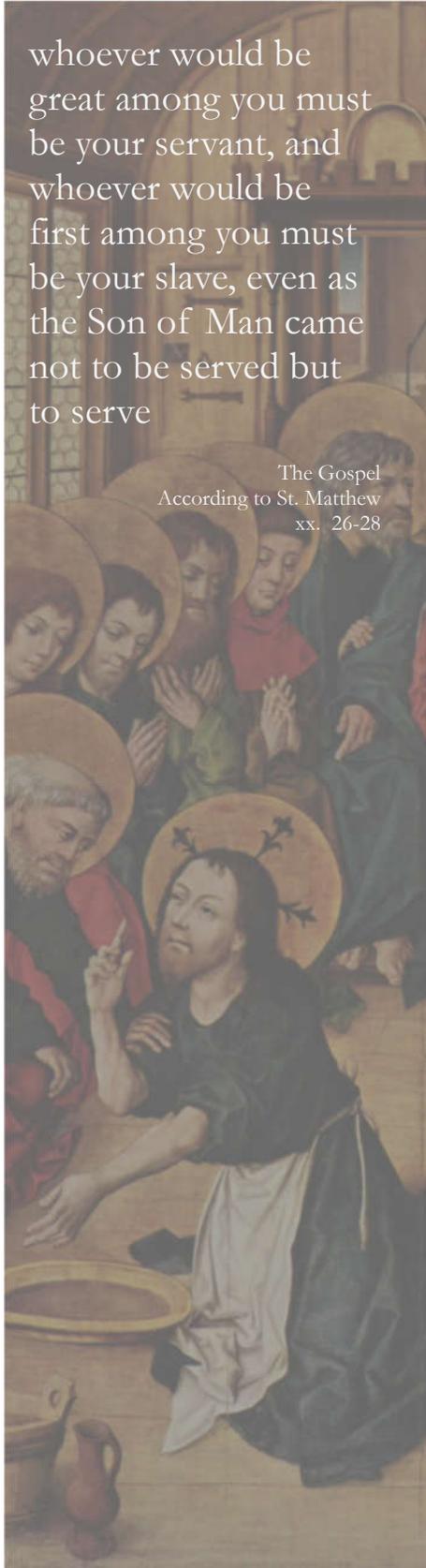


THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN CHURCH

whoever would be
great among you must
be your servant, and
whoever would be
first among you must
be your slave, even as
the Son of Man came
not to be served but
to serve

The Gospel
According to St. Matthew
xx. 26-28



GIVING THANKS

Over the last eight months or so the Orthodox Anglican Church has been celebrating fifty-five years of proclaiming Christ in Word and Sacrament. While we can be thankful for all the years God has given us, I want to especially express my gratitude for His goodness and blessings this year. When I think of all God's blessings these last few months I am almost overwhelmed with gratitude.

We have many reasons to be thankful. 2019 was another year of solid growth in our presbytery, and maybe more significantly, there is a previously elusive degree of stability. Over the years the Orthodox Anglican Church has had many successful clergy gatherings, but our Lenten Clericus and Fall clericus this year were indisputably the best ever. I am also profoundly grateful to all those who contribute financially to the Orthodox Anglican Church. The jurisdiction has doubled its budget in just the last few years, this has enabled us to do more here in the U.S., and around the world. The Orthodox Anglican Communion is also growing, and Lord willing I will soon make my first visit to Ecuador to attend the synod of our new member jurisdiction in that country.



11/3 Archbishop Gordon & Mrs. Janet Gordon

There are also a few individuals that I feel compelled to thank. I am forever grateful to my wife of nearly 3 decades. The last two years I have been in Africa on the date of our wedding anniversary, for this and all her sacrifices for Christ I give thanks. For Dean Denny Trousdale and all the ways in which he has labored and sacrificed on behalf of the Orthodox Anglican Church, and Saint Andrew's Theological College and Seminary, I give thanks. To Dr. James Theuer Esq., John and Leota Folsom, and every member of the senior leadership of the Orthodox Anglican Church, I thank you for partnering with me in this ministry.

May God bless you,

† Thomas E. Gordon

FAMILY

THE VERY REVD DENNY TROUSDALE



In October I had the chance to attend the African Conference of Bishops meeting in Ghana, West Africa. This was my first trip to Africa, and my first trip overseas with the Orthodox Anglican Communion. Archbishop Gordon asked me to write a few words about my experience, but immediately upon my return I was at a loss for words, for me the experience was at least temporarily indescribable. Now, after a few weeks of mentally and spiritually processing the trip, I would describe my experience with the single word: *family*.

Although I am called father, and our local parish has always felt like family to me, I have a much deeper and more profound appreciation for the church as a family after my time in Ghana. While there I witnessed the unifying power of the Holy Spirit, which knows not the barrier of tribe, national borders, and oceans.

