

**The One Hundred Thirty-first Council
of the
Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic**

Report of the Bishop Ordinary
November 3, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The following report is submitted as a summary of my principal activities as Bishop Ordinary, since the One Hundred Thirtieth Council of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

I. Regular Episcopal Visits (68 Confirmations, 1 Baptism)

Trinity XXIII, November 7, 2010 – Messiah Church, Philadelphia, PA

No confirmations

Trinity XXIV, November 14, 2010 – Grace Church, Scranton, PA

1 baptism

1 confirmation

Sunday before Advent, November 21, 2010 – Redeemer Church, Jersey City, NJ

2 confirmations.

Advent I – Atonement Church, Philadelphia, PA

No confirmations

Advent II, December 5, 2010 – Emmanuel Church, Somerville, NJ

No confirmations

2 new members received

Epiphany III, January 23, 2011 – St. Michael's Church, Enola, PA

No confirmations

Lent III, March 27, 2011 – Good Shepherd Church, Brockton, MA

1 confirmation

Lent IV, April 3, 2011 – Emmanuel Church, Pipersville, PA

1 confirmation

Lent V, April 10, 2011 – St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA

No confirmations

Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011 – St. Peter's Church, Chesapeake City, MD

No confirmations

Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011, St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA

5 confirmations.

Easter I, May 1, 2011, St. George's Church, Hamilton, ON, Canada

3 confirmations.

Easter III, May 15, 2011 – Bishop Cummins Church, Catonsville, MD

2 confirmations

Easter IV, May 22, 2011 – First Church, New York, NY

1 confirmation.

Sun. after Ascension, June 5, 2011 – St. Mark's Church, Rydal, PA

2 confirmations.

Whitsunday, June 12, 2011 – St. Stephen's Church, Eldersburg, MD

9 confirmations.
Trinity I, June 26, 2011 – St. Mary's Church, Bronx, NY
10 confirmations.
Trinity III, July 10, 2011 – Jesus, the Good Shepherd Church, Brooklyn, NY
1 confirmation.
Trinity IV, July 17, 2011 – Grace Church, Scranton, PA
7 confirmations.
Trinity V, July 24, 2011 – St. Timothy's Church, Mt. Laurel, NJ
No confirmations.
Trinity VI, July 31, 2011 – St. David's Church, Montreal, QC
No confirmations.
Trinity VIII, August 14, 2011 – Igbo Anglican Church, Bronx, NY
No confirmations.
Trinity XII, September 11, 2011 – Grace Church, Collingdale, PA
10 confirmations.
Trinity XIII, September 18, 2011 – St. George's Church, Hamilton, ON
No confirmations.
Trinity XV, October 2, 2011 – St. John's by-the-sea, Ventnor, NJ
7 confirmations.
Trinity XVI, October 9, 2011 – Atonement Church, Philadelphia, PA
1 confirmation.
Trinity XVII, October 16, 2011 – St. Paul's, Oreland, PA.
1 confirmation.
Feast of St. Luke (transferred), October 19, 2011 – St. Michael's, Enola, PA
1 confirmation.
Trinity XVIII, October 23, 2011 – Christ the King, Pasadena, MD
3 confirmations.
Trinity XIX, October 30, 2011 – St. Luke's Church, New Providence, NJ
No confirmations.

My thanks and appreciation are extended to the Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches and the Rt. Rev. Daniel Cox, who made episcopal visits in my stead.

Bishop Riches

Trinity XXIV, November 14, 2010 – St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA
2 confirmations.
Easter IV, May 23, 2011 – All Saints Church, Newark, NJ
No confirmations.
Trinity XVII, October 16, 2011 – Covenant Chapel, Baking Ridge, NJ
No confirmations.

Bishop Cox

Advent II, December 5, 2010 – Faith Church, Baltimore, MD
1 confirmation.

