

Anglican Fellowship OF

PRAYER

Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER—Vol. 23, No. 2

FALL 2015



Photo by
Simon Chambers

MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR Archdeacon Paul Feheley

The American Episcopal priest and teacher John Westerhoff tells the story of being at an informal Eucharist one day when he invited people to offer prayers for people in need. A little child had been playing in the corner; seemingly uninterested in what was occurring in the liturgy. Suddenly she spoke, saying, “My daddy needs prayer but he won’t tell you”. Going completely red in the face the embarrassed father summoned his inner courage and began to speak about enormous difficulties the family was having with work, money and a variety of other problems. As the father began to cry, feeling a relief of having shared such significant burdens, his daughter ran to him and gave him a huge hug. The father said to her, “You are so lovely, but you are going to hug me to death.” to which the little one responded “No daddy, I am hugging you to life”.

Over the past 18 months I have been privileged to serve as the National Director of the Fellowship of Prayer. In the course of that work I have seen people coming alive in prayer as they experience in their own way being ‘hugged to life’.

In our conference last June there were wonderful opportunities for people to share and pray together. Through watching and participating as fellowship developed, I could see lives opening up and individuals moving closer to God through prayer. The hospitality of the

**Watch
For
New
Logo!**

**New Format Coming
Look for changes in 2016**

people of Newfoundland was so gracious that it allowed a true sense of the love of the gospel to be experienced. The energy and care that was brought in by all the delegates helped the executive team to determine new directions. This was a true gift, for it allowed us to witness and feel what a praying community could accomplish when on its knees and listening to God, instead of on its feet and telling God what we think.

Later in June I attended The Episcopal Church convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. One of the most exciting parts was the prayers of the people offered during the morning Eucharist (attended by almost 5000 people daily!) Out of a desire to offer inclusion to members all around the United States, a dedicated group had developed a method of receiving their prayers that they might be included at the Eucharist. The sense of the “whole” church participating in the prayers through words, pictures and actions was incredibly refreshing and spirit moving. We are working with those involved to bring this gift of prayer to next years General Synod.

At the beginning of October I was in Winnipeg to co-lead a workshop on music and prayer. The diocesan AFP group did a marvellous job in promoting and encouraging people to come - and they did! I was able to spend some quality time with a number of parish prayer representatives and hear of the very fine work that they do so faithfully, in many cases on a daily basis. They offer prayers in a variety of ways, and encouragement to those in need who have asked to be remembered.

My first 18 months have shown me that prayer is alive and well. My hope is that in your prayers you may experience in your own way being ‘hugged to life’.

Thoughts from the AFP Executive Chair

The Reverend Valerie Kenyon



What an absolute pleasure it was to meet so many of you at our June Consultation in Newfoundland. While the weather outside was a bit brisk at times the fellowship and the warmth of community within the Lavrock Centre was toasty warm. It is of utmost importance to the National Executive that what we are offering is remaining relevant and is of good service to Diocesan Representatives, Parish Representatives, and our many members from sea to sea to sea. Consultations provide us with an opportunity to check in and see just how we are doing.

One of the topics for discussion in June was our current model of membership. Since our beginnings we have had a particular style of membership that invited those interested in prayer to gift AFP (Canada) with a minimum annual donation of \$35.00. At our recent gathering in Newfoundland, there was wide support for a new, more inclusive model in which Membership would be open to *all* praying people who are drawn to this ministry and who desire to be part of a growing body of disciples with all members regularly receiving news and access to a wide variety of resources, as well as other prayer related items from time to time.

If we change to this model, you may be asking yourself, just how will the work and ministry of the National Executive which has no outside means of financial support continue? To that end, moving forward, in lieu of a fixed annual membership fee, we will instead be extending an invitation to all our praying partners, to invest ourselves through the resources that God has given us by sharing our energy, our prayers, and our money, in this work to which God has called us all by making a donation of any size for which you will receive a tax receipt. More details of this process are included in our first "Come Pray With Us 2015", which you will be receiving with your fall newsletter.

As we broaden our membership base, increasing awareness nationwide of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada), our core mandate remains to support, encourage, inform and inspire all who would wish to deepen their knowledge and experience of prayer. We deeply appreciate the ongoing commitment to this important work of so many of you.

