

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP
of
Prayer

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CANADA

DOING A BLESSED THING

— herbert o'driscoll



Richard Leggett, Professor of Liturgical Studies in the Vancouver School of Theology, hides a razor sharp mind under a hearty frequently laughing exterior. I was saying Matins in the Cathedral chapel a

few mornings ago when I happened to discover his fascinating introduction to what used to be known as the McCausland's Order of Divine Service: The Christian Year. Leggett has written what he has entitled *The Eucharistic Symphony*.

Soon after beginning he has an intriguing suggestion that worship may have more in common with calculus than with algebra – and that's a whole other story that you math buffs can work on. Let's say for now that this is a wonderfully readable and insightful piece about the many levels of meaning in public worship that we so easily take for granted as we participate in it. Its probably somewhere in the vestry of your church or in the prayer desks where the clergy sit. Steal it, read the introduction, but be sure to return it!

I found the section on prayer and the Prayers of the People especially interesting. A moment traveling with a diocesan Bishop tells a lot about attitudes to prayer. Some years ago a younger Richard and his Bishop were at a table with representatives of a parish where there were some tensions. When all sides had had their say and the Bishop had listened, someone asked the Bishop what he was going to do about it. The Bishop replied that the first thing he was going to do was to pray about it. Whereupon the enquirer announced to the table in a loud voice, "There you are, I told you he wasn't going to do a damned thing about it!"



I suspect that if we are really honest we can understand why someone would make that statement. The frustration in it arises from an understandable but nevertheless mistaken assumption that somehow prayer is other than a doing. If you or I were that Bishop, what would we be doing in that few moments of praying? I can't speak for you but here is what I would be trying to do as best I could.

I would be asking God for help to hear clearly what had been said to me. I would be asking God for help in understanding the issues clearly. I would be asking God to help me discern any hidden agendas around the table, any personal animosities, any long standing angers. I would be placing the lives around the table - and my own - in the presence of the God who understands all and who unbelievably and undeservedly loves us all. I would be placing the issue troubling this parish in the greater context of the life of the church beyond the parish, seeking insights that might apply helpfully here from that larger life and experience of the church.

That's the list that comes to my mind. You may feel like adding to it if you were in such a situation. There may be other things you would be doing silently in those moments. *But my point is that you and I would be doing even as we were praying! Praying and doing are not mutually exclusive activities. Praying is doing, and for most of our lives even if we seldom realize it, a lot of our doing is praying!*

A simple example you will recognize from your own experience. A few days ago I saw across a crowded coffee hour someone who has been going through the mill for some months with a loved one who has been seriously ill. So what did I do? I moved across the room, chose a moment to make contact, asked for the person who was ill, listened carefully to the reply, assured

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Thoughts to Ponder

If the only prayer you say in your life is Thank You, that would suffice.

— meister eckhardt, 12th century monastic

Note from Pat



While reading Herb O'Driscoll's article in the newsletter I was reminded of Karl Barth a 20th century theologian who wrote "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world". In the busyness of our day-to-day lives the importance of those moments when we clasp our hands in prayer for the world is somehow minimized.

At the Lambeth Conference in 1988 when all the Anglican Bishops and their spouses gathered as they do every ten years a whole day was spent in fasting and prayer for South Africa. I remember thinking during this very moving and holy time how huge apartheid and all the terrible injustices were. It seemed such a small thing to be doing! However linked with the prayer and action from all over the world a few years later we have witnessed the end of apartheid and the beginning of the peace and reconciliation process. Now I realize what a huge impact the prayers, our prayers, have but most of the time we are not aware of their importance.

The recent release of the Christian Peacemakers in Iraq who had been accompanied by prayer throughout the world is yet another reminder.

It helps me to be more faithful in saying our noontime AFP prayer and realizing the affect it will have.

Lord Jesus give to your church a renewed desire to pray, that together we may know your will, be filled with your love, and experience your grace and power for the healing of your world, to your glory. Amen.

Pat

Co-Director, AFP Canada

... cont'd from pg. 1 – *Doing A Blessed Thing*

my friend – more acquaintance than friend – that I and others were praying for both of them, added that I realized



shirray langley

that when one partner is ill both suffer. As I recall this moment now I recall also that I touched him on the shoulder. I then promised that I would get him a copy of a magazine that I remembered had an article about the area he had grown up in. When we parted I wrote

myself a little note to do this and have since done it.

