

Carpe Diem



F O R L I F E

March 2017
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Capturing a Love for Life

by Deacon Georgette Forney

As I look back on all the events I have attended as the leader of Anglicans for Life, I cannot remember ever feeling as encouraged and excited as I have after the events of this January. This year's activities began in San Francisco at the Walk for Life. Record numbers of people attended, along with 15 women and men who gave their testimonies as part of the Silent No More gathering held before the Walk for Life.

After the Walk, some of our Silent No More team decided to go to the Women's March. We had hoped our witness there would connect with anyone struggling with abortion regret. Getting caught up in the people who were protesting our new President was a surreal experience as we saw the contrast of people screaming in our faces versus that of the peaceful pro-lifers whom we had walked with a few hours earlier.

The anger and caustic display of emotions was overwhelming and more than a group of women wearing "I Regret My Abortion" pins and carrying signs with the same message could handle. We quickly made our way back to our hotel, grateful to be out of the melee of madness.

Four days later, the AFL team arrived in Washington, D.C. for Summit 2017, Morning Prayer & Worship service, the March for Life, and more Silent No More testimonies. The fellowship--celebrating life, learning about life, worshipping the creator of life, marching for life, and mourning the loss of life-- was incredible and so encouraging.

I still find myself overwhelmed with tears of joy as I contemplate all God did in bringing so many Anglicans together to bear

witness to the truth that life is sacred from coast to coast. When I got home from Washington, D.C., a dear friend sent me an email from her brother, a priest who attended the March also. He wrote:

"The Pro-Life movement is a movement of love. We love life. All human life, born and unborn. We love babies and their mothers. We desire all women and men who are wounded by the tragic choice of abortion to experience the love, mercy, and healing of

God. We love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We are not defined by what we oppose but rather we are defined by what we promote: the dignity and sanctity of every human life! The love, joy, and peace that marked every aspect of this trip was a powerful witness to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

As we marched, it occurred to me that I had marched for life (with my first March in 1993) before any

of the high school students in our trip were alive. I had marched for their right to life, for their dignity, for their protection before any of them had been conceived. As I saw these young people so wonderfully witnessing to the value of life I could not imagine the world without any of them.

As we stopped by the American History Museum for a needed break before joining the March, I told our group that this moment is history-in-the-making. And I shared my dream that someday our struggle, and our victory, will be documented in the very museum that we are standing before."

Fr. Jonathan's words capture exactly what I felt and continue to feel. My prayer is that, as you read this issue of Carpe Diem and view the pictures, you will taste a bit of what so many of us experienced and begin making plans to join us in 2018!



Summit 2017: Mobilizing the Church for Life

by Jeff Walton

Pre-born children are a people group hidden, unrecognized, unreached, and persecuted, but Christians are called by God to have concern for them, according to a speaker at a gathering of Anglican Christians, addressing sanctity of life issues.

“Abortion is a deep offense against the pre-born child and a direct attack against God,” declared Life International Founder Kurt Dillinger, who warned that abortion is a far-reaching problem and that “there is no church that is immune to this around the globe.”

“He [God] has an answer to this: it’s you,” Dillinger charged before the gathering of bishops, clergy, and lay people from U.S. Anglican and Episcopal churches. “We have the power to be life-givers and life-takers.”

Dillinger spoke at “Summit 2017: Mobilizing the Church for Life,” a gathering sponsored by Anglicans for Life and the Anglican Church in North America’s Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic on January 26-27. Hosted by The Falls Church Anglican in Falls Church, Virginia, the summit featured talks and workshops led by ministry leaders, medical doctors, and activists, along with personal testimonies from those who have faced decisions at the beginning and end of life in their families and parishes.

A Christian Concern

Speakers emphasized that abortion was not a distant problem but was inflicting deep harm on people in many churches.

“The problem with *Roe*

is in our own pews,” warned Care-Net CEO Roland Warren. Cautioning Christians to “take the log out of your own eye” Warren shared statistics that 54 percent of American women who have had an abortion identified as Christian. Thirty-seven percent were in church at least once a month at the time they had their first abortion.

