

the Magdalene

From the Desk of Fr. Neil...

ACNA



Out of a growing frustration on my part and a lot of confusion on the part of others, I thought I would share my thoughts on the ACNA. ACNA stands for Anglican Church in North America. The

ACNA is another Anglican body of sorts, but differs in a number of ways from traditional or classical Anglicanism. Right out of the gate, the ACNA differs from classical Anglicanism and much of historical Christianity in certain ways. Rather than founding a singular body or entity, and seeking to grow from there, the ACNA is more of a group or federation of different Anglican bodies or Churches that are in one way dissatisfied with the unorthodox and in some ways unchristian direction of the Traditional Episcopal Church, that have merged under this heading but have in most cases kept their particular identities. Archbishop Haverland says

the ACNA is not a Church but, "...a coalition of dioceses."

For the sake of room, I will go directly to the problems with the ACNA that cause confusion and why the ACNA does not represent classical Anglicanism. First, the ACNA Constitution and Canons list seven things they hold to and identify with as "...characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership." 1. The Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God. 2. Baptism and the Lord's Supper as sacraments ordained by Christ that must be ministered to the people. 3. The historic episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith. 4. The three Catholic Creeds, being the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. 5. They affirm the first four Ecumenical Councils, "...and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures." 6. The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship. And 7. The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571.

When referring to "the Anglican Way," the ACNA has a different understanding of what classical Anglicanism is, or they have decided to redefine Anglicanism. The two problems that seem obvious are, first; though they claim in their third point they hold to "The historic episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith." This is not true. Some individuals in the ACNA may do so in their own minds and

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Sunday Services:
8am Mass

10am Choral Mass &
Children's Sunday School

in their own parishes, but there are churches within the ACNA that have women priests and women bishops. This is not the historical episcopate. The historical episcopate for 2000 years is an all male ministry. Some churches within the ACNA outright reject the ordaining of women to the offices of Deacon, Priest and Bishop and some accept the practice. Consequently, this does great damage to the integrity of the mission statement of the ACNA. This is confusion, not coherence. The ACNA opens their Constitutions and Canons by saying: "We are grieved by the current state of brokenness within the Anglican Communion prompted by those who have embraced erroneous teaching and who have rejected a repeated call to repentance." If this is true, then why are certain broken and erroneous churches allowed membership in the ACNA?

Of course the Church as a whole falls into error from time to time. We are all broken sinners. But the establishment of a communion that perpetuates the brokenness on the one hand, but on paper says it holds to historic structure and hierarchy is a strange and irreconcilable contradiction. I can only guess that the goal of the ACNA is to perhaps work within the member Churches to talk and come to agreement on the historic episcopate and eventually arrive there through a process of grandfathering out female bishops and priests. Archbishop Haverland says, "...The ordination of women must end, soon and completely, for it is directly contrary to Catholic doctrine. No grand-fathering – or grand-mothering is possible – because such compromise leaves intact the central, revolutionary, and false implication that the deposit of the faith is negotiable and at our disposal."

The second problem I see with the ACNA that is just as distressing is their sixth point of their Fundamental Declaration and that is, they claim to base their standard of Anglican doctrine on the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. I'm not sure

how this plays out, since many ACNA churches do not. Many in fact use the 1979 book...which is not a Book of Common Prayer at all. (At best it is a book of alternative services which lost its commonality the day it rolled off the presses). Further, some ACNA churches produce their own hybrid service booklets. These service booklets (the ones I have seen and am in possession of at least) do not show a hint of resemblance to Anglican liturgy or worship, never mind the Classic Book of Common Prayer. Some have their own version of the 1928 Book. Others use the standard 1928 Book unaltered. Again, perhaps the goal of the ACNA is to eventually get to the place where every member uses only the 1662.

In my view, the ACNA has not made much difference for people looking for classical Anglicanism. Rather, they have only gone from the frying pan to the fire.

