

## Welcome...

This monthly newsletter from the Anglican Church of Canada is for you! Let us know what you think of it, and feel free to share by email, by word of mouth, or by printing out the stories for your church's bulletin board.

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*Info! News from General Synod* is a publication of the Communications and Information Resources Department, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.



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## 1. News Digest

### What's next for the Amazing Grace Project?

A deluge of "Amazing Grace" videos is flooding Church House from all parts of the country. Nov. 23 was Amazing Grace Sunday, when Anglicans from across Canada sang "Amazing Grace," filmed it, and sent (or are sending) their renditions to the national office. The videos will be made into one compilation video, to be put online by Christmas. Individual singers were also asked to donate a toonie to support northern ministry through the Council of the North ([www.anglican.ca/cn](http://www.anglican.ca/cn)).

The current count is 150 videos, and rising. Over \$4,000 has been raised for the council, but none of the money from Nov. 23 has been tallied yet.

The videos are diverse, from hand-held footage of a sanctuary in London, Ont., to a formal choir singing in a Newfoundland outpost.

Canadian Anglicans have done their part, and now communications staff are busy with theirs. Web Manager Brian Bukowski is uploading videos to the website, and Anglican Video staff are strategizing how to incorporate all the videos into one cohesive piece.

"It's been so inspiring to see the 'Amazing Grace' videos pour in from across Canada," said Lisa Barry, senior producer for Anglican Video. "Now we have the creative challenge of putting them all together into one documentary. This is artistic collaboration at its best and we are thrilled to be a part of it."

The compilation video will be hosted by Lynne Samways Hiltz, wife of Archbishop Fred Hiltz, the Primate. Every contribution will be acknowledged in the final piece.

If your parish or group has not yet sent in your rendition of "Amazing Grace," take heart! You have until Dec. 1 to send it in by email or post. Get more details on the website [www.anglican.ca/amazinggrace](http://www.anglican.ca/amazinggrace).

### Prayer investors' report from South Africa

*Ali Symons, communications assistant/web writer at General Synod, wrote this report after a recent trip to South Africa. She travelled with colleagues Lisa Barry, senior producer of Anglican Video, and Bev Murphy, circulation manager for the Anglican Journal. Between Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 they filmed several Anglican-supported projects in the Johannesburg area, then attended the World Association of Christian Communication Congress ([www.waccglobal.info](http://www.waccglobal.info)) in Cape Town, from Oct. 6 to 10. Click here for a photo slideshow of the trip ([www2.anglican.ca/multimedia/2008-11-13.htm](http://www2.anglican.ca/multimedia/2008-11-13.htm)).*

I have no idea how God manages the economy of prayer. How do well wishes and worries murmured in Canada translate into good things in other places?

I do know, though, that Canadian Anglicans have long been praying for South Africa—during Apartheid, during the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and whenever one of those aching, general prayers is offered up for “peace and justice in the world.”

I was lucky enough to travel to this prayer-infused country several weeks ago on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada. South Africa is a deeply disturbing country in many ways: white wealth and black poverty are squeezed mall-and-slum tight together, crime is rampant, and over 30 per cent of South Africans have HIV/AIDS.

But good things are going on too. Our Anglican team saw many encouraging projects that our church has prayed for, given money to, and given prayed-over money to.

Here are three snapshots along these lines:

### 1. TEE College, Johannesburg

From a small campus in a rough Jo’burg neighbourhood, the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) College ([www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za)) works to, “equip anyone, anywhere for ministry.” This school runs distance theology education for some 1,200 students around southern Africa and the world. They do this in several different languages, including Xhosa and Zulu.

In the low-ceiling library, Lisa, Bev and I met Samuel, a soft-spoken man who’s almost finished his degree. While studying to become a minister and raising a family, Samuel has been working as a gas station attendant.

Other students live too far away or are too poor to come into campus. Their course material is mailed to them, and they meet in local tutorial groups. We heard of one group in the townships that meets in a shipping container.

TEE staff support these students as they study. While Lisa, Bev, and I were there, they fielded phone calls about the meaning of parables, how to submit late assignments, and gave impromptu pep talks to discouraged students. The staff (most of whom are women) are the kind you’d want at your church’s coffee hour: quick-moving and competent, with easy laughter.

The staff was abuzz about a recently answered prayer: a revival in one of South Africa’s most notorious prisons. TEE provides free theology education for prisoners, and their course material had become popular in this particular jail. Many prisoners began to meet voluntarily to study the Bible, and soon the whole atmosphere of the prison changed. The transformation was so dramatic that the secular news media picked up the story.

