



# Carpe Diem

Anglicans For Life's Official Newsletter



MAY 2026

[AnglicansForLife.org](http://AnglicansForLife.org)

## Welcome Home Caedmon

Johnston Moore, Adoption/Orphan Care Consultant, Anglicans For Life

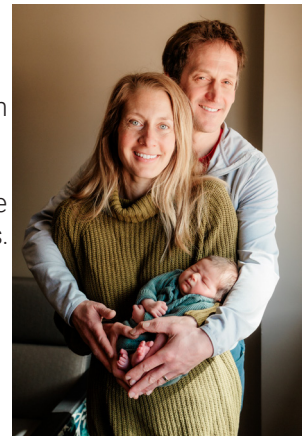
God placed adoption on the hearts of Greg and Asha Johnsen from the time they were married in 2014, though adoption was part of both their families even prior to that time.

When Asha was 8, her mom married a man who then adopted her (unofficially at age 8, and officially at 18). "I'm so grateful for him, for his wisdom and love for me and training in the Scriptures," Asha wrote of her dad. "Having a dad helped me understand God's good authority. My dad is a pastor who faithfully taught me the Word of God, which shaped my worldview from a young age."

Married in New York, Greg and Asha eventually settled in Colorado Springs, where Greg works at the United States Air Force Academy, and Asha is a full-time homemaker and educator for their two biological sons, Aslan and Braven. They are members of the International Anglican Church in Colorado Springs, a church that is home to several adoptive families. Their church, their families, and their friends all support their decision to adopt, and are willing and able to walk alongside them as they navigate life with a child the Lord brings through adoption.

A few years ago, the Johnsens began getting serious about starting their adoption journey. "We both believe, as laid out in Psalm 127, that children are a blessing from the Lord and

"blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them," wrote Greg. "We also believe, like Russell Moore in *Adopted for Life*, that every Christian should be involved at some level in the practice of adoption, either through supporting families who are adopting or by adopting themselves. We believe our family is called to do both. Like Moore, we believe that all Christians have been adopted into the family of God through Christ and that by adopting (children) ourselves we are simply doing what has already been done for us ... As Moore lays out, adoption is a profound and intimate way of carrying out the great commission."



In 2022, the Johnsens completed their home study. Still waiting for a match in 2024, they submitted an application, and were approved, for a grant from Anglicans For Life's Anglican Adoption Fund. Eventually they were listed with three different adoption agencies, who were all on the lookout for a possible match with a birth mother or birth parents. Still, they waited.

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# Canon Georgette

AFL President

When the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision in June 2022 overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion, I expected women would choose to carry their pregnancies to term rather than abort. I believed there would be an increase in the number of women seeking help as they embraced parenting.

Instead, abortion numbers have steadily increased each year since 2022, while interest in and support for protecting life has declined across all demographics—even among ordained leadership in the Anglican Communion.

The Guttmacher Institute's recent 2025 data reports approximately 1,126,000 abortions in the United States, up from an estimated 950,000 in 2022.

## **That means more than 3,000 unborn babies are dying each day.**

This rise is especially troubling because thirteen states have enacted total abortion bans. Yet the FDA's 2023 decision to allow Mifepristone—the chemical abortion pill, to be prescribed via telehealth without an in-person visit and shipped directly to patients has changed everything. The abortion pill now accounts for about two-thirds of all abortions nationwide. Anyone can impersonate a pregnant woman, order the pills online, and have them delivered to any address in all 50 states.

This is particularly upsetting because a 2025 study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center found that nearly 11 percent of women who take Mifepristone experience serious adverse health events. State bans have little effect on preventing chemical abortions, and the 1873 Comstock Law, which prohibits shipping items intended for abortion is simply not being enforced.

The ability to bypass state bans has emboldened pro-abortion activists. They are now working to establish abortion not only as a legal right but as a religious right. Breakpoint reported that an Indiana judge blocked a pro-life law, ruling that it violates religious freedom based on a lawsuit by the ACLU and Hoosier Jews for Choice.