Upon our arrival, after a 20+ hour and 4500-mile trip, the hours and miles quickly melted away. Because I realized immediately that I was among brothers and sisters there, all of us being part of the one body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Day in and day out, throughout the conference meetings, meeting breaks, at our daily mass, and during meals I never felt like a stranger. While among our brethren in Africa I never felt out of place, never experienced an awkward moment, and I felt completely at home.

During the conference meetings I served as the secretary for the Metropolitan Archbishop. Because of this I was fortunate enough to observe and learn from the bishops of many of our African jurisdictions. Almost all the delegates in attendance preached or taught on pertinent and vital subjects. I think everyone in attendance was edified and considered the conference a huge success. The conference concluded with a public resolution affirming the principals of the Orthodox Anglican Communion.

The personal highlight of my trip was the opportunity to preach and Celebrate Holy Communion at the Parish Church of Transfiguration, in Effia Kuma, Takoradi. The host Rector, Archdeacon Stephen Kwame Boakye, could not have been more hospitable. I also served at the Altar with the Revd Father John Ernest Koku and MC Jacob. Despite being unfamiliar with some of their service, they kept me on track. Serving with, and next to these Holy men of God was as natural as serving next to Canon James Ward in Bryson City, North Carolina. Before I left, they made me affirm publicly that the Parish Church of the Transfiguration was now my adopted home parish.

In summary, the Orthodox Anglican Communion in Africa is proclaiming Christ in Word and Sacrament. Our leadership there is helping produce a bountiful harvest, I have now seen firsthand the impact that the Orthodox Anglican Communion makes in Africa. We confess one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; and now I appreciate more than ever that we are **one family**.



Top: Most of the episcopal delegates to the African Conference of Bishops are here pictured with the young men who participated in the Sunday Mass as servers. Our jurisdiction in Ghana is exemplary in its use of young men to assist in their worship services. The Most Revd Edward Minnah, the 2nd Presiding Bishop of the Orthodox Anglican Church of Ghana, was the Celebrant, and Archbishop Gordon provided the homily. **Bottom:** Dean Denny Trousdale poses with some of the parish family of the Church of the Transfiguration, in Effia Kuma, Takoradi, Ghana. Dean Trousdale is the vice-chairman of the National Council of the Orthodox Anglican Church, and also serves as vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saint Andrew's Theological College and Seminary.

Archbishop Gordon can be reached by phone at 704-807-9773 (U.S.), and by email at tgordon@orthodoxanglican.net
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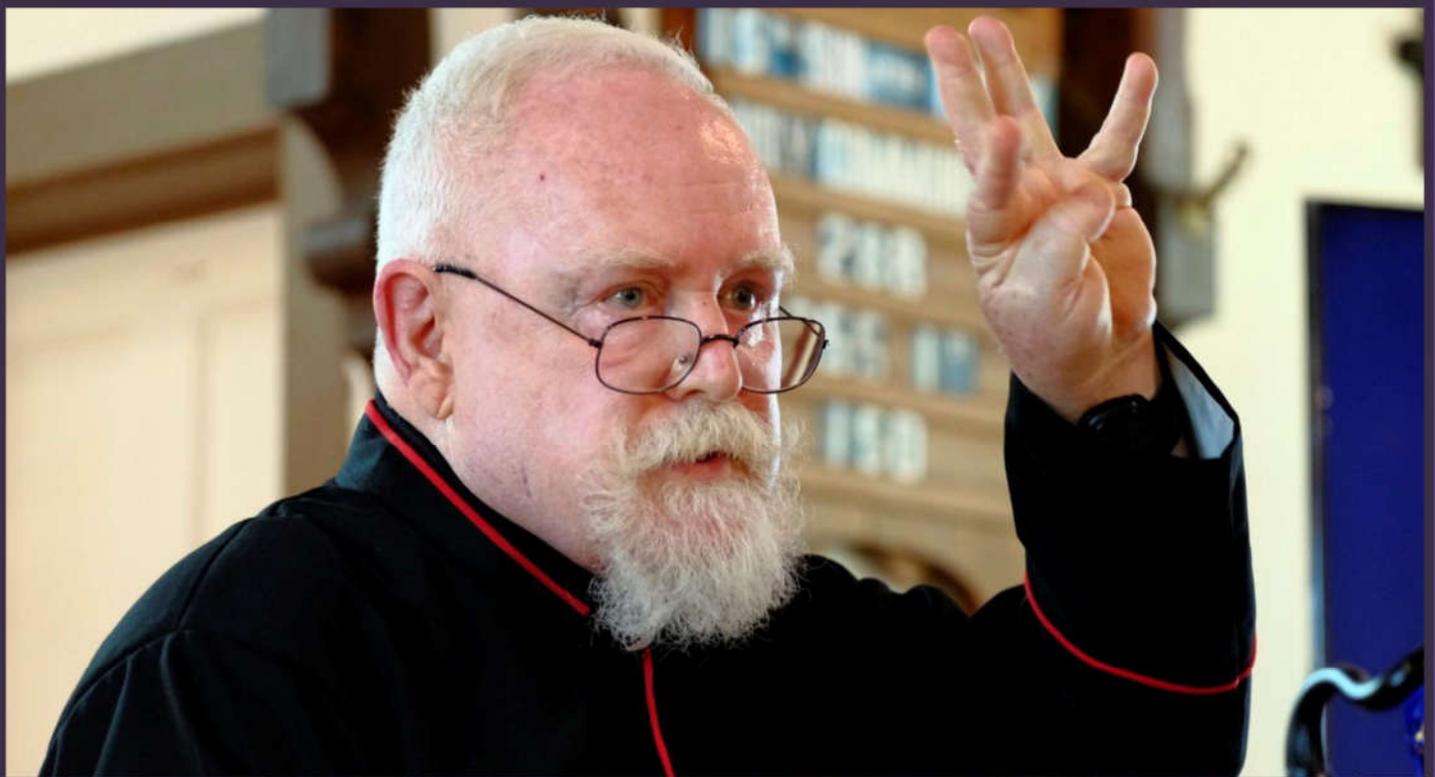
Top Left: The Ordination of Priests 10/6/19. On Sunday following the Fall Clericus The Revd John Kincaid, and the Revd Dr Eric Pierce were ordained to the Holy Priesthood. **Top Right:** 10/5/19, The Rt Revd Robert Todd Giffen (APA) preaches at a service of Morning Prayer, during the service he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree (H.C.) from St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary. **Bottom Right:** Father Chris Little provides excellent instruction during the Fall Clericus. **Bottom Left** 10/6/19, The ordinand's hands are anointed with holy oil, and wrapped in a maniturgium.