**Our link:** Through our Partnerships department, the Anglican Church of Canada has been supporting TEE College financially and in prayer for over 15 years.

#### Prayer suggestions:

- Continued financial security
- TEE students’ impact in their home communities across Africa

### 2. The John Wesley Centre, Etwatwa

When Lisa, Bev, and I arrived at the John Wesley Centre, we were caught up in a whirlwind of activity. First of all, there were a lot of cute kids. Cute kids learning traditional Zulu dances, cute kids reaching out for hugs in the preschool, cute kids singing “Head and shoulders, knees and toes” with their classmates.

The community centre was busy with so many different projects, but all related to families affected by HIV/AIDS.

The centre is in Etwatwa, a community of about 250,000 people, where unemployment and HIV/AIDS are major problems. The John Wesley Centre has its fingers in a number of pots to help meet these needs.

In the main brick building, with light streaming in, a lively group of women were cooking a lunch of chicken à la king, rice, and delicious African squash and beets. These women are being trained as caterers, as part of the skills-building projects offered by the centre. In a nearby building, another group of women worked over whirring sewing machines, part of a craft collective called Impumelelo. These seamstresses recently secured a contract to make 1,200 bags for a conference. Lisa, Bev, and I fingered these lovely canvas bags and wondered how they would look with the General Synod 2010 logo.



The John Wesley Centre also trains people for at-home health care. I met a woman named Joyce Vumazonke, a sturdily built woman with a small sweet smile. She cares for people with HIV/AIDS or other terminal illnesses; she visits them in their home, bathes them, feeds them, teaches

them exercises, and plants vegetables in their gardens.

The centre itself—bright, busy, and clean—was a bit of an oasis. When our tour continued to see a children’s meal program in the townships, we got a better sense of what local poverty looks like. Small tin houses crammed together along a dirt road. Children running barefoot and in tattered clothes. We met a large group of these active kids, squished into a small dirt yard where they were served a fresh meal a day. That day was more African squash, beets, and an egg.

“Sometimes a child will eat here Friday at noon, and won’t get another full meal until Monday at noon,” said one of the servers.

**Our link:** Since 2004, The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) ([www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)) has provided grants to the John Wesley Centre.

**Prayer suggestions:**

- Closer, more fruitful links between the John Wesley Centre and the Etwatwa community
- Funding for specific staff positions, including a social worker and several caregivers

**3. Theological Student International Internship Program**

We missed him by about 4 months, the apparently delightful Kyle Wagner, a Canadian theological student who worked in South Africa for three months last spring. He went over as part of the Theological Students International Internship Program (TSIIP) ([www2.anglican.ca/mission/programs/tiii](http://www2.anglican.ca/mission/programs/tiii)), and Lisa, Bev, and I retraced his steps in the Johannesburg area in order to create a promotional film about TSIIP.

Mr. Wagner was in South Africa to learn about ministry in another part of the world, and support it as he could. He kept quite busy, helping out as the diocese needed him: preaching, supporting a youth group, leading Bible studies, and taking care of children at the diocese's nursery school. He also worked with people who were displaced during the xenophobic violence of spring 2008, when poor South Africans and poor African immigrants fought over the issues of scarce jobs and resources.

Lisa, Bev, and I spoke with the people who worked with Mr. Wagner, including a gentle priest, the Rev. Rod Greville. Mr. Wagner would often shadow "Father Rod" as he performed his regular duties of services, visitations, and prayer.

We also learned that Mr. Wagner charmed some nuns. Lisa, Bev, and I spent a lovely sunny day with the diocesan sisters, including Sisters Eunice and Sister Maureen, two nuns from the Kwa-Zulu Natal area who couldn't stop giggling at the mention of Kyle Wagner. He worked alongside them in their ministry with the poor, but also helped them arrange flowers and told them tall tales about Canadian habits with undergarments. These high-spirited nuns appreciated his ministry of humour.

**Our link:** The Anglican Church of Canada's Partnerships department has sent volunteers to South Africa and elsewhere in Africa through TSIP, or Volunteers in Mission (VIM) ([www.anglican.ca/vim](http://www.anglican.ca/vim)).

#### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- The Diocese of Cape Town is currently looking for a bilingual Canadian volunteer to help with Francophone refugee ministry. (Contact Jill Cruse at [jcruse@national.anglican.ca](mailto:jcruse@national.anglican.ca) for more details.)
- Pray for Canadian volunteers overseas: the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Langford in Uganda, and Bruce and Gerry Melville in Tanzania

These are only three brief sketches from a rich trip, where we were alternately excited, horrified, and filled with wonder. I hope these stories encourage you as you continue to toss up your prayers into that mysterious economy. We don't know how good things come about, but we know that they do.

