

# real LIFE



Every Believer Doing One Thing Every Day to Protect Life

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## The *real* Pioneers for Life by Deacon Georgette Forney

In the first chapter of the book of Exodus, we see a courageous example of life-affirming advocacy:

*Then the King of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God and did not do as the King of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. So the King of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live." (Exodus 1:15-22)*

The midwives, who must have been leaders in their industry, because they were chosen to come before Pharaoh, are told to kill (read: commit infanticide) all the male newborn Israelite babies. The Egyptian king's fear of God's people becoming "too many and too mighty" (v.9) is the motivation behind this heinous edict.

Imagine Shiphrah and Puah walking back to their homes after hearing the king's instructions. Did they immediately dismiss the mandate, or did they discuss the pros and cons

of following the king's orders? Verse 17 reveals their fear of the Lord made it clear to them that they needed to ignore the King! And their response to Pharaoh when they are called back before him to explain why the babies were not dying indicates that they must have spent some time thinking through what a believable explanation would be.



While their response is clearly deceptive, the rest of the story reveals God's blessing upon the women for protecting the lives of His people.

*I highlight this story to inspire us!*

These two women are the *real* early pioneers of the pro-life movement! Their love and fear of the Lord motivated their actions, even at the cost of disobedience to the King of Egypt.

While Satan's plan to destroy the Israelite sons through infanticide was thwarted by Shiphrah and Puah, his goal to destroy life continues, which is why the work to protect life must continue also! And while Satan tries new tactics to kill the unborn, newborn, elderly, and vulnerable – the most current one being the unleashing of the Covid-19 virus—we too are developing new strategies to make sure life is valued, cared for, and respected.

Specifically, in our mission to equip the Church and God's people to uphold the sacredness of life, I am excited to announce that Anglicans for Life will be offering our annual SUMMIT 2021: Mobilizing the Church for Life virtually—so that people in churches coast-to-coast can be equipped to be the Shiphrah and Puah in every church community. Turn the page for your invitation to SUMMIT!



## Going Virtual is the *real Deal!*

Many of you know that every year Anglicans for Life hosts our annual **Summit: Mobilizing the Church for Life**, which is held in Falls Church, Virginia. We are excited to share the big news that Anglicans for Life will host SUMMIT 2021 *VIRTUALLY!*

“Instead of only 125 people being educated about life, death, abortion, and euthanasia, *everyone* in churches coast-to-coast can be equipped to uphold the sanctity of life,” AFL President Georgette Forney says, with a broad smile.

The goal for SUMMIT 2021 is to provide practical ideas, education, and inspiration for every person and church; we can all impact our culture and local community guided by this truth: that God has purpose for every life!

AFL envisions individuals viewing from home on their computers and churches hosting watch parties gathering together virtually to learn about abortion, euthanasia, and Scripture under the banner of life for two Saturdays in January. The times both days is 11 am to 3 pm ET.

- January 16th will feature keynote presentations, along with discussion time for the watch parties and chat rooms people attending individually, so that we can share action ideas and provide some on-going ministry, advocacy, or educational goals, so you can impact your community for life throughout the year. A Youth Program will also be part of the virtual conference.
- January 23rd will feature topical workshop tracks that will allow folks to dig deeper into specific life issues that interest them.

Will you encourage your church to host a “Parish Watch Party”? AFL will provide Watch Party goodie bags, educational resources, promotional graphics, and instructions on how to interact on the virtual platform. You’ll get all the tools your congregation needs to make it safe, engaging, and effective.

“Watch Parties will result in the growth and development of more life-affirming ministries and community outreach,” Deacon Georgette explains. “We are all aware of the on-going need for pastoral care for people who are dealing with grief and guilt associated with bad decisions affecting their life.”

For those of you within easy traveling distance to Washington DC, you can plan to attend our annual Prayer and Worship Service the morning of Friday, January 29th, prior to getting on buses to attend the March for Life. You can start planning your watch party by visiting [www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/](http://www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/) for details or call AFL at 412-749-0455.