II. Special Services and Events

A. Memorial Service for LaVerne Callender – On November 13, 2010, I attended the memorial service for LaVerne Callender, mother of Mrs. Kimberly Jenkins and mother-in-law of the Very Rev. William Jenkins. The service was held at Faith Church, Baltimore, MD. The Bishop gave the benediction.

B. 100th Anniversary Celebration at Grace Church, Havre de Grace, MD – On December 11, 2010, I attended a banquet, held at the Bayou Restaurant, Havre de Grace, MD, in honor of Grace Church's 100th anniversary. The following day, the 3rd Sunday in Advent, he preached and celebrated Holy Communion at Grace Church.

C. Messiah Church Anniversary Service – On Sunday, December 12, 2010, I attended the annual anniversary service held at Messiah Church, Philadelphia, PA.

D. Funeral Service for Evelyn Spadafora – On December 22, 2010, I attended the funeral service for Evelyn Spadafora, mother of the Rev. Frank M. Spadafora. The service was held at the Third Reformed Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA.

E. Annual Clergy Retreat – My wife and I attended the annual clergy retreat, sponsored by the Spiritual Growth & Nurture Committee, on January 28-29, 2011. The retreat was held at the Best Western Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA.

F. Christ Academy, Collingdale, PA – On Wednesday, March 23, 2011, I joined in the chapel service with the students of Christ Academy, Collingdale, PA. Afterward, he spoke to the students about considering ordained ministry as a future vocation.

G. Women's Day - The annual Women's Day gathering was held at St. Mark's Church, Rydal, PA on Friday, April 29, 2011. Mrs. Kathy Moock was the speaker and, I gave the benediction.

H. Farewell Gathering for David Ayres – On Friday, May 20, 2011, my wife and I attended a farewell dinner for the Rev. David Ayres at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Jason Holloway. The Rev. Mr. Ayres moved to Germany in June 2011.

I. Installation of the Rev. Robert Hackendorf – On Saturday, May 21, 2011, I presided at a service of installation for the Rev. Robert Hackendorf, the newly elected rector of St. Luke's Church, New Providence, NJ. Assisting in the service were the Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud, the Very Rev. Gregory J. Miller, the Very Rev. Belgrave Pelle and the Rev. Canon William Jerdan.

J. Diocesan Youth Camp – After my annual Episcopal visit to Grace Church, Scranton, PA, I spent Sunday and Monday July 17-18, 2011, with the Diocesan Youth Camp, located not far from Grace Church. I am greatly encouraged by the important work being done among our young people through the camping ministry. The camping experience for our young people is not simply a time of fun and activity; it also affords an opportunity for Christian education and spiritual formation. Mr. Billy Jenkins deserves our thanks and appreciation for doing the challenging work related to the organization and implementation of the youth camps.

K. Installation of the Rev. Jason S. Patterson – The Rev. Jason S. Patterson was installed as rector of St. Mark's Church, Rydal, Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 15, 2011. I served as celebrant and preacher. Assisting in the service were the Rev. Kenneth Cook, the Rev. Barton Craig, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, the Rev. R. Charles Gillin, the Rev. Jonathan Kell, the Rev. David Ousley, the Rev. Edward Rix

III. Reformed Episcopal Seminary

I continue to serve as Chancellor of the seminary and Associate Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature. As Chancellor, I serve as chairman of the Board of Directors of RES. The board met on Thursday, April 28, 2011 and October 13, 2011. Through the course of the year I teach Greek Elements, Acts & Paul, Hermeneutics and New Testament Exegesis. Last spring the Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches and I taught a course on the *Book of Common Prayer*.

In addition to the regular teaching responsibilities mentioned above, I have presented papers and lectures at various events in the life of the seminary community. On December 13, 2010, I presented a paper on the history of the Veni Creator Spiritus at the monthly faculty convocation; and at the same venue, I presented a paper on the episcopate of the Reformed Episcopal Church, on September 18, 2011. On May 12-13, 2011, the Seminary hosted the ecumenical talks being held between the Anglican Church in North America and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches and I presented papers on Anglican theology to the participants.