“We [Christians] are subsidizing the abortion industry \$200 million a year,” Warren reported. Warren characterized local pregnancy centers as speed boats which can move quickly to rescue people who are adrift. The Church, however, is necessary to provide long-term support, characterized as a larger “ship” that can sustain many passengers.

“While we remind [mothers] of the support they have from conception to birth, they [Planned Parenthood] remind her of the support she doesn’t have from one second after birth on,” Warren told the gathered church leaders.

Warren explained that Christians should object to abortion for two reasons: an assault on the Sanctity of Marriage and Family, and an assault on the Sanctity of Life. Noting that 85 percent of women seeking an abortion are unmarried, Warren closely linked the two issues.

“I’m pro-abundant life — and you can’t be pro-abundant life without talking about sex and marriage,” Warren insisted. “Planned Parenthood’s model is retail – ours is relationship.”



Dignity and Grounding

American culture uses concepts such as dignity, but does so without any grounding, according to Colson Center for Christian Worldview President John Stonestreet, who opened the Summit with a keynote titled “What Makes Life Sacred?”



“Dignity is an assumed concept in our culture, but it doesn’t actually have a home,” Stonestreet assessed. “Any time dignity is used without a solid grounding, some people get left out.”

Tracing the roots of dignity in Christianity, Stonestreet asserted that an accident – like atheism views human existence – cannot ground human dignity.

“Every single person from conception to natural death is an image bearer of God,” Stonestreet explained. “God has bestowed upon them His image. God created a lot of things, but He only created one thing to bear His image.”

Stonestreet shared that Christianity often gifts concepts to the world that the world wants to hold onto without grounding. In recent years, the world has sought to ground human dignity in sexual autonomy.

“Ideas have consequences, bad ideas have victims,” Stonestreet determined, highlighting the targeting of unborn children with disabilities. “The right to die becomes the duty to die when something else becomes a factor, especially money.”

“If we’re going to sustain this [Pro-Life] movement ... it’s not going to be that we have really clever arguments, it’s not going to be because we can make a scientific case for it, as much as we need to do that,” Stonestreet predicted. “At the end of the



day this movement will only be sustained if we are careful to ground our understanding of human dignity into our deepest convictions about the sacredness of all life.”

Timed to coincide with the annual March for Life, the Summit concluded on Friday morning with an Anglican worship service followed by a large group departing to participate in the March. Two buses of clergy, seminarians, and lay people were

joined by eight bishops for the rally and March, which drew tens of thousands to the National Mall in Washington D.C.

Jeff Walton is a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and a member of Restoration Anglican Church in Arlington, VA.

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Save
the
Date

Washington D.C.

Summit, Worship & March for Life

Thursday, Friday, Jan. 18-19, 2018

San Francisco

Symposium & Walk for Life

Friday, Saturday, Jan. 26-27, 2018

San Francisco for Life

by The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees

God... from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace. (St. Paul to the Galatians 1:15)



On January 21st, I was honored to join tens of thousands of men and women in the grand Civic Center of San Francisco. We gathered to pray, listen to sound teaching, march, and make our voices known for the countless children in the womb who have no voice and whose very lives are threatened by the Supreme Court decision known as *Roe v. Wade*.

This was my fifth Walk for Life in San Francisco, and every year I find it so inspiring and humbling to be with so many people – young and old – believer and non-believer. (Yes, there is even a group known as “Secularists for Life” present.) These people are willing to give up a day, risk potentially ugly confrontations with pro-abortion supporters, and say that we care about the unborn AND their mothers and fathers. We care about a society that could treat the most vulnerable in our midst in such a cruel way. We care about our future and our children's future, because all of our lives are inextricably bound one to another in the fabric that the Lord has woven.