Radical-left state legislatures are also advancing bills under the guise of "reproductive freedom" that quietly dismantle protections for babies even after birth. A Maryland bill, for example, would limit medical professionals' reporting of infant deaths unless there is "clear evidence of external abuse," weakening safeguards against infanticide.

## **Nine states plus Washington, D.C., currently have no gestational limit on abortion.**

Encouraged by these successes, the abortion industry is aggressively recruiting the next generation. The Youth Abortion Support Collective is training students as young as 14 to become "abortion doulas," teaching them to provide peer support before, during, and after abortions and to help friends access the procedure. In other words, it is grooming young people to act as abortion promoters among their peers.

All of this is happening while many Americans mistakenly believe the issue ended with *Dobbs*. Even some ordained Anglican clergy have asked me why



*Daisy, Georgette's dog, is ensuring your church receives "Speak Up for Life" booklets.*

Anglicans For Life is still fighting abortion, thinking “the issue has been settled.”

While these actions and attitudes could undermine our goals, our staff remains determined to uphold the sacredness of life as taught in Scripture. We have renewed our commitment to reducing abortions nationwide.

We are revisiting how we use our resources, events, partnerships, and publications while prayerfully seeking God’s wisdom for new strategies. **Here’s what we are doing right now:**

- AFL partnered with 78 other pro-life organizations to urge the Department of Justice to restore laws preventing abortion drugs from being prescribed via telehealth and mailed across state lines.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual World’s Largest Baby Shower is underway, with churches donating baby supplies to pregnancy centers to give women confidence to choose life.
- Posting Silent No More Awareness Campaign testimonies and memes about how bad the abortion pills are, on social media so others can see how abortion destroys life.

Looking ahead, AFL with Daisy’s help, plans to mail “Speak Up for Life” booklets and “Prevent the One Abortion” brochures to our 235 partner churches, equip Silent No More participants with “I Regret My Abortion” and “I Regret Lost Fatherhood” signs, use social media daily to share facts, Scripture, and Life-Affirming stories, and create clergy resources rooted in Jesus’ command to love our neighbor.

We remain committed to educating, advocating, and providing Life-Affirming ministry. And we hope you will join us – together we can show the world what the Church can do to protect and honor life.

For His Glory,



# LAUNCH & LEARN

You are invited to watch the LIVE launch of AFL's new Bioethics website on June 2 and June 9 at 6:15 pm EST.

@AnglicansForLife

Tune in June 2 & 9 at 6:15 pm EST  **LIVE**

## Podcast for Students

DID YOU KNOW THAT ABUNDANT LIFE HAS A PODCAST?



ABUNDANT LIFE  
You Were Made for More

Listen or learn more at

[YOUWEREMADEFORMORE.ORG/PODCAST](https://YOUWEREMADEFORMORE.ORG/PODCAST)



## ESTATE PLANNING THAT LEAVES A LASTING IMPACT FOR LIFE.

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.

# Leadership Updates



*Welcome,*

## TO OUR NEW LIFE-AFFIRMING CHURCH

We want to extend a special welcome to the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, Binghamton, NY.

### CHAPTER NEWS

#### The Falls Church Anglican | Falls Church, VA

Chapter Leader Jeanne Lee reports this has been a busy spring as she and Chapter members Peggy Aderton, Emily Giacomini, attended the March for Life in Richmond, VA the TFCA Chapter also hosted Kayla Pearson, Development Director for Mosaic Virginia – a thriving pregnancy help ministry that our church actively supports. Kayla used the Chapter's 2024 Sunday School lesson to teach the local Awana group about the Image of God.

Once again, the TFCA Chapter hosted its annual Sunday School kids program, teaching over 100 children how they grow in amazing ways before birth and compared that miracle to another incredible transformation – when Jesus comes into our lives.

Teachers shared relevant scripture and science in age-appropriate ways. Several TFCA couples who are expecting graciously volunteered to visit, allowing the children to hear their babies' heartbeats in utero using dopplers provided by Mosaic Virginia. The children also made bracelets to remind them that "a baby's heart starts to beat after just three weeks of life."

