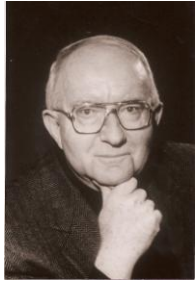


Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009



OBJECTS OF PRAYER **HERBERT O'DRISCOLL**

In my study there is a Celtic Cross. It stands on the window sill, behind it the beauty of our front garden. About twelve inches high, the upper circle firmly rests on the main body of the cross. It is a fitting symbol of a long tradition

reaching back about fifteen hundred years. Beginning in the ninth century, these great stone crosses began to be carved. Some say that at least one reason for the church of that time turning to stone as material for its art was that it made it difficult for the invading Vikings to take away anything so large and heavy.

On every surface of the Cross there is a carving. Most of the panels are of Biblical scenes. In the centre of the cross our Lord stands in the moment of the Last Judgment. Those who are invited to the feast are on his right. To his left are those who have been turned away. The scene is stark, simple and, if the truth be told, salutary as one looks at it.

To my right on the wall is a small but magnificent bronze of the Virgin and Child. Finally, on the remaining wall, above me as I sit at the computer, there is a life size face of the Christ in the mode of Orthodox iconography – a gift given to me by a friend who brought it from St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai. As always in such faces, the eyes are large, dark and luminous. One hand holds a heavily decorated volume, the other is formed into a quiet, almost furtive act of blessing, as if the gesture is between Christ and the receiver of the blessing.

Why do I mention these things in my study? Because these things are not just things. They are, of course, objects but they are much more. In a sense they are sacraments. I say this because I once had to learn my catechism by heart and, when asked "What is a Sacrament" I would stand and say, "*A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual meaning*". If that is the case then these things in my study are sacraments because for me they have become full of inward and spiritual meaning.

I have already mentioned how the face of our Lord speaks to me. His eyes hold me. He is present as companion, yet more than companion. It is a companionship before which I bow down, yet

- Continued on page 2 -



MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR **THE RT. REV. GARY WOOLSEY** **"DON'T FOCUS ON THE POT HOLE"**

For some of us the motorcycle season has just started and we are gearing up for another great summer of riding. But there are lessons to be

remembered and parking lot practice times to be scheduled. One of the skills in riding is this: Don't look at the obstacle in your path; because, if you do, you will hit it!! All bikers must learn and re-learn this basic skill in order to be safe on the road.

As I thought about this, I was reminded of the lesson in Matthew 14:22-33 when Jesus comes walking on the water to the disciples in the boat. Peter wanted to get out of the boat and walk to Jesus. So, with his focus on Jesus, he steps out and starts walking on the water. Then there is a critical piece in the story: he focuses on the wind and the waves, becomes frightened and begins to sink. This is so true in life for us: we let our focus shift from Jesus and start concentrating on all the troubles in our lives. This creates within us a 'sinking feeling' because we experience fear and little hope.

Now to the next part of the story - Peter refocuses on Jesus and calls out for help. Jesus' action is to reach out, grab him, and get him to safety in the boat. I recalled the words of Jesus: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' (Matthew 11:28-29)

I need to remind myself that when I start to get fearful and worried, it is usually because I have allowed myself to shift my focus and concentrate on the 'pot holes' of life. As long as I keep my focus there, then I will hit the pot hole and keep hitting it over and over again unless I practice a new technique - look past the pot hole; look in the direction I really want to go. If that direction is 'to love God and to love my neighbour' then I will not be afraid to refocus, ask for help and accept Christ's loving but firm hand which will bring me to where I need to be.

May God bless you in your journeys this summer.

+Gary

Bishop Gary Woolsey

AFP-Canada National Director

OBJECTS OF PRAYER

- Continued from page 1-

the urge to bow down does not lessen the sense of his being companion. Looking at his hand shaped in blessing points me to a gift quietly given but no less generous for its quietness and simplicity.