The Walk began with the Silent No More Campaign, lead by Deacon George Forney and Anglican's For Life. This campaign is designed to give voice to the women who've



had abortions and the men in their lives, regarding the harm that they had done and that had been done to them. How powerful it was to hear young women and mature women clearly stating, “I REGRET MY ABORTION.” They spoke of their fear and the belief that they had no other options. They spoke of the pressure that family members and friends put upon them to abort their child. They spoke of the physical pain of the abortion procedure and the lies that had been told to them, such as: “It won't hurt – it's just removing a cluster of tissues.” They spoke of the emotional pain and sorrow that they have experienced in dealing with the guilt of participating in the murder of their unborn child. And they spoke of the healing and forgiveness brought by God in His grace and through His church.

What a pleasure to hear of the retreat, “Rachel's Vineyard”, that is offered around the country - including here in the valley - for women and men dealing with their decisions to abort a child. What joy to hear women and men declare the love and peace they felt in our Lord's embrace, finally dealing with the loss of their child.

Next year the Diocese of San Joaquin will host an Anglicans for Life Symposium on the Friday evening prior to the walk, and you are all cordially invited. Put it on your calendars! Friday, January 26th, 2018 will be the Symposium, and the 27th will be the Walk for Life West Coast!



Seminarians for Life

by Robin Ferguson

In January 2017 we held our 2nd Mobilizing the Church for Life Summit in Falls Church, VA. The event was open to priests, pastors, and laity of all denominations who were looking for inspiration and action ideas to start life ministries in their churches and communities. This year we welcomed seminary students from the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Blue Bell, PA to our event. They were also actively involved in the event itself, as they facilitated group table discussions during the conference. They then joined with us in marching for life at the March for Life in Washington DC the next day. We were delighted by both their attendance and their willingness to serve at the event and to speak out for life at the March.

But the presence of the seminarians was not just a happy “bonus” to an event. We want to see even more attend our 2018 Summit! The Church is in need of leaders who aren’t afraid to speak the truth about abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide from the pulpit and who seek to implement life-affirming ministries in their churches. If we can continue to build relationships with Seminarians, to work with them to see the importance of life ministry, we can see more churches in the future willing to defend and honor Life.

The seminarians who attended the Summit had very positive things to share about the event. Here are some of the comments that they shared in their event review papers:

“All of the speakers were excellent, each focusing on an aspect of human life and dignity and each explaining various facets of the movement....I thought the breakout session I attended, led by

Jennifer Lahl, President for the Center of Bioethics and Culture network, was incredibly informative and scientifically based. The major issues she brought up were the exploitation of women who sell the use of their bodies to people who want to have a baby but cannot have one. This kind of thinking is ultimately anti-women. It reduces women to baby factories for profit, which flies in the face of the sacredness of Motherhood and child bearing.” – Stephen

“A big take-away for me from our trip to D.C. is the hospitality of the Falls Church Anglicans. Welcoming others into one’s home (especially welcoming strangers), sharing food and drink, making conversation, and preparing a comfortable space for the guest should be priorities for the Christian household...this is pro-life. People saved unto Christ are not just in favor of the production and fecundity of biological life, but must also work for the robust, beautiful, joyful, and just life. I think whether they realized it or not, the people of Falls Church were working for life both in the public square as well as in their homes.” – Kevin

“The activities at the Summit for Life were life changing for me. To be perfectly honest, I have been pro-life since my early twenties but have never felt the need to enter the movement. For the most part, as an African American female I felt very much outside of the movement...I saw those in the pro-life movement as those who vote against so called “nanny” programs like subsidized daycare and health insurance. However, I had not been exposed to the breadth and width of the movement and found more points of access to engage the polity.” – Cassandra



(L to R) Deacon Bart Gingerich (RES alum, graduated last year), Dr. Rob Arner, Ray Davison, Steve Atchison, Deacon Shawn Riley, Kimberly Jenkins, Mary Willis Fife, Deacon Billy Jenkins, John Mazzamuto, Kevin Fife, Rev. Justin Forsburg, Matthew Maule, The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches (Dean of the Seminary), Vic Broberg, and Nick Zeigenhagen. Missing from the picture are Deacon David France, Susan France, and Cassandra Hill.