## **New face on Facebook: the Anglican Church of Canada**

The Anglican Church of Canada has launched an official page on Facebook, the popular social networking website.

"It's an exciting new step for us," said Brian Bukowski, web manager. "We've been waiting for the right time to step into social networking, and Facebook is so well established at this point. We know our page can be effective there."

Many Canadian Anglicans are already active on the approximately 60-million member website, founded in 2004. Facebook users can keep up with friends through photos, messages, and games. Several Anglican dioceses and parishes have also started their own groups.

On the church's new official Facebook page, users can read news, view photos, watch videos, and keep track of national church events. When Facebook users become a "fan" of the Anglican Church of Canada, they will receive automatic updates and can post content on the church's page.

“It’s not just another way to get out news about the church,” said Mr. Bukowski. “We’re tapping in to a community that we haven’t before. There are millions of people on Facebook right now, and we want to engage them.”

Other national Canadian Anglican groups have already ventured into Facebook, including [justgeneration.ca](http://justgeneration.ca), the youth initiative of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), whose group has 102 members.

The Council of the North ([www.anglican.ca/cn](http://www.anglican.ca/cn)) also has an active Facebook group, which has been essential in promoting the Amazing Grace Project, wherein all Canadian Anglican parishes are encouraged to sing “Amazing Grace” on Nov. 23.

Facebook also hosts many other Anglican-related groups that operate outside of the Anglican Church of Canada. You can view the official page here, but only Facebook members can join.

[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Anglican-Church-of-Canada/28081558750](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Anglican-Church-of-Canada/28081558750)

## Truth and reconciliation commissioner visits national office

On Oct. 28, Jane Brewin Morley, a commissioner with Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) ([www.trc-cvr.ca](http://www.trc-cvr.ca)) on residential schools, visited the Anglican Church of Canada’s national office in Toronto, Ont.

For the next five years, the federal TRC will listen to those affected by Indian residential schools, including the over 30 schools run by the Anglican Church of Canada at various times between 1820 and 1969.

At the meeting with Ms. Morley, several staff gave brief presentations on how the Anglican Church of Canada has been dealing with the legacy of residential schools. Nancy Hurn, General Synod archivist, described the church’s research into school records. Donna Bomberry, Indigenous Ministries coordinator, spoke about the work of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) ([www.anglican.ca/acip](http://www.anglican.ca/acip)) and also about the role and ministry of National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald ([www2.anglican.ca/im/bishop-biography.htm](http://www2.anglican.ca/im/bishop-biography.htm)).

“I think there’s a number of ways that the church can be very central to our process of truth and reconciliation,” said Ms. Morley after the presentations. The church’s archives will be helpful in the commission’s own research, she said, and the commission could also benefit from the church’s involvement with grassroots communities.

“I heard a lot about the work that you’re doing in terms of Indigenous ministry, and I think that connection with communities will be an important one for us to build on and work with,” she said. “Also I think the connection with the non-Aboriginal community and Anglican people who go to church every Sunday...the church is an important connector there as well.”

Ms. Morley, a lawyer, and Claudette Dumont-Smith, a health care worker, are the two remaining commissioners on the \$60-million commission, launched in June 2008. The commission chair, Justice Harry LaForme, resigned on Oct. 20, citing a disagreement with Ms. Morley and Ms. Dumont-Smith about the vision of the commission.

On Oct. 24, the Anglican Church of Canada issued a joint ecumenical statement ([www.anglican.ca/news/news.php?newsItem=2008-10-24\\_as.news](http://www.anglican.ca/news/news.php?newsItem=2008-10-24_as.news))

that stated their confidence in the remaining commissioners and their desire to see the work of the TRC begin soon.