Praying in Times of Change and Transition

Rev'd Anne Jaikaran: Exec. member AFP (Huron)



On Saturday October 3rd about 70 members of the diocese met at St. Anne's Church, Byron for an Anglican Fellowship of Prayer workshop on 'Praying in Times of Change and Transition' led by Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert of the S.S.J.D. In this very informative workshop Sister Elizabeth Ann addressed both changes in our personal lives and in the lives of our faith communities. She drew upon both the work of the late Phyllis Tickle, 'The Great Emergence' and William Bridges, 'Transitions' and 'The Way of Transition - Embracing Life's Most Difficult Moments.' She named Phyllis Tickle as one of the church's prophets and spoke of her assertion that the church has gone through epic changes approximately every 500 years or 'grand rummage sales' and that we are presently in the midst of one.

We do not know what kind of church will emerge from this sale as we discard what is no longer of use to make room for the new but Sister Elizabeth Ann used the work of William Bridges to make very practical suggestions as to how we can best work our way through times of transition both personally and communally to reach a positive outcome.

She explained to us that Bridges works from the assertion that every time of transition starts with an ending which is followed by an empty or fallow time and is completed by a new beginning. We therefore need to first acknowledge that an ending is taking place and that we need to let go of some things before we can take on something new. It is healthy to grieve the past but we also need to see the good in the new and we need to do the necessary work during the time of transition so we are ready to take on the new.

Sister Elizabeth Ann had a check list of helpful steps to take and also spent some time on the benefits of prayer during this time. She suggested meditating on psalms, hymns and well-known prayers. As she told us, regular prayer throughout the day can anchor us in the present moment and soak us in the scriptures. She referred to the psalms as Jesus' prayer book and recommended them as a way into contemplation while she called praying the hymns a duet with the Holy Spirit.

I believe we all came away with much useful information to help us deal with the many changes we encounter throughout our personal lives and in the life of the church. We thank Sister Elizabeth Ann for the time she spent with us.

Come Pray With Us 2015

Annual Appeal Letter enclosed. It can also be found at www.anglicanprayer.org

Pray for the World's Refugees

The Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz

Listening God,

The entire world is speaking more and more of refugees.

We come to you knowing that throughout history, your people have been 'strangers' and 'aliens' in foreign lands; from the flood to the Exodus to Jesus' family fleeing into Egypt.

We come to you, Holy One, knowing that you hear all of our prayers.

Loving God, we now hold up in prayer all those who are this day impacted by armed conflict, political persecution, environmental devastation, or any other devastating reality that forces displacement.



We hold before you:

the more than 4 million Syrians who have become refugees in the past 4 years, and the 100,000 who have found relocation somewhere in the world.

the nearly 60 million people who have been forcibly displaced; refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, and stateless people.

the children, who make up more than half of all the displaced.

all those who are living in constant upheaval, uncertainty, and fear.

those for whom 'home' no longer exists, for whom chaotic instability is the only option.

We hold before you:

the people who are working to assist those in greatest need; providing for physical and psychological needs, and helping break down language and

political barriers.

the systems that were not designed to cope with the magnitude of our present reality.

We hold before you:

ourselves: opening our hearts and minds to remember that no one chooses to be a refugee; that we live comparably safe and stable lives; that we take countless liberties for granted.

our own fears, no matter how irrational: fear of change, fear of loss, fear of the unknown.

God of hope and healing, may we not feel guilt for our privilege, but rather be inspired to act.

May our prayers be felt from our hearts, may our prayers be heard from our lips, may our prayers be known by our actions.

Amen



Praying

**It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.**

—Mary Oliver—

Excitement! Excitement! Excitement!



What created such excitement? It was what happened at the recent **Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) consultation**, which took place at Lavrock in Newfoundland. The consultation brought together **Diocesan Prayer Representatives (DRs)** from across Canada who gathered to share what we have been doing and what we need to do to encourage folk to pray.

Each day started with a Gospel Based Discipleship (GBD) exercise which offered the thirty plus participants an opportunity to reflect and to share with each other what the Lord was saying to each of us, and what He was calling us to do as a result of reading a passage of scripture.

Music played a crucial role not only in our times of praise but also in our primary purpose of prayer. We were reminded that **the one who sings prays twice**. Under the outstanding leader-

ship of Archdeacon Paul Feheley, we were encouraged to concentrate on the words and tunes of the songs and hymns. Both the tune and the words each became a prayer.

