



FEBRUARY 2024

AnglicansForLife.org

“Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb”

The Rt. Rev. Chris Warner, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

In 1993, just a few weeks into our marriage, my wife, Catherine, told me she was pregnant. We were both shocked, because that was not our plan. In fact, our plan was to wait until we’d grown up a little bit and were more established. But suddenly we were faced with a life-altering reality that we didn’t intentionally seek, but we did ultimately choose.

I remember the initial feelings of shock and fear. We were both 23 years old, and suddenly I was a father, she was a mother, and we were not ready.

Deuteronomy 30:19 says, “Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice, and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days.” I remember reading that scripture over and over, as the news of this impending reality was dawning upon me. I prayed, “Lord, I long to obey Your voice more than anything else in the world, and in accordance with Your Word, I believe You, Lord. We love You, Lord, and we will do what You say.”

Now, at the time, we were going to a very small Anglican church where the people loved Jesus, knew the Lord intimately and powerfully, and could really pray. And I

remember that after we announced the pregnancy that somebody handed me a book by Francis and Judith MacNutt called *Praying for your Unborn Child*. It’s one of the best books I have ever received. As I read it, I began to see the importance of praying for this developing baby in the womb. Now, I had never even thought about doing such a thing. I’d only really engaged with being a father for a very short time, and I had never actually held a baby. What did I know? It was revolutionary to me to think, “Oh, I can engage with this child these nine months, throughout fetal development.” And of course, the medical sciences have shown what the scripture has told us all along—that, yes, there is engagement in the womb. Psalm 139 says, “You, God, formed my inward parts. You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and I am wonderfully made. My frame was not hidden from You when I was being made in secret. Your eyes saw my unformed substance. In Your book were written every one of those days, the days that were formed for me when as yet they were none of them.”

It struck me that I could prayerfully ask for God’s blessing over this child even before birth, and that God, according to Scripture, was already at work in her life. A child’s biological

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Canon G

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President

Last summer, as we began preparing for Life SUMMIT 2024, I

had a conversation with Bp. Chris Warner, the new bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, which co-sponsors the SUMMIT with us. Bp. Chris asked me where I thought the pro-life movement was going now that *Roe* was overturned. When I replied that more ministry was needed for abortion-minded women now unable to access abortion, I sensed he was asking a bigger question, as he kept emphasizing, "What's next? What do we do in this new season of abortion by state?"

That question—what's next?—became like a little pebble in my shoe; I couldn't stop thinking about it. I started asking the Lord to help me see the answer—what is next?

I was home sick with COVID a few weeks later, feeling good but quarantined. I got out a notepad, and I started writing down thoughts that were popping into my head as potential answers to the "what's next?" question. I was trying to think outside the box about abortion and realized that fighting abortion had become a long game, requiring different offensive and defensive strategies.

Additionally, we needed to come up with action ideas that everybody could do and would complement people's God-given gifts and talents. We can't ask people to do things that aren't natural for them. For example, I can't ask people to go out and march, if public advocacy makes them uncomfortable. They wouldn't last at it!

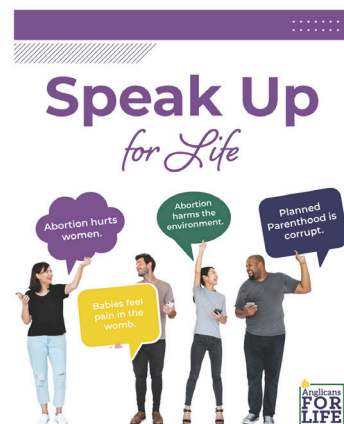
So, what is God calling all of us to do to protect life and discourage abortion? Well, what is the most natural thing we do every day? We talk to one another; we communicate with each other about what is important to us. And while *Roe* has been overturned, it has not stopped abortion, nor have the number of abortions been greatly reduced, so our goal to end abortion, making it unthinkable and unnecessary, must continue.

And because the mainstream media only reports abortion news based on the narrative provided to them by the abortion industry, we must take up the role of educating our communities about abortion. We must counter the misinformation being propagated with the truth about life. We must become educators for life, doing what we do naturally every day – talking to one another!

Education is critical, but it is almost impossible to become an expert on all of the abortion related topics that exist. So Anglicans For Life created a simple plan to help you, and it is called **Speak Up for Life**.

We identified nine different abortion related topics:

1. Abortion Pills
2. Humanity of the Baby
3. Spiritual Truth
4. Motherhood
5. Fatherhood
6. Abortion Details
7. Abortion's Other Victims
8. Legislation and Policy
9. Abortion Consequences



We created a strategy for each one, directed towards ending abortion through public education. For each topic, we created three to five tactics to choose from, which are basically talking points that you can share with friends or complete strangers! Each topic has a webpage that provides articles, data, quotes, and additional resources, so that you can read and dig deeper into the different topics. This is all designed so you can become an expert on one particular point about abortion and educate everyone you know about it. We have put it in booklet form, and it is also available on AFL's website.

