

## THE BACK PAGE

*Notes from the Rector*

### Rwanda and North America

This January, we have the great privilege to welcome Bishop Augustin Ahamina of Rwanda to our parish. People are often curious how it came about that the Anglican Province of Rwanda adopted North Americans into its fold. And people often wonder how this relationship works, since we are a “two cultures” church thousands of miles apart.

Before discussing the first question, I want to recommend the book *Never Silent*, by Bishop Thad Barnum. This book shares the story of the formation of the AMiA in detail, and will provide the basic background for our relationship with Rwanda. But, in a nutshell, it is a relationship of grace and mutual faith. The Episcopal church helped bring Christianity to America in the colonial days. Later, Charles and John Wesley and George Whitefield were Anglican priests who led the way to revival and renewal, helping their Baptist and Methodist

“African churches are on fire: growing, evangelizing, and serving the poorest of the poor and the sickest of the sick.”

ists co-missionaries to build up the Faith here. Through the years this church preached the gospel, administered the sacraments, and planted churches. Anglicanism in North America was rooted in a Bible-believing, Gospel preaching, and Christ honoring history. And Africa shares that historical experience, having been evangelized by Anglican missionaries, along with those of other denominations.

In recent decades, Anglicanism in North America has undergone a dramatic schism, centering on the centrality of this heritage of Scripture

and the historic, orthodox Christian faith. In the past ten or so years, many thousands of orthodox Anglicans have realized that the rest of the Anglican world, in Africa and Asia primarily, had retained the Faith and the Christian mission. African churches are on fire: growing, evangelizing, and serving the poorest of the poor and the sickest of the sick.

Since Anglicanism values worldwide, inter-cultural communion, orthodox Anglicans in North America did not want to strike out alone and form an independent church. And since we have retained the episcopal structure, it became necessary to identify ourselves with bishops within our worldwide communion which most faithfully retained the catholic and evangelical Faith. It was also time to renew the Anglican church in North America's commitment to the Gospel and to evangelization. So in 2000, bishops from Rwanda, Singapore, and North America consecrated new American bishops for a re-evangelization of North America, under the oversight of the Archbishop of Rwanda. This is how the AMiA was formed.

How does this relationship work? We are focused primarily on building relationships between the two cultures, two-way relationships of mutual faith and trust. We do this through personal visits, including the upcoming visit of Bishop Augustin, and American visitors to Rwanda. We also do this through the mutual ministry of our bishops and their collegial relationships. And we do this through sister-to-sister parish partnership which focus on getting to know each other and praying for each other, and then on how each parish can serve the other. Our own Sandi Harding is the national coordinator for this effort.

This network of relationships has had quite a dramatic effect on those of us ministering in North America. In the African church we find brothers and sisters who are passionate about evangelism and ministry to the poor and sick, fed by a devotion to the Bible and the Gospel. We find something that many of us didn't know existed: A liturgical church with the historic, catholic faith that is also a missionary church. We have a lot to learn, but we are thankful to God for renewing our mutual faith.

Blessings, Greg+



*Resurrection*  
life

## Sundays

**9:30a Christian Education (resumes Jan 31)**

*Classes are offered for preschool through adults.  
Learn and grow together as disciples of Christ.*

**10:30a Holy Communion**

*Our worship blends the ancient with the contemporary in praise to God.*

**11:55a Coffee Hour**

*Enjoy Rwandan coffee and get to know others.*

**New to Resurrection?**

*Sit down with Fr Greg and find out more about our community. We meet again starting on January 31st, Sundays at 9:30am for four weeks.*

## WELCOME

We're glad that you're worshipping with us today. We invite you to stay for coffee and conversation after worship, and please feel free to ask questions or explore who we are as a church.

WINTER  
2010

## FIND OUT MORE

on the web at  
[www.resurrectionwoodstock.org](http://www.resurrectionwoodstock.org)  
on our blog at  
[blog.resurrectionwoodstock.org](http://blog.resurrectionwoodstock.org)

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## BP AUGUSTIN'S VISIT January 23-24

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Saturday, January 23, 2010

9:00AM PARISH BREAKFAST

Join Bishop Augustine and Claudine for a time of fellowship and discussion. Both Bp Augustin and Claudine will share their stories and answer questions.