Simple, so simple and ordinary, as you well know. But look at that paragraph again. It has, to my count, eleven active verbs! It occurs to me that even by writing these few lines – another *doing* - I am once again *praying* for those two people. After all, their faces are before my eyes as I write, their names come effortlessly to mind, and the three of us have shared the Bread and Wine.

I may not be doing a "damned thing" about what they are going through. I would like to think that I am *doing* a "blessed thing" – *praying* for them.

Meet Margaret Dempster

New DR for the Diocese of Moosonee



The Rev. Margaret Dempster was delighted when Archbishop Caleb Lawrence invited her to be the AFP Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Moosonee.

Margaret says, "Praying is the essence of being Christian. My prayer life has developed over time. I have been fortunate enough to learn how to pray in a number of faith communities e.g. Holy Cross Monastery (West Park, N. Y.), Serra Retreat Center (Malibu, Cal.), Loyola House (Guelph), Sisters of the Church (Oakville), St. John the Divine (North Toronto), and Holy Cross Priory (Toronto). As well, I have had two wonderful spiritual directors over the past 10 years.

Apart from being a student of prayer, I have had the opportunity of sharing

my prayer practices and experiences with others. In Hamilton, at St. James the Apostle Church, I offered a Lenten series on the ABC's of Prayer. In May of 2006, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Timmins, I will present "Teach Me To Pray".

Currently, I am endeavoring to extend our prayer cycles to people of other traditions and faiths. As well, I would like to "custom design" prayer to meet individuals' needs. Today, people live fast paced lives and are faced with a multitude of challenges making it difficult to have a disciplined prayer life. I believe that prayer can be tailored to a person's life style, enabling everyone to be actively part of the body of Christ.

I look forward to meeting other Anglican Fellowship of Prayer members in Winnipeg this June. Blessings to one and all."

PETER BISHOP

AFP has suffered a cruel blow in the sudden and tragic death of our Chairperson, Rev. Peter Bishop, who died in a traffic accident in December 2005. We have benefited significantly from Peter's great leadership skills, his zeal for the ministry of prayer and from his conscientiousness. We grieve his loss. We give thanks for his wonderful Christian witness. His death is a terrible loss to his family and to all who knew him.

Peter was born in England and came to Canada in 1964. After ordination, he initially served in the Arctic, starting in 1968 at Kugluktuk (Coppermine) as an assistant and shortly after, he became Rector. Peter married Sheila Jackson on August 12, 1972. While in Coppermine, Peter and Sheila had two children, Jenny born in 1974 and Steven born in 1979. In 1981 Peter and Sheila moved from the remote setting of Kugluktuk to Baffin Island where Peter became the Principal of the Training School for Native Clergy. In 1984 a major decision was made to move to Toronto when the Bishop of the Arctic Diocese offered him the position of Archdeacon of the Arctic Diocese through their office in Toronto. After working and living in the Toronto area for a decade,

1942-2005

Peter was offered the Parish of Lakefield in 1994, which included St. John the Baptist in Lakefield and St. Mark's Church in the Village of Warsaw. He was serving in Lakefield at the time of his death.

Peter and Sheila were inseparable - not only during their ministry, but as husband and wife, loving parents and grandparents. Peter's constant teasing and wonderful sense of humour enhanced their relationship. He cherished the time spent as a family, particularly enjoying visits to Bolton to see his grandson.

Those whom he lead and guided, including the parishes he served and Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, benefited

significantly from his great skills as a leader, his energetic and wise guidance, his thoroughness and care, and not least from his friendship.

Peter's funeral was held on December 21 at his home church in Lakefield and was attended by many friends and colleagues. Particularly noteworthy were people who had traveled all the way from the Arctic to celebrate Peter's life and ministry. We give thanks to God for the rich witness of Peter's life, for the many gifts he embodied, for his year's of faithful and effective ministry, and for the strength, love and care which marked his life. We pray that our Gracious God will grant him a place of refreshment, light and peace and that in His loving wisdom and almighty power will work in him the good purpose of His perfect will.

Our deepest sorrow and love are extended to Sheila and their family and we pray that they may know the consolation of God's love and find strength from the support and love of their friends, associates and all of us in the AFP. We commend Peter to God's gracious care.