“Going into this event I was extremely skeptical of it. With images of public activism gone bad flashing before my eyes, I nearly asked to be excused from this event. To say the least, I am very happy that I attended...Altogether the experience that I had at the Summit and March was greatly informative, convicting, and edifying. To be at the March for Life and see a variety of Christians from different traditions unite for a common righteous cause was deeply moving...God in His grace and mercy actually sat me by an individual at the Summit who goes to Planned Parenthoods and speaks to women going into the building. This was very encouraging and humbling to me. I look forward to partaking in this event with the seminary in the future and seeking God with how I can help in these issues.” – John

Summit 2017



Prayer & Worship



March for Life



CARE. That Should Be Defunded

Talking Points for Defunding Planned Parenthood

by Robin Ferguson

“Do you want to deprive poor women of health care?” “You know abortion is only 3% of Planned Parenthood’s business, right?” “I’m opposed to abortion too, but do you really think defunding Planned Parenthood will do any good?” Many of us have had conversations with others about the defunding of Planned Parenthood (PP) and have heard people’s objections. We wanted to provide you with some brief talking points on why PP needs to be defunded:

Financial

To say that PP is receiving some government funding is like saying the rain forest occasionally experiences rain. According to PP’s annual report, \$553.7 million of their revenue is from taxpayer dollars. That’s \$1.5 million per day.¹ And PP hasn’t been exactly known for fiscal responsibility. PP affiliates have been identified as the source of at least \$12.8 million in waste, abuse, and potentially fraudulent overbilling. Three federal audits in California specifically identify PP and only PP as the problem in state family planning and program overbilling.² Do we want our tax dollars not only going to fund abortions but also being wasted?

Legal

Since the undercover Center for Medical Progress videos were released in 2015, PP has faced legal troubles. Two congressional committees have referred PP for criminal charges for illegally profiting from selling the remains of aborted children.³ Additionally, the undercover videos provide evidence of more illegal activity, such as violating laws requiring women be provided with informed consent, changing the position of unborn children to more easily obtain organs from aborted babies, and possibly partially delivering babies to better harvest their organs in violation of the Partial Birth Abortion Act.⁴

Lack of Concern for their Patients

PP’s motto may be “Care. No Matter What,” but it certainly does not give any guarantee about the quality of care. Many of PP’s facilities have been cited, fined, or shut down for numerous health and safety violations, such as unclean instruments, the illegal dumping of bodies of aborted children in landfills, and breaking HIPAA privacy laws.⁵ Additionally, American’s United for Life launched a new investigative expose, called Unsafe, about the public health issues created by abortion clinics.

39 PP clinics in 15 states were cited in the study for having been cited for health and safety deficiencies from 2008 to present.⁶ If safety and health violations were not horrific enough, there have been multiple reports of PP failing to report statutory rape, sexual abuse,⁷ child prostitution, and sex trafficking.⁸ What kind of “care” fails to report crimes and allows sexual abuse to continue?

Abortion and Not Care

PPs are not health care facilities where abortions happen to be performed; they are abortion clinics where other services are occasionally offered. From 2014-2015, PP affiliates performed 323,999 abortions. PP now performs one in every three abortions in the United States.⁹ Abortions make up 94% of PP’s pregnancy services, while prenatal care and adoption referrals accounted for only 5% and 0.6%, respectively.¹⁰ Additionally, while all of PP’s other services have decreased (cancer screening by 63%, breast exams by 56%, prenatal services by 57%¹¹), its abortion numbers have increased from 289,750 in 2006 to 324,000 in 2015, despite the fact that abortion numbers nationwide have declined.¹² These numbers show that PP’s priority is not in caring for women’s needs but in performing abortions.