On November 29, 2010, I attended the annual Kuehner Lecture and Founders' Day celebration at St. Paul's Church, Oreland, PA. The speaker was the noted author and lecturer, Mr. William Murchison.

I attended the quarterly Philadelphia Clergy Convocations on December 18, 2010, March 19, 2011, and September 24, 2011. In addition to celebrating Holy Communion, I also delivered the Ember Day lectures on those days for the students in the Licentiate for Diaconal Ministry (LDM) program for those anticipating ordination to the vocational diaconate.

On June 4, 2011, I presided at the 121st Commencement service held at St. Paul's Church, Oreland, PA. The Rt. Rev. John Fenwick, bishop of the Free Church of England, gave the commencement address. Three graduates received the MDiv degree, one received a three-year diploma and one received a certificate.

The first day of classes for Trinity Quarter began on Monday August 29, 2011. Convocation and orientation were held on Tuesday, August 30th. The Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches was the preacher for convocation, and I served as celebrant for the service of Holy Communion.

The seminary is continuing with self-study process in connection with the anticipated site visit by representatives from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), sometime next year. The self-study is the last major requirement toward accreditation with ATS.

IV. Parochial Matters

A. Provisional Vestry for Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia, PA and Grace Church, Collingdale, PA – For the past several years, the combined vestry for Church of the Atonement and Grace Church have conducted the business for both parishes. The vestry was called the "Provisional Vestry," because the understanding has been that this provisional arrangement will no longer be necessary at a future point, and each parish will be able to elect separate vestries. I am thankful to report that each of the parishes has grown to the point that the Provisional Vestry is no longer necessary. The last meeting of the Provisional Vestry was held on Monday, March 28, 2011 at the

Church of the Atonement. A special joint service of thanksgiving for the growth and mission of the parishes was held at Grace Church on October 29, 2011.

B. St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA – The Very Rev. David S. Ayres resigned his position as rector of St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, effective the end of May, 2011. On Sunday, July 3 and August 7, 2011, I visited St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church and subsequent to the morning worship services, met with members of the parish and vestry to discuss the future of the parish. At the August 7th meeting, the Vestry voted to request that the Standing Committee designate St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church a "mission parish" under the provisions outlined in the canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. I have linked the vestries of St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman and St. Timothy's, Mt. Laurel, NJ in a similar fashion to the Provisional Vestry that was created for Atonement, Grace and Christ Memorial churches in the past. The first meeting of the combined vestry was held on October 12, 2011 at St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church.

C. St. Mark's & the Memorial Church of Our Redeemer, Rydal, PA – While the parish was in the midst of the pastoral search process, I met with the vestry and search committee on Sunday, January 16, 2011, in order to answer questions and to be apprised of the parish's progress in the pastoral search process. As noted above, the parish subsequently called the Rev. Jason Patterson to serve as rector. The parish and I are most grateful to the Rev. Canon R. Charles Gillin for serving as interim rector of St. Mark's Church, during the past year.

D. St. Paul's, Oreland, PA – The parish continues the process of searching for a new rector. I met with the congregation on Sunday, January 30, 2011, in order to answer any questions related to the pastoral search process and to provide a recent history of the ecumenical efforts of the Reformed Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Headman continues to serve as interim rector.

E. St. Stephen's, Queens, NY – The Rev. Samuel Orimogunje has begun an extension work in Queens, New York. The first service was held on May 15, 2011. The Rev. Mr. Orimogunje informed me that there are approximately 20 people involved in the formation of the work.

A. St. Peter's Church, Chesapeake City, MD – As is mentioned elsewhere in this report, the pastoral vacancy at St. Peter's has been filled by the Rev. Jack Clark.