The Celtic cross is alive with carved panels. Every one tells a story from scripture. I realize that almost all writing I do involves the exploration of scripture. Their carving is my script. The panels of the stone cross are almost exactly the dimensions of my computer screen. Only time has passed, fifteen centuries of it. Nothing else has changed. The truth of the story, the names involved, the meanings taught by long ago monks, are the meanings I seek to give words to, words that at one and the same time are both contemporary and ancient. For me the gift of the Cross is the timeless story of the faith, asking – demanding – to be told again and again “until He come”.

The artist of the bronze of the Virgin and Child is Nell Murphy, her studio in a small town not far from my own growing up. She is more than artist because on the back she has included the prayer of St Bernard of Clairvaux that Dante places within his “Il Paradiso”. It is a tribute to the Virgin, and it ends with the words “In you more than in any other creature is mercy, pity and magnificence”.

Once again, as with the face of our Lord, I am shown both gentleness and great power present together. The Child stands very straight on his mother’s lap, his small arms outstretched in the attitude known in the Celtic Church as the Prayer of the Cross Vigil. At his waist his Mother holds him. Her arms are not around him. Her fingers don’t even meet, almost as if she is already preparing to let him go to what He must become for me and for all humanity.

Outward and visible signs with inward and spiritual meanings. More than objects these things can ignite fire in the mind. By their being present they can mediate a greater Presence. They, and objects like them, can become vehicles for prayerful meditation.

This article is taken from Herbert O'Driscoll's book PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS, a Path Book published in memory of Pat Curtis. A copy can be obtained from the Anglican Book Centre (www.afcanada.com) and from local church bookshops.

**CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE**

ESTHER JACKSON

Beginning in February '09 I am honoured to take on the role of Chairperson for AFP Canada National Executive. Reflecting on opportunities to witness to my faith, and the experience of God’s grace in my life, I have been aware of two somewhat remotely

connected events.

Through connection with friends of Armenian heritage, my husband Gordon and I have been invited to many Armenian services. In fact we are now on the mailing list. This spring, Bishop Bagrat Galstanian, Primate of the Canadian Diocese, celebrated the Liturgy in Calgary. In his sermon, he reminded us that when we break bread together in the Eucharist we are in the presence of our risen Lord, to receive the gift of life in the Body and Blood, blessed and broken for us. We are also in the company of Christians throughout the world. At any given moment, a congregation somewhere, in one of thousands of languages Christians are celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy, celebrating the presence of our Lord in their midst, in churches, monasteries, and homes.

As we are reminded of his presence within us, and among us, we are reminded that we are called to be witnesses to others. It is by the action of our lives, that we live out that mission.

The second event was a conversation in my art class. My art instructor, Kui is a young man originally from China. We have discussed the realm of spirituality at various times. On this occasion, he told me that he had been to a nondenominational church with a friend. Kui asked me if that service was Christian worship. I said that it was one form of Christian worship, and there are probably as many forms of Christian worship as there are churches in the city. He said that the service he went to was like a concert, and he questioned the exclusive nature of commitment. Following an invitation, he came to church with me. He enjoyed the service, found the music beautiful, and the congregation friendly. He said it was like a family! Kui is a young man searching for new and deeper meaning in his life.

Relationship and Harmony

Loving God, in the beginning you formed the universe and all of us in your image. Through your threefold community, Holy Trinity, you show us how to live together in birth, death, and new life. Thank you for putting the instinct to be in relationship into the very fabric of life— into animals, fish, fowl, plants, and rocks, too. One grain of sand does not a beach make. One star, not even the Sun, is a galaxy unto itself. Life-Giving Spirit, I lift up those leaders who use their knowledge and experience to divide people and nations. Will you so transform them that they may be people of the Peace that passes understanding? I look to the day when people of all races, places, economic means, religions, and sexual orientations may live in glorious harmony with each other and with you in this precious corner of Creation we call Mother Earth. In the name of our Anointed Brother, Yeshua Ben-Yusef Bar-Meryam.

