



## From the President of CCN-NA: *Our Partners in South Africa*



In January, 2016 I traveled to South Africa in my role as President of the CCN-NA to attend a meeting of the International Representatives of the Community of the Cross of Nails. We gathered as representatives from the U.K., Germany, Eastern Europe, South Africa and the U.S. for our biennial meeting. The gathering was a chance to hear about the network and find common cause with the work and staff at Coventry Cathedral.

We visited local centers and met with CCN members. The group learned of the decades long struggle to reclaim the land that had been lost by the local colored population in the 1950's when the Group Areas Act forcibly moved families to the Cape Flats. We traveled an hour outside of Cape Town to the town of Paarl and Ascension Church to present a new cross of nails to the congregation after the previous cross had been stolen. We also visited two schools that are ICONS schools.

### Spring 2016

#### In this Issue:

<b>Our Partners in South Africa</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>New CCN Partner</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Member Dues</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Loving Neighbors</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>CCN-NA Intern Update</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Save the Dates:

**Coventry Pilgrimage:** Sept 20-23

**2016 Board Meeting:** Dec 2-3

*Almighty God, who through the life, death and resurrection of your son Jesus Christ, has committed us to the ministry of reconciliation through forgiveness and love: Give us confidence in your external power to heal, of which Christ's cross is a sign for us. Bless, in his name, the Community of the Cross of Nails throughout the world, and enable its members to be witnesses of your work among us. Unite us in a sacred fellowship to further your purposes of healing, and enable all to know that we are your disciples because we love one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



*International Representatives  
in South Africa*



*Child photographed at  
Khayelitsha, where we visited  
the Fikelala Children's Home*

## **From the President of CCN-NA: Our Partners in South Africa (continued)**

We gathered at St. Mark's Anglican Church in the District Six area of Cape Town to meet with Christian and Muslim youth and to visit a local mosque. From St. Mark's we walked to the Al-Azhar Mosque and entered its worship space. The mosque is a reminder of the unique centuries old history of Muslims living peacefully and co-existing alongside Christians and Jews in the melting pot that is Cape Town.

From there we visited St. George's Anglican Cathedral in downtown Cape Town, the site of many anti-apartheid protests, the ministry of Desmond Tutu, and courageous HIV-AIDS education and outreach through the years at the height of the epidemic.

On my last night in Cape Town, I had the opportunity to hear a talk from Fr. Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest of international renown for his work as a liberation activist and a reconciler. Michael lost both hands and one eye in a mail bomb sent to him while he was living in Zimbabwe just months before Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990. He is an amazing speaker

and inspiring person who has claimed a new identity after his own personal tragedy.

My general and lasting impressions of my visit was to see up close how South Africa is living through the days after Nelson Mandela. Though the evils of apartheid are behind them, the residue and impact of that system of racial cleansing and social engineering are still very much in sight. It is as if the people of South Africa reached their Promised Land after years of oppression, led by their Moses figure Mandela, only to find many new challenges in building a just society in the new land.

I continue to be moved and inspired about how individuals and communities gain strength through the iconic Coventry cross of nails. It continues to invite people to imagine a different kind of future. It offers them a way to share their stories and voices with others around the world. Forgiveness, in the end, is the only way forward. But it does not come quickly or cheaply.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

---

## New CCN Partner: Holy Trinity Gainesville, Florida

### New Partner in Florida

On April 17, 2016 we welcomed Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Gainesville, Florida, USA as a new partner into the Community of the Cross of Nails. Dean John of Coventry Cathedral had the privilege of presenting the cross himself on his most recent trip to the United States. Holy Trinity has been a leader in the local community in gathering unity and peace services to respond to the inflammatory actions of Gainesville's Terry Jones and his threats to burn a Quran. Holy Trinity has also been active in reaching the CCN partners in Cuba and continuing to lay the groundwork for reconciliation between the U.S. and Cuba and our church communities. Marilyn Peterson, a CCN board member, is Coordinator for International Relations for the Episcopal Bishop of Cuba. We invite you to give a warm welcome to Holy Trinity and pray for the continued work in Gainesville and beyond.