In Article 8, The Limits of Provincial Authority states: "The member dioceses, clusters or networks (whether regional or affinity-based) and those dioceses banded together as jurisdictions shall each retain all authority they do not yield to the Province by their own consent." This may be building a good bond of friendship among Anglicans of different stripes, but it is not unity or catholicity. Each church, though a member of the ACNA still retains its own authority in whatever matters they wish to and yield whatever matters they wish. This is a good safeguard perhaps within a common communion, but it doesn't make much sense if the goal of the ACNA is to form a unified body.

I can only see confusion as people who are not Anglicans, who are seeking traditional historical and liturgical worship, enter an ACNA church, depending upon which one and find from high church, right on down to styles and forms that are almost completely devoid of Anglican identity whatsoever. They further state, "Until such time as a Book of Common Prayer for use

in this Province has been adopted, all authorized Books of Common Prayer of the originating jurisdictions shall be permitted for use in this Church.” I pray the final decision will be to settle on one of the authorized Books (1928 or earlier) and not the creation of ANOTHER Book of Common Prayer.

To close, I will quote from Archbishop Haverland once again: “Until there is such clarity, there will be no unity among those of us who like to think of ourselves as Catholic and Anglican Churchmen. There will be no unity because you cannot be a pure cup of water in a dirty puddle. That is the simple, basic message of the Continuing Church to the neo-Anglicans.”

SHORT STUDIES

ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

In the brief introduction last month we talked about the word ritual and what it meant in relation to the Church. It has been firmly established that the Church, from the beginning and even in the synagogue, ritual was used and continues to be used in Anglican Churches today. It is an error to think that some Churches do not have ritual....and pride themselves on it. Even the most supposedly ritual-free church cannot escape ritual to some degree. There still exists a formula each week. Sing, listen to a sermon, sing some more, pray, conclude and leave. It is still a ritualistic service. So since it is unavoidable, why not do it to glorify God and edify the people? Within the Anglican Church there are also certain, what we would call ornaments. In the second section of the Book, *The Ritual Reason Why*, we read this: “What are the chief ornaments of the Church? Answer: The font, which is used in the administration of Baptism, and the altar, which serves for the celebration of the Holy Communion. To these

may be added the pulpit...” These three ornaments are primary and indispensable parts of the Anglican Church.

The Baptismal Font is where people are baptized and made members of Christ’s Church.

The Altar is the place where Holy Communion is prepared and symbolizes both a place where Christ’s Body and Blood are prepared to be given to the people of God. It also symbolizes a table which calls to mind the table where Christ instituted the Last Supper. Holy Communion is a way, a real reenactment of what Christ commanded on the night in which He was betrayed. The Old Testament altar where animals were sacrificed is replaced in the Christian Church. It retains the name altar, though a sacrifice does not take place upon it, rather it is where the elements of bread and wine are consecrated and made holy by the power of the Holy Spirit. Some feel more comfortable calling it the Lord’s Table. There need not be any fear of wrong doing, since the prayer said at consecration emphasizes the Christ, on the Cross made His full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world. But we are commanded by Christ to “do this in remembrance of Him.”

Finally, but certainly not lastly, there is the pulpit. There is a great emphasis on receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Church and it is inseparably connected with preaching. Word and Sacrament is the short-hand way of saying it. Once the Scriptures lessons are read, it is incumbent on the priest to address the people, exhorting them from the Scriptures what God would have them know about Himself and His work of redemption.

So the Font is where a Christian begins. He receives the Holy Food of The Body and Blood of Christ as nourishment for both body soul and

from the Pulpit he hears God's Word delivered to him to further strengthen him spiritually.

ORDO CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, **October 18th** Fr. Neil will commemorate St. Luke during Sunday services. St. Luke is believed to have been a physician and a Greek from the city of Antioch in ancient Syria. He wrote both the Gospel According to St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible. Luke accompanied St. Paul to Rome and remained a close companion until Paul's execution. According to one tradition, Luke was hanged on an olive tree for the faith.