— paul dumbrille

Meet Deborah Rivet

New DR for Diocese of Calgary



The Reverend Deborah Rivet is currently serving as Associate Priest at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Elbow Drive, Calgary.

Deborah says, "I am new to ordained ministry and in many ways just finding my way... I cannot think of a lovelier means of finding that way than through prayer with the Anglican Fellowship

of Prayer. I hope that I may learn and grow as priest and person, as well as contribute by being the Calgary diocesan representative for the AFP. I am blessed to have this opportunity to serve."

Deborah, recently widowed from Mel, her husband of 20 years, received her Master of Divinity from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. She continues her studies at the Vancouver School of Theology and eventually plans on

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Meet Ken Watts

New DR for the Diocese of Kootenay



Born in 1953, Ken was raised on a farm in southern Manitoba. Upon completion of a Bachelor's degree in Science at the University of Manitoba, he entered seminary and graduated in 1978.

During this time he met his wife, Wilda and they were married in 1978. Ken has served parishes in Fort McMurray, AB;

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happenings ACROSS CANADA

The following highlights of AFP activities, will hopefully help DR's and Parish Reps with new ideas for future events...

Central Newfoundland - Elsie Sullivan DR

- ✦ Elsie had an AFP meeting with 28 Lay Ministers. The topics included Praying Scriptures, Contemplative Prayer, how to start a Parish Prayer Room. It was very well received and she hopes to do it again in Fall 2006.

Western Newfoundland - June Whitten DR

- ✦ a program called Prayer Pals for 8 young people in different parishes in the Diocese has started. The kids are very excited about it and everyone is praying it takes off.
- ✦ two PHOP workshops in Feb.

Quebec - Rev. Mia Anderson DR

- ✦ working on French translations of AFP resources.

Montreal - Norma Sklivas DR

- ✦ Diocesan Council meetings are now opened with a short prayer service.
- ✦ using the "Meeting the Needs of a Parish Priest" printout that Paul Dumbrille prepared awhile back, sharing with the clergy at Diocesan Council.
- ✦ Diocesan Ordination in May with presentation of the Nan Henderson Packages.

Algoma - Bonnie McNally DR

- ✦ the Alongsiders program is now either being initiated or seriously being considered in several parishes.

Huron - The Rev. Marian Haggerty DR

- ✦ 12 more Alongsiders have signed up, St. John the Evangelist, London
- ✦ a speaking engagement on Intercessory prayer was held in February.
- ✦ a weekly prayer list is posted for deanery and diocesan committees
- ✦ a workshop in Brantford in March
- ✦ attended the Annual ACW Day with AFP resources at Synod we had a prayer tent and a display of resources

- ✦ AFP had the centre page of the Huron Church News for March with a list of prayers and scripture readings for each day in Lent.

- ✦ recruitment of new parish reps continues: our Diocesan office puts a line on the Synod mailing lists asking that interested people contact me.

- ✦ my AFP committee now has a rep from all areas of the diocese.

Niagara - Roger Harris DR

- ✦ focused on providing a constant awareness of the presence of AFP in three areas:
 1. Diocesan Synod – hosting the Synod quiet room and presenting the AFP display
 2. Niagara Anglican newspaper – regular contributions to the AFP PrayerLine segment
 3. Distribution of the AFP newsletter.

Ottawa - Paul Dumbrille DR

- ✦ at Synod: on-site prayer vigil, display of AFP resources and display booth
- ✦ AFP (Ottawa) co-sponsored a day of teaching workshops and worship at St. George's Ottawa called "God in the Everyday - A Workshop on Prayer".
- ✦ assisted in setting up a prayer chain at St. James parish in Manotick
- ✦ advertised Lenten resources on our diocesan email network and received orders for 250 pamphlets

Moosonee - Rev. Margaret Dempster new DR

- ✦ reviewed all of the materials forwarded to me from the national organization, and spoke with Archbishop Caleb regarding prayer life in our diocese
- ✦ focused on extending our Diocesan prayer circles beyond our own tradition, as well as, reaching out to the broader Anglican community.
- ✦ over the past few months, urgent prayer requests have been channeled

through Synod Office to parishes throughout the Diocese. For example, we had 3 young men in Kashechewan who died suddenly. I requested other churches in the community of Geraldton to remember these individuals in their prayers (Roman Catholic, Evangelical...), and contacted Anglicans in various parishes and organizations in the southern diocese of Niagara to do likewise.

