



**Report to the 2018 Synod of the Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA**  
**Bishop Steve Breedlove**  
**Bishop Ordinary**

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers in Christ,

With gratitude to God, I want to reflect with you on a year of continuing joy and fruitfulness in service to the Lord, his Church, and his mission. Some highlights and snapshots include:

- Finishing 2017 well, in abundant prayer with, and generosity from, you all.
- The monthly joy and pleasure of meeting with the Diocesan Council, people dedicated to serving Christ as voluntary leaders and guides, seeking God’s will, in our Diocese.
  - The ministry of Deacon Jan Buchanan as she served each month as “chaplain” to the Diocesan Council, beginning each meeting with terrific reflections from God’s word.
  - The ministry of Diocesan Council Vice-Chair, Glenn Wise, who facilitated our meetings, setting a tone of cheerfulness.
- The miraculous, incredible new beginnings of “Mission West Virginia” in January: a group of people who’ve been weeping and praying over that state for years gathered for a day of prayer and discussion leading up to Derek Robert’s ordination.
  - That ordination, when 8 people at 4:45 (“Oh no!”) turned in 135 people by 5:00 (“Praise God!”) – full of hope and joy for the power of the Gospel to be unleashed.
  - How a seed planted years ago in Beckley, WV, by Josiah and Sam Smith, their wives and children, was watered abundantly in that time – and then that seed was fertilized by the sacrificial partnership of brothers and sisters from Hope Mills, NC, and Winston Salem, NC, who began to travel each month over the summer to Beckley – and then how life began to emerge in the beginnings of a church plant that started meeting publicly in September.
- The sudden birth of a new full-blown mission in Louisville, the result of a true “Macedonian call” received through Art Going (stay faithful, people: you never know what will re-emerge years later).
- The incredible blessing of working for a whole year with a stable and gifted team of staff and leaders, each of whom invests heart, soul, mind, and strength sacrificially for the sake of the mission and people of the Diocese.
  - The kindness and humor of the staff I serve with.
  - The raising up of a new Canon for Prayer Ministries, Deacon Teresa Kincaid, and her energetic multiplication of prayer efforts in the Diocese.
  - The first “Five-Year Staff Strategic Planning Process,” begun in early May, ended in late August, leading to a fantastic vision for growth – in both breadth and depth.
  - New rhythms of staff work.



**DIOCESE** *of*  
**CHRIST** *our* **HOPE**

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- GAFCON 2018 in Jerusalem.
- A renewed and reinvigorated vision for relationship and partnership with Rwanda through Archbishop Mbanda.
- Three absolutely terrific Regional Retreats focused on mission expansion.
- Three absolutely terrific Clergy Care Retreats – rich, rich times in the word, prayer, and friendship.
- Week after week of great parish visits, punctuated by dozens of confirmations.
- CAMP BOOYAH!!
- Terrific strategic new leaders for children (Meg Greto), Youth (Drew Hill), and College/University (Elliott Simko).
- The welcoming of Emmanuel Anglican Community Church, a Kenyan immigrant parish in Raleigh, and their dear Rector, Lawrence (and Grace) Mbugua.
- The emerging gift of Bishop Andudu Elnail and the explosive possibilities of new immigrant churches – opening up the prospect of a very different face in our Convocation and Synod within 2-3 years.
- Emerging collaborative partnerships in church planting, church planter training, and leadership development with the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, the Diocese of the Carolinas, and the Anglican Diocese of New England.
- Another anointed and rich Ordinands' Retreat in August.
- Personally . . . our 13<sup>th</sup> grandchild (Jack Robert Breedlove), an 8-day Silent Retreat in Gloucester, the first month of our sabbatical (thanks to the generosity of people within the Diocese), my incredible wife of near-46 years, God's forever faithfulness and mercy . . .

I could write double, triple, the highlights and blessings from this year. I could name nearly every one of the clergy I am privileged to serve. I could cite all our churches and their lay leaders. I could detail the presence and power of God at ordinations, installations, and dedications.

Ministry is stretching and sacrificial. Ministry means “giving your life away.” Ministry means participating in the life of Christ in the world, for the life of the world.

Love in Christ to the Diocese of Christ our Hope,

Bishop Steve