6:00PM WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

The community is invited to join us for a service of worship with Holy Communion, with Bishop Augustin preaching. Following the service, +Augustin will be available to answer questions.

*Note: due to space, we are asking families to choose one worship service, either Saturday night or Sunday morning.*

#### Sunday January 24, 2010

10:00AM WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATIONS

A service of worship with Holy Communion, with Bishop Augustin preaching. A reception will follow.



**About Bishop Augustin**  
Bishop Augustin Ahimana's mother, sister and brother died brutally during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. After a 1999 visit to a classroom in Baltimore, the *Baltimore Sun* reported his response to this tragedy:

"The hurt in my heart was so big after the tragedy and it felt so sad, that I felt I had to do something," said Ahimana, who was living in Zaire at the time his family was attacked.

Instead of fighting back, Ahimana avenged his relatives' death by starting a ministry of forgiveness in Rwanda with the help of World Vision, a Seattle-based organization that provides emergency relief, leadership training, education and community development in 92 countries.

For Ahimana, reaching out to the same people who slaughtered his family -- and buried some of them in an outdoor toilet -- was difficult. But his heart, and his belief in God, told him it was the right thing to do, he said.

For his wife, Claudine, whose first husband was killed in the genocide, it was unthinkable, Ahimana said."

Bishop Augustin has worked with World Vision and with Rick Warren on the PEACE initiative and is a skilled and experienced public speaker. (the Rt Revd) Augustin Ahimana was consecrated as the Bishop of a new Diocese of Kivu on 21 December 2008. Kivu Diocese has over 60 Anglican parishes with approximately between 96,000 to 192,000 followers. He has focused on church planting and reconciliation efforts.

+Augustin has written in *Christianity Today* and has been interviewed in the *Washington Times* and written about in the *Baltimore Sun*. For more information, and for links to these articles, please visit [www.resurrectionwoodstock.org](http://www.resurrectionwoodstock.org).

#### Our Rwandan Connection

We in the Anglican Mission rejoice in the integrity and faithfulness of the Province of Rwanda, celebrating our membership in this global family. Rwanda and the Anglican Mission enjoy a close partnership of mission and ministry fueled by a shared passion and vision for evangelism. Our connection is strong, and we recognize how much we have to learn about forgiveness and reconciliation from the people of Rwanda. (Source: [www.theamia.org](http://www.theamia.org))

## ANGLICAN NEWS

### COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE FIRST ANNUAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (ACNA)

In the name of God, grateful for the gracious guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Most Reverend Robert Duncan, Archbishop and Primate, the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) held its first annual meeting in Toronto, Canada on 11 December 2009. The College of Bishops of ACNA met immediately prior to this meeting in Burlington, Ontario on 10 December 2009.

The Provincial Council is the governing body of the Anglican Church in North America and consists of bishops, clergy and laity representing each of the twenty-eight constituent dioceses, clusters or networks.

The Provincial Council and the College of Bishops devoted these first meetings to putting in place the officers and structures necessary to fulfill the mandate to reach North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ as faithful Anglicans and members by God's grace in the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

In faithful obedience to the Great Commission we enthusiastically embraced the 1000 Churches Proclamation as presented to the College of Bishops by the Rev. Canon David H. Roseberry of Christ Church, Plano, Texas, and committed ourselves to the multiplication of one thousand new congregations within the Anglican Church in North America in five years.

We also

- Welcomed the new Diocese of the Gulf Atlantic and consented to the election of the Reverend Neil G. Lebhar as its first diocesan bishop. The College of Bishops also welcomed the Right Reverends Todd Hunter, David M. Loomis and Silas Tak Yin Ng as missionary bishops serving in the Anglican Mission in the Americas, the Right Reverend Harry S. Seamans as an Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Mid-America and the Right Reverend Richard W. Lipka as an assisting bishop in the Missionary Diocese of All Saints.

- Gave thanks for the growing number of Provinces of the Anglican Communion that have declared themselves to be in full communion with the Anglican Church in North America, and the enthusiastic expressions of support from a growing number of Ecumenical partners.

