



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

January 11, 2011

To the Clergy, Vestries and People of:

Church of the Apostles
Church of the Epiphany
The Falls Church
St. Margaret's Anglican Church

St. Paul's Church
St. Stephen's Anglican Church
Truro Church

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As many of you have already heard, Judge Bellows found against our churches and in favor of The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in the lawsuits that TEC and the Diocese filed against the congregations.

I want to convey to all of you who are affected by last night's court ruling how profoundly moved I am by your bold stand for the Gospel. You are a witness to many as you remain steadfast in your faith in Jesus Christ.

The ruling stirs many deep feelings, yet we know that our Lord is mightily at work. The Apostle Paul knew great hardship and disappointment and loss, but he knew a greater reality, as well. He knew the transforming power of Jesus Christ in the midst of adversity. He testified to that when he wrote, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5)

As we've said all along, the real issue is not property, but our commitment to the truth of the Scriptures and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our trust is in the Lord who is ever faithful. He is in control and He will enable you to carry forward your mission for His glory and the extension of His Kingdom.

Be assured that your brothers and sisters in this Diocese and in the Anglican Church in North America continue to stand with you and pray for you.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey