

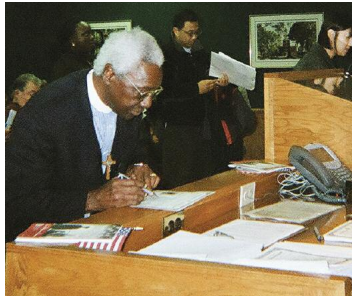
## Beloved Missionary Becomes Naturalized Citizen

by the Rev. Elizabeth Rust Masterson, St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church

An unforgettable moment on an unforgettable day! On January 28, the Rev. Canon Joseph and Maria Tucker rode to Philadelphia through the fog and freezing rain, so that Joseph could take the oath to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. Maria has also passed the interview and test for citizenship, but her date to take the oath has not been scheduled yet.

Canon Joseph and Maria, Volunteers in Mission with The Episcopal Church, immigrated to Delaware from Sierra Leone. They fled a civil war in fear of their lives, but in recent years they have returned to Sierra Leone as missionaries. Various churches throughout the diocese, as well as individual Episcopalians, have supported their work. Canon Joseph also serves as a supply priest. Both he and Maria readily share their love of God and their faith in God's goodness.

They eagerly await the date of Maria's naturalization, so both



*Signing Certificate of Citizenship*

can obtain their U.S. passports and receive approval from The Episcopal Church for another mission trip. Christians in Sierra Leone are working hard to rebuild their former country. Canon Joseph and Maria have been part of that effort and hope to continue to do mission work there. The Diocese of Delaware has created the Tucker Fund to which churches and individuals can contribute. In this small way we can become part of the global mission work of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

This article was originally published by the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware in the March, 2009 issue of its newspaper, *The Delaware Communion*.