



# ENCOMPASS

News and Events from the American Anglican Council Mission and Ministry Network

## Brusts Depart AAC, Leave Powerful Ministry Legacy

BY JENNIFER M. ABEL, EDITOR

Some have described them as the “best package deal” in Anglican ministry. They might be right. The Rev.

Canon Ellis Brust and wife Cynthia have helped shape the work of the American Anglican Council (AAC) in significant ways over the past three years while serving as the AAC's Chief Operating Officer/Chaplain to the President and Director of Communications, respectively. The two have also heavily influenced the face of Anglicanism around the world through their bold ministry in a time of crisis in the Church.

Therefore, it was with sadness that the AAC received the news in October of the Brusts' plans to depart the organization's staff on Nov. 15, 2006. Canon and Mrs. Brust have each accepted positions with the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA), based in Pawleys Island, S.C., where they will serve as President and Director of Communications, respectively.

“Both Ellis and Cynthia have contributed mightily to the American Anglican Council's work and other orthodox endeavors over the last three years, and I cannot imagine our accomplishing what we have been able to without them,” said the Rev. Canon David C. Anderson, AAC President and CEO. “Each of them, with their special gifts, has helped us to become who we are today and has helped our cause to be in a much better position internationally than it has ever been. AMiA's gain is truly our loss, and we will miss them both, professionally and personally.”

When coming to the AAC in December 2003, Canon Brust brought 18 years of experience in parochial- and diocesan-level ministry. Since then, he

has become an internationally known figure in the Anglican Communion, having represented the AAC at various domestic and overseas Anglican gatherings. In his position, he has overseen the AAC's fundraising efforts, office operations, and affiliates ministry; he has provided invaluable strategic and pastoral counsel to numerous individuals and churches nation-wide; and worked closely with Canon Anderson on AAC strategies and goals.

“Ellis has a genuine optimism that infuses the staff,” said Linda Newton, who has been supervised by Canon Brust in her position as AAC Affiliates Administrator for the past year-and-a-half. “His willingness and capabilities for counseling people about whatever is heavy on their heart makes him a great mentor and role model.”

“Brusts” cont. on page 3



Mrs. Cynthia P. and the Rev. Canon Ellis E. Brust.  
(AAC Photos)

## BOLIVIA PLAYS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN REALIGNMENT

BY JENNIFER M. ABEL,  
EDITOR

The Diocese of Bolivia, one of six South American countries constituting the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone, was the last field of mission for its province and includes just four churches (with a fifth currently being planted). Of Bolivia's national population (about 9 million), Anglicans represent a very small minority compared to the 95 percent that adhere to Roman Catholicism. However, this small diocese is having a significant impact on the face and future of Anglicanism in the Americas.



Bishop Lyons preaching at a worship service in September 2004 at Light of Christ Anglican Church in Marietta, Ga., a Bolivia-affiliated church. (Photo by Dr. Brian Thoms)

The Bishop of Bolivia, the Rt. Rev. Frank Lyons, oversees 31 U.S. churches in at least nine states, bringing a fresh, unabashed zeal for the Gospel that is rare to find among U.S. Episcopal bishops. Beginning in January 2004, he has assumed oversight for churches across the United States, including churches in Atlanta, Chicago, southwest Indiana, Kentucky, eastern Michigan, Ohio, San Diego, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

“I call it ‘Gran Bolivia,’”

“Bolivia” cont. on page 2

**BOLIVIA** (cont. from page 1)

Bishop Lyons said, drawing chuckles from a gathering of Atlanta-area Anglicans on Oct. 9, 2006.

**WHY BOLIVIA?**

Bishop Lyons – an American – grew up attending an Episcopal church in the Diocese of Washington, D.C., where he was denied ordination nearly three decades ago due to his biblical devotion and young age. Though seen as a “rejection” at the time, his wife, Shawnee Lyons, notes that this was actually the beginning of the Lord’s purposes for their ministry calling. Since that time, the Lyons have spent the majority of their time serving in Latin America, including Honduras and Ecuador before Bolivia; and even while in the United States, they were



*Bishop Lyons speaking at a gathering of Atlanta-area Anglicans on Oct. 9, 2006. (AAC Photo)*

heavily involved in Hispanic ministry.

A graduate of Wheaton College and Nashotah House Seminary, Bishop Lyons combines an unusual boldness for preaching the Gospel with a sense of humor and out-of-the-box thinking in his role as bishop. Bolivia, he says, offers a unique perspective on diocesan life that is unlike many dioceses in the Anglican Communion: The local church is the center of ministry – not the diocesan office.

“The diocese [should exist] for the benefit of the local church,” Bishop Lyons said, explaining that a diocesan bishop should be a “pastor of pastors” whose office serves the local churches, rather than the other way around. He said that for other churches to form, in the United States and elsewhere, he does not believe a diocese needs a team of “church growth experts” paid to work and strategize from the diocesan center. Rather, church planting is about “getting the Gospel out” and the Lord working through local churches that already exist.