By Jane Richardson Jensen, DR, Calgary co-author of *She Who Prays: A Woman's Interfaith Prayer Book* (Morehouse)

This prayer has been accepted for printing in the book Lifting Women's Voices, which will be available soon from www.churchpublishing.org. People worldwide have submitted prayers for the book.

New Resource Coordinator **New Location of our Resource Storehouse**

After almost 10 years of faithful service as our Resource coordinator, Harry Langston has turned over his responsibilities to Paul Dumbrille. We are indebted to Harry for his tireless work and faithful service to the Lord in this capacity.

As part of this transition we have moved our Resource Centre to Ottawa. The new address for the Resource Centre is:

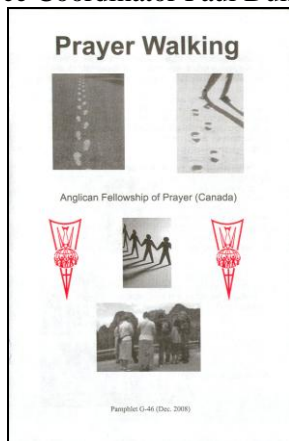
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)
Resource Centre
P.O. Box 5131
Ottawa, ON K2C 3H4

If you have any questions about Resources or wish to order any of our Resources, please contact:
Paul Dumbrille (paul.dumbrille@sympatico.ca).



New Resource

If you would like to learn more about praying while moving, AFP (Canada) has a new pamphlet entitled "Prayer Walking". Visit our website, www.anglicanprayer.org to review it and if you wish copies, use the order form found there or otherwise contact our Resource Coordinator Paul Dumbrille.



Prayer Walking

By Paul Dumbrille



When we think of prayer, most often we think of being still – standing, kneeling or sitting – while connecting with God. However, being still is not the only way one can pray. Some people do their best and are most comfortable praying while they are moving. Prayer Walking can be a wonderful gift for those who like to move around while intentionally communicating with God. Prayer Walking can be done in any location at any time, sometimes alone or with a group. Prayer Walking is a modern version of the earlier practices such as:

Making a pilgrimage



The Stations of the Cross



Walking a labyrinth



During a Lenten Prayer evening at St. Richard's Anglican Church, Ottawa, we explored the theme of Prayer Walking and after the evening, a parishioner reflected on her own prayer experiences and wrote the following note.

"I was really intrigued by the mention of labyrinths and how one works from the outside toward the centre to an encounter with God, then moves away from the encounter back to the edge of the labyrinth and from there into the world, hopefully enriched and strengthened by the experience.

Because I live so close to the work I do with children at our church, I often walk. It occurs to me that I have a labyrinth experience as I do so. I walk through the area down Merivale Rd (a very busy commercial street) usually in prayer until I arrive at the church. If I'm early for work, I go into the church and sit with the Lord for a few minutes before I go down the hall and into the work day. On my way out, I go past the church sanctuary and chapel and then "on into the world." On Sundays, I walk to Bible study, go to church and usually walk home again, completing the labyrinth. I like seeing my walking prayer time in this context - I think it will be a help to me as I try to continue it.

Walking down such a busy street in prayer is a challenging experience. There are a lot of distractions. What works for me is to embrace the distraction. When the ambulance tears by, I momentarily redirect my prayer to intercede for the people who need the help and those who are on their way to deliver it. Then I get back on track.

The other thing I've learned during this prayer time is that while I may be moving past businesses and shops and remembering those stationary places, the world is also coming to me! There are students on their way to school (hopefully), families rushing by in cars, buses passing, planes overhead, etc. I launch myself off my doorstep with thanksgiving in my heart, and then God gives me lots of prayer work to do along my way.

I've received a few amazing answers to prayer on that walk as well."