*Dean John blesses a  
Cross of Nails at  
Holy Trinity  
Episcopal Church  
April 17, 2016*

---

### 2016 Board Meeting

You are invited  
to attend our board meeting

**December 2-3, 2016**

at the Center for Anglican  
Communion Studies at the  
Virginia Theological Seminary  
in Alexandria, Virginia.

More news to follow!

---

### Membership Dues

Membership dues and other gifts help fund the reconciliation ministry at Coventry Cathedral and go towards the support of our American intern. They provide for a tangible way for each of us to strengthen the work of this global network.

Please return the form included in this Newsletter. An even better way to give is to visit our website at <http://www.crossofnails-na.org/> and contribute online through PayPal. Giving online provides you with a quick and easy receipt for your tax records.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



---

## Loving Neighbors

During 2016, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, has been on a journey to learn more about Islam, to counter fear and become better neighbors.

During April 22–24, Pullen hosted guest speaker Imam Abdullah Antepli for its W.W. Finlator Lectures in Faith and Social Justice. Dr. Finlator, minister at Pullen 1956–1982, was known for his activism on a variety of social justice issues.

Turkish-born Imam Antepli has been a pioneer in Muslim chaplaincies at several universities and divinity schools. Pullen is fortunate to have him nearby at Duke Divinity School and Duke Islamic Studies Center, where he teaches, engages, persuades, and shares Muslim perspectives on faith, history, spirituality, and social justice. Recently, he—alongside Pullen's pastor, Dr. Nancy Petty—also has spoken out against North Carolina's House Bill 2, legislation which has spotlighted the state's treatment of the transgender community. Thus, the Finlator weekend wove together the two themes of Islam and social justice.

The Imam's Friday night lecture (see [video](#) link below) was tied to Pullen's historical commitment to prophetic ministry: "When there is a need for a prophet, by definition, things are not right." To emphasize common roots and current interests, he told stories about four prophets important to Christianity and Islam: Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed. His final point was a call to action.

"If we believe that a similar kind of prophetic mission is given to 21st-century Christians and Muslims, I want to see where this prophetic voice should be in our community, and where the prophetic pull of justice, fairness, equality, and calling people to God should be taking place.... How can we make neighborly relationships in this broken time of ours?"



*Lecture on prophetic voices and leadership*

"...It is morally, ethically incumbent upon all of us, to go one more mile, or a few more miles, beyond our comfort zone. What does Pullen Church, and what does its leadership, represent to take this prophetic message, and do something about this? Let's resurrect the spirit of prophethood.... and fight any form of hate, bigotry, racism, discrimination, and oppression.... Until and unless we are as dedicated and motivated and active and hardworking as the fringe crazies of our communities, we will not be able to call the prophetic tradition into our midst."



---

## Loving Neighbors (continued)

In a two-hour session on Saturday, Imam Antepli gave a 20-minute explanation of the tenets and pillars of Islam, followed by an open-microphone question-and-answer session about any topics related to Islam that the participants wanted to ask. The conversation ranged from the Qu'ran, to arts and culture, the effects of colonialism, the roles and dress of women, the proportion of African slaves who were Muslim, the community functions of mosques in the United States, and the effects of political oppression in Muslim societies.



*Follow-up questions after  
the group Q&A*

In Imam Antepli's Sunday sermon (see [video](#) link below), "God's Fingerprints," he spoke passionately about the need to constantly listen and watch for signs that God is doing something new, and to apply new scientific knowledge to benefit humanity and society: "God says to David, 'The old songs are fine, but you have to change some of them. In light of the new fingerprints and signs I have given and shown you, sing me some new songs.'"

Pullenites expressed their gratitude for Dr. Antepli's friendship and inspiration. Undoubtedly these two imams (see photo) will continue to help their communities seek paths to reconciliation.



