

real LIFE



Every Believer Doing One Thing Every Day to Protect Life

August 2020
Vol. 1 No. 1

COVID-19's *real* Impact by Deacon Georgette Forney

When “shelter in place” order was issued on March 13, who would have imagined we would still be social distancing, wearing masks, and doing church services on Zoom five months later?

The Coronavirus has turned our world upside down and been the cause of more cancelled events, vacations, surgeries, celebrations, and job losses than anyone could have ever imagined. In my lifetime at least, there has never been such a general upheaval of livelihoods, education plans, and personal goals in such a short span of time. The only word that I can use to adequately describe it is “craziness” – and now that we have been in this craziness for over five months, we are all perceiving the impact it has had on our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being, as well as our financial health.

Yet Covid-19 has also stripped away all the distractions, events, and demands of our busy lives, and it has forced us to slow down and face ourselves, as well as our priorities, values, fears, and feelings. And, sadly, as many of us stop and reflect on where we are in life, we don't like what we see! I believe this difficult process can be good and be used by God. But as the leader of a ministry that focuses on life, I also see it as an opportunity for God's people to speak the Gospel into hurting hearts.



Nowhere is this truer than in relation to those hurting from past abortions. The Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which Anglicans for Life co-founded, and providers of abortion aftercare programs have seen a major increase in the number of people who are facing the fact that their abortion experiences are still haunting them, impacting their choices, and controlling their behavior. We are working together to provide access to online healing programs, which are available 24/7.

But it isn't only people who have had or been involved in past abortions that need pastoral care, counsel, and ministry. Here are some other examples:

- Healthcare workers who have worked long shifts and spent many days away from home. They will need help processing everything they saw and experienced. Just as soldiers return from battle, traumatized by what they witnessed, these folks will need time, grace, and pastoral care to integrate their memories into their lives.
- Family members who had loved ones die alone in nursing homes, hospitals, or at home and were unable to be with them. They will be struggling to process this pain, in addition to their general grief. Some of these folks are also struggling, because they have not been able to hold a proper funeral or burial service.
- Children who are in the foster care system, stuck in limbo between foster homes and being re-united with their parents, or kids whose adoption process has been put on hold indefinitely, because the court system has been closed and is now backed up.
- Single older people with limited mobility who have been stuck in their homes with no human contact for months.
- Members of the clergy, who have been trying to figure out how to do church virtually, care for parishioners over the phone, and manage their own family's needs. Exhaustion and second guesses are the constant companions of many of our ordained brothers and sisters right now.
- People struggling with depression or loneliness. A recent article by Shannon Roberts, published by *Mercatornet*, suggests that Covid-19 has led to an increase in suicide “deaths of despair.” Roberts connects research indicating that opioid related deaths are often fueled by loneliness and a lack of hope—factors which have been exasperated by Covid-19 quarantining.

All these people groups either need help now or in the future. And what exactly does that help look like for each person?

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Mark your calendars, make plans to join us, and keep your eyes open for any changes necessitated by the pandemic. Subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.tinyurl.com/AFLeMail or “like” our Anglicans for Life Facebook page to be the first to know!



Covid's Real Impact *Continued from Page 1*

As I said earlier, I believe this difficult season can be used by God. Crisis situations are often the fertile ground in which seeds of hope and redemption can take root. Could Covid-19 open up opportunities for us to share the Gospel with our neighbors, those who are grieving, or even kids in our classrooms? I believe the Church, God's people, would do well to see the Covid-19 craziness as a time for community outreach to the hurting.