TFCA AFL Chapter regularly post their special pro-life Sunday School lessons online at: <https://www.tfcafl.org/elem-ed>, in case you know of a family, church, or group that would like to use them. The TFCA Anglicans for Life Chapter teaching team would be happy to help. Feel free to reach us at [tfcafl@gmail.com](mailto:tfcafl@gmail.com).



#### Emmaus Anglican Church | Castle Rock, CO

On a cold, snowy April day, Rector, Fr. Theron Walker and eleven members of Emmaus Anglican Church braved the weather to participate in the Colorado March for Life at the State Capitol in Denver.

Despite the challenging conditions, the group stood with determination to show Colorado legislators and the public that we will not stop fighting to end abortion.

We heard powerful speeches from pro-life leaders, moving testimonies from women who regretted their abortions, and inspiring stories of women who reversed chemical abortions at the last moment and gave birth to healthy babies. We were encouraged to never give up the fight to protect every life from conception.

After the march, Alternatives Pregnancy Center (APC) hosted us for lunch and a tour of their facility. We viewed their new ultrasound machine and watched a video of an eight-week pre-born baby with a strong beating heart. We remain deeply grateful for our ongoing partnership with APC.

With the strong support of our clergy, staff, and congregation, Emmaus Anglican Church continues to stand as a beacon of hope in the fight to end abortion in Colorado and our nation.





## LIFE LEADER NEWS

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church | Plainville, CT**  
Valerie Rich, Life Leader from Holy Trinity Anglican Church reports that they had a few members from their congregation attend the Hartford, Connecticut March for Life in March.

*Pictured right: Front to back; Deacon Don Richie, Senior Warden Dorothy Smolkis, & Dave Smolkis.*



## A TALE OF TWO CHOICES

**By: Patti Burt, Life Leader, Christ Church Anglican, Butte, MT**

On my way home from my mother's memorial last year, I reflected on the power of choices—how they shape not only our lives but the lives of those who follow. These thoughts synthesized as I suddenly saw the pieces of my family's puzzle come together... It was towards the end of my mother's life, that family secrets surfaced about two women, each facing an unexpected pregnancy. I call our story "A Tale of Two Choices."

### The First Choice

In 1890, a Danish family emigrated to Minnesota, where Alf was born in 1907. As a young man, Alf moved to Red Lodge, Montana, drawn to the cowboy life. There he met Mattie, a Missouri girl who had lost both parents and was living with relatives. At 16, Mattie became pregnant by Alf, who soon returned to Minnesota and likely never knew he had a son.

Mattie was sent to the Florence Crittenton Home in Helena, Montana, where she gave birth to Robert Alf. He was lovingly adopted by Don and Edna of Lewistown, who raised him on a dairy farm. Robert developed a deep passion for horses, becoming a rancher and racehorse trainer. He married, fathered seven children, and lived as a true cowboy—the end of an era.

### The Second Choice

My mother Norma was a talented "city girl" who fell for Robert, her high school classmate and my father. Her parents had high hopes for her to attend college and pursue music. At 16, Norma became pregnant. Horrified, her parents arranged an illegal abortion against her will and Robert's wishes. Norma later described feeling an evil presence during the procedure. Though she and Robert later married and had seven more children, the loss haunted her with guilt and shame, contributing to a troubled marriage.

### Secrets Revealed

My father discovered at age 17—while enlisting in the

Marines—that he was adopted. His adoptive parents had kept it secret. After they died, he searched for his birth parents but was blocked by sealed records. He died in 1980 without knowing his origins.

Decades later, DNA testing allowed my siblings and me to uncover the truth. We learned about our biological grandparents and the half-siblings our father never met.

Years after becoming a Christian, my mother shared her story. Prayed for by "Jesus People" in the 1970s, she gave her life to Christ, went through repentance and healing, and finally received the forgiveness she desperately needed.

### Two Choices

I am here today because in 1929, a frightened young woman chose life. That baby, Robert, became my father and the patriarch of a large family—seven children, 35 grandchildren, and 42 great-grandchildren, including pastors, musicians, a scientist, ranchers, and more.

Another young woman was robbed of her first child and carried that grief for decades until Jesus brought healing.

