February 21, 2017

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The past few weeks have been exciting and transformative. We have experienced life in the Spirit through the ministry of Archbishop Ben Kwashi at our New England SOMA Conference. The renewing of friendship between Abp. Kwashi,
Dr. Glen Petta, director of SOMA, and the ADNE filled my heart with joy and refreshed my excitement about the ministry of the Spirit in our diocese. Archbishop Kwashi's opening remarks warmed my heart: "God is still counting on you for something great," and his challenge to us came in the form of a question: "Have you found one person to come to Jesus this year, or have you failed to commend the faith that is within you?" It is a strong and convicting question that we were able to explore together over the course of those three days.

Ben Kwashi's witness of his marriage to wife, Gloria, his ministry throughout the world, and his courageous stand in the face of Islamic terrorism in Nigeria is legendary; together the Kwashis have taken in over four hundred orphans to save their lives in the midst of a ravished country. It is out of this experience that he exhorted us to remember that the Spirit of God gives us eyes to see opportunities for mission wherever we are. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, through whom we experience the power of the Gospel, will lead to our transformation and the transformation of others. I was pleased to hear Archbishop Ben's life verse was the same as my own, Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel..." This is a connection reflecting both his and my own passion to see the Gospel come alive in the hearts and minds of the Church and those around her, particularly here in New England.

The opportunity for prayer teams to minister in the power of the Spirit to laity and clergy was an extraordinary component of this SOMA conference. Ministry to those in attendance flowed naturally and easily, and it is a common expectation in our diocese that men and women will lay hands on and pray for one another for the empowerment of the Spirit, healing of the sick, and the release of new ministry. In other words, the supernatural is natural for us. SOMA helped bring that home for us on each day of that conference.

To that end, I was given the opportunity this past month to travel to Alabama and minister to the Diocese of the South. I was the guest speaker at their clergy conference and led four workshops for their clergy: Conversations on Common Ground, a look at evangelism in the power of the Spirit through our testimony; The Power of the Spirit through Christ in the Gospel of Luke; The Power of the Spirit in the Book of Acts; and Praying for People to Receive the Power of the Spirit. Like what occurred in our diocese through SOMA, the clergy down south were reminded of the necessity of the Spirit's power in our ministry, and they were refreshed and renewed through prayer.

This trend towards focusing on our common life in the Spirit began this year at the College of Bishops meeting in January, where the bishops of the province talked and prayed about how to see the three-streams of Anglican life and ministry (liturgical, evangelical, and charismatic) lived out in our churches. Whether we had discussions on deliverance, healing, or other aspects of the Spirit's power, it is evident that our life together as a province is growing in confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the Gospel to change lives and transform culture.

As the year moves forward, it is my hope that this becomes more and more of a reality in our diocese as we seek God's power and grace to reach New England with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. May He continue to fill and equip us all for the work ahead through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Yours in Him,

Bishop Bill Murdoch
The following account of our recent SOMA New England Conference, which took place at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, February 3-5th, is written by The Rev. Dr. Nathan Baxter, dean of our cathedral. We are thankful for his thoughtful account of what occurred and are hopeful that his highlights and insights on this conference and its implications will move many to further consider the work of the Holy Spirit and His role in God's work throughout our diocese.

Someone has said that the best interpretation of Scripture is lived. Archbishop Ben Kwashi's life, testimonies, teaching prove that saying to be true. At the SOMA Conference this past February 3-5, around one-hundred of us from around New England experienced the scriptures come alive in the person and teaching of Archbishop Ben. Interweaving personal testimonies of God's transforming power in his own life and ministry over 40 years, Abp. Ben bore vivid and powerful witness to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. His many stories must be heard, not summarized-so please click on the links to hear for yourself.

The first two sessions were addressed to the clergy who serve in New England. The third and fourth session were addressed to the whole church, who live and minister in New England culture.

Session 1, "Persuaded that Gospel Power Delivers, Heals & Transforms," was rooted in Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit comes to give power for witness to the Life of Jesus, the life manifested in real transformation for areas no one else can reach. God would never save us, call us and then abandon us. God is radically committed to us, so we can and must look for and rely upon what only God can give. This will bring us into a "counter-cultural" way of living. Whenever we have "options," we easily make the Holy Spirit second-class in our lives and ministry. If we desire empowerment for witness, we must yield ourselves and our plans to God's principles and purposes, led by and fueled by the Holy Spirit.