Our Newfoundland hosts had arranged an afternoon bus tour of the local sights of St. John's which in spite of the wind and cold was fun and interesting. Our tour was enhanced by the surprising gift of song that our bus driver offered to us on several occasions. He began our tour with a traditional Newfoundland song and ended it by inviting us to join him as he sang "Breathe on Me Breath of God."

We were doubly blessed by the attendance of two Indigenous members, one from the Arctic and the other from Mishamikweesh. Our sister from Mishamikweesh revealed a depth of compassion that can only be said to reflect the compassion of Jesus as she wept for her unknown sister who had been brutally murdered in another community and then moved us to pray with her. There was a profound sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit as our agenda was superseded by this unexpected call to prayer.

There was, of course, time for fun and fellowship as Mrs. Noah made her appearance along with a local band which entertained us with traditional Newfoundland music and song.

Our minds were nourished through creative prayer workshops; our spirits were fed through prayer and praise; and our bodies were stuffed with good old fashioned Newfoundland food.

And so we prayed, we praised, we planned and at least one person was transformed resulting in the remark "I have never felt this good". And we prayed some more for "how good it is to praise our God" together.

Tony and Carol



DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES CONSULTATION IN PICTURES



New Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Kootenay

We welcome the Rev. Jane Bourcet



Jane is our new DR for the Diocese of Kootenay, which covers the southeastern section of BC. She has lived in Vernon BC, which is a small town at the north end of the Okanagan Valley, for the 32 years of her ordained life, attending and, at times, working at All Saints. She has worked as a teacher, an editor and writer for a church school curriculum, a grief counselor as well as being married with four grown children. At present Jane is the associate priest at All Saints.

Kootenay has had an active Spiritual Development Committee, which works a great deal like AFP in that it promotes prayer and spiritual practice throughout the diocese. They have written articles for their diocesan newspaper addressing different aspects of spirituality, sponsored Quiet Days, set up display tables for AFP, SSJD and Order of St. Luke at their Synod and have overseen a prayer vigil.

To quote Jane: "It has come as a great surprise and delight to discover AFP and the folks behind the really valuable resources AFP has created. I will enjoy being a part of an organization that is moving to meet the challenge of technological change and shifts in church life."

Diocese of Calgary

We welcome Mrs. Peti Webster

Peti is a member of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Okotoks, Alberta. She is the wife of Rev. Tim Webster. Peti became a Christian in the fall of 1987 and never looked back.



In 1996 after spending two years at Seminary in Ambridge, PA, Tim and Peti became long term Missionaries in San Tiago, Chile, South America. Eleven years spending time growing a parish and ministering to a wonderful and ever growing congregation, teaching, leading, nurturing, maturing their congregation on all

levels. Peti says she loved this time and misses her Chilean family.

At St. Peter's Peti leads the Music Ministry, a contemporary team of all ages (the youngest is twelve and the oldest a lot older). She also does some one-on-one counselling with youth and women. This year she will spend the third Sunday of each month teaching the children songs of worship in Sunday School which she is very much looking forward to.

"As the Pastor's wife", she says, "life is never dull and is

full of adventure and never ending involvement with our wonderful family at St. Peter's."

She joined AFP last year after a nudging from the Lord and a word from a friend. It has been a good decision and she looks forward to participating in sharing the importance of prayer with many in the years to come.

Diocese of British Columbia

We welcome the Rev. Heather Cutten

Heather was born in Nova Scotia and grew up in Halifax. When her husband and her were married about seven months they were sent to the West Indies with his job and lived there for five years. Their son was born there.

Heather and her husband lived in Winnipeg for a year where their first daughter was born. They then moved to Calgary and had their third child and lived there for about twenty-seven years.



Heather has been a secretary, decorator and now deacon. She worked for the Dept. of Education in Nova Scotia and CBC in Halifax. In both places she worked as a secretary. In Calgary Heather was decorator for Sears Canada.

Heather and her husband then moved to Salt Spring Island where they have been living for the past fifteen years. It was here where her journey started as a Deacon. She works out of St. Michael's and All Angels in Chemainus, B. C. with Reverend Michael Wimmer who is priest in charge there. Heather volunteers at the School Breakfast program, the Foodbank and the Neighbourhood House, all in Chemainus. Heather also does visitations to homes and to the Healthcare Centre and a private Home Care facility in Chemainus.