Knowing my family's story has given me a passion to support women facing unexpected pregnancies. I've worked through churches, schools, Right to Life efforts, and now a local crisis pregnancy center in Butte, Montana.

It is up to us to offer real alternatives, so women are not trapped into believing abortion is their only option. God calls us to "choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). We can do this by teaching abstinence, voting pro-life, supporting pregnancy help centers, and speaking truth about the harms of abortion and related practices.

Our choices matter. Godly choices bring life. May we have the courage to choose life—for ourselves and for generations to come.

# Ministry Updates

## HOW I CAME TO SERVE

By: Alexis Anaya, AFL Multi-Media Specialist

Hello, my name is Alexis Anaya, and I am the new Multi-Media Specialist at Anglicans For Life. A little about my story: I was born and raised in Mexico in a family of four—my father, mother, sister, and me. As the youngest, I was brought into the Christian faith from an early age and grew up with a Christ-centered formation, where following and imitating Christ was central to my life.

In Mexico, I lived in several cities and encountered different branches and denominations of Christianity. This experience showed me the great diversity within Christian communities. Yet amid that diversity, one truth remained central to the Gospel: the Life that Christ gives us is a gift. I later attended university in Puebla, Mexico, graduating with a degree in Digital Animation. I worked in marketing, multimedia, television, cinema, and software. These experiences taught me that communication today happens largely through the internet and social media—powerful tools for reaching communities and showing that Christ’s mission is alive in His Church.

After several years in the entertainment and animation industry, God called me to seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. There I met wonderful friends who became like family. I also met my girlfriend Xenia, a beautiful and strong woman with whom I share ministry and grow in Christ’s love. Together we helped plant a Spanish-speaking church, through which God blessed us with a faithful community.

As I neared the end of my theological studies, I searched for a ministry where I could serve God and proclaim the gift of Life. After several uncertain months, I received an email through the seminary about the Multi-Media Specialist position at Anglicans For Life. I applied with little hope, but soon met with Georgette, Daisy and Board Member Scott Gough. After talking and praying together, Anglicans for Life graciously offered me the role. It is deeply meaningful to serve here. Anglicans For Life is committed to defending life at every stage, supported by a faithful, creative, and dedicated team that equips churches to bear witness to the dignity of every human person. As a young Christian, I see this value being powerfully recovered by my generation and those to come.

One verse that shapes my view of life is John 10:10: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” This reminds us that life is God’s gift, fulfilled and restored in Christ. Through the cross, He forms communities where this gift is received, shared, and protected. My hope at Anglicans For Life is to share resources through social media, reach new generations, and invite them to view life through the lens of Scripture and a Christ-centered vision.



Above: Alexis and his girlfriend, Xenia.



Above: Alexis's father Gil, sister Maria, Alexis, and his mother Anna.

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW AFL ON YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS!**



@anglicans4life



@Anglicans4Life



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## In Honor/Memory

- Emily Fawcett made a donation in honor of Suzy Speare for her birthday.
- Mr. Charles Glass made a donation in memory of Robert Leef Harbin, Jr.

# Welcome Home Caedmon (cont.)

In January of this year, the Johnsens' long wait came to an end as they received a call from one of their agencies saying they'd been chosen by the expectant birth parents of a baby boy who was due in mid-February. "After 4 years of waiting, you can imagine how crazy this feels!" wrote Asha at the time. "Both Greg and I couldn't believe it was happening, but we are in awe at the handiwork of God knitting hearts together already. Much we cannot see, but the bit we do is stunning and we are filled with wonder and excitement!"

Greg, Asha, Aslan, and Braven officially welcomed their new son/brother into their home and family on February 27. "We are so very grateful for the Lord's work in bringing baby Caedmon into our family, he is precious!" wrote Asha. "We are also incredibly blessed to have received the Anglicans For Life Adoption Grant."

Today, Caedmon is settling into the family God has chosen for him, surrounded by the love of a mom, dad, two older brothers, extended family, friends, and church community who are all committed to helping him grow into the person God created him to be. "Our adoption of Caedmon will change our family," shared Asha. "The waiting has shaped us, and now the walking out of this new calling as parents and big siblings to this

particular child will stretch and grow us, and we trust, fashion us more into the likeness of Christ."

