we still need a bishop for confirmations and ordinations, but for most other authorizations, I am available and responsible. Bp Grundorf is a very busy individual, and also now has to look after the DOW. I now fill the role that Fr. Doug King had as the intermediary between the DOW and the APA Office. (Fr. King will continue to be available to provide technical assistance as needed).

The Board of Examining Chaplains is busy overseeing the study of two of my postulants.

God bless each and every one of your ministries.

## **Annual Parish Reports for DOW Due March 1**

Bishop Grundorf is requesting that all Dioceses in the Province complete the annual Parochial Reports for consistency in report our APA data. A copy is included in this Epistle. The form can also be downloaded from our website at: [www.anglicanprovince.org](http://www.anglicanprovince.org). Look on the left side of the home page for "Parish Tool Box" -click on it and then click on "Annual Report DEUS". For the DOW, please turn in your reports to President of the DOW Standing Committee, Fr. Walt Crites.

## **Ad Clerum**

### **Ordinations:**

**DEUS:** The Rev. Mr. Paul Rivard was ordained Deacon at St. Barnabas Church in Dunwoody, Georgia December 12, 2009 by Bishop Brewer. Mr. Rivard will be assigned as Curate at St. Barnabas Church.

### **Receptions into APA:**

**DEUS:** The Rev. Jonathan Austin was received into the APA at the DEUS Standing Committee Meeting on January 15, 2010 and is serving as a assisting Priest at St. Alban's Cathedral, Oviedo, Florida.

**DEUS:** The Rev. John Gibson was received into the APA at the DEUS Standing Committee Meeting on January 15, 2010. Fr. Gibson is retired and will be a non-parochial priest.

**DEUS:** The Rev. Louis Johnson was received into the APA at the DEUS Standing Committee Meeting on January 15, 2010. Fr. Johnson will serve as Curate at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Delray Beach, Florida.

### **Retirements/Resignations/Transfers:**

Holy Spirit Church, Mobile, AL to new Diocese of ACNA  
St. Andrew's Church, Appomattox, VA to REC  
St. Timothy's Church, Swannanoa, NC to Southern Baptist Convention

Fr. Brett Travis has resigned from the APA.

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

## Prayer List

Of your charity, keep in your prayers: Fr. Douglas King, Fr. Richard Smith; Fr. Ted Bolduc; Fr. Don Alley; Fr. Tony Clavier; Fr. Larry Emerson's wife, Lindsey; Bishop Belmonte's wife Eros; Fr. Kite-Powell; Bishop Brewer's wife, Lilliane.

**Thanksgiving:** We give thanks for a good medical report received by Fr. Gerlock's wife, Linda and Betty Royer (on Standing Committee).

## Bishop's Itinerary:

Jan 15: DEUS Standing Committee Meeting, Vero Beach, FL

Jan 20-30: Personal vacation

Feb 23-24: FIFNA Council Meeting, Lutz, FL

Mar 20-21: Episcopal visitation and confirmations, St. Francis, Blacksburg, VA

## Suffragan Bishop's Itinerary:

Jan 3: Episcopal visitation and confirmations, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Matthews, NC

Jan 15: DEUS Standing Committee Meeting, Vero Beach, FL

Mar 21: Episcopal visitation and confirmations, St. Mary the Virgin Church, Delray Beach, FL

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### January Birthdays

01 Dss. Linda Burns  
01 The Rev. Don Edlemann  
03 The Rev. Mark Menees  
13 The Rev. Dr. Robert Peebles  
14 The Most Rev. Larry Shaver, Obl OSB  
20 The Most Rev. Walter Grundorf, D.D.  
29 The Rev. John Grafton

### January Anniversaries

02 The Rt. Rev. Clark Dorman, *Priesthood*  
05 The Very Rev. Gene Mallard, *Priesthood*  
08 The Most Rev. Dr. Herbert Groce, *Bishop*  
09 The Rev. David Sokol, *Priesthood*  
11 The Rev. Paul Blankinship, SSC, *Priesthood*  
17 The Rev. Roger Bell, *Diaconate*  
18 The Rev. Canon Burdett Geer, *Diaconate*  
19 The Rt. Rev. G. Raymond Hanlan, *Bishop*  
20 The Rev. Canon William Weston, *Diaconate*  
23 The Rev. Dennis Washburn, *Priesthood*  
25 The Rev. Gregory Miller, *Priesthood*  
31 The Rev. Mark Menees, *Diaconate*

### February Birthdays

01 The Rev. Chip Sills, Jr.  
04 The Rev. Mr. Richard Conley  
12 The Rt. Rev. C. Peter Brewer, OSF  
13 The Rev. Mr. Thomas Burr

## February Birthdays (cont.)

19 The Rev. Michael Ward, SSA  
23 The Rev. Kevin Sweeney  
25 The Rev. William Martin

## February Anniversaries

13 The Rev. John Poole, *Diaconate*  
17 The Very Rev. Charles 'Gene' Mallard, *Diaconate*  
20 The Very Rev. John Lathrop, *Priesthood*  
20 The Rev. James Reber, *Diaconate*  
20 The Rev. James Reber, *Priesthood*  
24 The Rev. Don Edlemann, *Priesthood*  
27 The Rev. Michael Ward, SSA, *Priesthood*  
28 The Very Rev. Michael Smith, *Priesthood*

## March Birthdays

02 The Rev. Canon Richard Smith  
07 Dss. Elizabeth Jenkins  
11 The Rev. Mr. Eugene Godbold, PhD  
30 The Rev. Mr. David Keller  
31 The Rev. Floyd Patrick

## March Anniversaries

01 The Rev. David Coady, *Priesthood*  
03 The Rev. Kevin Burks, *Priesthood*  
07 The Rev. Ernest Pinto, *Priesthood*  
07 The Rev. Glenn Spencer, *Priesthood*  
16 The Rev. David Chatel, *Priesthood*  
18 The Rev. Robert Tufton, *Priesthood*  
19 The Rt. Rev. G. Raymond Hanlan, *Priesthood*  
21 The Rev. Mr. David Keller, *Diaconate*  
21 The Rev. Eric Holle, *Diaconate*  
22 The Rev. David Haines, *Priesthood*  
22 The Rev. Frank Watts, Capt/Chaplain USAF, *Priesthood*  
23 The Rev. Raymond Unterburger, *Diaconate*  
24 The Rev. Chip Sills, Jr., *Priesthood*  
25 The Rev. William Shuler, *Priesthood*

## Mea Culpa:

Our apologies for missing the following Birthdays and Anniversaries in our last edition:

11/11: The Rev. Dr. Creighton Barnes, *Birthday*  
11/13: The Rev. Richard Palmer, *Birthday*  
12/16: The Ven. Erich Zwingert, *Priesthood*  
1/8: The Most Rev. Dr. Herbert Groce, *Bishop*  
1/19 The Rt. Rev. G. Raymond Hanlan, *Bishop*

*Additionally, we had a clerical error and left off Fr. John Poole's and Fr. Robert Kirk's title of "Rev." in the birthday section.*

*May God continue to bless your ministries.*

*Please contact the APA Office at 1-800-480-1087 if any of the Birthday/Anniversary dates are in error or a date has been missed.*

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

**“SEE YA AGAIN IN  
TWENTY TEN”**

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CATHEDRAL DEAN**

**JOEL SWANN, COORDINATOR**

**MARY GRUNDORF, ADVISOR**

**DEUS Synod 2010  
Oviedo, FL**



**See Annual Parochial  
Report Attachment**