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INGRATITUDE

“Ingratitude is an insensibility of kindnesses received, without any endeavour either to acknowledge or repay them. Ingratitude sits on its throne, with pride at its right hand and cruelty at its left, worthy supporters of such a state. You may rest upon this as a proposition of an eternal unfailing truth, that there neither is, nor ever was any person remarkably ungrateful, who was not also insufferably proud; nor, convertibly, any one proud, who was not equally ungrateful. For as snakes breed in dunghills not singly, but in knots, so in such base noisome hearts, you shall ever see pride and ingratitude indivisibly wreathed, and twisted together. Ingratitude overlooks all kindnesses, but it is, because pride makes it carry its head so high. Ingratitude is too base to return a kindness, and too proud to regard it; much like the tops of mountains, barren indeed, but yet lofty; they produce nothing, they feed nobody, they clothe nobody, yet are high and stately, and look down upon all the world about them.”

-Robert South+ (1634-1716)



Top: 10/5/2019, The Revd Dr William Mouser, host Rector of our Fall Clericus, speaks on the final day of the clericus. His address has been made available on YouTube. **Bottom:** 10/5/2019, Most of the clergy in attendance at the Fall Clericus pose for a group picture. The clericus was also attended by OAC laity, local professors and seminarians, and some of our traditional Lutheran friends. The host parish provided a lovely setting for all of the weekends activities. Attendees were also treated to a number of delicious meals, the Texas style hospitality was exceptional.

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Top: 11/3/19 The Revd Carl G. Baxter is ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Father Baxter is currently assisting at Saint Philip the Evangelist Anglican Church. **Bottom Right:** There is a deacon's stole that has been passed from deacon to deacon in our jurisdiction for almost two decades now. When the deacon in possession of the stole is ordained to the priesthood it is passed to another deacon. On behalf of Father John Kincaid, Canon Darnell presents the Revd Ric Smith with that deacon's stole. Embroidered on the stole is the name of every man that has had the privilege to wear it, and their ordination dates. **Bottom Left:** The Revd Walker "Brad" Davis passed away on October 14, AD 2019. This photo was taken just a few days earlier at the Fall Clericus. Deacon Davis was ordained in January of 2018, and has since served as the deacon assisting at Saint Athanasius Anglican Church in Waxahachie, Texas. He is already sorely missed.

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THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN CHURCH

GENERAL CONVENTION

WEEKEND

APRIL 24-26 AD 2020

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN CHURCH Important Dates in 2020

March 6-8, 2020 Aspirants Seminar, St Phil's, Charlotte, NC

March 12-14, 2020 Lenten Clericus, St Phil's, Charlotte, NC

April 24-26, 2020 General Convention Weekend, Myrtle Beach, SC

August 7-9, 2020 Liturgical Seminar for Deacons, St Phil's, Charlotte, NC

August 14-16, 2020 Liturgical Seminar for Priests, St Phil's, Charlotte, NC

Oct 8-10, 2020 Fall Clericus, TBD

November 6-8, 2020 Liturgical Seminar, TBD

Social Media Quotables:

**“Tradition is the means by
which the vitality of the
past enriches the life of
the present.”**

-T.S.Eliot

Prayer Book Vocabulary

Property– distinctive characteristic

Substance– essential nature

Vainglory– empty conceit, boasting

Privy Conspiracy– secret plotting

Kindly-natural