AFP ACROSS CANADA

Beginning to Pray... *by Carol-Anne Foty*

St. Martin-in-the-Fields hosted a wonderful Prayer Event on Saturday, Feb. 21st that was offered through the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, facilitated by the Rev. Anne Moore. Invitations were sent to all parishes in **Toronto Diocese**; we had a huge response, with 64 people in total attending the event. Quite a few parishes sent many interested folks (e.g. St. Paul the Apostle, sent 10; St. Anne's rector, The Rev. Lance Dixon, came with 4 of his parishioners; St. Margaret's in Barrie sent 7).

Warm-up began with welcoming coffee and tasty muffins (served by Freddie, of course) and tea-breads (recipes from "Martin's Menu") as people were checked-in and made comfortable by our St. Martin's Prayer Group members : Anne Tanner, Marian Rhodes, Bethanne Bell, Topher Elliott, Pat Cook, Anne Privett, Esperanza and Don Deasley, and Carol-Anne Foty.

Tony Day, the Chairman of the Bishop's Committee on Prayer (the working arm of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer in the diocese) began by introducing what the AFP does in the diocese, and asking Fr. Philip to open in prayer.

As the Parish Prayer Rep for St. Martin's, Carol-Anne introduced the Rev. Anne Moore, (incumbent for the Parish of Haliburton) who has presented this prayer seminar/workshop in other venues throughout the diocese.

Using gentle, and sometimes self-effacing humor, Anne made all of us feel comfortable and relaxed with each other, as she shared some personal anecdotes, and drew on well-honed wisdom to help us practice some prayer exercises among groups of 12.

We began with the simplest of steps, and kept it that way, because prayer is not complicated. We were shown how to be open to each other, and praying one-word prayers as we

joined in a circular team, we grew confident that wordiness was not necessary for God to hear us.

There was lots of laughter, learning and fellowship, greeting many familiar faces and some new ones as well. Folks who had come quite a long distance were happy to tell us how encouraged they were to share in the event, and asked "When are you having the next one?"

It was a great delight for our St. Martin's Prayer Group to have the opportunity to work and have fun together as a team, and to learn while we were at it.



L. to R.: Terence Wedge, Anita Gittens, The Rev. Canon Anne Moore, and Tony Day

Central Newfoundland Lenten Retreat

On March 12-14, 2009 the AFP held a Lenten Retreat sponsored by our **Central Newfoundland Diocese**. Captain Rob Marsh of the Church Army led us on a prayer-centered journey of "How, When, Where and Why Pray". Twenty four people attended from ten different parishes. Rob's teaching centered around the Psalms, which we used for personal and small group prayers. It was a time apart that brought us closer to Jesus during this Lenten season, and helped us prepare for Good Friday and what Jesus did for us.



Captain Rob Marsh

AFP AT RUPERT'S LAND PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land met at the University of Calgary from June 11th to the 14th. The National Director of AFP, Bishop Gary Woolsey, and the Provincial Representative and Chair of the National Executive, Esther Jackson, assisted the Diocese of Calgary's AFP Committee at the Synod. On the opening evening of the Synod at Holy Cross parish, prayers were held in a special prayer chapel as the Synod conducted the election of a new Metropolitan. The Right Reverend David Ashdown, Bishop of Keewatin, was elected as the new Archbishop of the Province. At the University, Betty Nadurak, the AFP Resources Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Calgary, organized a table with AFP resources and Newsletters for delegates. There was a special room set up as the Prayer Chapel and members of the local AFP Committee took turns being in the chapel. This quiet space served as a place for delegates to come and offer prayers, for people to write prayer requests and have concerns offered up in prayer, and for healing prayers with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. Our thanks go out to the Reverend Betty Piwowar, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, for all her assistance in creating space for AFP at the Synod.



Betty Nadurak, AFP Resources Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Calgary

Send articles or prayer events
for the AFP-C website to
Roger Harris
rognet@sympatico.ca

"REPS" DAY IN ARVA*Diocese of Huron**April 16, 2009**Prayer Walking in Arva**Win Mizon & Marjorie Reid**Parish "Reps" in Arva***WHAT WE DID:**

- Met new people
- Learned about the resources available through Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (A.F.P.)
- Assembled Prayer beads for meditation
- Experienced a Prayer walk
- Had a healing Circle
- Celebrated the Eucharist together
- Sang some of our favorite hymns
- Left St. John the Divine refreshed and renewed.