Read the Gospel of St. Luke 24:35-48 and attend Church Services on the 18th to give thanks to God for this important Gospel Evangelist and martyr for the faith.

GUILDS, GROUPS & EVENTS

LECTURE SERIES PART 2 ANGLICAN WORSHIP & COMMON PRAYER

Last month, Fr. Neil delivered the first part of a two-part series on Anglican Worship and Common Prayer. Thank you to all who attended. We had a great turn out and lots of good feedback on the first lecture.

On the **first Sunday in November**, join us for Part 2 in the Parish Hall **after the second service**. Whether you are a cradle Anglican or new to the Anglican way, please don't miss this lecture. You will be surprised to learn things about the Service that you did not know. This free lecture is held in the Parish Hall. If you have a Book of Common Prayer, please bring it.

This is a brown-bag event, so plan on bringing lunch to eat during the lecture.

DON'T MISS PATIO AFTER SUNSET

The Edlins are having an exclusive event, Patio After Sunset, on **Friday evening, October 9th at 7pm** to raise money for our church in Pakistan. The patio is covered in twinkle lights and lovely decorations, and a fabulous catered dinner has been selected. Legendary Porter Singletary will entertain us with songs from Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and other wonderful jazz tunes. Auction items include dinner at the Cheesecake Factory, Claim Jumper and lots of other things.

Where else can you eat, drink, shop and be charitable at the same time.

Every dollar given to this event will be used to assist our mission in Pakistan where Christian persecution is rampant.

Seating is limited. If you are interested in attending this special event, email us at info@stmarymagdaleneacc.org or call Sharon Edlin.

NEW2YOU JEWELRY SALE

Saturday, November 14th (8am – 2pm) will be the last time you can support our church's largest fundraising activity, NEW2YOU, for the year.

This sale will include NEW HANDMADE ITEMS from the Craft Guild and lots of beautiful pieces of jewelry for sale. Please make every effort to come out and look over what the ladies have worked so hard to put out for sale. The upstairs Clothing Store will be open with great bargains at \$3.00.

All money from this sale will go to our Outreach Mission in Pakistan.

PAKISTAN BISHOP ANDREW IS COMING!

ACC Bishop Mushtaq Andrew from Pakistan will be visiting St. Mary Magdalene November 6TH through **Sunday the 8th**. **Please attend either the 8:00am or 10:00am Service to welcome him.** Bp. Andrew will give us a firsthand account of his mission church in Pakistan. There will be a church wide **Pot Luck after the 2nd Service**. This is a great time to invite family and friends to church.

St. Mary Magdalene Parish supports the missionary work of Bp. Andrew and his role in bringing the Word of God and the Gospel of Salvation to Pakistan. This is an important mission and vital to the survival and growth of the Christian Church globally. Bp. Andrew is very grateful for all that we have done to support him and his Church.

The Guild will be organizing a church potluck to be held after the second service. Bishop Mushtaq will be speaking. Please watch for announcements in the Narthex.

PLEDGE MONTH

October is “Pledge Month”. As Christians, we are commanded by God to financially support the Church. Pledge cards will be given to everyone to write down their intended annual contribution. These cards assist us in budgeting for the upcoming year. No minimum amount is required. However, we are encouraged by St. Paul to give cheerfully, not grudgingly or out of compulsion. (1 Corinthians 9)...and the Old Testament sets the example of the tithe as the goal for giving to the Church.

Please be prayerful at this time asking God to guide you in your support for His Church and its mission to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

This October in Athens Georgia, clergy and laity of the Anglican Catholic Church from all over the globe will come together to hold the ACC's 21st Provincial Synod. The Synod will be held October 28th-30th at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Athens, GA. This meeting gives the clergy and laity an opportunity to meet and work together to offer mutual assistance and support. Fr. will have a report with anything newsworthy to give upon his return.