- ✦ presentation on prayer in May at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins
My prayer life remains a mainstay of my life, and I am pleased to be an active member of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer.

Toronto - Tony Day DR

- ✦ finished preparing the DVD Touching the Heart, Praying in Parishes. The cost is \$40 plus SH and taxes. It can be used at one session or over three weeks. It has cost a great deal to make, so we are asking not to duplicate it. Toronto AFP hopes to recover the cost. Contact Harry Langston to order.
- ✦ planning for conference at St. John's York Mills, Oct 20-21. The theme is Prayer-God's nourishment. Sister Constance Joanna of the order of St John's will be the theme speaker.

Arctic - The Rev. Paul Williams DR

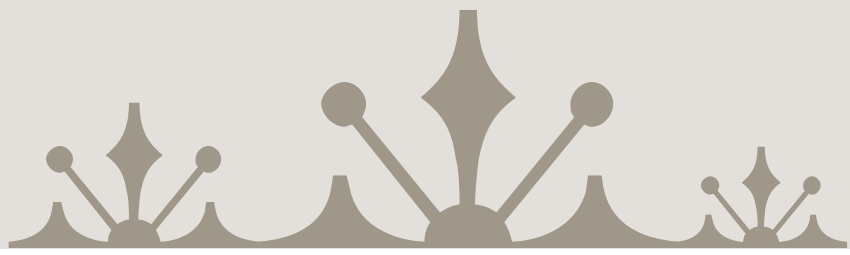
- ✦ still looking at finding people to do translation work

Athabasca - The Rev. Anne Crossland DR

- ✦ AFP presentation at AGM held in Wandering River with 5 parishes present talk about prayer and AFP at the ACW Conference in Boyle in April

Brandon - The Rt. Rev. James & Mrs. Bernadette Njegovan

- ✦ Bernadette has started the "Prayer Pals" with Western Newfoundland Diocese, The challenge was to find



young people in the corresponding diocese of the same sex, age, and with email addresses. The program is going well.

✦ **Prayer Pals Prayer**

Here I am Lord!!

I thank you & praise you for all your wonderful blessings!!

You are always at my side.

Forgive me for the times I have disappointed you...

I pray your blessing upon my prayer pal _____

I pray he/she will feel your presence in her/his life today!!

Uphold my pal Lord...

Please knit our hearts together as we pray for each other.

We Aare One In The Lord!!

Amen

- ✦ Bernadette writes a column on Prayer for the Diocesan Newspaper.

Calgary - Esther Jackson DR

- ✦ new DR for Calgary: The Rev. Deborah Rivet

- ✦ Clergy Support Ministry is going well

Saskatchewan - The Rev. Tracey Lloyd DR

- ✦ Tracey has been formally appointed as assistant Priest at St. Georges. Her main responsibilities will be Pastoral Care, as well as some liturgical responsibilities.

- ✦ the Diocese held a Conference last November in conjunction with the Lay Readers Group

The Speaker was Garth Neal, a priest who worked in Peru. The conference concluded with a Round the World Buffet.

Rupert's Land - Heather Birtles DR

- ✦ in December AFP held a presentation on the hand-written St. John's Bible, which is being written in Wales, with the support of a Benedictine Monastery in Minnesota. The Project

is being done by Donald Jackson, (calligrapher to Queen Elizabeth II) and his team at the scriptorium in Wales where this work is now into its sixth year. Heather has a DVD showing some of the work, which she will have available at the DR's Conference.

- ✦ Rupert's Land AFP held a Quiet Day at St. John's Cathedral in Lent with the Rev. Dr. E. Schmitt facilitating.

Keewatin - The Rev. Cathy Giroux DR

- ✦ the Diocese of Keewatin is embarking on "A New Approach to Ministry". The first priority is to gird and cover the new initiative with prayer. Cathy developed a program using some AFP material to use throughout the diocese. It was translated into Oji-Cree, for use starting in Lent.