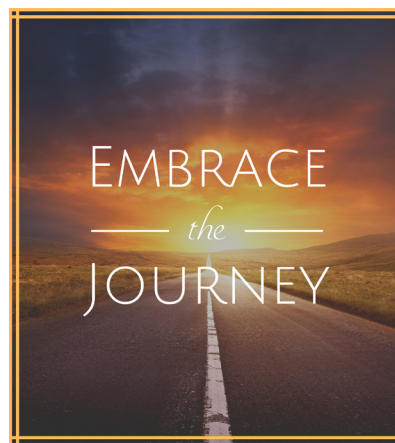
Anglicans for Life's vision is that every person in every church would do one thing every day to protect and uphold the sanctity of life. Is this epidemic creating opportunities where we can do something to affirm life for our hurting friends, neighbors, and families in an everyday way?

I hope this stirs your spirit to action, and you are now wondering, “What can I do?”

The answer is simple! First, I am encouraging everyone to start with a prayer every morning, asking the Lord to put people in our paths that need to connect with Him. We also need to pray for eyes to see and ears to hear, so that, when we come across those people, we recognize them and share what the Lord gives us to share.

Responding to hurting people also requires us to step out of our comfort zone, to be vulnerable and be willing to listen with empathy, while checking our judgement and “fix it” nature at the door. I have found the simple act of listening to be balm for hurting souls, who often feel invisible and abandoned.

Seeing the Covid-19 craziness through the lens of God's providential will can open our hearts to think outside the box for ways to help one another – imagine what would happen if the prayers and responses suggested above become a habit that survives long after the Coronavirus craziness goes away!



Gearing up for whatever your Fall Kick-Off may look like this year? You can use any of these Christian Formation Curriculums in the Sunday School Room or adapt them for online presentation. **Project Life** affirms the biblical basis for supporting life from birth to natural death. **Embrace the Journey** discusses the issues of aging and dying and how the Church can best support the elderly. **Abundant Life** engages teens about cultural issues and facilitates small group discussions, strengthening their identity in Christ. **Learn more at www.AnglicansForLife.org and www.YouWereMadeForMore.org.**

Getting real with Deacon G: What is AFL's *real* Purpose?

Last fall, after 22 years at AFL, I faced the fact that the ministry had plateaued under my leadership and that, if we wanted to grow in effectiveness, I needed to seek help!



A season of prayer led me to a program that affirmed my calling to this ministry but challenged me to think beyond my comfort zone. I sought to answer one big question: *What is AFL's purpose?* I simply wanted to say that we stand for life and against abortion and euthanasia. But that response did not satisfy the sense of *think bigger* that I felt the Holy Spirit was showing me!

After much prayer, I concluded that AFL's purpose is to become the

go-to resource in the Anglican Communion for all things related to the sanctity of life. While working to end abortion and euthanasia will always be the mission, Anglicans for Life's purpose is to equip churches to educate, advocate, and provide ministry related to life issues. Because these aren't purely academic issues; people in our parishes are dealing with infertility, unplanned pregnancies, terminal illnesses, sexual brokenness, or the pain of a past abortion and are looking for answers to these difficult *life* and *death* questions.

So many of the challenges people face are fundamentally rooted in what they think about the value of LIFE! As a Christian ministry, our overarching goal must be to help people formulate a biblical worldview that recognizes the sacredness of every life.

If this type of teaching is to start in the Church, the Church needs a recognized ministry to turn to for help. After all, the ordained leaders in our churches are not experts in everything; they need a respected, biblically based group to go to for specialized questions related to topics like Planned Parenthood's sex-ed program, special needs adoptions, abortion pill reversal, or assisted suicide. And that's what AFL wants to do—be this resource within the Anglican Communion!

However, the AFL team cannot end abortion and assisted suicide alone. We're just a small office in Pittsburgh—in our own strength, we could accomplish nothing.

And that is where you come in! Without the involvement of God's people, these are just words on paper. But when we as the Church, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit, join forces throughout the Anglican Communion to honor and protect life, we can change the world!

How are you partnering with AFL right now? If you are not, consider this your invitation to join one of our teams!

Prayer Team – every quarter we send out a prayer calendar that provides daily prayers covering life topics and the needs of AFL. We also send out occasional emergency prayer requests via email. This team provides the spiritual support that empowers and guides everything we do.