Session 2, "Pursuing the Obedience of Faith in the Power of the Spirit," centered on 2 Timothy 1:7, "We are not at liberty to not preach the gospel." Yet evangelism is rooted in prayer. We must remember this in order to maintain our courage in Gospel witness, particularly the sacrifices of those who have gone before us and the sacrifices we have...

Andrea Mueller, and Susan Skillen.

As always, refer to the ADNE Cycle of Prayer each week.

EVENTS

North Shore Clericus
March 8, 2107
All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
Amesbury, MA

3DM Learning Community
March 16-18, 2017
All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
Amesbury, MA

JOB OPENINGS

Lead Family Coach
Safe Families for Children

Bethany Christian Services' heart is for children. Our mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by bringing children and families together through pregnancy support, foster care, adoption, refugee, counseling, and many other services. Strengthening families for the well-being of children is our top priority.

As the Safe Families For Children Lead Family Responsible for recruiting, assessing, and training all Safe Families for Children (SFFC) volunteers in Massachusetts.

Visit Bethany Christian Services for more information!

Be sure to pass this on to anyone qualified in search of a job!

For more information,

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March 8, 2107
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already made for the sake of the gospel. We must remember the ways God has invested in us and how He has called and saved us. Remembering helps us to "fan into flame" the gifts God and to protect the "fire" from being quenched or dampened. The Spirit will take us to places where we can witness and do things for the good of others, beyond our fears and beyond our natural capacities to think and love.

Session 3, "Gospel Power through the Integrity of Christian Families," took shape around Colossians 3:12-17. The real forgiveness and deep transformation of the Gospel is central to all our hopes for families. Christians can and must refresh themselves in our identity in Christ. Because we are God's Chosen Ones, Holy and Beloved-because we are each now a "Kingdom Personality"-we can and must "put on" the daily "clothing" of the Kingdom. Similarly, we can and must "allow" the Peace of God to enter and rule in our hearts. We also can and must "allow" the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts. As we do these things together faithfully, family members find it increasingly easy to relate in Gospel-transformed ways: we forgive and are forgiven; we serve and honor and love one another.

Session 4, "Gospel Power through the Church to the Culture," expounded the lived reality of Romans 1:16-17. Culture is dynamic. We need to discern, in each culture and time, what the will of God is for his children. The Scriptures are the touchstone for that discernment, especially when the Scriptures are trusted and obeyed. We can and must identify with the Gospel and live unashamed of that Gospel, for it is God's power of transformation for anyone, anywhere, anytime. This transforming power enables us to discern the ways in which the culture must be resisted and the ways in which the culture is consistent with God's purposes. The Gospel is not an abstract idea but a lived experience. There is no culture that the Gospel cannot reach and transform, especially as children and young people are transformed by the Gospel and grow up to lead their cultures. The power is in the Gospel by the Spirit, not in us or in our skills or strategies. Our call is to live and proclaim the Gospel and trust in the Spirit's power, thus bearing fruitful witness to God's transformation.

Following each session, we had opportunity to respond personally in small groups and in a question and answer session. At the end of each day, we were blessed by the prayer ministry of Archbishop Ben, Bishop Bill, and a team of prayer ministers from around the diocese. I personally came away from this conference encouraged to yield more deeply to the Holy Spirit's empowerment and direction, challenged to pursue Gospel faithfulness more deeply, and inspired to serve for the long haul, knowing that God will bring the Gospel fruit he has promised in the Scriptures.

Visit our website to see the SOMA New England photo gallery and a video from Archbishop Ben Kwashi's sermon!

Bishop Bill at the Anglican Summit for Life
Bishop Bill’s Reflections on the College of Bishops

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I returned last week from the first ACNA College of Bishops meeting of the year; it was a joy to be reunited with my fellow bishops. New members in full participation like Bishop Mark Lawrence of South Carolina brought fresh perspective and enthusiasm. There are many initiatives that the ACNA is participating in, and most of them can be read about in the province's latest College of Bishops Report, but I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts on what stood out to me while I was there . . .

The Anglicans for Life Summit 2017 was held at Falls Church Anglican the day before the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Convened and led by Georgette Forney of Anglicans for Life, this annual event is a well organized and very helpful gathering to learn about how better to support life in our dioceses and local churches.