**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**January 29, 2021**  
 Washington, DC

ANGLICAN  
 PRAYER  
 SERVICE

Friday, January 29, 2021

**Pre-March for Life Anglican Prayer and Worship Service**

9:30 a.m.

The Falls Church Anglican, Falls Church, Virginia

### Need a Ride to the March?

Register for a seat on a chartered bus. They'll take us from Falls Church into the city for the March and will return immediately after the event. Register at [www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/](http://www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/)

### Need a Place to Stay?

We've reserved a block of hotel rooms at The Hampton Inn, Falls Church. Make your reservation by January 10. See [www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/](http://www.anglicansforlife.org/summit-2021/)

# Getting *real* with Deacon **G:** The Need for *real* Education

I write this as we await the election results. By waiting, I had hoped to be able to outline how the elected administration would impact Anglicans for Life's work in the years to come. But, as the wise people around me pointed out, regardless of who wins the White House, AFL's work will remain the same – equipping, and empowering the Church, and God's people to provide life-centered ministry, education, and biblical advocacy for those who have been hurt by the current culture of death.

While every president and their administration certainly affects much in our efforts to protect all human life, it is important to acknowledge the critical role the Church has in influencing the culture as well.

A survey recently released by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, titled *American Christians are Redefining the Faith: Adherent Creating New Worldviews Loosely Tied to Biblical Teaching*, reminds us that the Church's role is crucial and we need to step-up our commitment to teaching and preaching what the Bible says about life and the many cultural issues confronting people daily. The survey found;

- 48% believe a person who is good enough or does enough good works can earn eternal salvation.
- 44% claim the Bible is “ambiguous” in its teaching on abortion.
- 40% do not believe that human life is sacred.
- 34% argue that abortion is morally acceptable, if it spares the mother from financial or emotional discomfort or hardship.

The study also reveals a higher than expected level of biblical illiteracy in Catholic, Mainline Protestant, Pentecostal, and Evangelical churches.

The study also reinforces the importance of AFL's Virtual SUMMIT 2021, as people need to know what Scripture teaches about the sacredness of human life, as well as having a better understanding of abortion and physician assisted suicide, the two key topics the virtual SUMMIT will address.

Anglicans for Life believes the virtual SUMMIT is an awesome opportunity for individuals and church groups to counteract the study's findings and help churches launch meaningful ministry under the banner of LIFE!

My prayer is that you will take the idea of hosting a “Parish Watch Party” to your priest and get January 16th and 23rd



on your church's calendar. I invite you to call or email me, so I can help you with publicity and promotion!

I also invite you to join us in praying for the virtual SUMMIT; first that we would have thousands of Anglicans attending and becoming equipped for life ministry. Second, that all those educated would bear fruit for God's kingdom. And finally for all the details that this endeavor requires! I must confess to being a bit intimidated by all the new technology we are using to make the virtual SUMMIT an outstanding experience for all who attend!

Financially, this is the biggest single event and financial investment AFL has ever pursued! It also has the greatest potential to impact both the Anglican Communion and thousands of people in their communities who are grappling with these life issues. Our budget for this virtual Summit is \$40,000. We do expect to recover some costs through ticket sales, but we also want to be able to provide scholarships and watch party kits to further enhance the experience for attendees.

To help finance this endeavor, a Matching Grant of \$25,000 has been offered. Every gift AFL receives between now and the end of the year will be matched dollar for dollar. So, would you prayerfully consider making the most generous donation you can to help fund the virtual SUMMIT?

Just as Shiphrah and Puah pioneered life ministry in spite of Pharaoh's edict, it is my hope that this SUMMIT will raise up life ministry leaders, regardless of who serves as President of the United States!

For His glory,

*Deacon Georgette Forney*

P.S. Please keep in mind the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act,” or the CARES Act, passed by Congress earlier this year. It contains enhanced charitable giving incentives for 2020, taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction of up to \$300 for gifts made to Anglicans for Life. Additionally, the 60% adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for individuals' charitable gifts is suspended. Also, AFL has re-established an account for anyone wishing to donate the gift of stock. Please use Key Investment Services, DTC-0443, Acct.# HRW-046456.