Legacy Giving Team – members commit to a monthly donation that can be mailed in or set up electronically. Legacy Team members receive updates from AFL via email but are no longer sent letters or thank you notes, which helps redirect those resources to ministry materials. This team gives AFL the faithful financial support that allows us to operate and equip the Church for ministry!

Life Leader Team – operating within your church, members of this team can serve as a liaison between AFL and your church to represent local life ministry. This team advocates, educates, or is engaged in ministry, serving God's kingdom and taking His love to the hurt and broken.

As I noted earlier, I decided to seek the ministry management help, because I felt Anglicans for Life was poised to grow, and I could not make that happen alone. It also reminded me that God is the real head and leader of AFL.

Just as people are His workmanship, every ministry is His also (Eph. 2:10). Therefore, if we want to end abortion, protect life, and honor our Creator by doing the ministry to which He has called us, we need to team up with GOD and work together! All hands on deck!

I invite you to prayerfully consider which team or teams God is calling you to serve on – then please call or email me, so we can empower you for life!

For His glory,

Deacon Georgette Forney
President
Anglicans for Life

Meet the New Members of Our Team: *real* Life Leaders

Lori Schneider, Executive Assistant and Silent No More Administrator

I am so excited to be here working for an amazing creative team and ministry. I knew right from the start that this is where God was calling me.

Out of nowhere during the pandemic, my pastor emailed a job description for Anglicans for Life, and I knew in my heart that it came straight from God. I asked Him to put the pieces together and bring His Peace, if the job was of Him. He did!

I grew up knowing of Jesus but did not have a personal relationship with Him until my 20s. I have been married for 27 years and have been blessed with two awesome sons, who inspire me every day.

My first job out of high school was as a fitness instructor; I was extremely shy in high school, and that job brought me out of my shell. My passion is helping others improve themselves physically and spiritually. I've also worked as a Human Resource Assistant, Customer Service Representative, and Front Desk Coordinator in a dental office. As you can see, I really enjoy working with people and seeing them through the love of God. I love the quote: "Be nice to everyone, you don't know what they are going through." A little smile or nice word can change their day and maybe even their life; we are blessed to be a blessing.

I have an amazing home church, where I am privileged to serve on the prayer team. I never would have imagined that I would be a prayer intercessor. But, God! He calls and equips us for everything that is of Him. Georgette is a true inspiration and my passion for Life and Healing goes hand in hand with this ministry.

We can all be healed from past hurts and disappointments and walk in freedom to be who God created us to be. This is true of men and women who have experienced abortions as well.

I am so excited for this new journey and expect God to work in amazing ways!



Anna Brychik, Bookkeeper and Administrator

I was once told that I could not be a youth leader for the high school group at my church, because I did not have enough "life experience." I was 20 years-old, a college dropout, and still living with my parents. I was angry, but it just showed me that youth leader didn't know me at all.

You see, multiple tragic deaths, near deaths, and life-altering events that had happened to my parents, extended family, and me—all before I turned 19—are more than some people will ever experience. I am now 35, and I have had more "life experiences" to add to the list. I am only strong, because I have Jesus.

Many of you may have known my dad, Ron McKeon. If you didn't, here's an amazing fact about him: He was the most talkative man without a tongue you would have ever met. Cancer stole my dad's tongue when I was a senior in high school, shortly after he had been accepted to Trinity School for Ministry.

My father overcame cancer, minus a tongue, and was able to still talk, eat solid food and play his clarinet! My parents and their youngest daughter (that's me) moved to Ambridge.

The National Organization of Episcopalians for Life (NOEL), now Anglicans for Life, hired my dad to be their bookkeeper. Yes! I now hold the same title as my dad did all those years ago. (And we have the same boss!)