Bishop Bill reported that it was one of the best he has attended, a terrific summit with significant teaching. The first speaker was John Stonestreet, who often partners with such well known Christian writers as Eric Metaxas on apologetics and ethics. His focus was on the ethical debates on the nature of human dignity, which in today's culture is based on sexual autonomy, rather than on a moral standard of value outside of ourselves. Our current culture's definition of dignity has produced more psychological and sociological brokenness. The Church must be equipped to have the conversations in every situation, even their backyard barbecues, to inform their neighbors of the truth that our value as human beings is found in the nature and love of God.

The second speaker was Rolin Warren, president of Care Net and author of "Bad Dads of the Bible". He is a graduate of Princeton and a successful businessman who shared his struggle with parenthood and his passion for keeping fathers in the conversation regarding life and family. Warren said he wanted to move people from being simply pro-life to being pro-abundant life. Self-professed Christians have partaken in 400,000 abortions per year, which shows Christians' inability to currently handle this issue and walk with brothers and sisters struggling in these areas.

The Church and the Holy Spirit

The following was written after Bishop Bill visited the Diocese of the South and was the guest speaker at their clergy conference. He gave four workshops on various aspects of ministry, with a focus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We are thankful for the partnership.
Our own Kevin Kallsen with Bishop Bill

Recently, I was at a clergy retreat where Bishop Bill Murdoch taught and encouraged the clergy of the Anglican Diocese of the South to operate with expectation of the leading and moving of the Holy Spirit today. In the first century Paul explained to the church how the Spirit works through believers' lives more fully in 1 Corinthians 12:7 & 11 . . .

In the afternoon, Kurt Dillinger, head of the ministry, International Life, spoke to the Summit. His ministry has been in 87 nations and focuses on the international picture of the pro-life movement, which the American Church often knows little about. 210 million babies are conceived each year and 56 million are aborted; abortion is not just an American crisis.

There was also a presentation on Pro-life stances in the medical field, dealing with abortion and end-of-life. Dr. Donna Harrison, executive director of the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, talked on how the medical field is now discussing death as an acceptable medical treatment for certain conditions and how the scope of Pro-life issues is often way underestimated. There are, however, Pro-life men and women in the medical field who are coming together to fight against the current trend.

In between these lectures there were also small group workshops on various issues surrounding the Pro-life debate.

The next day Summit participants gathered for worship at Falls Church and then headed for the bus. They marched with so many hundreds of thousands past the U.S. Capitol up to the Supreme Court. Various Christian denominations and beliefs were represented. There participants heard passionate advocates defending life and challenging us to lovingly speak up for those who have no voice, especially the unborn.

Please continue to pray for the unborn and the Pro-life movement, especially here in New England. We ask for your prayers also for Care Net Pregnancy Center, led by its founder, Gail Gardner, a lay pastor at Grace Anglican, Fitchburg and the Diocesan Treasurer.

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First ADNE Standing Committee of 2017
souls'. So what are we to make of the recent report by the Church of England's House of Bishops on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships? To what extent does it reflect the 'noble task' of godly oversight? <<Continue Reading>>

Praying for Our President

A Prayer for the President of the United States: O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer 1979, p. 820)

I was distressed to read this week the decision of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, CA (TEC Diocese of Los Angeles) to suspend prayers for the President by name during Sunday morning worship. Here is the reason they gave . . . <<Continue Reading>>

At the end of January the Standing Committee of the ADNE met for the first time at a face to face meeting at the Cathedral campus. In addition to the general review of our treasury report and ministry updates, here are some specifics of what was discussed:

- The Standing Committee welcomed two new members who were voted in at last Synod: The Rev. Cinnamon Creeden and James Leach.
- Bob Craig was elected the Chair of the Standing Committee.
- The Rev. Piper Runnion-Bareford was elected the new Secretary of the Standing Committee.
- Our two archdeacons: The Ven. Peter Gachathi, of the Kenyan churches, and The Ven. Alex Kasiirye-Musoke, of the Ugandan churches, met with the Standing Committee to report on the status of their archdeaconries and were commissioned to form two committees of lay people to assist them in overseeing the archdeaconry.
- A taskforce for the service of consecration at All Saint's Anglican Cathedral, to take place June 9 - 11, was established, along with reports on the current status of preparations.
- Bishop Bill gave his report on the current state of ministries in the diocese and on his own travels, including the latest College of Bishops.