A Better Option – Community Health Centers

Where will women go for the care they need if PP is defunded? Local community health centers are already open and available for women and offer an improvement both in the type of care as well as the availability. There are currently 662 PP facilities. There are 13,540 low-cost, high quality health care centers. They outnumber PP 20:1! Additionally, these health centers not only offer the cancer screening, breast exams, and prenatal services that PP touts but provides less and less of, but also a number of services PP doesn’t provide, such as ear, eye, and dental screenings, mammograms, well-child services, and mental health services.¹³

Moral

I appreciate that I am preaching to the choir, so to speak—abortion ends the life of an unborn child. That is in and of itself a deep moral wrong. But PP also has a legacy built on racism and eugenics, and it unfortunately remains true to its roots. The goal of PP’s founder Margaret Sanger was the elimination of “unfit” or “feeble-minded” people, as well as minority populations. Today, 79% of surgical abortion facilities are lo-

Anglican in Action!

by Robin Ferguson

cated within walking distance of African American or Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods, and minorities account for almost two-thirds of all abortions in the US.¹⁴ Margaret Sanger's vision is clearly still alive and well today.

There has been a great deal of media, press, and conversation about the issue of defunding Planned Parenthood. As you speak with friends and family, we encourage you to share this information and use some of these talking points to emphasize the importance of defunding the biggest abortion provider in our nation.

¹ "Planned Parenthood Fact Sheet." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 11 Jan 2016, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/planned-parenthood.cfm>.

² Quigley, Mallory. "Planned Parenthood Engaged in \$12.8 Million in Waste, Abuse and Fraudulent Overbilling." LifeNews.com, 4 Jan 2017, <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/01/04/planned-parenthood-engaged-in-12-8-million-in-waste-abuse-and-fraudulent-overbilling/>.

³ "Final Report Select Investigative Panel of the Energy & Commerce Committee." Energy and Commerce, 30 Dec. 2016, http://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Select_Investigative_Panel_Final_Report.pdf.

⁴ "The Real Planned Parenthood: Leading the Culture of Death 2016 Edition." Family Research Council, Jan. 2016, <http://www.frc.org/planned-parenthoodfacts>

⁵ Hawkins, Kristan. "Letter to Mitch McConnell." Students for Life, 10 Jan. 2017.

⁶ "The Evidence in Americans United for Life's Groundbreaking Investigative Report – Unsafe: How the Public Health Crisis in America's Abortion Clinics Endangers Women." Unsafe Report – Americans United for Life, December 2016, http://unsafereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AUL_UnsafeOverview.pdf.

⁷ Hawkins, Kristan.

⁸ Family Research Council

⁹ US Catholic Bishops.

¹⁰ "Redirecting Taxpayer Funding from Planned Parenthood to Community Health Centers." Susan B. Anthony List, 7 Mar. 2017, <https://www.sba-list.org/womens-health-not-abortion>.

¹¹ Family Research Council

¹² "Planned Parenthood 2014-2015 Annual Report." Planned Parenthood, 2015, https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/2114/5089/0863/2014-2015_PPFA_Annual_Report_.pdf.

¹³ Family Research Council

¹⁴ Family Research Council

In summer 2015, David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress released videos of their undercover investigation of Planned Parenthood that revealed the sale of baby body parts. Many of us watched and shared these videos, horrified anew at the wicked practice of abortion and the profits Planned Parenthood generated from it. Father James Linton, an Anglican pastor from Christ Church in Yuciapa, CA, also watched those videos and felt the horror not just as a Christian but as a father. At the time, Father Linton's wife was pregnant with their third child. "The combination of seeing abortion victims sorted through for parts and my wife being pregnant destroyed me," Linton said. "She organized a protest, and I've been in front of the clinic every Friday since."

Every Friday, the San Bernardino Planned Parenthood facility performs abortions up to 20 weeks of pregnancy. Due in part to Father Linton's faithful presence and success at saving babies, the abortion facility recently built a wall in an attempt to hinder sidewalk counselors and prevent them from speaking to mothers and fathers in the parking lot.