This is the key point: You don't have to know everything in the whole booklet. Just focus on memorizing one talking point on one subject. Become an expert on that one point. And then, every morning when you wake up, say, "Lord, please put somebody in my path with whom I can share my talking point." Now, just imagine if everyone reading this did that, and we each just started going out and dropping seeds of truth. While the mainstream media continues to be the mouthpiece for the abortion industry, we can speak up for life, truth, and God.

To request a copy of the booklet, use the reply envelop enclosed, or visit AnglicansForLife.org/SpeakUpForLife to access it online.

Canon Georgette





Scan the QR code to donate. Make sure you select "monthly" to become a Life Champion!

Are You a Champion of Life?

Join our Life Champions Donor Family



Introducing our NEW Life Champions monthly giving program.

The need to eradicate abortion and euthanasia in our society has never been greater than it is today. Through the ministry work of Anglicans For Life, YOU can help us provide high-quality education, pastoral care, and advocacy at Anglican churches across America.

That's why we're launching our new monthly giving program called Life Champions.

We need YOU to partner with us monthly, so we can help bring lasting change in women's lives through our Anglican church network across America.

Anglicans For Life is the go-to ministry for Life-Affirming education, resources, information, and prayer in the Anglican Communion. In 2023, our ministry distributed 22,142 pieces of literature, and reached over 317,500 people online through our website, social media channels, podcasts, and videos worldwide and across all 50 states.

By JOINING as a Life Champion, monthly donor, YOU help provide AFL with financial stability so we can continue our important work and reach new churches, individuals, and clergy in an effort to make sure life is respected, honored, celebrated, protected and proclaimed. All donations are tax-deductible and go towards our 100% donor-funded ministry.

Please consider JOINING our new Life Champions monthly giving program. Use the QR code above to join today. Thank you!



Learn how to become a Life Champion at
AnglicansForLife.org/Life-Champions

YOUR DONATION AT WORK...

\$25/month

Maintains our Life-Affirming Church and AFL Chapter locator map on our website.

\$50/month

Covers printing costs for our newsletter, *Carpe Diem*.

\$100/month

Maintains our online shop with free resources.

\$150/month

Assists us in bringing speakers to events and webinars like Zoom for Life.





Identifying Ways to Support Families at Risk

Johnston Moore, AFL Adoption/Orphan Care Consultant



A recent study from Dr. Savannah Adkins (and others) entitled “Association Between Restricted Abortion Access and Child Entries Into the Foster Care System” looked at the question: “Is restricted abortion access associated with increased entries of children into foster care?”

According to the authors, after studying the circumstances of more than 4 million children who entered foster care between 2000 and 2020, “restricted abortion access was associated with an 11% increase in foster care entry. These findings were statistically significant for foster care entries of Black children and children of racial and ethnic minority groups compared with White children.”

The meaning of these findings, according to the authors, is that they “suggest that restricted abortion access can have far-reaching consequences, including an increase in the number of children placed into the foster care system.”

Many will, no doubt read this study, and argue that women need easier access to abortion in order to keep kids out of foster care. This position implies that a child would be better off dead than in foster care. Hopefully the nearly half-million children in foster care at any given time, each of whom is fearfully and wonderfully made, and each of whom is made in the image of God, would offer ample evidence of the utter cruelty of such a belief.

To the study authors’ credit, they do not argue this position themselves. In their conclusion, they outline the implications of stricter abortion laws on the foster care system. Specifically, they say there “may” be an increase in the number of entries of children into foster care. They say that the potential increase in numbers “may exacerbate an already overburdened foster care system in many states. A further overburdened system may result in difficulty with finding placements, leading to overall worse outcomes for these

children from a mental, emotional, and physical perspective.” The authors then say that the increasing number of children in foster care will cost the federal government more money as it provides funding for the foster system.

Finally, the authors say that it is “urgent” that people understand how the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* will impact people, as well as our national government, and that we need further studies to forecast the money needed to support any children who end up in foster care as a result.

None of the general findings of this study are particularly surprising. The findings do, in spite of the study’s admitted limitations, seem to confirm what many people in the foster care world have been saying for some time now. More restrictions on abortions will lead to more babies being born. More babies being born will, possibly, lead to more children in foster care.

“ Given the reality that more children are at risk for entering foster care, what are we going to do about it?”

Johnston Moore, Adoptive and Foster Parent



No one would argue that foster care is desirable for children – in a perfect world at least. The question, though, is not to figure out ways to make abortion more accessible so that kids stay out of foster care. Instead, the question, for followers of Jesus, and others who value all human life, is “Given the reality that more children are at risk for entering foster care, what are we going to do about it?”