# Clergy in the News

**40 Days for Life** is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful, all-day vigils in front of abortion businesses.

We are thrilled that two of our Anglican clergy—The Rev. Justin Clemente, New Creation Church, Hagerstown, MD, and the Rev. Tripp Jeffords, St. Paul’s Anglican, Summerville, SC, —presented homilies at the Mid-Point Rallies of the campaign. Below are excerpts from their messages. You can read both homilies in their entirety at [www.anglicansforlife.org/teaching-resources](http://www.anglicansforlife.org/teaching-resources)

## **A Recipe for a Steadfast Prayer Life** by Fr. Justin Clemente

“...In fact, speech-in-grace is how we should describe the pro-life mission. Remember, friends, as the Church, we only have one mission from our Lord – the Great Commission. We have one message, one Gospel, one Good News...”



“It is under the auspices of that Good News that the Christian involvement in the pro-life movement must take place.

“Let me give you some examples. Speech-in-grace stands next to sinners, not over them. Speech-in-grace does not end with condemnation and is not here simply to pronounce final judgment over people. Grace-filled speech knows that God showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

“Next, a praying life results in speech that is seasoned with salt...”

“Sometimes having our speech seasoned with salt, in this context, simply means not having to have the last word. Or not having to turn the volume up and yell louder! Sometimes it will mean being silent...”

“Lastly, a life of prayer results in knowing how to answer each person...”

## **A Homily and Prayer for Planned Parenthood** by Fr. Tripp Jeffords

“After each of the previous days, God looked and saw that it was good. But not on this day. Not the day on which God created mankind...on this sixth day of creation God looked out and said, ‘It was very good!’

“My friends, we are God’s image bearers, God’s life bearers, God’s hands and feet here on earth. Called to protect His creation, called to love every person, from womb to tomb, because they bear God’s image, too.

“Every life is precious to God...for every life has dignity and worth...every life is formed by God and every life is a person for whom Jesus died.

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. (therefore), I (will) praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.’

“Every life, no matter how young or how old is a masterpiece from the creator God! Every life has been

endowed with dignity and worth and incalculable value.

“That’s why we’re here today. We must stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. We must be the voice of the voiceless ones. We must continue to speak the truth in love.”



# Welcome to These Newly Formed AFL Chapters!

## South Carolina

The St. Michaels Anglican Church, Charleston, AFL Chapter seeks to “[inspire passion] for issues of life, and to teach, enhance, and uphold protection of Life from conception to natural death, undergirded by prayer and God’s Word.”

According to Chapter Co-Chair Duval Acker, the chapter will invite parishioners to five Keystone Events throughout each year, inspiring action both locally and diocesan-wide.

In addition to participating in national and state-wide Marches for Life, the Low Country Pregnancy Center will benefit from their engagement in the annual fundraising banquet, diaper drive, and Walk for Life.

St. Michaels initiated its partnership with Anglicans For Life as a Life Affirming Church earlier this year.

## Pennsylvania

While Anglicans for Life always encourages its chapters to work together, we are extremely excited to announce that four new AFL Chapters formalized a commitment to partner for life in our first-ever coalition of Chapters.

Each parish is in the southern region of the Anglican



*Pictured above L to R: The Rev. Keith Almond, Christ Anglican, the Rev. Terry Smolick and the Rev. Robert Hanna, St. Mary’s, the Rev. Regis Turocy, True Vine, Coalition Leader, and The Rev. Karl Peterson, Church of the Transfiguration*

### ***What is a Life Affirming Church?***

Life-Affirming Churches are defined as churches committed to upholding the sanctity of life in word and deed. Examples include: preaching sermons exhorting the value of life, employing AFL resources, publications, websites, and curriculums, hosting an AFL Chapter or appointing someone to be a Life Leader, who stays in contact with the Anglicans for Life office, donating to AFL, or receiving a bulk shipment of AFL Newsletters to be distributed at the church.