His ministry also brought conflict and confrontation. Father Linton was arrested in August 2016 outside the clinic for offering to pray with women entering the abortion facility. Police held him for six hours and later charged him with criminal trespass. When he was arrested, he was standing on a public easement offering incoming mothers and fathers alternatives to abortion and praying for them to change their minds. Father Linton and the other sidewalk counselors outside the San Bernardino Planned Parenthood were doing nothing more than exercising their Constitutional right to speak freely on the public sidewalk and rights of way in their community. They were not violating the law. Life Legal Defense will be defending Father Linton from these charges.

Father Linton also has the support his church, Christ Church of Yuciapa, his diocese, the Diocese of Western Anglicans, and his bishop, the Rt. Rev. Keith Andrews. Please join us in praying for Father Linton and other defenders for life who pray at clinics nationwide.

Portions of this article were taken from the Life Legal Defense Press Release.



Purposeful Living in the Face of Dying

by Warren Harbeck

Editor's Note: I recently met Rick Bergh through the Rev. Vicky Hedelius, National Director of Anglicans for Life Canada. Rick is in the ordination process for the Anglican Church in the Anglican Network in Canada. After reading the book, reviewed here, I promptly ordered complimentary copies for the AFL Summit attendees. Anglicans for Life heartily endorses this book and believes the teachings are helpful not only for those battling cancer but for all of us in the process of living! This review was originally posted on Warren Harbeck's blog, CoffeeWithWarren.com and is reprinted with permission.

Rick Bergh is a thanatologist.

A what?

You know, one who specializes in issues related to *thanatos* – the Greek word for “death.” Through narrative therapy informed by his 30 years of professional and personal experiences in death, dying, and bereavement issues, the former pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cochrane, Alberta helps people transform denial and fearsome anticipation into a rewarding engagement with purposeful living.

Rick's thoughts on purposeful living in the face of death remind me of that verse from Psalm 90: “Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” That wisdom is not merely about life after death. No, it's about living life lovingly and responsibly now.

Which brings me to Rick's latest book, *Looking Ahead: How Your Dying Impacts Those around You*.

This is Rick's third in the series prompted by the death of his beloved first wife, Pamela Faye Bergh, from cancer in 2008. The other two in the series are *Taking Notice: How a Cancer*

Journey Can Magnify What's Important in Life; and *Finding Anchors: How to Bring Stability to Your Life Following a Cancer Diagnosis*.

In *Looking Ahead*, the popular speaker offers suggestions on how those faced with their impending death can help their loved ones feel more comfortable with this phase of the journey – ways by which the dying can transform a private experience into a precious time of family sharing, for instance.

And yes, Rick also considers practical matters, such as directives, wills, funerals, and removing obstacles to a peaceful passing.

But it's his chapter 10, “How to Continue the Story When You Get Stuck,” that really holds my attention.

It begins with a quote from Rabbi Harold Kushner: “We don't have to be afraid of dying because it's not really death that scares us. We are afraid of not having lived.”

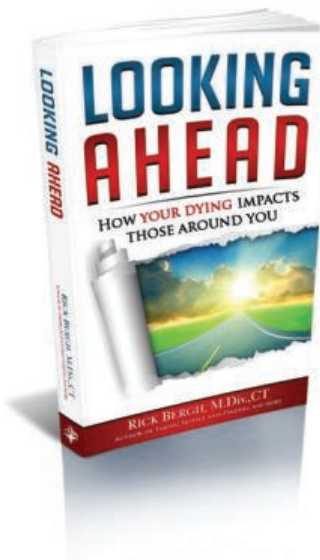
“When I spend time with people who are dying, I know their narrative is not finished yet. So I engage them in a way that continues their story,” Rick says: “There are more experiences, more encounters and more living to happen right to the end. It is streaming life, right in front of you. We don't want the story to freeze as it nears the end.”

The narrative therapist notes that drawing out these final chapters and reflections is not just for the dying, however. “It's for those who live on after you're gone.” It's about legacy building.

“Legacy building means much more than simply a list of your accomplishments,” Rick says. “It is less about achievement than it is about life lessons and wisdom that can be passed on.” What has

given you purpose for living?