Bishop Lyons’ philosophy is playing out in various places in America already, with several vibrant Bolivia-affiliated congregations in the process of planting new Anglican churches in their areas. Though young churches themselves, Holy Cross Anglican Church in Loganville, Ga., and Holy Apostles Anglican Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., are planting churches in the nearby towns of Athens and Louisville, respectively. In addition to these plants, Bolivia-affiliated churches in San Diego are drawing new Anglican ordinands to their area for the specific purpose of future church planting, Bishop Lyons said.

Bishop Lyons’ focus on the local congregation rather than diocesan authorities as the center for ministry certainly challenges the norm found in the United States’ Episcopal Church. In times when it is not uncommon to hear of Episcopal bishops taking advantage of local churches for the sake of enhancing their own theology or power – even suing them at the expense of both – the Bolivian bishop’s perspective is refreshing to many.

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

The type of aid Bishop Lyons offers U.S. Anglicans has become a common trend over the past several years as an increasing number of U.S. Episcopalians/Anglicans have realized that the Episcopal Church has abandoned the apostolic faith and is not turning back. With few other places to turn, churches wishing to remain in the Anglican tradition have affiliated with numerous dioceses across Africa, Asia and South America. The understanding from the beginning, though, is that this overseas oversight is temporary until the time when a more permanent solution can be found for U.S. Anglicans.

And that more permanent solution is on the horizon at last. With the release of the Primates’ Kigali Communiqué this past September, the establishment of a new Anglican structure in the United States is no longer uncertain. Though there is much work to be done to set up this new structure, Bishop Lyons – who admits that he is “extremely optimistic” – hopes the scattered overseas relationships will become unnecessary in the very near future.

“Nobody wants the ‘Anglican club’ to be destroyed, but it’s got to be, because some aren’t following the Lord,” Bishop Lyons said. He went on to explain the importance of prayer and humility in the restructuring process, especially for orthodox Anglican leaders, so that a truly unified Anglican presence can emerge in America as soon as possible.

Mrs. Lyons, who also spoke at the

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*-Romans 15:5-6*

October meeting in Atlanta, echoed Bishop Lyons’ sentiment: “Satan would be thrilled to pieces if we end up fighting about things that aren’t of eternal worth ... We need to hold on to the core issues and allow freedom in things that are not salvation issues,” she said, citing worship music style and Prayer Book squabbles as examples.

Bishop Lyons said he views the Common Cause Partner alliance as a key rallying point for those who want to become a part of the United States’ new ecclesiastical structure for the Anglican Communion. Common Cause, which formed in June 2004, represents about 200,000 Christians in the Anglican tradition and includes the American Anglican Council, Anglican Communion Network, Anglican Mission in America, Reformed Episcopal Church, and five other ministries and churches in North America.

Both Bishop and Mrs. Lyons emphasize that the most essential thing Anglicans in the United States and around the world can do today is to “pray and obey.” The long-awaited restructuring of the Anglican Communion has dawned, but the process requires much patience and humility, and we must pray that the outcome will, above all, further the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. ♦

**COMING SOON:  
A NEW ON-LINE LOOK**

The AAC Web site is currently undergoing a redesign and reorganization process. You will find the new look at [www.americananglican.org](http://www.americananglican.org) by early 2007!



## A Message from the President

THE REV. CANON DAVID C. ANDERSON  
AAC PRESIDENT AND CEO

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for." Hebrews 11:1-2*

For biblically faithful Episcopalians and Anglicans, the last several years have required deep faith to trust the Lord for solutions unseen and for guidance in the midst of great uncertainty as our beloved Church slid into apostasy. The American Anglican Council (AAC) has partnered with thousands to call The Episcopal Church (TEC) back to the apostolic faith, but the Church has made clear its choice to walk apart from the Anglican Communion and the faith once delivered. Therefore, we are required to walk in faith toward a new future promised through the Kigali resolves that include the call for a new ecclesiastical structure in the United States.

During this transitional period, the AAC is committed to churches and individuals who are remaining in TEC, those who are leaving, and those who have already left TEC. These three categories represent faithful Anglicans strug-

gling with issues unique to their circumstances. The AAC is assisting Episcopalians in particular to be strong and protective of their people, churches, doctrine and practice. Churches seeking to leave TEC have varying needs, and we provide counsel, guidance, materials and legal referrals to help those on a spiritual underground railroad. Congregations presently connected with an overseas Anglican province have still different needs, and the AAC works to provide Primates with inside information about the U.S. situation and to help them understand the needs of those both in and out of TEC.

We are thankful for the Global South Primates' response to the emergency situation in America and the interim oversight solution provided. While these relationships have allowed our churches to connect with orthodox Anglican Christians under faithful bishops, such congregations have experienced a sense of isolation from other orthodox Anglicans – even with those nearby. The current pattern could also result negatively in the Balkanization of the American Anglican scene, perhaps pouring in concrete the many separate groups newly created. What is needed is some solution that addresses these difficulties.