- Expressed profound appreciation for the recently released Manhattan Declaration that affirms core Christian values regarding Religious Liberty, the Sanctity of Life and Holy Matrimony and urged all clergy and people to sign it.

- And, mindful of the controversy surrounding a bill concerning homosexual behavior that is being considered by the Uganda parliament, restated our commitment to the sacredness of every human person as made in the image of God, from conception to natural death and without regard for religious convictions or manner of life. We also gave thanks for the faithful witness of the Anglican Church of Uganda and encouraged them to stand firm against all forms of sexual exploitation and in their publicly stated commitment that "the Church is a safe place" for all persons, especially "those struggling with sexual brokenness."

The Provincial Council expressed its profound appreciation for the gracious hospitality shown it by the Anglican Network in Canada and in particular gave thanks for the servant leadership demonstrated by the moderator, the Right Reverend Donald Harvey.

Looking forward to the Christmas Season and the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ the Council was reminded that the angels announced it as Good News of Great Joy for all people. In light of this the Council urged all its congregations to make a special effort to reach out with the transforming love of Jesus Christ, especially to those in their surrounding communities who face economic hardship, or other challenges that lead to their marginalization.

This first meeting of the Provincial Council has been a rich expression of our common life. We leave encouraged in our mission to extend the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. Amen

# PRAYER TODAY

*Resources for family and individual devotion*

Sometimes learning how to pray involves simply learning prayers. The following prayers are classics - filled with great theology and heartfelt expression of confession, thanks, and praise. Take a moment at morning, at noon-time, and in the evening to say your prayers, joining your voice with believers around the world.

## In the Morning

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## At Noon

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. Amen.

## In the Early Evening

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

## At Bedtime

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

## On Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of you Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## On Fridays

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

## On Saturdays

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all you works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## At Mealtimes

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all your tender mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others, especially \_\_\_\_\_ for whom we now pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## For Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

## For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

In our times of prayer, we pray for...

- The Church and the world
- Our nation and its leaders
- Our local community
- Those in any need or trouble
- Our needs and the needs of our loved ones
- We thank God for those who have gone before us in the Faith of Christ, giving thanks to God in Christ for his great grace.

# SPECIAL EVENTS & SERVICES

*worship, serve, and learn both here and in our community...see our Kalendar handout for information about ongoing ministries and services.*

## MLK UNITY BREAKFAST

*Saturday, January 17, 2010 - 9am*

Every year Allen Temple church sponsors a Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast as a great time of fellowship and prayer as one in Christ. There is no charge, but donations are accepted for a community scholarship fund. Please let Pat LoRosso know if you plan to attend.

## AMiA WINTER CONFERENCE

*January 27-30, 2010*

This year the Anglican Mission celebrates 10 years as a missionary movement committed to fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission through church planting. It has been a journey of faith and favor as God has prepared our way. As we rejoice in our past and all God has done, we focus on the future with tremendous anticipation. The road stretches out before us with new challenges and uncharted territory as we seek to proclaim Christ's presence and love. He is calling us to build up the highway through Kingdom ministry—remember, everybody has a mission in life and a role to play in building up the highway.

We hope you will make plans to attend this sacred time connecting with people of like faith from North America and around the world. There are already ten folks from RAC registered. We hope you can join us! Visit [www.theamia.org](http://www.theamia.org) to register or for more information.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

*Wednesday, February 17 - 7pm*

Ash Wednesday begins our observation of Lent with a service of repentance and the imposition of ashes. All Christians worldwide are urged to fast that day and to attend this service. See our Season, Feast, and Fast notes for more information on the Lenten Season.

# SEASON, FEAST, AND FAST

*notes on liturgy and the church year*

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a mature, public profession of faith, recognition of the candidate as a communicant member of the Anglican Communion, and a liturgical and sacramental rite which signifies the ongoing renewal of the Holy Spirit after baptism. A confirmed Christian publicly professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and visibly and outwardly identifies with the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Confirmation classes are the historic Christian way of teaching basic discipleship. Based on the Holy Scripture, the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, they are a study of the basics of Christian faith, life, worship, and mission. They prepare the student for confirmation or reception into the Anglican church by a Bishop.