If that is the question, and I believe it is, the answer is simple:

we respond to this as we're called, and that is to love our neighbors as ourselves.

What exactly does that look like? It means, for starters, that we support families who are at risk. We need to come alongside families in poverty, families in which substance abuse and/or domestic violence are prevalent. Families in which single parents are raising children. Families with inadequate housing.

We need to support women experiencing crisis pregnancies. We need to come alongside them as they carry their children to term, letting them know that they are not alone, that they can choose an adoption plan for their children if they do not believe they will be able to parent well. We need to remind them that the Church will support them no matter what, including whether they choose to raise their children, or make an adoptive plan for them.

We need to support families who open their homes to children through adoption. We need to let them know they are not alone and that the Church will be there as they pursue their adoptions and beyond as they raise the children God has brought to them.

We need to support families who have opened their homes to children in foster care. We need to walk with them as they navigate what continues to be a broken system that oftentimes leaves them feeling burnt out, unappreciated, and even vilified.

We need to support child welfare workers, who daily see horrors perpetrated on children that most of us could never imagine, and who also often find themselves feeling burnt out, unappreciated, and vilified.

We need to support the children, of course, too, as they overcome trauma, feelings of loss, while, hopefully, growing into the people that God created them to be. In supporting these various groups of people, we must not only provide emotional and physical support, but we must offer prayer support as well.

Finally, it also means we need to raise up far more families who are willing to open their homes to children in need. Whether they are placed for adoption by their biological parents, or placed into the foster care system.

If you're interested in learning more about how you and your church can support children, families, and child welfare workers, or if you want to know more about adoption and/or foster care, write to us at adoption@anglicansforlife.org. Also, check out the **More than Enough Initiative** from the Christian Alliance for Orphans online at cafo.org/morethanenough/.

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IN MEMORY

Anglicans For Life joins...

- The Very Rev. Cn. John Park & Susan Delgado-Park in honoring the memory of The Rev. Robert and Jeanne Delgado.
- June Ferraro in honoring the memory of Nicolas Limone.
- Clyde and Suzanne Wiley in honoring the memory of Robert A. "Bob" Johnston.
- Thomas & Lee McKee in honoring the memory of Peggy Brinn.



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Leadership Updates

Life Leaders, Chapter Leaders, and Life-Affirming Churches update us with the latest news and efforts in their churches.

Ed Speare, Chapter Leader for All Saints' Church, Woodbridge, VA reports that at their Fall Chapter meeting, Johnston Moore (AFL's Adoption/Orphan Care Consultant) was their guest speaker. Johnston addressed the congregation briefly during the service, and then spoke to the Chapter afterwards. He provided a comprehensive update on adoption and foster care issues in the U.S., and how we can help support efforts locally. There were some 25 members and guests in attendance, and many had good questions and comments for Johnston. Ed reports, "This was a great way to kick off our participation in National Adoption Month for November. I had arranged for publicity starting the end of October so the issue of adoption was included in our newsletter and in our "Fridge Sheet" which is a broadsheet summary of things going on in the church for the coming month that gets published the last Sunday of the preceding month as a handout for people to take home. Our participation beyond education was to take a special offering on Sunday, November 19 to support the Anglican Adoption Fund. On Nov 12th, several adoptive parents from our congregation spoke briefly during the service on their adoption experience."



Above: Johnston Moore speaking about adoption to the All Saints' Anglican Church Chapter



Welcome, NEW LIFE-AFFIRMING CHURCHES!

AFL is excited to announce the following churches have signed-up to become Life-Affirming Churches since our last newsletter.

Adoration Church, Altamonte Springs, FL 2/24

Christ the King Anglican Church, Alexandria, VA 1/24

Church of the Savior, Ambridge, PA 11/23

St. Anselm Anglican Church, Cleveland, OH 11/23

Leadership Updates (Cont.)

Scott Gough, Co-Chapter Leader of the Emmaus Anglican Church Chapter in Castle Tock, CO reports that at their bi-monthly AFL Chapter meeting, Deacon Erin Cook from Emmaus gave a presentation titled "Advocating for Natural Death Even in the Midst of Suffering." Erin was previously a geriatric occupational therapist and nursing home administrator. She explored what Scripture has to teach us about suffering, both for the deceased as well as the survivors.

Prior to Erin's presentation on Sunday, Emmaus sent the following story that Erin wrote to prepare people for her talk. It is a sweet story of how a group of nuns sent one of their beloved Sisters Home, and what awaits us when we are likewise called to be with our Lord:

"As I prepare for our Anglicans For Life meeting this coming Sunday, many experiences and so very much information has filled my mind and my notes. But one experience, in particular, has gone from my head into my heart and now I feel the need to share it with you. I hope it will touch your heart in preparation for our time together as we tackle a critical aspect of **life** at the end of life; Spiritual Life as bodily life is ebbing.