We invite ordained leaders of churches who meet these criteria to send us an email asking to have their church listed on our Life-Affirming Map. Many people use the Map to identify a life-affirming churches when they are on vacation or looking for a new parish family.

Diocese of Pittsburgh, in an area known as the “Mon Valley”, where communities have suffered since the region’s steel industry collapsed.

These four new individual AFL Chapters, Christ Anglican Church, Brownsville; St. Mary’s Anglican Church, Charleroi; The Anglican Church of the Transfiguration, Elizabeth; and True Vine Anglican Church, Monongahela, have joined to form the Anglicans for Life-Coalition of the Mon Valley.

The new Coalition’s mission is to be a “light in the World, a light to display the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ in support of every aspect of life. They have been called as individual Anglican Churches and as a coalition to reach out and minister to the lost, the needy, the sick, the suffering, and those living in darkness; working together as a community of faith for truth, justice, and peace.”

Specific support will include helping the New Life Options pregnancy resource center, as well as senior citizens in their communities.

### ***Would you like to form an AFL Chapter?***

If your church has several people actively committed to promoting Life through ministry, education, and advocacy, call the AFL office at 412-749-0455 to request a Chapter Formation Info Packet.

# *real* LIFE in real Parishes: See what our Anglicans for

## Embracing the Journey in a Pandemic

*Embrace the Journey* was not intentionally designed for use during a pandemic, but the All Saints AFL Chapter in Woodbridge, VA discovered that it is well suited for it.

*Embrace the Journey* is AFL's eight-week adult education DVD/online video series created to help parishioners understand and apply God's Word to aging, dying, and end of life issues.

For months, the All Saints Chapter had planned to offer *Embrace the Journey* as part of this fall's programming, hoping to gather in person. Sadly, social distancing orders have remained in place, but the participants were familiar enough with virtual meeting technology, (ie., Zoom) so the class could go on as planned!

In fact, the All Saints Chapter saw great benefit in using it virtually.

"Initially, we were concerned that doing this virtually would not be as effective as in person," Heather Adams, Chapter administrator, admitted.

"However, because all the participants received the passcode to watch the videos online, in advance of their Zoom call, we didn't need to worry about technical issues such as sharing screens to watch the video together. Plus, [watching the video ahead of time] means we can spend all our time in discussion."

"Georgette [Forney, *Embrace the Journey's* author and AFL president] does a great job on the videos," added Ed



*When an Embrace the Journey class is offered virtually, it allows attendees, like Deborah McKeon of Ambridge, PA, to participate from nearly 300 miles away!*

Speare, Chapter Chair. "Having the very detailed workbook along with the videos has been excellent...especially the additional material in the back of the workbook."

Ed continued, "We are getting a lot out of *Embrace the Journey*. I think there will be enough interest at All Saints to offer it again in the spring of 2021--hopefully in person by then, but if not, the team knows the ropes on doing it virtually."

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## The Holy Cross Cathedral AFL Chapter: Investing Their Funds for Life!

"Our AFL Chapter is blessed to receive funds from the Holy Cross Mission Committee monthly. This has truly strengthened our budget," explains Chapter Leader Paulette Ivey. Look at how they are using those monies:

- Giving the Pregnancy Resource Center \$500 to buy new equipment, which will enable them to send an image of ultrasounds to patients
- Purchasing and delivering needed supplies to the Family Promise Ministry in Lawrenceville during their special drive
- Buying pizzas for the Gwinnett County Children's Shelter and delivering them
- Knitting baby caps for the Hats for the Heart Guatemala project

Because visitation may still be prohibited in December, the chapter is producing a video of the group singing Christmas songs for an assisted living facility.

# Life Chapters are *really* doing in their communities

## Make Room for Babies

Some decisions are no-brainers.

Admittedly, that is not exactly how Fr. Brad Jones, Christ Church, Schenectady, New York, described how he and church leaders agreed to allow Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center to expand to use more of the church's space. But here is what he did say:

1. Sometimes pregnant women mistake the church and pregnancy center for the Planned Parenthood that is actually located one block down the street.
2. Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center received a grant so that they could provide ultrasounds to pregnant women.
3. When a pregnant mother can see her child [in utero], it may change their decision about aborting.