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

We welcome Ms. Christine Lynch



Christine lives in Harbour Grace, NL with her husband Don. They have two grown children, Kassandra and Cody. Christine has been active in many different roles in her local church of St. Paul's especially as Lay reader, with the ACW, and with the Sunday School.

In 2008 Christine began studying Associate in Theology courses at Queen's College, St. John's, NL while continuing to work full time. Christine felt a call to ordained ministry, so in 2014 she enrolled in full time studies at Queen's College.

Christine has worked as a member of the Diocesan

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New Diocesan Representatives

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committee for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer for the past three years under the leadership of Rev. Greg Mercer. Prayer is an important part of Christine's life, whether it be praising God for all his creation, thanking him for the many blessings, or asking for his help. She looks forward to working with the other members of the diocesan committee and with the parish reps to encourage prayer in the world around us.

THE ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER INVITES YOU TO THE 2016 BISHOP OF HURON'S PRAYER CONFERENCE

THE CELTIC WAY OF PRAYER:
*Deeply grounded in creation and
the ordinary*



**Saturday, May 7, 2016
10:00 a.m. * to 3:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Cathedral, London
\$20.00 Lunch included**

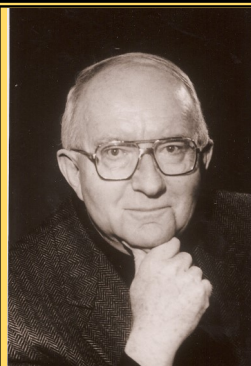
Join us as Bishop Barry Clarke, currently serving as Dean of our Cathedral, shares with us his experience of Celtic Spirituality. Bishop Clarke will be addressing us in the morning, at the mid-day Eucharist and at afternoon workshops.



* Doors open at 9:00 am for book and AFP Resource browsing and registration.

To register please contact: Rev'd Kim Metelka:

kametelka@gmail.com;
2896 Old Lakeshore Road,
Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0
519-869-2403 or text info.



**Please find
Herb O'Driscoll's article
on our website
[www.anglicanprayer.org/
afp_whatsnew.html](http://www.anglicanprayer.org/afp_whatsnew.html)**

Prayer Matters

Does it matter if I only pray at Sunday worship services?

Yes, I think it does matter!

We need to be connected to God as we go about our daily lives. More and more of us are keeping connected to our friends and business colleagues by electronic means (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), but we find it challenging to keep connected to God in prayer on our own.



Paul Dumbrille

One way of overcoming this is to become part of a group of others who come together regularly for prayer. Being part of a Prayer Group that meets to pray together can encourage us, and help us to keep our connection to the life-giving Spirit of God every day.

Why do we need Prayer Groups?

There are two ways to answer that question. One way deals with the needs of the individual, and the other way deals with the needs of the Church (as the Body of Christ in the world today). The first way involves the needs of pray-ers: the other way involves the need for prayers. One of the effective ways of carrying on prayer activity is in small groups.

Prayer Groups meet another need, which the Church today recognizes more and more. People may be regular in worship, and participate in corporate prayer, and they may or may not exercise personal prayer. Yet for many it is very useful to be part of a smaller group in which personal concerns may be expressed and prayed about. This desire to be part of a group much smaller than the worshipping body--the need for growth, for deepening our spiritual life--leads one to seek out other Christians who feel the pull of prayer. In a small group Christians can come together to share what each has learned, and to seek to learn and experience more about prayer, as well as to provide prayerful support for one another and the needs of others within the congregation.

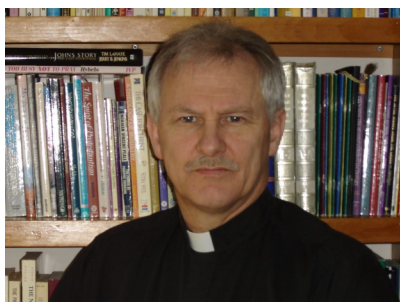
In forming a Prayer Group there are some things to consider such as: what is the particular purpose of the group; who belongs to the group; when and where will it gather; how long will each group session last; who will lead the group; and the need for the discussions and information about others to be kept confidential. Regardless of the answers to these questions, being in a Prayer Group is deeply rewarding and strengthens our connection to God.