V. Postulants for Holy Orders

Robert Appleton (Grace, Havre-de-Grace, MD)
M. Russell Buchanan (St. Paul's, Oreland, PA)
Timothy Craig (St. Stephen's, Eldersburg, MD)
Paul Luth (St. George's, Hamilton, ON)
Lawrence Spears (St. Timothy's, Mt. Laurel, NJ)
James Tyne (Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge, NJ)
Carl Wegner (Atonement, Philadelphia, PA)

VI. Ordinations/Receptions/Transfers

A. Michael Carr – On January 19, 2011, Michael Carr sustained the examination for reception to the diaconate. The examiners were the Rev. Michael D. Fitzpatrick, the

Very Rev. Walter L. Hawkins, the Very Rev. Gregory J. Miller, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches.

B. Jack Clark – On Friday, March 11, 2011 the Rev. Jack Clark sustained the examination for reception as a deacon from the Anglican Mission in America. The examiners were the Rev. Cedric R. Benner, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches and the Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks. I have appointed him to serve as minister in charge of St. Peter's, Chesapeake City, Maryland.

C. Stephen D. Cox – In a letter, dated September 12, 2011, the Rev. Stephen D. Cox informed the Bishop and Standing Committee that he has resigned his position as curate at Christ the King Church, Pasadena, MD, and he requested to be dismissed from the ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Church, effective September 15, 2011. The Rev. Mr. Cox expressed his thanks to the Diocese for the pastoral care and fellowship he has received over his years of ministry and indicated that his resignation arises from his own personal sense of direction related to where he should exercise his gifts for ministry.

D. Robert Hackendorf – On Friday, March 18, 2011, the Rev. Robert Hackendorf sustained the examination for reception as a presbyter from the Anglican Mission in America. He was installed as rector of St. Luke's, New Providence, New Jersey on May 21, 2011.

E. Jason Holloway – On December 1, 2010, Jason A. Holloway sustained the examination for the diaconate. The examiners were the Rev. Cedric R. Benner, the Very Rev. Walter L. Hawkins, the Very Rev. Gregory J. Miller, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches and the Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks. On Saturday, March 5, 2011, I ordained him to the diaconate in a service held at Atonement Church, Philadelphia, PA. The Very Rev. Walter L. Hawkins presented the ordinand; the Rev. Willie J. Hill was the preacher and epistoler; and the Very Rev. William Jenkins was the litanist.

F. Samuel Orimogunje – On Saturday, November 20, 2010, I ordained the Rev. Samuel Orimogunje at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, South Orange, NJ. The Ven. Dr. Paul U. Ekezie presented him and preached the homily.

G. Jason S. Patterson – As noted above, the Rev. Jason Patterson transferred to the Diocese from the Anglican Mission in America to serve as rector of St. Mark's, Rydal, Pennsylvania.

VII. Canonical Reports.

In conformity with the requirements of Title I, Canon 1, Section 2 of the Canons of the Diocese, the following clergy, not retired by reason of age or disability, and not in charge of a parish, or otherwise engaged in the ministry of a parish or mission, or in service to the diocese, have reported to me and are listed as "in Good Standing":

Presbyters: George J. Bundt, Raymond E. Feeck, Gary C. Hajek, William J. Holiman, Jr., James P. Raun, Wayne E. West, Rodney A. Whitacre.

The following men, having failed to report from two or more consecutive years, or as a result of action taken by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, are listed as "not in Good Standing":

Presbyters: Edward Allatt, III, Wayne S. Arndt, Alan D. Baur, David S. Babikow, Harry G. Dews, Thomas R. May, Joseph H. McBratney, Robert O. Schmid, Richard F. Thompson.

VIII. General Council Activities

I attended the semi-annual General Council committee meetings held at Cummins Theological Seminary, Summerville, SC, on April 6-9, 2011. Prior to those meetings, on April 5, 2011, I participated in the meeting of the Federation of Anglican Churches, also held in Summerville.

I was present for the sessions of the General Council held on June 8-10, 2011 at the Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX and presented the report of the Standing Liturgical Commission of which I am the chairman.

On September 28, 2011, I attended the meeting of the Reformed Episcopal Church Conference of Bishops in Sumas, Washington.