*After worship on Sunday:  
Nancy Petty & Abdullah Antepli*

Ms. Erin Newton

---

### Video Links from Article:

**Imam Antepli's Friday Lecture:**  
[www.pullen.org/?s=Antepli](http://www.pullen.org/?s=Antepli)

**Imam Antepli's Sunday Sermon:**  
[www.pullen.org/2016/04/24/sermon-by-imam-abdullah-antepli-finlator-lecture-series/](http://www.pullen.org/2016/04/24/sermon-by-imam-abdullah-antepli-finlator-lecture-series/)

---

## CCN-NA Intern Update

My time at Coventry Cathedral has been marked by a number of opportunities for personal growth, challenge, and vocational discernment. As I graduated from seminary last May, I wondered if I would be able to find a place that was living the call that I felt God was placing on my heart. It has been a remarkable journey to take part in the life and ministry of Coventry Cathedral, a sacred place that is a witness to the way the journey of reconciliation can transform relationships and communities. Much of my day to day work at the Cathedral revolves around hospitality and programme development of St Michael's House, an international centre for peace and reconciliation. My personal passions for teaching and creating intentional spaces for people to gather for conversation and study have been sharpened by my work in St Michael's House. Through our offering of lectures and courses on the theology and practice of reconciliation, I've been able to observe the way that creating space for encounter can reform how we begin to view the story of 'the other'.

I recently was able to lead 'Roundtable Worship', a gathering of people in a circle for prayer, song, and conversation, at our May 2016 Community of the Cross of Nails Pilgrimage. Together we explored the ways that we could live reconciliation. How do we embody the practice of reconciliation in our homes, communities, and world? The opportunity to facilitate this circle conversation is exemplary of how Coventry Cathedral and the Reconciliation Ministry Team allow its interns to use and hone the gifts they have. I'm grateful for the support of the North American Community of the Cross of Nails, because without it I would not have the opportunity to continue my discernment into the ministry in a place that provides creative space to live out my call.



*Intern, Haley Jones, in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral*

Haley Jones

We are pleased to announce that Haley Jones will be staying on for one more year in Coventry as our CCN-NA Intern.

## UNA LETANIA DE RECONCILIACION

Esta letanía es adaptada de la Letanía por la Reconciliación de Coventry, Inglaterra, la cual se recita todos los viernes al mediodía en Coventry ante el Altar de Reconciliación en el santuario de la vieja catedral.

*Todos han pecado y están lejos de la presencia gloriosa de Dios (Romanos 3:23)*

El odio que divide nación de nación, raza de raza, clase de clase.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

El codicioso deseo de la gente y naciones de poseer lo que no es suyo.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

La ambición que explota la labor de hombres y mujeres y devasta la Tierra.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

Nuestra envidia del bienestar y la felicidad ajena.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

Nuestra indiferencia por la grave situación del desamparado y el desplazado.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

La codicia que deshonra los cuerpos de hombres, mujeres y niños.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

La soberbia que nos lleva a confiar solamente en nosotros, y no en Dios.

**Padre, Perdónas.**

*Sean buenos y compasivos unos con otros, y perdónense mutuamente, como Dios los perdonó a ustedes en Cristo. Amén (Efesios 4:32).*



---

## CCN North America: Board of Directors

### Officers

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton,  
President

The Rev. Robert T. J. Childers,  
Vice President

Ms. Angela Wiggins,  
Treasurer

Ms. Marilyn Peterson,  
Secretary

### Board of Directors

Ms. Erin Newton

The Very Rev. John McGuire

The Rev. Dr. Matilda E. G. Dunn

Ms. Marilyn Peterson, Esq.

The Very Rev. Walter B. A.  
Brownridge

Ms. Pearl Chin

The Very Rev. John P. Downey

Ms. Angela Wiggins

The Rev. Kimberly S. Jackson

The Rev. Sarah Buxton-Smith



*Board Members  
meeting in St. Louis  
Nov 14, 2015*

---

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

*-Ephesians 4:32*

---

## CCN – North America

---

218 Post Road  
Greenland, NH 03840