How do you think the Christ Church Vestry approached this decision? Could it be called a “no brainer”? *Absolutely!*

“Anything we can do to save lives and to be a part of what they are doing here is amazing!” exudes Fr. Brad.

In fact, much of the life-affirming road Christ Church has taken is amazing. In the early part of the millenium, the Schenectady zipcode had the highest per capita of unplanned pregnancies in New York's Capital District. That's when Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center home office set its sight on the church's neighborhood.

Simultaneously, the daycare that had been renting from Christ Church had already decided to move out, making room for Alpha. Coincidence? Of course not. The pregnancy resource center moved in, and word got out immediately.

In 2010, Planned Parenthood built a brand-new facility within a stone's throw of the church. How convenient, and certainly not a coincidence!

In addition to providing material and financial support for Alpha, Christ Church also offers convenient parking and restrooms for the 40 Days of Life participants and others who pray and seek to help women down the street at Planned Parenthood.

Anglicans for Life  
joins

*Mr. Al Brahm  
The Rev. Charles Bradshaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Galbraith  
Drs. Philip & Linda Gottschalk*

in honoring the memory of  
*Blanche Rodgers*

## #AbortionIsHealthcare? Yes, You Read It Right

If you use social media, you are probably familiar with hashtags--a combination of letters/numbers preceded by the # symbol (e.g., #NoFilter).

At Anglicans for Life, the primary reason we use hashtags is to make our content more discoverable.

Common pro-life tags include #prolife, #abortion, #adoptionnotabortion, #prolifegeneration, and many others. Our typical audience, people who are already convinced life is valuable, are familiar with them.

But using certain hashtags—ones that might surprise you—expands AFL's reach beyond the “regulars.” When you see our Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter posts containing hashtags such as #WomensRightToChoose, #ProChoiceIsProLife, or #AbortionIsHealthcare, don't let it throw you. We shall always be a life-affirming organization.

We are being strategic, however. Using these tags helps to raise our social media profile and expand our reach, which in turn connects us to men and women who would not see our posts otherwise. It's already resulted in some atypical conversations!

# From Almost Aborted to Talented Young Artist

## The real story of this year's Advent/Christmas cards.

We are happy to introduce the 2020 Anglicans for Life Advent/Christmas card! For the first time ever, you can get your own AFL cards. (Do you see the look on Bookkeeper Anna Brychik's face the day the printed cards arrived? We are all still that excited!)

Eleven year-old Julia created this year's cover. When Julia's mom found herself pregnant, she planned to abort. Thanks to the Lord and AFL's intervention, she did not; now the fifth grader is a Jesus-loving artist who serves as a cantor at her church!

When we commissioned Julia to do the artwork, we had no inkling of her talents. (We were pretty sure we could not go wrong with a child's drawing of the nativity, though.) But when we saw the drawing...Wow! We cannot stop looking at her picture and thanking God for her gifts--and her life.

Order your cards at [www.tinyurl.com/AFLAdvent](http://www.tinyurl.com/AFLAdvent).



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:7, 10-11

The back states:

This beautiful card was designed for Anglicans for Life by Julia.A.Baker, a very talented 11 year old who loves Jesus. All proceeds from the sale of this card benefit life-affirming ministries.

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## Christmas Will Never Be Canceled

Order your Advent/Christmas cards today. It's a simple way to support life-affirming ministry.

Ten 5x7 cards/envelopes  
\$10 donation

[www.tinyurl.com/AFLAdvent](http://www.tinyurl.com/AFLAdvent)

The inside message:

*May the God of hope fill you and your family with joy, peace, and love as you celebrate the Advent of our Lord's birth.*

*Merry Christmas!*

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. 80 Leetsdale Industrial Drive, Suite 301, Leetsdale, PA 15056 412-749-0455 Info@AnglicansforLife.org