Obviously, I've gained more life experiences since then: I'm a mother of two, the bookkeeper and a vestry member at my church, and a member of the Pittsburgh Diocesan Counsel. My father died last September due to complications of chemotherapy for the cancer that returned while he and my mother were missionaries in Brazil.

When I kept seeing AFL's job posting for Bookkeeper/Office Administrator week after week in the Diocesan e-newsletter and getting that "strange sense," I applied. I am so glad I listened and acted. The past few months have been overwhelming but extremely fun and rewarding. Being in a workplace that is God-centered and surrounded by people who have a passion to serve others is a welcoming life experience.



Jenni Bartling, Director of Marketing

I've always been pro-life, but I've never been active in the pro-life movement.

In fact, when Georgette offered me the director of marketing role, my response was probably a bit underwhelming. (I've likened it to a blind date you thought was "just okay" asking you out on a second date.) I did not want to accept a job simply because it was offered and I needed a paycheck!

I have been engaged with church planting and coaching Christian leaders for more than half my life. Coming alongside clergy of all ages and positions and helping them achieve what God has asked them to do excites me! In fact, I've spent the last three years developing Anchored Coaching, a practice that provides coaching, training, and certification to Christian leaders.

Would God really want me to put Anchored on the backburner for steady income? C'mon. Where was my faith?

I was so torn! I have great respect for Georgette, her character, and her obedience to God's calling. I got excited as I learned about her leadership style and work ethic, so similar to mine. But...integrity is one of my key values. I could not take the position, even if I adored the boss and possessed the gifts and skills it required. (I also have parish and nonprofit marketing/communication roles on my resume.) I continued to pray and asked others to do the same.

During quarantine, I participated in an Immanuel Journaling small group with eight other women from around the world. Each week, we practiced engaging with God in such a way that we could recognize and record His empathy and help. "What should I do, Lord?" was my focus the week I struggled to make my decision, so I shared with the group.

Lisa, a relatively quiet woman I'd never met before our study, responded to me. "Jenni, you are so passionate about everything you talk about. I wonder if God will transfer that passion [to Anglicans for Life]." D'uh...You could have knocked me over with a feather. Of course He would. And He has!

Here at AFL, we are all helping clergy and all Believers to achieve what God has asked them to do to protect life. Now, that excites me! (And I'm glad to say that God has not put Anchored on the backburner. I work three-quarter time at AFL, so I still have time to invest in it!)



Tom Hay Treasure, Board of Directors

Thomas S. Hay is our newest board member. Tom is the treasurer and brings with him more than 40 years of experience in finance and investment management in both secular and Christian venues.

Tom and his wife, Jenny, are members of St. Stephen's Church in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He is currently a member of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh's Board of Trustees; he's also held positions on the Diocesan Council, ARDF, and St. Stephen's Vestry.



Tom's pro-life stance became cemented in 1982, while Jenny was pregnant with their son. "[Jenny] was reading from a book which told what was happening in her body each day," he recalls. "Those bedtime discussions and the birth of our son revealed to me the majesty of the creation of human life."

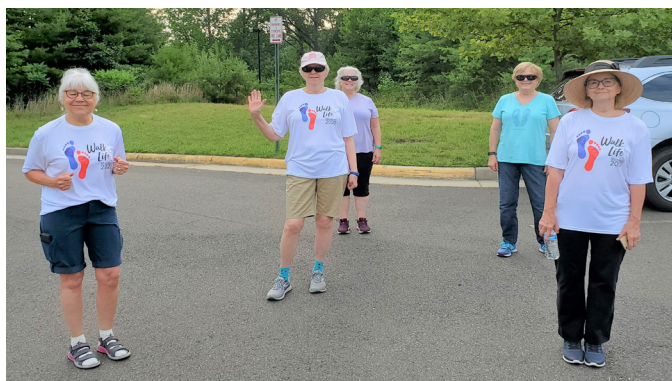
Thirty-eight years later, Tom and Jenny have been blessed by that same majestic creation of human life time and time again. The Hays have three children and five grandchildren, including a grandson born at sixth months' gestation who lived only two days.