- ✦ there has been a new Penitential Rite for use at the beginning of each service, to prepare the congregations to ask for wisdom and guidance for God's Direction for each parish

- ✦ there are ongoing prayer events in each parish as they continue to seek guidance

- ✦ The Dr William Winter School of Ministry was held Feb. 2 to 16. in Kingfisher Lake, Northern Ontario for the winter session. The summer session will be held in July.



That They May Be One

Calgary AFP Prayer Conference

Driving through the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee, there are two warning signs, "Watch For Fallen Rocks", and "Watch for Falling Rocks". The Very Rev. Terry Dance, Dean of Huron Cathedral, and Speaker for the AFP Calgary Diocesan Conference, October 2005, compared these signs to our approach to the problems of life. To watch for fallen rocks is to be aware of the problems of life and to deal with them. To watch for falling rocks, i.e. looking up to the mountain wall, while you are driving at considerable speed around mountain curves, is to be a worrier. It is to be someone who frets about what might happen, usually anticipating the worst solution.

Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will wear, for life is more than food and the body more than clothing". Luke 12: 22 Our faith assures us that we are held in the arms of a God who will never let us go, through good times and bad, through sickness and health, through life and death. The challenge is to open us to the Gift of God's amazing Grace!

Paul wrote to the Philippians "Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to you, see you, or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm, in one spirit, striving side by side, with one mind for the faith of the gospel" ... Or, "Hang tough, and do the work that you have to do together!"

Terry Dance challenges us saying he believes that the AFP has the privilege and opportunity to invite, no, to urge our people to come to know Jesus through prayer and whole hearted care for one another." If we are prepared to pray together, care for one another, share with one another, listen to one another, and listen for the leading of the Spirit, with God's help we may be able to sing together.....With God's help we may be one, just as Jesus and the Father are One."



Greetings *from* Paul Dumbrylle

*newly elected chair
national executive committee
afp (canada)*



I was introduced to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer in 1987 at a workshop led by Betty Gracie, the Canadian National Director of AFP at the time. I have been a member of AFP (Canada) ever since. My personal prayer life steadily became more important in my life and I have become interested in encouraging others in prayer.

My wife Marg and I live in Nepean, which is part of Ottawa. Our two children are married and live in the Ottawa area and we have one grandson. We worship at St. Richard's Anglican Church.

At the parish level, I have been involved in leading workshops and sessions on encouraging people to pray, as well as training and encouraging Intercessors and Readers. I am also a member of our healing prayer team. In 1989, I attended an AFP workshop in Toronto and was introduced to a one-day event called a Powerhouse of Prayer (PHOP) Workshop. This led to my joining the Ottawa Diocesan AFP team, and supporting the Diocesan Representative, Lesley Dunkerley. Since then I have helped lead over 30 PHOP workshops throughout the Diocese. Over the past 15 years, I have also responded to various invitations to preach, teach and help parishes encourage their members to pray. I have recently been appointed by Bishop Peter Coffin to be Diocesan Representative (DR) for the Ottawa Diocese.

I joined AFP (Canada) National Executive Committee and have been responsible for the development and updating of the AFP (Canada) written resources.

I have devoted my time to encouraging others to pray for several reasons:

- ✦ Prayer is fundamental to being a Christian and is often neglected in this too busy world
- ✦ Prayer has been powerful in so many ways in my life and in bringing me close to Jesus
- ✦ All of us need to improve our relationship with God through prayer and the encouragement, wisdom and experience of others can help us
- ✦ There is an urgent need in today's secular and much too busy world to be reminded and encouraged to spend time in prayer

Unfortunately many people are trapped by childhood impressions about what prayer is and how to do it and can benefit from fresh teaching and the experience of others. Clergy cannot be expected to do everything, and lay people are needed to complement what the clergy do. I believe my gifts lie in this area and I feel called by God to do this.

The future of AFP lies in the faith and dedication of our AFP Diocesan and

Parish Representatives. My dream is that we would have Representatives in every Diocese and Parish in our country. The Executive Committee will work hard to provide resources, support and encouragement to our Representatives. I hope that our newly designed Website will assist in furthering our work and provide an effective modern method of communication, drawing us all deeper in prayer.

However, none of us can achieve what God wants us to do if we stand still and continue to do only those things that we are used to and are comfortable doing. John Ortberg writes in his very useful book, *If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got to GET OUT OF THE BOAT*,

"I believe that there is some aspect of your life in which God is calling you to walk with Him, and that when we say yes to His calling, it sets in motion a divine dynamic far beyond merely human power."