IX. Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

A. Prayer Book Task Force. I attended the meeting of the ACNA Prayer Book Task Force held in Dallas, Texas, February 27- March 1, 2011 as well as a meeting by teleconference on Monday, October 3, 2011. The Task Force has completed a working draft of the ordinal and has begun discussion of liturgies for baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion. The liturgies produced by the Task Force are for voluntary use within the ACNA.

B. Provincial Council. The Provincial Council of the ACNA was held in Long Beach, CA on June 21-22, 2011. I attended part of the sessions of the Council and then attended the subsequent College of Bishops meeting at the same location on June 23-24, 2011. The Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud, Mrs. Diana Lopez and Mrs. Barbara Riches served as representatives of our Diocese to the Council.

C. Other Events. On Saturday, September 10, 2011, I attended the investiture of the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey as bishop of the ACNA Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. The service was held at Truro Church, Fairfax, Virginia.

I attended the meeting of the ACNA College of Bishops, September 26-30, 2011, at a retreat center in Sumas, Washington. At the conclusion of the meeting, I accompanied a number of bishops to Seattle for the consecration of Kevin Bond Allen as bishop of the Missionary Diocese of Cascadia.

X. Other Matters

A. Youth Advisory Committee. I have appointed a group of several clergy and laymen in the Diocese to serve as an advisory committee for the purpose of addressing the weakness of our youth programs in some local parishes. The committee is putting together a program of assistance, whereby we may offer help to parishes who are looking for help in this area. The first "test case" is being conducted with the cooperation of Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, Brooklyn, NY. Several activities took place this summer, and there are plans for outreach into the community over the next several months. Members of the committee are the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, Mr. Steven Hoopes, Mr. Billy Jenkins, Mr. Arthur Jensen, the Rev. Gerald McLynn and the Very Rev. Gregory J. Miller.

B. Youth Camp Scholarships. Two camp scholarships will be awarded in 2012 from the Bishop's Youth Fund. Applicants must be eligible campers under the provisions established by the Committee on Young People's Work and must submit an essay (250 word minimum) to my office in electronic form by March 1, 2012. The essayist should

write about a verse of Holy Scripture that is especially meaningful to him or her. Applications must include a cover letter of recommendation from the applicant's parish rector. Award determinations will be made by March 31, 2012. The 2011 scholarship was awarded to **Flid Harmattan** of Grace Church, Collingdale, Pennsylvania.

C. Diocesan Leadership Meeting. On Friday, August 12, 2011, I convened a meeting of the Canon, Archdeacon and Deans of the Diocese to discuss ways in which the Diocese may exercise its ministry to the parishes in a more effective manner. The meeting provided some initial observations and suggestions, which will provide the basis for further discussion at a future meeting of the Diocesan leadership, sometime after the first of the New Year.

D. Lay Reader Licenses. All licenses for Lay Readers will be issued February 1st and will be valid for one year from the date of issue. Before I consider licensing someone as a Lay Reader, I must receive a written request from his rector or vicar, indicating the need for this ministry and demonstrating that such licensure will meet the requirements of Canon 24 of the Canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

E. Election of a Suffragan Bishop. I am pleased that the Standing Committee has concurred with my belief that it is time to elect and consecrate a suffragan bishop for the Diocese. I am equally pleased that the Standing Committee has agreed with me that best person for that position is the Rev. Canon R. Charles Gillin. Canon Gillin and I have worked well together from the beginning of my time in the episcopate, and I firmly believe that he brings gifts of ministry and experience that compliment my own. I unreservedly commend him to this Council for election.

XI. Recommendations.

- 1. That the offering of the service of Holy Communion on the first day of Council be alms, designated for the Anglican Relief and Development Fund.*
- 2. That the offering of the service of Morning Prayer on the second day of Council be assigned to the Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions to assist with the work of the Anglican Church in Nepal.*

In thanksgiving to God,

The Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks
Bishop Ordinary