If you would like to be a representative for A.F.P. at your church, please talk to your minister. Your primary role would be to keep prayer in the fore-front of your parish. A.F.P. has all the resources you would need to do this ministry.

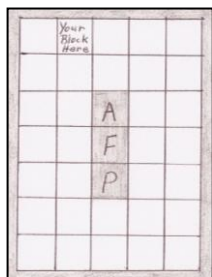
Bev Timpson,

Rep for St. Stephen's Church, Oldcastle

**CALLING ALL
QUILTERS!****Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
Diocese of Huron Unity Quilt**

The AFP is asking for your creative designs for a Quilt of Unity. It will be comprised of blocks from the different parishes throughout Huron. The size is

5' X 7', made up of 12" square blocks. At the Bishop's Conference in October, you can pick up your block to complete. The designs are to be centered on prayer, (praying hands, candles, a prayer, an icon, etc.) the list is endless. Please contact Barb Atkinson if you are interested at barbatkinson@sympatico.ca.

**FLIN FLON HEALING CONFERENCE A SUCCESS***Rev. Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield*

To hold the May Healing conference in northern Manitoba and have the famous couple, Rev. Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield from San Antonio, Texas for speakers was a major undertaking for a small town like Fin Flon.

The conference was a great success with our gifted, experienced speakers who were warmly casual in their inter-action with the people who arrived in car loads from southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The couple told many healing stories to illustrate their points of accepting God into your life to heal you and make life vibrantly worth living.

The conference site, the Prospector Inn is friendly towards Flin Flon OSL as they have their weekly meetings in one of the board rooms.

Saturday was a full day of listening to our speakers and hearing stories of people who had come to accept Christ into their lives and been made whole. It concluded with a banquet and evening service. Sunday was Pentecost and we joined the congregation of St. Peter- St. James Anglican Church for a special service with their Rector and OSL member the Rev. Raymond Knight, assistant Rev. Clare Edwards and their visiting bishop the Rt. Rev. Jim Njegovan of Brandon. The church invited us all to a hot lunch which was enjoyed by all.

On Monday our speakers Jack and Anna Maria went to Dauphin, Manitoba with OSL member Jean White to speak to a large crowd at a Women Aglow meeting and to tour the Clear Lake Resort Area.

Several interesting new ideas came from the conference: the Flin Flon Chapter meets in the local hotel board room weekly - they find that this has brought them several new members who might have been intimidated to attend a church service.

Rev. Linda Stokes of Winnipeg told us about an Open Air Healing Service in a neighbourhood park in Winnipeg on a Sunday night supported by several local churches.

The conference was well attended and people responded to the lively music and speakers who witnessed to their healing.

Healing Services based on the '12 STEP AA' program were discussed. North American Director Larry Mitchell, an Anglican Priest from Saskatoon has highly recommended this format for healing services used by the OSL Chapter in Martha's Vineyard, US.

Hazel Birt has a copy of the service and would be happy to pass along this information.

Blessings,

Hazel Birt,
AFP
Winnipeg

*OSL Healing Conference**St. Aiden's Delegation*

New Diocesan Representatives

Diane Guilford



Diane Guilford came into ordained ministry in 2003 after being active in many other areas of ministry as a lay person. One of the most significant ministries for her spiritual growth was working with youth and children as director of summer camps.

Diane loves the outdoors and took up paddling 6 years ago and hasn't missed at least one canoe trip every summer since, usually in Lake of the Woods. She grew up on a farm in SW Manitoba but spent most of her adult life in the Diocese of Keewatin in NW Ontario.