One thing's for sure: there's real purpose for reading *Looking Ahead*. It's available online at Amazon.



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405 Frederick Avenue Sewickley, PA 15143-1522
412-749-0455 * Info@AnglicansforLife.org

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Chapter & Life Leader News

It's not too often that we hear a new idea from a Life Leader or Chapter Leader, so we were really excited when Deacon David Smith from Holy Trinity Cathedral Church of Berlin, MD contacted us to tell us about the results of a fundraiser.

Primarily, Deacon Smith and his wife, who together lead the AFL Chapter at their church, try to support the local pregnancy center. But they pray faithfully for AFL, and they try to do a fundraiser each year to send a gift to AFL.

Deacon Smith has the gift of writing, and has had a few stories published in various "Chicken Soup" books in recent years. He has a story in this past year's book as well. (pictured here) More than one year he has purchased a case of books at a discount rate, sold them at retail value, and donated the difference to AFL! What a great idea! It didn't take a lot of people, wasn't huge expense, and they were able to raise a tidy sum to provide a generous gift to support AFL.



We were so blessed by his creativity and generosity! What creative ideas do you have for life-affirming ministry?

What success stories have you had that we could feature?

Anglicans for Life is happy to welcome Church of the Apostles members Valerie Schnibbe-Smith and Helen Metzger as Life Leaders in their parish! After attending AFL's Summit 2017: Mobilizing the Church for Life, they went back to their parish and began organizing ministry for life!



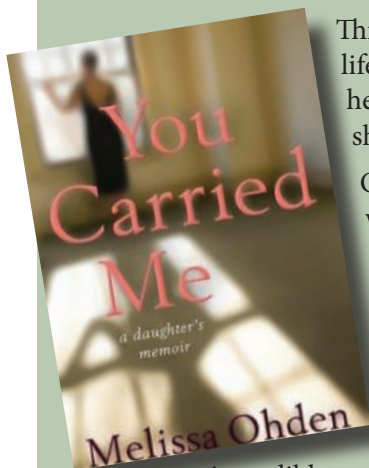
We also welcome Esther Clark from St. Peter's Anglican Church, Chesapeake City, MD., who has been appointed Life Liaison for the Diocese of the NorthEast and Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church by the Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks.

Anglicans for Life is actively recruiting people to serve in Life Ministry. Life Leaders help a church or diocese establish Life Ministry, and Chapters are formed when a church has several people who are actively committed to working together to protect and respect Life. Please contact Georgette@AnglicansforLife.org or 412-749-0455 to learn more.

Book Review

by Rose McChesney

It's not uncommon, in pro-life circles, to hear mention of efforts aiming at helping a pregnant woman choose life, or more generally the many babies lost to abortion, women who are harmed during an abortion, or even the abortion industry as a whole. But one subject seems to be less well-known: What is life like for those babies who survive an abortion attempt, are rescued, and given necessary care so that they can hopefully go on to live a "normal" life? Can you even imagine?



This is exactly what happened to Melissa Ohden, author of *You Carried Me*. Ohden's book describes her life in picturesque detail, so that the reader can truly see everything from her childhood farmhouse to her college campus. She brings the reader along on the emotional journey through life, describing how she discovered that she had survived an abortion and her search for her biological family.

Ohden is a talented writer. The book is easy to read, though it may be rather emotional for some. Her words paint clear images, and the process of uncovering family secrets will keep readers engrossed in the story. Her message of hope and faith shines through in spite of the challenges and discouraging times she experienced.

AFL recommends *You Carried Me* to readers who are interested in a story of hope and forgiveness from a daughter who wasn't supposed to live. Highlighting the importance of compassion, the book will expand the reader's understanding of the pressures many women face when they have an unplanned pregnancy. And it will grant the reader some understanding of this small but incredible group of survivors whose stories are shining a light on the evil of abortion.

You Carried Me is available anywhere books are sold.

From San Francisco to Washington DC

Anglicans Celebrated & Honored LIFE!