As a young Occupational Therapist, specializing in Geriatric Care, I felt well equipped to attend to physical disabilities and their psychological impact. I was privileged to be the Director of the Occupational Therapy Department at Little Sisters of the Poor, a long-term care nursing facility that cared for aged and infirm nuns of the order, as well as the elderly parents of Roman Catholic priests and elders who relied on State Funding for their care. The Sisters' work was ministry within the confines of the Convent and their vows to care for the aged, sick, and poor were lived out in tangible ways. These women, dressed in white habits in the spring and summer, black habits in the fall and winter, reminded me of the women who followed Jesus during the years of His Kingdom work, ministering to Him and His disciples. In and out of rooms, in the dining room and within the confines of the Convent, these godly servants extended the Lord's reach with faithfulness and love. There were times throughout the day when they would disappear to complete the disciplines of the Divine Hours, which I later realized were prayers like those which are in the Book of Common Prayer.

I was a newly minted Episcopalian, a young wife, a working woman and did not have time for such things, though I was curious and admired their devotion. It would be many years later that I realized the strength and peace that Common Prayer lends to common life. We had happy times in the Occupational Therapy Department. I believe that I expanded the therapeutic benefits of my discipline, knitting (literally) the old-fashioned, craft-oriented treatment with more modern techniques that I had been trained to execute with functional results. It was the best job of my career. I learned a great deal medically and spiritually. It was the spiritual part that I would like to share with you.

One of the regular patients in our department was a little ancient nun. The Mother Superior would wheel her into the department, announcing, "Here's my Treasure!" She was one of my favorites, too, though no one was supposed to

know that I had a "favorite!" One morning, Mother Superior appeared without her "Treasure" and quietly notified me that this precious woman was on her way to God. Saddened by the news, I humbly asked the Mother if I could see her, to say "Goodbye." I was aware that there was a ritual that was faithfully conducted when one of the nuns was dying, and reading consternation on the face of the godly woman in charge, I was surprised that she invited me to come. Expecting a somber moment, I entered the room which was filled with all of the nuns in their white habits, light streamed in through the window and songs - the Prayers of the Psalms - filled the air. God's Treasure was dressed in her clean white habit, eyes closed, and a smile graced her lips. She was going Home and was being escorted there by her Sisters, who worked with her, cared for her, and loved her to the end and to the Beginning, for her life on this earth was the precursor of her new Life in Eternity! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear People of God, this is what awaits us at the time of our death when the perishable becomes the imperishable, when we are born again! Invited into the Household of God, the nearer Presence of our Lord in Eternity! And this, Beloved, is why life and natural death are valued, sacred and holy! Grace and Peace, from Deacon Erin Cook"

You can see that the meeting was well attended by the photo below. Deacon Deborah Robbins and her husband, Mark, provided lunch for the group.



The Emmaus Chapter listening to Deacon Erin Cook speak.

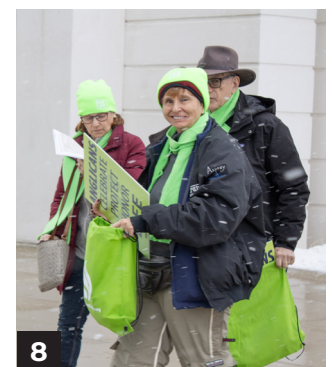
Life SUMMIT 2024 in Photos

Photos 1-6: Anglican Prayer and Worship Service

Photos 7-10: March for Life

Photos 11-22: Life SUMMIT 2024 in-person and virtual participants.

REMINDER: Visit AFL's Facebook page to view more photos from the events!



“An outstanding event with powerful value to all of us. Thank you so much!” -Duval A.



“As I get older, there are fewer and fewer things I'm willing to travel for. This will be the very last to go! The AFL conference always leaves me feeling refreshed in the Lord, and more connected to my brothers and sisters in the Lord and in the world.” -Melinda C.





“Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb” (Cont.)

Bishop Chris Warner, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic



development occurs while the soul of the person is formed, while, as the Psalmist wrote, the unformed substance develops, which is the Hebrew word for “embryo”. As the embryo developed, God was already active in my child’s life. Job 33:4 says, “The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

So, as I prayed for that child, asking God to work in her life, I was joining with God in what He was already doing. I prayed each day for her. Before I went to work in the morning and just before bed in the evening, I would get close to Catherine’s stomach, and I would put my hands on her tummy. I would put my lips up to her belly, and I would say, “Hey, baby.” Now, I don’t know why I felt it necessary to put my hands and lips up close, but again, I was kind of clueless. But I prayed this day in and day out: “You are loved and you are wanted, and I bless you. And the Father, God Almighty, has known you from before the foundation of the world.” I remember the very first time when she popped me in the mouth. It was a *tap, tap*. And for the next few months, it was like a game we played each day. As I would get close and pray my blessing over her, she would *tap, tap* me on the mouth. She was engaging and responding to me. But that also makes sense, doesn’t it? Because in the Scripture lesson we heard in Luke 1, as Mary, pregnant with Jesus, the son of God, goes to meet her cousin, Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, we hear these words:

“Mary entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud voice, ‘Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.’”