Diane's first significant diocesan ministry was as the Diocesan AFP Rep in Keewatin. When Bishop Allan asked her to do this ministry, she told him she would have to brush up on her prayer life, which is probably exactly what he wanted.

Diane is now a full time priest at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Winnipeg and loves it! She is grateful that God brought her to ordained ministry after her two daughters were adults, as it would be so hard to be both incumbent and Mom! She does fit in time for her 5 grandchildren.

Diane is grateful that her predecessor, Heather Birtles, is willing to journey alongside her as she takes on D.R. for the Diocese of Rupert's Land

Deborah Rivet



The Reverend Deborah Rivet has been appointed the new DR for the Diocese of British Columbia. Deborah returns to the post of DR after serving the Diocese of Calgary 2006-2008.

Deborah is the new rector for the Anglican Parish of St. Peter, Quamichan in Duncan, found on Vancouver Island. St. Peter's is about 125 years new, a beautiful little country parish alive with love and the Spirit. St. Peter's is reviving many of its ministries, which include a renewed prayer group, a pastoral care team and Lay Eucharistic Team. The resources available through AFP are a valuable resource as St. Peter's moves into a new era of prayer and spiritual growth in their church. St. Peter's recently became a member of AFP and Midge Adam is the newly commissioned AFP parish rep.

Deborah has returned to Vancouver Island where she lived from 1980 to 1986 and 1990-2000. Deborah is a graduate of the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad and holds a Master's of Divinity. She is currently enrolled in the College of Congregational Development, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia in Washington State, and hopes to earn a Diploma in Congregational Development in 2010.

Deborah is a widow, has 2 adult children and 3 GRANDCHILDREN. She enjoys cooking, gardening, music, and wine shared with good friends on her deck as she appreciates that with which God has blessed her... especially the view one finds on Vancouver Island!

"Blessing of the Wheels"

Bishop Gary Woolsey

St. Martin's, Calgary, hosted the 4th Annual "Blessing of the Wheels" Service on Sunday, June 7th. Bishop Gary Woolsey, our National Director for AFP-Canada, is a biker and invites parishioners of all ages and members of the Goldwing Touring Association 'Chinook Wings', of which he and his wife, Marie, are members, to bring their 'wheels' to this special Service. "It originally started as a Bikers Service but then the children wanted to bring their bicycles, scooters, and tricycles. We have people with wheelchairs, sports cars, trucks, vans, and any 'wheeled vehicle' they want to bring!" says Bishop Gary. The sermon is geared to relate biking with faith and the Bishop is known to draw in members of the motorcycle community to help with the sermon. This year he called forward all the women who ride their own motorcycles to share their stories as well as inviting one woman in her wheel chair to describe what having wheels meant to her. The sermon touched on two main themes: remember to be a team with gifts to share with others (1 Corinthians 12:12-16) and stay focused on your direction and look past the 'pot holes' of life because if you concentrate on them, you will hit them and have a real sinking feeling - like Peter when he was walking to Jesus on the water and shifted his focus from Jesus to the wind and the waves (Matthew 14:22-33). Following the Service everyone visits outside and the children get to sit on some really big bikes!



The Rev. Christine Conkin, priest in charge of St. Martin's & Bishop Gary



Bishop Gary & Debra Petillion being blessed by the Rev. Christine Conkin



Children & youth being sprinkled' by Bishop Gary



Zachary Blum



Bishop Gary evangelizing with wanna-be bikers



PRAYERS FOR THE PRAYER CIRCLE

The following *PRAYERS* are used by the *PRAYER CIRCLE* at St. John the Evangelist Church in Arva (Diocese of Huron)



INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

(To be used when there is no Eucharist)

Loving Creator, we come to you with the confidence that, when two or three are gathered in your name, you are present with us. Guide our thoughts and words as we pray for others, that we may be united with them and each other in the healing power of your Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, Lord, for all your blessings: for life and health, for joy and laughter, for all the powers of body, mind and spirit, which make life worth living. We give you thanks and praise for your blessings on those for whom we have prayed... (names). We bless you for the lives you have given them, the lives you have sustained, and the lives you have restored. May the days of their renewed strength, confidence and faith be dedicated to your service and praise. **AMEN.**