After discernment with the Rector, those who complete the classes or are otherwise prepared may choose to receive confirmation by the laying on of hands of a Bishop on his next visitation. When Bishop Augustin is here on January 24th, he will be confirming those candidates who have been prepared.

Those who have been confirmed by a Bishop in another Christian tradition may be received into the Anglican Communion at the same time.

Please pray for the candidates for confirmation and reception, and join us all in celebrating this work of God.

## LENT

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

# PARISH LIFE REVIEW

*What's been going on around here?*

## Miletus Network

*(the Revd Dr) Victor Oliver serves as our Network Leader, working closely with Bp John Miller in support of the local parishes in the Miletus Network of churches.*

I have been connecting and visiting with various clergy and congregations in our Miletus Network. This includes sharing preaching/teaching ministry leading congregational worship and encouraging church plants. I have shared ministry with five services over the last two Sundays. Also, I have participated in Bishop consultations, consecrations and visitations here and there. Busy and blessed. -Victor

## Healing Prayer Teams

(the Very Revd) David Collins and Ginny lead our ministry of prayer with healing prayer on Sundays and at other times. The Prayer Teams are those from the Resurrection Anglican Church who have been and are being trained and have made themselves available to serve as teams on each Sunday morning following Communion to pray for those who seek healing for body, soul, mind or spirit, for themselves or for others. God always answers prayers in His perfect way. We also held two Public Service of Healing Prayer this past year, which were both very sacred moments of God's healing presence.

## Kid's Ministries

Our education program consists of 14 week sessions in the Fall and Spring. On Sunday mornings this past Fall, a dedicated team of teachers ministered to our children, teaching them Scripture and Worship. Becky Summers was the team leader for preschool and Carol Prince for elementary. They were assisted by Chuck Summers, Victoria Goebel, and Ary Knox. Classes resume Sunday, January 31st. Kid's church, during worship, was lead by Joe and Sharon Drewry with Evy Blasi, Madonna George, Victoria Goebel, Ary Knox, Christa Prince, Jenny Rubick, and Elizabeth Wood assisting.

## Youth

Our weekend camp didn't happen this year, but it has been rescheduled for March 2010. We met on Sundays at 9:30am for a class on Christian basics. Fr Greg and Chuck Summers led these classes, and Claudia Campbell helped us create Christmas Card artwork. This spring we plan to continue our class discussions and to find some time to get together for service and fun.

## Adult Spiritual Formation

This Fall, John Rivenbark led a group experience based on the book *Space for God*. Together the group learned about the experience of learning to be silent, to pray by doing, and to hear God's voice. A new session begins Sunday, January 31st.

## Fellowship and Hospitality

Becky and Jim Rutherford took over hospitality and coffee hour, after Jim Campell who served so diligently and faithfully for several years. Many have volunteered to help out, and Coffee Hour continues to be a central part of our parish life.

## Men's Breakfasts

Harry Griffith leads the men's breakfasts, with a great program of study and discussion called "The King and the Culture." We have a great time, with great food prepared by Master Chef Tim Hopkins and his crew, Paul Wood and Joe Meyer. Deacon Paul helps out as he is able with the teachings, and we always end the morning with discussion and prayer.

## Fellowship Groups & Bible Study

Micah and Jenn George formed a Fellowship Group, a time of prayer and conversation with Bible Study. They've had quite a few people attend, including friends and neighbors. A group of men also meets regularly, and has enjoyed study and fellowship. We're hoping in the next year to see more neighborhood fellowship groups emerge. Led by Joanie Fossum, ARIEL met on Tuesdays this fall. ARIEL continues to be a special, God-appointed time with long term friendships and growth in Christ as a result.

## Leadership Team Retreat

Our Leadership Team met for a Fall Retreat in October, 2009. We met for prayer and discussion and studied the book *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas. The book helped us to think and pray through the different ways in which Christ reaches us, and our own spiritual temperaments. We are planning a Spring and Fall retreat for 2010.