When they met, John, still in the womb of his mother, leaped for joy. Now, we live in a culture that says the unborn are not alive. They are not deemed to be people until they can live outside of the womb. And yet we see John expressing all the qualities of personhood. He experienced cognition and emotion and perceived the spirit of God. John recognized Jesus, the son of God. Even in the womb, John already was beginning to live into his prophetic call from God, for which he was chosen before the foundation of the world. As the forerunner to the Messiah, he was commissioned to announce the Christ, and his joy came because he was already living into his purpose. So, he leaped in the womb.

And I saw the same kind of engagement in my children with me, their father, even in the womb. When my daughter, Anna, was born, it was a difficult delivery. And of course, I had the worst job of all. I had to stand there. It was all I was qualified for, but it was the worst one of all. As they whisked her off to get medical care, I found myself simply praying and asking for God’s mercy over her life. Eventually, my exhausted wife fell asleep, and I had nothing to do, so I went to make phone calls, to get coffee, and to pray in the chapel for my new child, my newly arrived daughter.

As I was walking back to the room, I could hear her, as there weren’t any other babies born in that hospital that morning. She was fussing and crying. And when I walked into the room, I spoke, and she settled right down, because she knew her father’s voice. We already had a relationship before the day of her birth. It had already been developing for months.

People wonder when life begins. It begins in the womb, at conception, and it is intended by God to extend until natural death. And why until natural death? Well, because we don’t know when the day of salvation will come for each person. We must not cut life off prematurely – either before birth

or before natural death . As a pastor, I had the great joy of baptizing a man who was almost 90 years old. Some people would say he was no longer able to contribute anything. In some cultures, they might say, "Good for nothing. We should offer him euthanasia." But that man came to faith, knew life in Jesus Christ, and now is alive forevermore. Thanks be to God. The Gospel was working in his life, and it came at exactly the right time.

We must champion the reality, the truth, that life is precious. We must boldly and kindly and forthrightly declare at all times, "Life is sacred. And to God every life matters." We must work to bring about the end of abortion, of euthanasia, and we must advocate for adoption. We must. I've got to tell you, some of my favorite people in the world, some of the most incredibly intelligent and creative people, had unmarried mothers who had the courage to give birth and place them with adoptive families. And I can tell you some of the greatest joy I've seen as a pastor occurred in the lives of families who themselves could not have children but who received a baby from another. It's beautiful and such a picture of our adoption by grace in God through Jesus Christ.

Finally, I just want to touch on this from our epistle lesson in Romans 12. The apostle Paul says, "I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God." What's he talking about? He's talking about everything that came before chapter 12, where Paul is laying out the gospel and describing the problems, we all have—our selfishness, our sinfulness, our tendency to rebel from God and to go our own way. But God through His Son Jesus Christ, and through His life and death and resurrection, offers new life, forgiveness of sin, and cleansing and healing to all who turn to him in repentance and faith. In view of this mercy, we are called to commitment: "Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."



Above: Bishop Chris Warner preaching at the Prayer and Worship Service.

He's talking about the surrender of our lives, so that no matter who we are or what we've done, there is no place too far from the grace and mercy of God. And I say to you who hear this—God's grace is enough, because the cross of Jesus Christ is powerful. He is mighty to save, and His forgiveness is for all who know their need of it. There is new life for those who seek it in Christ. And so Paul says, "Offer yourselves." And I would say to you today, whether you come here with a past or a present that you're ashamed of, or whether you come unaware of what the future holds for you, offer yourselves to God today. Offer yourselves again to God today as a living sacrifice, for this is holy. This is acceptable in God's sight.

Let us pray.

Oh, Lord, come with cleansing power. Come, Lord, with convicting grace. Come, Lord, with truth, for You desire truth in our inward parts. Lord, unless You show us the truth, we will not see. Unless You give new life to our culture, we will not see. Please, Lord, forgive, heal, and create new hearts in individuals, in churches, and in our nation. We pray this, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.



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Leave a legacy for life by pledging a portion of your estate to Anglicans For Life. There is no cost to you now and you can change your estate plans at any time. Your willed gift ensures that tomorrow's pro-lifers are equipped with the right information and resources. Call us to begin the conversation at (412) 749-0455.