Please be sure to pray for the Standing Committee as the year goes on!

Church Army USA and Chik-fil-A
The following is an account written by Nelly Jones of her experience at the latest Encounter Weekend for women, run by the leadership of Imago Dei Anglican Church and hosted at the Sky-Hi Conference Center in Topsham, ME. Nelly is a friend of the diocese and a first time guest at Encounter. We are thankful for her testimony of God’s love and ministry in her life, a testimony that reflects so many other experiences at both the men’s and women’s conferences.

My first exposure to the Women’s Encounter weekend was through a friend. I knew that I was thirsty for God, trying to find my way through what has been the darkest season of my life. I took a risk and registered, even though I had no one to go with or hardly knew anyone there . . .

Chick-fil-A is opening a new franchise in West Hartford, CT and ran a promotion on their Facebook page asking 'What would you do with 50 free sandwiches?' Christopher Johnson, assistant pastor of Poquonock Community Church of Windsor, CT, responded to Chik-fil-A’s question by stating that he would give the sandwiches to The Rev. Bryan Bywater and to his work through Church Army USA for the homeless in the city. Soon after, the fast food chain responded and said the sandwiches would go to Fr. Bryan and Church Army USA.

Fr. Bryan brought the sandwiches downtown and met up with Officer Jim Barrett, the liaison officer in City Hall, who works with the homeless population of Hartford. Officer Jim escorted them from city hall to the library across the street, where they were allowed to "set up catering". Many of those served by Church Army USA gather there during cold, wet days. They gave out all the sandwiches they had!

Church Army USA and Fr. Bryan would like to thank Chik-fil-A for putting hot food in the bellies of men and women trying to get by and for helping Church Army USA and the Hartford Police care for the fragile and marginalized in their awesome city.

### Episcopal Visits

- **February 19 2017 St. Peter's Anglican Church, Belmont**

  Bishop Bill visited the Ugandan community at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Belmont for a very full service of 250 adults and children. They worshipped and spent the whole of Sunday afternoon together at the 1st Baptist Church facility on Lexington Ave. It was the first time Bishop Bill was there with our new archdeacon, The Ven. Alex Kasirye-Musoke and their new curate, The Rev. Emmanuel Kiwumolo.

  He preached and celebrated at the service, and his sermon was on Acts 1, for Mission Sunday, on being witnesses in the world for Christ and using our own stories of encountering God in Jesus to share with those who want to hear. He also
reminded the community of Ryan and Jillian Johnson, our Ugandan missionaries who are currently serving there and who need our support. They took up an offering for them, which will help sustain their mission in Kisoro.

Bishop Bill also met with the new vestry after service. They expressed enthusiasm for their participation in the diocese moving forward as they continue to build their Ugandan fellowship and reach out to those around them.

- **January 29, 2017: Grace Anglican Church, Fitchburg**

  Bishop Bill visited our mission in Fitchburg, MA this past week. It was a good day of worship and fellowship. Bishop Bill preached and celebrated for the morning. He taught on 1 Corinthians 1:17,18 and explored the centrality and power of the cross for our salvation, teaching on how our faith in Jesus creates in us His righteousness through the work on the cross by the power of the Holy Spirit.

  After the service, Bishop Bill went out to lunch with the mission leaders. They began talking about next steps for Grace, Fitchburg and their partnership with our church planting team. Gail Gardner and John Deery, who work with Fr. Matthew Brench, have begun discussions on expanding a core group of Anglicans in Worcester and a potential church plant there in the near future.

- **January 22, 2017: Grace Anglican Church, Bridgewater**

  On Sunday, January 22, Bishop Bill visited Grace Anglican Church, Bridgewater on the third Sunday of Epiphany. He was assisted at the altar by a current candidate for Holy Orders and lay pastor, Christopher Hatton. Grace Anglican Church has found a sure footing in the community of Bridgewater, MA, months after its consecration and has been doing quite well, continuing to bless many in the diocese and the surrounding town.