PRAYER OF FAREWELL

(For names of those with whom we have lost contact)

Dear Lord, we give thanks for the lives of those whom we have been bringing before you in prayer... (names). We now release them into your continued loving care, secure in the knowledge that you will meet the needs of each and every one of them, for you know them by name. We pray in the name of our Great Physician, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

PRAYER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Creator God, Source of Life and sustainer of all that is, and will be, we come to you in thankfulness for your empowering presence. – We ask for fearless courage for ourselves and for those for whom we pray. We join our hands with those in need, whether the need is of body, mind, soul or spirit. – We lift these persons into your goodness and love, asking, Great Physician, that you lay your hands gently upon each one named so that your healing touch may be felt in the place most needed: release from disease, pain, suffering, fear, woundedness, hopelessness, turmoil or any other unspoken need. – We pray especially for ... (names). Bless each one. Make your broken people whole. – Bless all who give their energy and skill in the ministry of healing. We pray all this in the strong name of Jesus. **AMEN.**

PRAYER FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

Lord, we now bring to your healing power those whose bodies are being attacked by cancer, and whose lives may be measured in days and hours. You alone know the whole story behind the suffering of each one, and its impact on those who share their pain and anxiety. Draw close to you now, Lord ... (names). Bless those who support and comfort them with their sincere faith and prayers. Let them know that you are ever near them, their loving Father and friend. Give them peace. **AMEN.**



PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED

We remember, O Lord, your servants whose lives have drawn to an end... (names). Through your redeeming love may they enter into your eternal joy, and join the heavenly host who live and praise you ever more. Grant us, Lord, the opportunity and ability to give words of comfort to those who desperately need them. Help those who suffer from the loss of dear ones. Help them to bear their loss without bitterness, and not to question your love. Speak your words of peace to their hearts, and ease their pain. Be to all of us a present help in trouble, for Jesus Christ's sake. **AMEN.**

PRAYER FOR BROADER NEEDS

(Add specific needs after each petition)

Lord, we bring before you the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world, and the health and survival of the planet we share with all your creatures.

We pray for the victims of natural or man-made disaster.

We pray for peace throughout the world, and for the victims of violence.

We pray for Canada and its leaders at every level.

We pray for the Church.

Lord, you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Help us to accept your answers to these our prayers, and to see our part in fulfilling them.

This we ask in Jesus' name. **AMEN.**

Who Are Our Modern Day Prophets?

When you hear the word "prophet" your mind instantly thinks of Moses fully clad in plain robes surrounded by vast desert mountains. But when you hear "modern day prophet" you think of Mother Theresa or the Dalai Lama. Perhaps there is another modern day prophet we so easily look past: our youth.



In Walter Brueggemann's book *The Prophetic Imagination*, he speaks against "the empire" and challenges the reader to seek an "alternative community" through the voice of the prophets. Biblical examples of this "alternative community" are the Exodus, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the Minor Prophets' messages. The prophets use both "energizing" and "criticizing" to "penetrate through the numbness" that is "the empire" to turn this destructive dominating community upside down.

This is exactly what our youth are doing today. Instead of continuing to be consumed by marketing and social status, youth are beginning to "criticize" these day-to-day normalcies of our "empire". They look at situations like Darfur or the Aids epidemic and think of ways they can help. Every week I get a message from a youth wanting to raise money for a new event or organization. No longer are youth self-consumed; they have lifted their eyes to the world around them and begun to "criticize" what they see.

The challenge I present to you is how to "energize" these modern day prophets. Despite their unique positions as both children with eyes for the kingdom of God and almost-adults with a passion to move mountains, these distinct qualities are also youth's weaknesses. Youth have the imagination and passion but are naturally limited. If they had all the resources in the world, what could our youth accomplish? How can a community like our parish surround these youth and their visions and move toward an "alternative community" together?