Brave Penny: A Beacon of Hope

Sydney Alleyne, AFL Social Media Specialist

Grief is a journey marked by pain, confusion, and sometimes despair, yet within its depths lie seeds of hope and the promise of healing. Brave Penny, a nonprofit grief ministry, seeks to walk alongside individuals and families on this journey, as they face the loss of a loved one or other significant life changes.

Recently, Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans For Life, had the privilege of sitting down with Sharon Fox, the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Brave Penny, and dove into the heart of this extraordinary ministry. What emerged from their conversation was a profound testament to the power of faith, compassion, and community in navigating the shadowy terrain of grief. At the core of Brave Penny's mission is the Shadowlands Grief Recovery Program. The program offers a comprehensive approach to grief recovery by utilizing a six-session journey of healing rooted in Scripture and enriched with practical coping skills. The name "Shadowlands" itself is drawn from the timeless words of Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." It speaks to the universal experience of grappling with loss and the comforting presence of God in the midst of darkness. Sharon Fox eloquently articulated how God, in His infinite love, even grieved the death of Jesus, offering a profound source of empathy to those who mourn.

Another of Brave Penny's excellent initiatives is its strong focus on suicide prevention, addressing the sobering reality of the prevalence of suicide and euthanasia in our society. The staggering statistics— 46,000 suicides in America and 10,000 cases of euthanasia in Canada in 2021 – only underscores the urgent need for valuing and preserving life. Brave Penny stands as a beacon of hope and healing in the face of profound loss and has a multifaceted approach to addressing the complex issues surrounding euthanasia and suicide. The Understanding Suicide program is a vital resource offered to shed light on the underlying factors contributing to suicide and to provide support for individuals and families navigating the aftermath of loss. By fostering empathy, awareness, and dialogue, Brave

Penny seeks to dismantle the stigma surrounding suicide and offer a beacon of hope to those struggling in the darkness.

Beyond these initiatives, Brave Penny's broader mission is to create a network of support and healing within communities, churches, and beyond. Through licensing churches to deliver Brave Penny's materials and programs, Sharon Fox and her team are mobilizing a grassroots movement to combat the pervasive culture of death and to promote a culture of life, dignity, and compassion. Sharon also plans to introduce two additional programs for first responders and cancer patients, recognizing the profound challenges and losses faced by these groups. These initiatives are not just programs; they represent sacred opportunities to showcase God's love and compassion within the unique contexts of grief and loss.

In addition to the sessions and initiatives, Brave Penny provides a wealth of support materials, including books, articles, DVDs, and CDs, designed to accompany individuals on their journey of healing.

Looking to the future, Brave Penny is poised to expand its reach and impact through the introduction of specialized grief recovery programs tailored to specific demographics. In February 2024, Sharon will be presenting three sessions of the regular Shadowlands Grief Recovery program, as well as two new variations, which address the unique needs of caregivers of dementia patients and military personnel, both veterans and active-duty.

As Georgette and Sharon concluded their conversation, one thing became abundantly clear – Brave Penny is more than just a ministry: it's a beacon of hope, a sanctuary of healing, and a testament to the transformative power of faith and community in the face of grief. For more information on how you can support Brave Penny's mission or access resources for healing and support, visit their website at www.bravepenny.org. Together, let us stand united in defense of life, dignity, and the inherent worth of every human being.



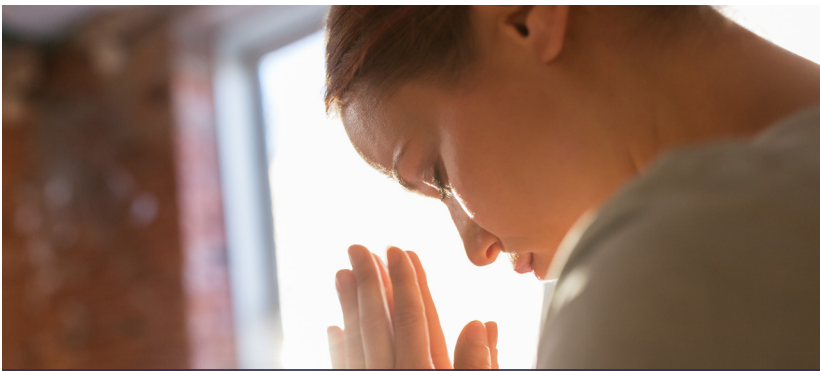
YOUR GIFTS WILL HELP CHANGE LIVES.

Anglicans For Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to uphold the Sanctity of Life by supporting all Life-Affirming churches across America. Our work is made possible thanks to the generosity of friends, churches and foundations like you. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate or visit us online at AnglicansforLife.org/Donate.

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A Matter for Prayer

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



On March 26, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in a critical abortion pill case, *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine (AHM) v. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*. The case will focus on the validity of changes made in 2016 and 2021 by the FDA to the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy's (REMS) safety standards regarding Mifepristone.