## 2. New resources

### From Partnerships:

- The new edition of Praying with our Partners (Advent to Epiphany) is online. [www2.anglican.ca/mission/resources/pwop](http://www2.anglican.ca/mission/resources/pwop)

### From ABC Publishing:

Order online ([www.anglicanbookcentre.com](http://www.anglicanbookcentre.com)) or call (800) 265-6397

- *Seeds Scattered and Sown: Studies in the History of Canadian Anglicanism*, edited by Norman Knowles (special introductory price of \$29.95 until January 1, 2009)
- The 2009 Anglican Church Directory will be available in early January

### From Faith, Worship, and Ministry:

- A new Anglican-Lutheran prayer cycle (for use in parishes from Nov. 2008 to Nov. 2009)  
[www2.anglican.ca/faith/relationships/documents/cp2008-09.pdf](http://www2.anglican.ca/faith/relationships/documents/cp2008-09.pdf)

## 3. Calendar

- **Dec. 1** World AIDS Day [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)
- **Dec. 5** The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, attends a round table in Toronto, Ont. on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, co-hosted by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and the Belinda Stronach Foundation.
- **Dec. 6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada has developed worship resources here. [www.wicc.org/resources/December6](http://www.wicc.org/resources/December6)
- **Dec. 10** International Human Rights Day  
[www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights)

## 4. News from the departments

### Partnerships

#### Report on National Homelessness Day

Did your parish or community do anything to observe National Homelessness Day on November 22? The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, and National Bishop Susan Johnson (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada) sent a letter urging Minister Diane Finley, the newly appointed Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, to make good on the Conservative pre-election promise to renew three critical programs for affordable housing. The letter ([www2.anglican.ca/primate/communications/2008-11-14.htm](http://www2.anglican.ca/primate/communications/2008-11-14.htm)) was prompted by the Anglican Lutheran Task Group on Housing and Homelessness, a group arising from the Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee, which has been meeting monthly by phone for information sharing, mutual support, and advocacy.

If you have information to share or questions to ask about how your parish or community is responding to homelessness, send an email to Maylanne

Maybee ([mmaybee@national.anglican.ca](mailto:mmaybee@national.anglican.ca)), ecojustice coordinator at General Synod, or phone her at (416) 924-9199 ext. 219.

### **Next justice camp to be in Halifax**

The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island has recently launched a website ([www.justicecamp.ca](http://www.justicecamp.ca)) for next year's justice camp on the theme of "Finding Abundance." The camp will be based in Halifax, N.S. at the University of King's College from August 9 to 15, 2009 with immersion groups in various locations all over Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Registration will open early in 2009. For more information go to the website or email the organizers ([justicecamp@gmail.com](mailto:justicecamp@gmail.com)).

In 2010 the Diocese of Niagara will be hosting a justice camp on the theme, "Community Justice: Live the Change You Want to See" and is already active in the 25 in 5 campaign ([25in5.ca](http://25in5.ca)), which is urging the Ontario government to reduce poverty levels by 25% in five years.

The bishop of Niagara has named poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals as key justice initiatives for the diocese. To get the ball rolling, the parish of St. James, Dundas held a "lunch and learn" program ([www.stjamesdundas.ca/lunch%20n%20learn.htm](http://www.stjamesdundas.ca/lunch%20n%20learn.htm)) on November 16, 2008, on the theme of affordable housing and the MDGs.

## **Communications and Information Resources**

### **Highlights from the Council of General Synod**

The Council of General Synod's third meeting this triennium was held from November 14 to 16, 2008, at the Valhalla Inn in Toronto, Ont. The highlights from each of the meeting days can be read here: [www2.anglican.ca/about/cogs/highlights](http://www2.anglican.ca/about/cogs/highlights)

### **New writer at the *Anglican Journal***

A new writer has joined the staff of the *Anglican Journal*. Leigh Anne Williams is a seasoned journalist with experience with *Time Magazine* (Canada) and *Quill and Quire*.

## **Faith, Worship, and Ministry**

### **An Anglican enveloped by Greek hospitality**

He was the odd Anglican out, but he had a wonderful time. This past summer, the Rev. Craig Bowers of Ottawa, Ont. was the first Anglican to participate in a learning experience hosted by the Greek Orthodox Church. Set up in response to John Paul II's 2001 visit to Greece, the program was designed for Roman Catholic clergy and laity to learn about being a Hellenic Christian. Traditionally the relationship between Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches has been strained.

But how did an Anglican get involved?

It all began with the Olympics. The Rev. Bowers, a keen sports spectator, was curious about the chaplaincy set up for the 2004 Athens Olympics, so he struck up an email conversation with the Rev. Canon Malcolm Bradshaw, the

Anglican Communion's representative to the Church of Greece. The men were able to meet in person last year, and this was when the Rev. Bowers learned of the program.

It was his longstanding Orthodox links that made him a good candidate. As the Diocese of Ottawa's ecumenical officer, the Rev. Bowers works frequently with local Orthodox churches, and earlier in his life, the native of Prescott, Ont., used to zip from his Anglican congregation, down the road to do the English readings at the Greek Orthodox church in Brockville.