The AAC's long-term goal, then, is to assist in the formation of a coherent, unified, orthodox, mission-driven Anglican Church as a full province of the global Communion, and nothing less – not with the old leaven, but with a new infilling of the Holy Spirit, recovering the zeal of the early church. This vision will require constant prayer, deep and abiding faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit, but I believe it is a vision God has called us to fulfill. ♦

## A Message from the Brusts

It has been a great privilege to be a part of the American Anglican Council team – to work alongside Canon David Anderson, other gifted staff members, the Board of Trustees, and all those faithful clergy, laity and congregations it has been our honor to serve. As we move to this exciting new opportunity at AMiA, we are following the Lord's call to fulfill our passion for ministry building and church planting in this growing missionary movement. We thank you for all you have given to us – for your prayers, consistent support and encouragement, and your partnership with us in the Gospel.

With prayers of thanksgiving and blessings,

Ellis and Cynthia



(Photo courtesy of Peter Frank)

### BRUSTS (cont. from page 1)

Mrs. Brust held 20-plus years of professional media and public relations experience when she joined the staff as media consultant in August 2003 before becoming the AAC's Director of Communications later that year. She is known for her ability to articulate the nature and seriousness of the issues at stake in the Church today. She, too, has been a key element to the growth of the AAC's national and international partnerships, and in her position, she developed several special AAC publications that have served as resources for Anglican leaders around the world.

Her role as one of the leading women's voices in the orthodox Anglican movement is sure to continue after she leaves the AAC.

Both Canon and Mrs. Brust came to the AAC at a time of great crisis in the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church, and their bold witness to biblical faith and unwavering commitment to Scriptural authority have been vital components in the AAC's voice for orthodox Anglicanism. Though each will be sorely missed by AAC staff and board members and countless others, the leadership legacy they leave behind will continue to impact the AAC and Anglicans for years to come. Plus,

their commitment to the AAC's goal of building "a faithful Anglican witness in the Americas" will certainly live on in their work with AMiA.

"As Common Cause Partners, we often work with AMiA and look forward to future collaboration in our joint efforts toward the realignment of Anglicanism in North America," Canon Anderson said. "I know you will join me in praying for Ellis and Cynthia and wishing them all the best in their new ministries."

Note: A "Tribute to the Brusts" column is found on the back page. ♦



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## A TRIBUTE TO ELLIS AND CYNTHIA BRUST

"Both Ellis and Cynthia have been incredible strengths in the challenges of these last years. As the Network was formed, and particularly in the crisis of General Convention 2003, Cynthia's work as press officer and AAC advisor was invaluable. Ellis has been a longtime fellow leader, colleague and friend. We will continue to hold Ellis and Cynthia in our prayers and look forward to close cooperation with them in the future as we all work to bring together orthodox Anglicans in the United States."

**The Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan (Bishop of Pittsburgh, Anglican Communion Network Moderator & AAC Board of Trustees Member)**

"I am most supportive of the Rev. Canon Ellis and Mrs. Cynthia Brust as they transition to new ministry with the Anglican Mission in America. I am confident that they will continue to provide quality ministry on behalf of Jesus' Gospel and the Kingdom of God."

**The Rt. Rev. Peter Beckwith (Bishop of Springfield & AAC Board of Trustees Vice President)**

"Ellis and Cynthia have brought a rare combination of gifts to the AAC which has been used by God at this extraordinary time. Where one excels the other has a complementary gift that makes for a package fuller than its contents. Their vision, energy and dedication have been given to the point of sacrifice week after week for the past three years... Their combined humor is infused with a godly perspective. The mission of the AAC will continue, strengthened by the Brusts having been a part of the team."

**Carol Rogers Smith (Christ Church, Savannah, Vestry Member & AAC Board of Trustees Member)**

"...They brought not only their talents, gifts and high standards to everything that was asked of them, they brought also themselves – two people who passionately love the Lord and love serving His church. They will be greatly missed by those of us privileged to work with them in the AAC."

**The Rev. Travis Boline (Assistant Rector of Holy Cross Anglican Church, Tallahassee, & AAC Board of Trustees Member)**

"Cynthia and Ellis Brust are a dynamic duo ... Like so many others who have risen to leadership in defending the apostolic faith and Anglican orthodoxy, they seem to have been born for such a time as this, and people all over the world have benefited from their tireless work and dedication to serving their Lord. What a joy it is to have known them through the AAC and to have been inspired by all the ways their lives have reflected the light and truth of Jesus Christ."

**Betty Lee Payne (AAC Kentucky Chapter President & AAC Board of Trustees Member)**

**The American Anglican Council is a network of individuals (laity, deacons, priests and bishops), parishes and specialized ministries who affirm Biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion. In response to the Lord's calling and by His grace, we commit ourselves to proclaim the Good News to every person and to reform and renew the Church of Jesus Christ. We are uniting in order to fulfill our apostolic mission and ministry, working to build a faithful Anglican witness in the Americas.**

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