Note: The AFP Pamphlet, "Prayer Groups", a "how to" booklet, provides assistants in setting up and sustaining a Prayer Group. It is available in the Resources pages of our website, www.anglicanprayer.org, or our Resource Coordinator resources@anglicanprayer.org.

Read more "*Prayer Matters*" articles on our website.

Unanswered Prayer

Rev. Gregory Mercer



This is a difficult topic and yet something needs to be said, however inadequate it may be. Hardly a week goes by without this topic coming up. People say to me “I pray, and pray, and pray and nothing happens.”

I have known people to be worn down by prayer and ready to quit. This is quite natural. One of the greatest prayer motivators is answered prayer. By contrast, our prayer life can take a nose dive when we are praying diligently, fervently and trustingly and nothing seems to happen. Then we began to make excuses for our prayers – or so it seems. “Probably I’m being too selfish” or “I don’t have enough faith.” This debilitating exercise can also lead us to justify God for unanswered prayer with statements such as “Well sometimes God says, No” or if the timing is not right God may say, “Not Yet.” And the one all-time justifying rationale, “God must be testing me.”

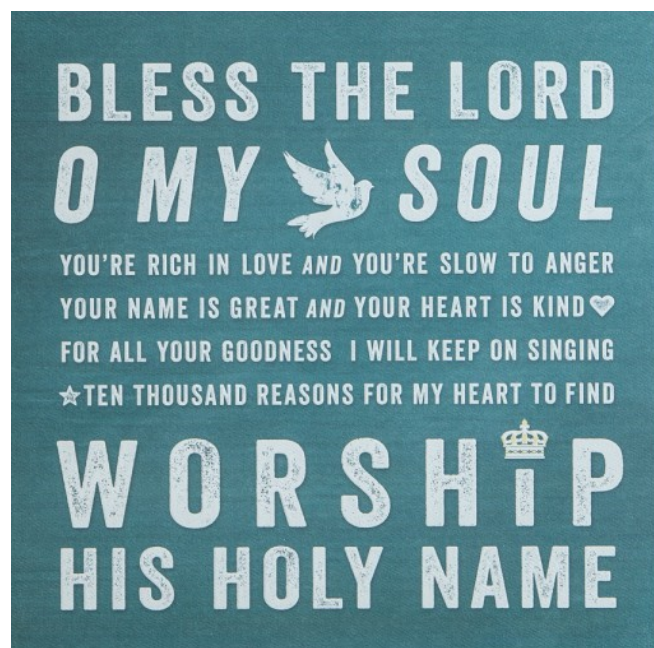
All this may be true and there are other valid reasons found in Scripture for unanswered prayer. There may be some unconfessed sin, or someone you need to forgive. Unconfessed sin cuts off our communication with God. When Jesus bore our sins on the cross he was cut off from the Father: “My God. My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” It may also be that you are asking for the wrong thing. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul who speaks about a “thorn in his flesh.” We know not what the thorn was only that Paul prayed for its removal which was denied. Instead the Lord spoke to him and said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2nd Corinthians 12:7b – 9).

But what could be so wrong about a prayer from a person in constant pain and wants to be set free from it. Or the depressed person who prays and prays because, and I quote, “I just want to be like normal people.” After all Jesus came to heal and Scripture is clear about what Jesus says: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks will receive” (Matthew 7:7-8). And again in the Gospel of John Jesus tells us to ask and we will receive (John 11:22, 15:7, 16:24).

There is no clear answer to this. Prayer remains a mystery. What is God’s will in any given situation? It is hard to believe that God would not want to answer the prayer of a parent wanting their child to be healthy and live a fruitful life. And if the child doesn’t recover, was that God’s will? These are genuine, first-order questions and concerns. Unanswered prayer then is both a mystery and an agony.

I have found that in my own prayer life when I agonize over something in prayer the situation sometimes gets worse. And the moment I let it go, it seems to get better. So what is God trying to tell me or is it another unsolved prayer mystery? What I do know is that to have faith doesn’t mean I have to badger God all the time. To have faith is to trust, which in everyday language simply means, “Lord, you know my heartache, you know my situation and so I just leave it with you.” That is to say I have to let go and trust God.

A visiting choir to our church sung a beautiful anthem with simple lyrics: “I believe in the sun when it doesn’t shine; I believe in love when it is not; I believe in God when he is silent.”



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