It is because of the generosity of our supporters that Anglicans For Life is able to come alongside

and support families like the Johnsens who welcome children into their homes. If you'd like to consider a gift to help more Anglican families adopt children in need of families, or if you know of an Anglican family in the process of, or considering, adoption, please check out the Anglican Adoption Fund at [AnglicansForLife.org/AAF](http://AnglicansForLife.org/AAF).



*Above: Aslan and Braven posing with their new baby brother.*

## A BABY SHOWER FOR GRANDMA?

Anglicans For Life is hosting our fourth annual World's Largest Baby Shower from April through June. We love the joyful photos that arrive in our inboxes and on social media—full of baby items donated to pregnancy resource centers across the country.

Each church adds its own creative touch. Some host showers for expectant mothers, others collect from wish lists, and events range from single afternoons of cake and gifts to month-long campaigns.

This year brought a beautiful surprise. A church in Uganda chose to shower an elderly woman in their community with love and care.

### The Rev. Canon Nelson Owili shares the story:

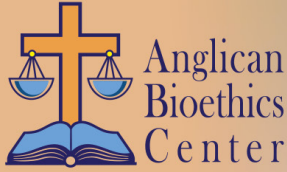
"We had a baby shower which is a bit different in approach and activities. A group of Mothers Union from St. Mary Church and St. James Church visited an old woman of 85 years who is no longer able to walk but can crawl outside her hut. The Mothers Union carried soap, new clothes, sugar and assorted food items. They bathed this old mama, smeared her with oil, dressed her, washed all her other

clothes and bedding, and she was freshened up like a baby. This was a new experience and the Mothers borrowed the idea from the Baby shower. It was so exciting.

We had praises and singing, sharing the word of God and testimonies. We noted that there are many old persons outside the church lacking care and basic needs to make them enjoy the love of Christ. As we pray for the World's Largest Baby Shower this year, let us also pray for the baby shower of elderly persons who have become like babies in Africa who spend lonely lives with no basic needs and care to enable them to enjoy the love of Christ at old age."

The images of their ministry to this dear "old mama" are truly inspiring. Won't you join us in thanking God for the creative ways He inspires us to care for the vulnerable—both the youngest and the oldest?





Anglican Bioethics Center

# LAUNCH & LEARN



Join Anglicans For Life and the Anglican Bioethics Center (ABC) for the official launch of the ABC website via Facebook Live. Tune-in to Anglicans For Life's FB page to watch presentations from leading bioethicists, and get a first-look at the innovative new website.

June 2 & 9, 2026 @ 6:15 pm EST



@AnglicansForLife

## FEATURED RESOURCES FOR A FAITH-FILLED SUMMER



### DID YOU KNOW?

Teaching the importance of healthy relationships goes hand-in-hand with being pro-life because when a young person values their identity in Christ as much as their partner's, they affirm that all life is sacred – not just their own.

ABUNDANT LIFE

You Were Made for More

ABUNDANT LIFE'S CURRICULUM WALKS YOUR STUDENTS THROUGH THE TOPICS YOUNG ADULTS FACE IN TODAY'S WORLD AND HOW CHRIST IS CENTRAL TO IT ALL.

Learn more at [YOUWEREMADEFORMORE.ORG](http://YOUWEREMADEFORMORE.ORG)

**Life Ministry Opportunities Brochure...** We have included this brochure in this mailing, hoping it will inspire you to consider starting a Life-Affirming ministry in your parish. If you don't feel called to do so, please share it with a friend who shares your values for life!

**Abundant Life Student Website, Curriculum, Podcast, and Blog** are designed to engage students on life issues, relationships, and their identity in Christ. We released our 100th episode of the podcast and they have over 6,000 downloads! [YouWereMadeForMore.org](http://YouWereMadeForMore.org).

### 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 Life-Affirming ministry in Anglicans churches across America. Our work is made possible thanks to the generosity of friends, churches and foundations. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate or visit [AnglicansForLife.org/Give](http://AnglicansForLife.org/Give).



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