THE NEWS REPORT.....

CHILDREN'S SCOUT COLOR GUARD SUPPORTS PATRIOT'S DAY MASS

Some members say that this is one of the most moving Services of the year. On September 13th, Fr. Neil celebrated a Patriot's Day Mass to commemorate those who have served in the Military. A children's Color Guard made up of boys and girls, processed into the church with flags for all the military services represented. Patriotic music was sung by our extraordinary Choir. We are so very grateful to have the freedom to pray to God in thanksgiving for our great Country and honor those who have given their lives so that we may live without fear.

THE 10TH ANNUAL MEN'S CHILI COOK - A SMASHING SUCCESS!

On **Sunday, September 27th** the Men hosted our 10th Annual Chili Cook Off headed up by Brian Lee. We had 11 entries of delicious chili. All kinds of amazing recipes were cooked up for us to eat. The Guild was a great help supporting the Men with kitchen duties. Thank you to all of the men who came out with their chili and thank you to everyone who helped make it a successful day. All proceeds collected at the

Chili Cook-Off will go to our Mission Outreach Program to our sister Church in Pakistan.

WELCOME JEANNIE LAWRENCE

Jeannie Lawrence has been faithfully helping out with a most important ministry in the Church...the Children’s Nursery. The nursery serves children from ages 1-4 yrs old. As our young families continue to grow so does the need for nursery help. Thank you Jeannie for helping out with the youngest of God’s household.

MICHAELLA CAO, PHOTGRAPHER

Long time parishioner, Michaella Cao has returned from China and will be attending Mass with us for the next couple of months. She has volunteered to be our Resident Photographer so watch out!! She might catch you in the act of nabbing the last chocolate donut. Our special thanks to Michaella for her support and commitment to God’s church.

OUR ALTAR GUILD IS GROWING

Welcome to another new member of the St. Mary Magdalene Altar Guild, Gianna DeFusco. Thanks for joining the Guild Gianna! Your assistance in keeping the Altar of God in order is much appreciated. You and the other women of the Altar Guild bring glory to God by working behind the scenes, caring for His Sanctuary.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT
4th SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Remember that 4th Sunday Brunch is the best place to spend time chatting with your church family. If there is someone you haven’t spoken to in a while, invite them to join you to 4th Sunday brunch. Join us after the late Service.

MEET US FOR 4th SUNDAY BRUNCH

Why eat alone when you can eat with your church family? **Every 4th Sunday**, everyone comes together to eat at one of the local restaurants after the 10:00am service **around noon**. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER		
Pledge Sunday	10/4	Both Services
Lecture Series – Part 1	10/4	11:30am – 12:30pm
Men’s Fellowship	10/4	9:00am – 9:30am
Women’s Devotional	10/4	9:15am – 9:50am
Patio After Sunset	10/9	7:00pm
Men’s Christian Fellowship (MCF)	10/11	11:30am
Women’s Guild	10/11	11:30am
Vestry Meeting	10/14	7:00pm
Craft Guild	10/18	11:30am
Sunday Brunch	10/25	Restaurant
NOVEMBER		
Lecture Series – Part 2	11/1	11:30am – 12:30pm
Men’s Fellowship	11/1	9:00am - 9:30am
Women’s Devotional	11/1	9:15am - 9:50am
Bishop Andrew’s Pot Luck	11/8	11:30am
Women’s Guild Meeting	11/8	DARK
Men’s Christian Fellowship (MCF)	11/8	DARK
Vestry Meeting	11/11	7:15pm
New2You Jewelry Sale	11/14	Sat 8am-2pm
Craft Guild	11/15	11:30am
Sunday Brunch	11/22	Restaurant
Mary’s Kitchen Feed the Homeless	TBD	Parish Hall
Thanksgiving Mass	11/26	9:00am Said Mass