Jill Thompson (youth leader), St. Martin's, Calgary

Prayer Shawls

Paul Dumbrille



You created every part of me, knitting me in my mother's womb. For such handiwork, I praise you. Awesome is this great wonder.

Psalm 139: 13-14

Begun with love, knitted and blessed with prayer, shawls are given to those in need or having a memorable celebratory event. Recipients say they have actually experienced being enfolded in God's



love when wrapped in the shawl.

Care and the love of knitting (and crochet) can be

combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. When we have the luxury of time, shawls are knitted with a particular recipient in mind. Each one is knitted prayerfully. Begun with blessings for the recipient, intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. If not knit for a particular person more general intentions for the recipient are included such as prayers of comfort, peace, wholeness and strength. When the shawl is completed it is given a final blessing, then delivered (or sometimes mailed) to the recipient.

Knitting is often a solitary thing. However, prayer shawls are best done as part of a group ministry. Most prayer shawl ministries find that a short meeting, once a month, to pray, practise and share, is useful and beneficial. Participants keep the focus on the prayer, not the product of their ministry.

WHO WEARS A SHAWL THESE DAYS? You would be amazed! Smaller and easier to manipulate than an afghan or throw, a prayer shawl is appreciated by almost anyone, man woman or child.



Some shawl ministry groups also make baptismal blankets, wheelchair lap covers and small pillows. The idea is the same - an invitation to relax in the comfort and prayerful support offered by God through the community of His people.

IS IT HARD TO MAKE A PRAYER SHAWL? Not at all - several patterns can be used for both knitted and crocheted shawls. Depending on the wool used, a simple Knit three, Purl three pattern, straight knitting, or even a simple double crochet stitch can be used.

WHAT MAKES THESE SHAWLS DIFFERENT? The prayer that surrounds them, from start to finish. We all feel we want to do something for people who are ill, facing difficulties, celebrating life-changing moments - almost any time we would want to surround someone in God's love and our own. For the same reasons, shawls are made in generous sizes. Many recipients wear their shawls while offering their personal devotions.

The international Prayer Shawl Ministry is growing: groups are springing up around the world. A shawl is a tangible symbol of the love and concern of the Christian Community.

A prayer shawl is never for sale. All shawls are distributed free of charge to people whose concerns are made known to the clergy and/or those in the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

More information can be found at www.shawlministry.com.



Perseverance in Prayer

Bernadette Njegovan

I think PERSEVERANCE means "keeping on keeping on" in prayer because we know that God will come through for us in the end.



Perseverance in prayer should best be taught in the context of trust and faith. We persevere in prayer because we KNOW God will answer, we BELIEVE He has our best interests at heart, and we TRUST His timing will be perfect. Jesus tells us to ask, seek, and knock without giving up. We do not persevere just for the religious exercise of persevering. We persevere because we have an intimate relationship with the God of the universe. We know His character. He DOES love us. He DOES hear us. He WILL answer us, somehow, some way!

Check out the movie, COOL RUNNINGS, this summer, (16 & up), but the end clip for younger kids for sure. It is the story about a Jamaican bobsled team, (it has been out there for a while). The team's sled breaks, they have many let downs along their olympic journey, but, they still finish the race to a cheer filled finish. Everyone rejoices together!

Check for a great rock or two during your summer hikes. With a Sharpie marker write out one of these scripture verses: Is. 40:29, 1Thess. 5:17 or Eph. 6:18. Make one for yourself, & make one for someone else that comes to mind.

A rock, right there in front of us. God wants to give us strength, hope and confidence to keep on praying without giving up. He wants us to learn to trust Him while we wait and persevere in prayer. Peace Through Prayer In Christ, Bernadette Njegovan.

AFP-C Newsletter Editor
Winnifred (Win) Mizon
519-433-7485
winken@sympatico.ca

Lord, help me to put
PRAYER
foremost in my life!