Mifepristone (the generic name is Mifeprex) is the first pill taken to start the abortion process. It blocks the progesterone hormone that generates the nutrients needed to feed and sustain the baby's life in the womb. Blocking the hormone, in essence, starves the baby – leaving the baby to die in the uterus. The second drug, Misoprostol, causes the uterus to contract and expel the baby – typically into a toilet.

According to the National Right to Life White Paper, "The original safety protocols established in 2000, outlined a multi-step process involving at least three required visits to an abortion clinic. In the first visit, a woman visited the doctor's office, was screened for any contraindications or red flags that might make the pill particularly dangerous for her. She also underwent some sort of exam or questioning to ascertain her gestational age, to make sure there were no signs of ectopic pregnancy. Finally, she was counseled about the process and the risks before being given the Mifepristone pills, which she took there in the physician's office.

In 2016, the FDA dropped the required visits from three to one, allowing women to take the Misoprostol at home and do any follow up by phone. They expanded the pool of prescribers to include any health care provider who was willing to sign the certification and extended the gestational deadline from seven to ten weeks from last menstrual period. They also reduced reporting requirements at this time, requiring that prescribers only report deaths back to the state."

In December 2021, the FDA, under the Biden administration, eliminated its requirement that abortion pills be dispensed in person. This allowed pharmacists to send them through the mail as long as the recipient had a prescription.

While this case is about the FDA's changes in oversight regarding the abortion pills, it is really about the 26 women who have died from abortion pill complications and a peer-reviewed study of 423,000 taxpayer-funded abortions that found abortion pill related emergency room visits increased 507% from 2002 to 2015. Women should be able to trust that government agencies like the FDA, will protect them from dangerous drugs. Instead, our

JOIN US IN PRAYER...

Lord God, please hear our prayer on behalf of the *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine [AHM] v. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)* case that will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court Justices on March 26. We specifically ask Lord, that AHM's concern for women's health and safety would be upheld by keeping all protections and safety measures that were in place prior to 2016. Allow the Justices to understand their role in keeping government agencies accountable and limited in their scope of policy changes. Protect the doctors and their families who have brought this case forward. Most of all, Lord, we pray women would stop using the abortion pills. In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

government seems more concerned about protecting the abortion industry's ability to make money.

Recognizing that, today, more than 55% of abortions are done via the abortion pill, the U.S. Supreme Court decision will impact unborn lives and their mothers for years to come. Please join Anglicans For Life in praying daily for this case, specifically for the Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys who will represent AHM.



Life Threatening Legislation Update



Abortion

Abortion proponents and lobbyists are working in at least 11 states collecting signatures for amendments that would create a constitutional right to abortion. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org* (2022), the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, leaving abortion legislation and regulations to be decided by each state. Since then, 18 states passed laws prohibiting abortion after the first trimester, with 14 states banning abortion from conception.

Now abortion extremists are attempting to protect abortion through the ballot initiative process. If pro-aborts can gather enough signatures, their proposals will appear on November ballots as statewide abortion amendments.

The following states have pending initiatives to place abortion amendments on the November 2024 ballot:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Arizona | 7. Montana |
| 2. Arkansas | 8. Nebraska |
| 3. Colorado | 9. Nevada |
| 4. Florida | 10. New York |
| 5. Maryland | 11. South Dakota |
| 6. Missouri | |

Please **DECLINE TO SIGN** these ballot initiatives and encourage your friends and families to do the same. The abortion lobby is trying to appeal to voters by promoting abortion amendments as a reasonable way to keep the government from intruding on individual rights.

Based on the initiatives that have already pass, it is clear abortion proponents want to remove ALL restrictions on abortion, for example after voters approved an abortion amendment in Michigan in 2022, Planned Parenthood and its allies were able to get the legislature to abolish virtually every long-standing, common sense restriction on

abortion, including Michigan's partial-birth abortion ban, informed consent laws, and abortion complication reporting requirements.

Euthanasia

Assisted Suicide proponents recently stated that they are sponsoring assisted suicide bills in at least 16 states. The current states with a new bill are Florida, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin (8). There are also states with an existing bill being carried over from last year including Delaware, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. (8) There are also bills to expand assisted suicide laws in at least two states where it is already legal, Washington State and New Jersey. (2)

It is important to note that we have been successful in preventing no new state legislation in the past two years, but the assisted suicide lobby remains relentless. One of the key strategies of the assisted suicide lobby is to present a "restrictive" assisted suicide bill for the purpose of getting it passed and once it is passed, they introduce bills in subsequent years to expand the assisted suicide legislation. This is not a new strategy. What has changed is that the assisted suicide lobby is publicly admitting their "bait and switch" tactic.