After getting approval from the Holy Synod, the Rev. Bowers spent July and August immersed in Greek life. He stayed in an Athenian suburb, with a gorgeous view of the St. Barbara shrine, and a short metro ride away from downtown. In the mornings he studied modern Greek, and the evenings were for seminars on Greek life and liturgy. The afternoons were a time for the 20 men in the program to see the city, or worship together.

The Rev. Bowers was amazed to be so welcomed by his Roman Catholic colleagues, who came from as far away as Iraq, Colombia, and the Philippines, and used Italian as their lingua franca.

"They had the mass every morning," he explained "And when I told them I'd be praying with them in spirit, one priest from northern Italy, who's studying at an Orthodox Roman Catholic institute, said 'Oh no, you have to be with us!' He couldn't imagine me not praying with them, because we are still brothers in Christ...I was absolutely touched."

The Rev. Bowers was also moved by the hospitality of the Church of Greece. Not only did he eat plenty of delicious Greek food, but the Orthodox leaders went out of their way to welcome him and say they were praying for the Anglican Church in its struggles. "Their ministry of hospitality is immense," he noted. "If you step out in faith to them, they will respond more than in kind."

The Anglican Church of Canada and the Greek Orthodox Church in Canada (known as the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto) have no formal dialogue, although both are members of the Canadian Council of Churches. There is also an international commission for Anglican-Orthodox theological dialogue.

Of course friendships have sprung up on the local level. For example, many Canadian Anglican churches opened their doors to Greek immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s, lending space for services, or allowing a permanent set-up of the iconostasion (liturgical wall with icons) as in the basement of St. Paul's, Cataraqui.

Now back in Ottawa, the Rev. Bowers is deepening relations with the Greek Orthodox Church in Canada. He hopes to co-host seminars in Ottawa on what it means to be the church in the Anglican and Orthodox traditions.

"In Greece, liturgy is written on your heart," he said. "Seeing people that embrace their faith in that way moves me at a local level, when I see that my western journey is just part of the journey, and there's such a big community of loving, faithful people in the wider world that I can learn from, that's always humbling."

The Rev. Bowers has paved the way, and now this opportunity to learn with the Greek Orthodox Church is open to other Anglican clergy, including

Canadians. If you are a male Anglican cleric interested in being hosted by the Church of Greece next summer, contact the Rev. Bowers through his parish, St. Paul's, Hazeldean/Kanata. ([www.stpaulshk.org/contact.htm](http://www.stpaulshk.org/contact.htm))

## 5. Continuing Education

### Recommended Continuing Education Opportunities:

**Episcopal Divinity School**, Cambridge, Mass. offers a variety of short courses each January. Among the lecturers between January 5 to 16, 2009 is Archbishop Michael Peers, former Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, who is teaching a liturgical practicum. For more information visit the school's website: [www.eds.edu](http://www.eds.edu)

**Wycliffe College**, Toronto, Ont. offers an annual continuing education conference called Refresh. The 2009 event will be held May 12 to 15 and features Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, as well as other speakers. To learn more, visit the conference website: [refresh.wycliffecollege.ca](http://refresh.wycliffecollege.ca)

**The Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL)**, a center of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, Calif., in partnership with the North American Association for the Diaconate offers online courses for deacons. To check out these online courses, visit their website: [www.cdsp.edu/center\\_online.php](http://www.cdsp.edu/center_online.php)

**CEP Online** is the Continuing Education Plan website to assist clergy and laity of the Anglican Church of Canada with continuing education for effective ministry. The website includes information on over 500 websites in Canada, the USA and overseas, and a variety of courses and other educational opportunities. Website: [cep.anglican.ca](http://cep.anglican.ca).

## 6. Travel

- **Nov. 28-Dec. 2** National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald is in the Diocese of Yukon for an elders' dinner as well as a language and liturgy workshop.
- **Dec. 1-5** Primate Archbishop Fred Hiltz is on retreat at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Mass.
- **Dec. 12-13** Bishop MacDonald is in Winnipeg, Man. for a tri-diocesan gospel jamboree and a Brandon-Keewatin area mission meeting.
- **Dec. 24** The Primate celebrates Christmas Eve at St. Dunstan's of Canterbury in Sudbury, Ont.
- **Dec. 28** Bishop MacDonald is in Ohsweken, Ont. (Six Nations) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Peter's Anglican Church.
- **Dec. 31** The Primate travels to Ottawa, Ont., where he will preach at the New Year's Day service at Christ Church Cathedral.