## Annual Meeting

We held our 5th Annual meeting on Sunday, January 10. Gene Prince and Tammy Rivenbark were elected as new members of our Leadership Team, with Sandi Harding elected to a one year term and as Sr Leader. Dick Fossum presented our financial review and the 2010 Budget. Please see Dick for a copy if you missed the meeting.

# NUTS N' BOLTS

*information about our organizational life...*

## FIRSTFRUITS REPORT - FINAL 2009

We have received 114% of our budgeted operations for the 2009 fiscal year. We have received \$190,940 towards the YTD budget amount of \$166,272. We rejoice in God's miraculous provision through the giving of his people!

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are in the process of producing a printed picture directory for use by the parish. You will soon be receiving a copy of the information we have for you, for updates or corrections. Please return that to Gene Prince as soon as possible so that we can produce an accurate directory. Thanks to Shirley Dlearo, Jennifer Wood, Jim Campbell, and Gene Prince for their great work in producing this.

# MISSION & OUTREACH

## BARRY AND SANDI GRECU

*Barry and Sandi Grecu serve with Emmaus Ministries in discipleship and spiritual formation, and are currently stationed in Barbados. Here is a recent note from Sandi and Barry.*

**Some thoughts on the three recent Seasons of church life** Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, all familiar seasons of church life this time of year. But what do they say to us today, women and men of the 21st century, believers, unbelievers, seekers all?

Advent speaks to our heart's longing for the coming of the Lord. It brings to mind Blaise Pascal's "God-shaped vacuum" that God alone can fill. As King Solomon was want to tell us, "all is vanity (meaningless)" apart from God.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus (the Expected One) who came over two millennia ago in an unexpected way. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem's manger, the Son of God, the Word made flesh dwelt among us, literally "pitching his tent in our midst". Indeed Christmas can represent a conceiving of sorts of Jesus in the manger of our own hearts. The Christ of Christmas comes to each one of us so that we might share His abundant Life.

Lastly, Epiphany speaks to us of Jesus' continual coming amongst the "stars" of the ordinary experiences of our everyday lives. We pray for you a growing awareness of the coming Life of Jesus in expected and unexpected ways not just this Christmas season but in the New Year. "Give us ears to hear and eyes to see, Lord Jesus. Amen."

## BRUCE CARLSON

*Bruce Carlson serves with Grace Ministeries International in developing discipleship ministries all over the world.*

It was a joy to be with the dear new friends from Eastern Europe at the GraceNet conference in Bulgaria. They are experiencing some significant breakthroughs in their ministries, but the needs are so great. Thanks so much for your prayers and financial support that made it possible for me to have a meaningful introduction to part of our international team. And so, with deep gratitude in my heart, I give thanks to the Giver of all good gifts for each of you and pray that you experience the effect of the upward spiral of receiving the Gift and Giver of Grace, then responding by giving thanks, only to be in place to receive the next portion of His generous gift.

## YOUNG LIFE CHEROKEE COUNTY

Young Life thinks the world of kids. We believe that they deserve to know what life can hold for them. Young Life leaders are caring adults who come sharing that hope as well as fun and lasting friendships with kids. Young Life is also all about fun. From club and camp to Campaigners and other activities, teenagers will have blast laughing, trying new things and being with their friends. This fall, Young Life Cherokee held weekly club meetings, enjoyed Windy Gap Summer Camp, and fun activities like "Muck Wars" and hiking to Pioneer Plunge. YLCC is led by Justin Chandler. Resurrection supports Young Life financially and with provision of offices for administrative work.

## PAPA'S PANTRY

Papa's Pantry, led by founder Lynn Saunders, has experienced a huge upsurge of needs in the areas of emergency food supplies and financial counseling and job training. This past year we were able to donate over 300 lbs of food and about \$1200 to help out. In the coming year, we hope to provide this support, and also to be able to send 2-3 volunteers from our parish.

## OTHER MINISTRIES

Sandi Harding serves as the national coordinator of AMiA Sister-to-Sister Partnerships, bringing parishes in the United States together with parishes in Rwanda. Dick and Joan Fossum serve with Mustard Seed Ministries, providing care and education for orphans and children in Uganda and Rwanda. Deacon Paul serves as chaplain for the Cherokee County Police and Jails.