For instance Josh Elliott, a three term member of the Connecticut House, and a sponsor of previous assisted suicide bills was interviewed by Paul Bass for the New Haven Independent on January 4, 2024. Bass reported: "Elliott has been sponsoring bills for years to allow terminally ill people to take their lives (aka "aid in dying"). The bill finally passed the legislature's Public Health committee; it got stuck in Judiciary."

The version he plans to resubmit this year has been narrowed to cover terminally ill people with prognoses of less than six months to live, with sign-offs from two doctors and a mental health professional, monthly check-ins, and at least a year of state residence. “Almost no one” would qualify under that restricted version of the law, Elliott said. But passing it would open the door to evaluation and expansion.

For further clarification Elliott told Bass, “The bill would be, um, exceptionally narrow in scope, it would be the most narrow in scope bill of this kind were we to pass it. It would be, uh, six months left to live, you have to get sign-offs from multiple doctors—two doctors and one mental health physician—uh, and then you need to go for frequent check ins—I think it’s like once a month—and you have, there is a one year residency requirement, so there are so many ways we limit who could actually use this bill, to the point I believe if we were actually to implement the way that we are talking about it, almost nobody would use it. But the important thing for me is to get this bill on the books, and then see how it’s working, and if it’s not and people aren’t using it, then make those corrections to actually allow people to use it. So that is what we’ve been discussing.”

Elliott is clearly explaining his “bait and switch” tactic, that his goal is to pass a “restrictive” assisted suicide bill and then expand the law later.

Amy Paulin, the sponsor of the New York assisted suicide bill, recently stated that they need to get the bill passed first and then expand it later. J.M. Sorrell, Executive Director of Massachusetts Death with Dignity, was quoted on a similar bill as saying, “Once you get something passed, you can always work on amendments later.”



Editor's Note:

If you live in any of the states mentioned in this legislative update, please start praying for God to thwart the plans of the enemy and help you discern how He may be calling you to get involved.



HATS FROM THE HEART NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Anglicans For Life was recently contacted by the Rev. Canon Dr. Julie Russell-Crunk, Canon for Missions from the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy, she was asking for us to let you, our readers, know that they need more hats for the Hats from the Heart ministry!

Hats from the Heart is an outreach effort of the Anglican Chaplaincy to provide babies with new hats that have been hand-knitted, crocheted, or sewn. This effort was born out of Julie’s love for knitting and her experience with the poor and marginalized. Julie recognized that families receive donations and salvaged baby items but rarely have any new items. She wanted to provide a new hat for each baby, a simple but profound way to give dignity to each new little person made in God’s image.

Julie invites the maker to choose the pattern, color, yarn, or fabric choice and size (preemie to toddler). She also asks that the maker pray over the hat and the child who will receive it.

Since beginning this ministry in 2021, over 3,000 hats have been distributed to babies in 22 countries. She currently has requests for hats from Anglican clergy worldwide.

If you would like to contribute some hats to Hats from the Heart, please email Canon Julie at Julie.Russell-Crunk@Anglicanchaplains.org for shipping details.



BECOME A LEADER IN YOUR CHURCH

AFL offers a variety of pathways for lay and ordained members of churches to get involved in bearing witness to life in their congregations and communities. Learn about a variety of ways you can use your God-given talents to make an impact in your church and community for life. Visit AnglicansForLife.org/get-involved to learn a variety of ways to get started.



You're invited
To participate in the World's LARGEST
Baby Shower!



April 1-June 1

Join Anglicans For Life as we partner with you and your church to host a nationwide baby shower benefiting women facing unplanned, crisis, and new pregnancies.

Visit AnglicansForLife.org/baby-shower for more information.

How to Participate:

1. Pick a donation deadline between April 1 and June 1, 2024.
2. Download the promotional content found at AnglicansForLife.org/baby-shower.
3. Post announcements and flyers for parishioners about the items you wish to collect, such as, diapers, formula, clothing, car seats, blankets, strollers, and baby gear like pacifiers, bibs, and bottles.
4. Set-up a crib, bassinet, or playpen to gather the donated items.
5. Take a few pictures of the goods, inventory the items, and send the inventory list and pictures to **info@AnglicansForLife.org**.
6. Deliver the supplies to your local pregnancy center.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Anglicans For Life needs YOUR church's help! Last year, we held the first annual, "World's Largest Baby Shower." Our goal was to help women facing unplanned, crisis, or new pregnancies. Some churches used their baby shower to support a mother at their church, while others donated the items to local pregnancy centers in their community. Last year, thirty-eight churches participated from across the United States. This year, we want to make it BIGGER and BETTER, with the goal of 100 churches participating in this wonderful event. Holding a baby shower at your church is a great way to support moms in your community, build fellowship, and take action for life. **We can't wait to show the world what the Church can do for life** – in partnership with you and your congregation!