  They are currently assisting Kenyan parishioners who were formally from All Saints' Church in Quincy, who are in the midst of establishing a new Kenyan Anglican church and have met at the Grace, Bridgewater facilities. This week there were two services, one for Grace, Bridgewater and then one for the Kenyan community. Bishop Bill preached and celebrated at both services. The sermon was on the power of the cross, and at the Kenyan service, he shared his testimony with them before preaching. A great sense of expectation and growth accompanied the Kenyan parishioners as they embark on the road to establishing themselves once again under Anglican orders.

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**In Other News**
There has been a significant change in relations between the Anglican Church in North America and the Church of England. The Church of England, through Canterbury and York, have announced publicly that they now recognize our orders as being valid in historic succession. This is a significant step for future relations with the CoE and other Anglican Communion Provinces. Please note, however, that this does not yet mean that we are now in communion with England nor does this imply a need to be in communion given our status with a majority of Anglican primates. As our Archbishop releases more updates, we will keep you posted. The full statement is as follows, with its original publication having occurred on the Church of England's official webpage:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recognised the orders of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) under the Overseas and Other Clergy (Ministry and Ordination) Measure 1967. The Measure gives the Archbishops authority to determine whether the orders of any Church are 'recognised and accepted' by the Church of England for the purposes of the Measure.

This follows work undertaken by the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) in consultation with the Council for Christian Unity both (a) to clarify the general criteria by which the Church of England recognises the ministry of those whose orders are of churches within the historic episcopate and with whom the Church of England is not in communion, and (b) to consider whether the orders of ACNA meet these criteria. The work on the general criteria is presented in Recognition by the Church of England of Orders Conferred in Other Churches, available on the FAOC page of the Church of England website. The work on ACNA specifically was communicated to the Archbishops, whose responsibility it is to make the decision in such cases. The Archbishops, having carefully reflected on this advice, have decided to act on it by formally recognising ACNA's orders.

When someone who was originally ordained in ACNA or any other church whose orders are recognised under the Measure wishes to minister in the Church of England, the first questions to be considered are those of whether the person concerned is suitable for ministry in the Church of England and if so, whether any further training is necessary. Where those questions are resolved satisfactorily, the Archbishop of the relevant Province can decide to give the minister permission to officiate in the Church of England without being ordained in the Church of England, either permanently or for a specified period.

Other churches whose orders the Church of England recognises although it is not in communion with them are the Roman Catholic Church, the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (formerly known as the Church of England in South Africa), and the Free Church of England.
A Call to Prayer for Immigrants, Refugees, and Government Leaders

Archbishop Beach has issued a call to prayer for our neighbors and our nations. The following is originally published by The Anglican Church in North America:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a province that spans Canada, the United States, and Mexico we face unique challenges on issues affecting refugees and immigration. I am thankful for our congregations that are a part of the Anglican Immigrant Initiative. They have taken the lead in caring for those in our communities who are refugees and immigrants, showing the love of Christ to the most vulnerable.

This week, I encourage you to follow their example, and make a special effort to reach out to refugees and immigrants in your local community. In these divisive times, we have the opportunity to demonstrate a compassion that builds bridges, and overcomes fear.

In our province we also have lawmakers who face a different, but related set of challenging moral issues. As public servants, they are called to carefully discern how best to respond to the global humanitarian need while also maintaining the appropriate role of government in protecting its citizens. There are no easy answers to how our nations should balance these priorities, and our leaders need your prayers.

In light of the Syrian refugee crisis, changes in US immigration policy, and the way these changes
will affect us all, I ask you to join me in prayer. Please pray for the poor, the refugee, and all immigrant families whose lives are made more complex, and sometimes more desperate by these events. Please also join me in praying for all those in positions of public trust who seek wisdom in the formation of the laws and policies of our respective governments.

A Collect for Refugees and Immigrants:

Heavenly Father,
from whom every family on earth derives its name,
have mercy on all those who sojourn in this world.
As you sheltered your Son Jesus
who fled from the tyranny of Herod,
so now provide new homes for all those who flee the violence of this age
that they may know the peace of Christ.
Grace your people with hearts of welcome and lives of courage
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Government Leaders:

O Lord our Governor, whose glory fills all the world: We commend our nations to your merciful care, that we may be guided by your Providence, and dwell secure in your peace. Grant to Justin, Prime Minister of Canada, Donald, President of the United States, and Enrique, President of Mexico, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them continually mindful of their calling to serve the people in reverent obedience to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

~The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America