Tom is adamant that human life begins at conception, saying there is no "arbitrary time" that it's okay to abort a baby. "My grandson died of significant brain damage incurred in the birthing process," he explains. "But he was fully formed and was in great pain. A five-or six-month-old baby in a womb is alive and can feel pain...very much a human being."

Editor's note: The Board of Directors at Anglicans for Life is a "working board," meaning they each have roles and responsibilities unique to their God-given skillsets and experiences. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

real LIFE in real Parishes: See what our Anglicans for

Thank you to Suzy Speare (All Saints), Jeanne Lee (The Falls Church), and Stacie Johnson (St. Mark's) for providing these inspiring chapter stories!



Pictured above are the All Saint chapter walkers from the Saturday morning group (left to right): Margie DeHoust, Suzy Speare, The Rev. Meg Phillips Guernsey, Kathy Grunden, and Cheryl Bull (Photo by Ed Speare). Not pictured is the Saturday evening team: Sandi Clark, Shana Pedersen, and Tara Pederson.

Covid-19 did not halt the 2020 Manassas Virginia “Better Together” Walk for Life. In fact, three separate life affirming organizations, including the **All Saints Anglican Woodbridge** AFL Chapter, came together to raise money for each of their designated pregnancy resource centers for the first time.

The original plan was for a June 27 mass-gathering of walkers to trek over a course in Old Town Manassas. Because of social gathering restrictions in Northern Virginia, the event was turned into a virtual happening on that date.

Eight members of the All Saints’ chapter walked at two separate times on June 27 in the church parking lot--maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Suzy Speare was the top individual fund raiser from the Chapter, coming in 5th place overall having raised a total of \$2,445. Her team of walkers made it to 7th place overall, raising a total of \$3,690. As of publication, the entire walk has raised \$104,000.78 with a goal of \$150,000.

Anglicans for Life joins

*Ann Weeks
in honoring the memory of
The Rev. Robert O. Weeks*

*Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McKee
in honoring the memory of
Sarah P. Swindler*

This past winter, the **Falls Church Anglican** AFL Chapter was excited to learn that a YoungLives group was forming at a nearby high school. You are probably familiar with Young Life, a ministry introducing teens to Christ and helping them grow in their faith. YoungLives is specifically designed for teen moms.

A strong YoungLives program needs a coordinator, a mentor to come alongside each teen mom, and volunteers to provide Club meals, transportation, and childcare. This would be a lot for one church, so God raised up helpers from three local churches to make this new program a reality! It’s been a joy to work alongside other believers in our community.

Just as Club meetings were beginning--with four girls attending --the pandemic interrupted everyone’s lives.

Undeterred, the YoungLives mentors stayed in touch, delivering food and supplies and creating doorstep baby showers, even Mother’s Day Pampering Bags. We dug out our craft supplies to make sock puppets for the toddlers and let the girls know they were not forgotten, by us or by God. Now there are 10 girls actively involved!

We look forward to the day when Club meetings can start up again. We are praying that, even as practical needs are met during the pandemic, the hearts of these precious young moms would be quickened to the One who can meet all their needs. YoungLives has given us an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and we are grateful to be part of this pro-life ministry.



Life Chapters are *really* doing in their communities

St. Mark's recommends a *real* Life Resource Read



Love Unleashes Life, by Stephanie Gray, is the go-to resource to help you reach people's minds and hearts on the controversial topic of abortion. Through the use of sample dialogues and proven strategies, Stephanie equips you with the confidence to truly communicate the truth--in love.

Love Unleashes Life was the focus of **St. Mark's, Geneva, Ohio**, AFL chapter meeting in July.

"Reading Stephanie's book helped our team establish compassionate and winsome answers to questions our pro-abortion friends may have. We look forward to Gospel centered conversations that use Gray's examples as launching points for pro-life conversions," affirmed Stacie Johnson, Chapter Leader.

