



Anglican Church of Virginia

IN THE NEWS



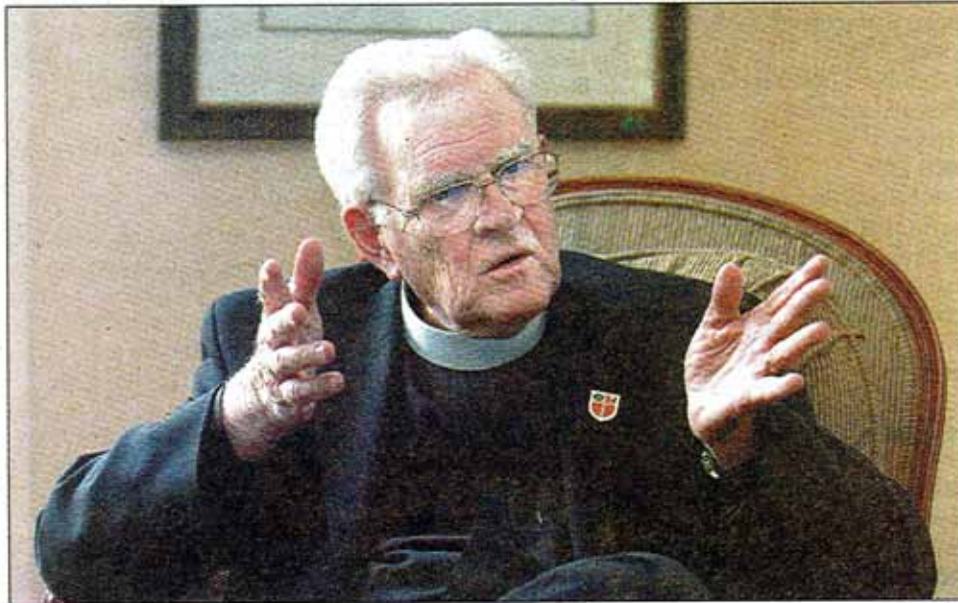
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HEADLINES

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Daily News-Record

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Michael Reilly / DN-R

Larry W. Johnson, bishop of the Anglican Church of Virginia, explains during a visit Monday to Harrisonburg why his faith led him away from an Episcopalian congregation in Loudoun County to start an Anglican church there. He says his respect for Anglicanism stems from its roots in "duty, detail and discipline."

Anglican Bishop Visits City

Johnson: Church's Teachings A Bulwark Against Liberalism

By TOM MITCHELL
Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG — Larry W. Johnson's love of history dovetails nicely with his biblical beliefs.

"Our founding fathers gave us our traditional values," Johnson said. "And a lot of our founding fathers were members of the Anglican Church."

Johnson, bishop of the Anglican Church of Virginia, was in Harrisonburg Monday to perform and explain a communion ceremony for a group of area men. The group included David W. Lee of Harrisonburg, president of Lee and Associates, a commercial real-estate brokerage in town.

Johnson and Lee, who met six years

ago at the Shenandoah Heritage Farmers Market, share an interest in American history, Lee said. Johnson also has a son, James Johnson, who works as an attorney in Harrisonburg.

Johnson, 71, who lives just outside Front Royal, grew up a Baptist in the farming community of Coats, N.C. A 22-year career in public education included several years in Florida as a vocational-education instructor, a job that put Johnson at odds with views he saw as too morally liberal.

While teaching students there in the 1970s, he said, Johnson was warned by state officials that his methods included too much "high moral" guidance.

Similar differences at an Episcopal church he and his wife, Sondra, attended in Loudoun County convinced Johnson to leave the Episcopalian faith and,

Revived Anglican Church A 'Bridge' To State's History

Bishop

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with other like-minded sorts, start an Anglican church.

Intolerable Act

It took a dramatic act, said Johnson, to turn him into an Anglican.

"One day the preacher came out of a meeting, took a Bible, and flung it from the pulpit, saying to the congregation, 'We don't need this book any more,'" he said. "That's when I decided I'd had enough."

Johnson, who became an Anglican lay leader right away, was made a priest in 1984, serving as rector of a church in Warrenton for six years.

In 2001, Johnson was consecrated as a bishop for Anglican churches in Virginia and Haiti.

A respect for Anglicanism, said Johnson, stems from that religion's roots in "duty, detail and discipline," traits Johnson said he first refined while serving in the Marines.

Those who know Johnson say they share his quest for morally fixed values. Lee, 43, cited his own fears over fading standards as his reason for becoming an Anglican.

"I've been deeply concerned about the state of affairs in our country," Lee said. "Bishop Johnson is a bridge back to our heritage because of his fidelity to the Scriptures as given to us, and his duty to hold to the truth and not allow political correctness of the day to compromise the truth."

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Anglican Church of Virginia creates new order; first nun takes vows

By KARINA GIANOLA
The Warren Sentinel

WARREN COUNTY — Continuing Anglicans welcomed the church's first nun on March 29, when Sister Mary Magdalene took perpetual vows presided over by the Rev. Larry Johnson.

The new sister, formerly Victoria Payne, was named prioress of the newly created Order of the Community of Compassion. She took her perpetual vows at Holy Redeemer Anglican Church in Montross. For now, the sister will live out of her home in San Antonio. Eventually, the order may create a convent for nuns.

For 15 years, Sister Mary Magdalene, a registered nurse, worked as a missionary in the Middle East. She was previously married, and has a son who attends college. Her vows are perpetual, essentially acting as "wedding vows" to Jesus Christ. Johnson said nuns can also take yearly vows of celibacy.