Love Unleashes Life is available on Amazon.

Having *real* Conversations about Life in an Election Year

How can you talk with a friend about the importance of a candidate's stance on life?

It's happening already. The lines are drawn. Social media relationships have been blocked or unfriended. The Sanctity of Life has unfortunately been a divisive topic for a long time--way before this election year.

The God who values life, values relationships, too. How do you keep peace when friends and relatives are not always on the same page? Here are some easy steps:

- 1. Pray.** Of course, prayer is the first course of action! Ask God to put a hedge of protection around the relationships in your sphere of influence. The evil one who destroys life is more than happy to destroy the bond between parents, children, siblings, and friends.
- 2. Ask questions.** Questions are a powerful tool. Asking questions conveys a sincere interest in others, allowing them to "present their case". This often prompts a less defensive stance. Plus, when they hear their thoughts out loud it may actually help them to change their own minds!
- 3. Listen to the answers.** You've heard St. Francis of Assisi's famous quote: "O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand." People want to be heard. When you listen, it means their opinion matters, even if you don't agree with it. When anyone feels heard, s/he is more likely to listen with an open-mind.
- 4. Respond with kindness.** When it is your turn to talk, do so with compassion. "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person" as Paul encouraged the Colossians.



AFL is nonpartisan and focuses on life issues from a pastoral perspective, versus ones which are political. Still, we want to equip people to be responsible citizens by voting for a candidate who values the sanctity of life.

These links provide helpful information, so you can make intelligent choices about the candidates.



RESOURCES FOR VOTERS

www.ElectionPrayer.com – the interdenominational prayer campaign for the elections (in English and Spanish)	www.CheckYourVoterRegistration.com – an easy way for voters to make sure their registrations in their states of residence is current
www.ProLifeVoterRegistration.com – contains guidance for groups or churches to have voter registration drives	www.StateVotingInfo.org – a tool to find your state's election website
www.VotingInfo.net – a comparison guide between the national party platforms (the 2016 version is the current version)	www.2020ElectionCalendar.com – features the key dates in this year's election.
www.iVoterGuide.com – detailed info on candidates running in national and state races, including who endorsed them, whom they endorsed, who donated to them, to whom they donated, and much more	www.ProLifePresident.com – summarizes the pro-life accomplishments of President Trump
www.VotingInfo.org – guidance on finding out where the candidates stand on the issues	www.ElectionVideos.org – short educational videos for believers about voting
	www.ProLifeVote.com – a wide-ranging set of election resources from a pro-life perspective (contains all the links above and more)

real Life and real Needs

A note from the Board of Directors

Now more than ever we're so grateful for the AFL community that has funded, volunteered, celebrated, and advocated for the sanctity of life throughout the years. We find comfort and encouragement knowing that you care about our cause, when many things feel uncertain.

The pace of the world has changed much, but our mission to protect life has not slowed down. That's why we're asking you to help us cover the cost of continuing our work together by giving a regular, monthly donation. Joining the Legacy Donors, our valued community of monthly gifters, is the safest, simplest, and most effective way to support Anglicans for Life as we adapt to ever-changing circumstances of life ministry.

While no one is escaping the challenges of this year, we hope that you can find some peace knowing that lives will be saved because of your generosity. If you are ready to join the Legacy Donors, you can let us know on the enclosed envelope.

On behalf of all of us at Anglicans for Life, thank you for being a part of our community. We wish you and your family health, safety, and happiness and want you to know that together, we can overcome all things.

For Life,


Greg Plizga
Board Chair

P.S. Not ready to become a monthly donor right now? You can still help out with a one-time donation. We appreciate it!

Anglicans for Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported by churches, individuals, & foundations. Your contributions allow AFL to uphold the biblical principles of life and equip the church for life ministry. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. A financial statement is available upon request.
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