Women interested in joining the order can e-mail Johnson at larrywjohanson@embarqmail.com.

Johnson founded the Anglican Church of Virginia in 2001. Originally an Episcopalian, he said he left the church in 1980 over differences in moral and theological issues. He is also a bishop for a church in Haiti. As he became more connect-



WARREN SENTINEL/COURTESY PHOTO

Sister Mary Magdalene, left, takes vows of perpetual profession on March 29, during a ceremony presided over by the Rev. Larry Johnson.

The Anglican Church of Virginia believes the Bible is the word of God, and that the 10 commandments are still valid in everyday life. Permitting abortions or same-sex marriage, he continued, are not acceptable in the church.

"We are not the 'church of what's happening now,' or the 'church of the fashion of the day,'" Johnson said

2005, Anglican bishops met in Mexico City and named Virginia as the Holy See for continuing Anglicans. Johnson serves as Archbishop for all provinces.

In the future, Johnson said he hopes to establish a local deaconess society. The church does not allow women to serve as deacons, priests



Declaration of Principles and Tenets of Belief of The Anglican Church of Virginia

Preamble

As the Apostolic Church brought both religious and non-religious peoples to Christ, and
Whereas, God in His Wisdom planted at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, the first Anglican Church in the New World
and whose faithful beseeched God's blessings in the founding of a Christian Nation, and
Whereas, free men did meet in the Anglican Church at Jamestown to lay the foundation
of our New Republic and to govern themselves as free men, and

Whereas, Anglicans of Virginia, by God's hand, have established the Anglican Church of Virginia, and
Whereas, the followers of Jesus Christ are commissioned to take the Gospel to all people and to all Nations,

WE DECLARE that the Church of today must be a church on mission, reaching out to believers and non-believers with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WE FURTHER DECLARE that we adhere wholly to biblical teaching and to the following principles and tenets of Faith, and thus shall not accept any action or compromise that would weaken or change the faith and traditions of these principles and beliefs, which we hold to be essential to an unimpaired relationship with Jesus Christ and His one holy catholic and apostolic church.

THEREFORE, As God is our Witness, we fervently commit our honor, lives, fortunes, and eternal Souls to the following Tenets of Faith.

1. We believe in the authority of the HOLY SCRIPTURES as the inerrant Word of God, as summarized by the Creeds, taught by the Fathers, and defined in the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, and the Authorized (King James) Version of The Holy Bible, it being the standard translation into the English language.
2. We believe the Nicene and Apostles' CREEDS are binding on every member of the Church as the expression of their specific personal commitment and conviction.
3. We believe HOLY BAPTISM as ordained by Christ, as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, is the seal of our Salvation, and CONFIRMATION by a bishop in the apostolic line is the means whereby we receive the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Apostolic tradition.
4. We believe HOLY COMMUNION shall be validly celebrated by a bishop of the Apostolic line, or by a priest ordained by such a bishop, and properly received by those confirmed or ready and desirous to be confirmed. Holy Communion will not be refused to believing baptized Christians of other traditions.
5. We believe HOLY ORDERS of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon are open only to believing men, following Biblical practice, the universal practice of the holy catholic church, and as intended by our Book of Common Prayer.
6. We believe the integrity of the sacramental functions of the EPISCOPATE, and according to the Apostolic model, as evangelists, guardians of the faith, and caring shepherds of the flock, shall be placed above the administrative responsibilities that have so often caused mischief in the churches of former years.
7. We believe the historic BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER is the doctrinal standard and our common liturgy. We worship according to the 1928 American edition of the Book of Common Prayer, the 1962 Canadian edition, or the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer. We respect liturgical expression established by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1549, and the 1552 version as set forth by the Act of Uniformity, and other national equivalents so far as the faith is kept entire by them.
8. We believe that marriage is set aside as a special sacrament and union between one heterosexual man and one heterosexual women
9. We believe that life is created by God and begins at conception and that abortion is a sin against God.
10. We believe that "God giveth and God taketh, blessed be the Name of the Lord" and that suicide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are Sins against God.
11. We believe in the unique Salvation of Jesus Christ and pledge our commitment to the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ about Himself: "I am the WAY, the Truth, and the Life: and no man cometh to the Father, but by me."

These are treasures of the Anglican Faith which we guard zealously and believe to be anointed gifts from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. AMEN

Press Background Information

The Anglican Church of Virginia was founded in 2001 in Front Royal Virginia to continue the traditional Anglican Faith as passed down by the Anglican fathers of the Church of England. It believes in the inerrant Word of the Holy Bible and the historic values of life and the traditional teachings of God. Since its founding, the Virginia Church is serving as a beacon of hope to conservative Anglicans in Virginia and around the world.

In 2005, bishops meeting in Mexico City declared Virginia as the location of the focus of the continuing Anglican Faith. More than twenty provinces have come into communion with the Anglican Church of Virginia and now number more than 800,000 Anglicans in countries like Colombia, India, Solomon Islands, Haiti, Australia, England, Canada, Brazil, South Africa and six provinces in the United States. The new worldwide Virginia Communion is the headquarters of the Anglican Church International Communion which is in communion with neither the Episcopal Church of the US nor the Church of England. For more information, you may visit www.theanglicanchurch.net. The Rt. Rev. Larry W. Johnson was selected to serve as the Archbishop of all International Provinces at the College of Bishops' Synod held in Jamestown in 2007. He is the Bishop of the Anglican Church of Virginia, and lives with his wife, Sondra, in Front Royal, VA. Email: larrywjohanson@embarqmail.com.