In what ways might God be calling you to get out of your "boat" and step out in faith? So, as we go about our daily lives my prayer is that all of us will look at where we are and what we are doing; connect with God in prayer to listen to Him; and get out of our boats to do what God is calling us to do.

... cont'd from pg.3 – **Meet Deborah Rivet**

earning her Doctorate of Ministry. Areas of interest for Deborah are the fields of addictions and grief and she continues her studies in these two areas.

"Addictions strike 1 in every 3 families", Deborah comments, "and as a clergy person I am often contacted by families in search of help for their loved one that is struggling with addiction." Prayer is a vital tool for the families that are faced with this cruel disease.

"Since Mel's death I have learned so much about the journey through loss and grief. As I grieve, I am dedicated to walking with others through their grief process and sharing with them prayer as a necessary key to healing." Deborah has been invited to join the volunteer grief team at the Rocky View Hospital in September.

"I have used the AFP material in my own devotions and at the parish level

when I have led prayer workshops. I am honored and delighted at the prospect of serving our diocese as an AFP DR".

"May God continue to bless the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and may all of us continue to grow in our prayer life as we strive for a closer relationship with Christ."

happenings

Matters Of The Heart



BC Prayer Conference

Sponsored by Central Okanagan Region

Over sixty people from parishes across the Diocese attended a prayer conference on the theme



“Matters of the Heart”. It was jointly hosted by St Margaret’s Anglican Church, Peachland, and St George’s Anglican Church, Westbank on the weekend of October 21st - 23rd 2005. Barry & Pat Curtis led four sessions on “Matters of the Heart”, “The Listening Heart”, “The Supple Heart” and “the Heart of the Matter”. On Saturday, registrants chose to attend two

workshops from a choice of six: Centering Prayer, Walking Meditation, Prayer in Darkness and Depression, Prayer in the Last Stages of Life, Healing Prayer/Healing of the Memories and Being Attentive in Prayer. The weekend reached its climax in a service of joint worship at St George’s, a Eucharist with



laying on of hands, prayer for healing and wonderful music. The weekend enriched both our hearts and minds, and enabled us further in our journey of faith and prayer.

BOOK REVIEW

Always We Begin Again

by John McQuiston II

John McQuiston II is a middle aged lawyer. In becoming more intentional and thoughtful about how he lived each day, McQuiston’s attitudes and feelings changed in quiet but important ways.

Always We Begin Again, in a pocket book size format, is a paraphrase of St. Benedict’s Rule, which sets out a daily schedule incorporating work, study, community and prayer.

“The first rule is simply this, live this life and do whatever is done in a spirit of thanksgiving.”

In short one to two page reflections, the rule guides the reader to “treat each hour as the rarest of gifts”. He offers directions which focus on good works, considers the roles of teaching, learning, leadership, right relationships, humility, routine, stewardship, service, worship, and meditation. At its core the Rule of St. Benedict is a series of remarkable insights into the art of living. It is pragmatic and concrete, requiring tangible action, and a continuing commitment to leading a balanced life, and a persistent effort to transcend self centered existence. The Rule recognizes our need to develop and maintain a basic rhythm for life.

Our Christian Faith is a magnificent resource for living, to live creatively, rather than going through life passively. Community is the bringing together of different gifts. We know that amazing things are done in congregational life when different gifts are put together. If we are prepared to see God as the source of the gifts of our lives, then we can offer what we are, and what we have. When we gain confidence from experience, we will find more and more satisfaction in using our gifts. In terms of our spiritual journey, if we make no investment, our spirit dries up like a plant left unwatered.

The Rule of St. Benedict, as explained in *Always We Begin Again*, teaches that if we take control of our lives, if we are intentional and careful in how we spend the hours of each irreplaceable day, if we discipline ourselves to live in a balanced, and thankful way, we will create from our experiences, whatever they may be, the best possible life.



← Reviewed by Esther Jackson

Serve the Lord with Gladness

AFP National Consultation 2006
for Diocesan Reps

St. Benedict's Monastery Retreat Centre
225 Masters Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Wednesday, June 14th, 3pm to
Saturday, June 17th 2pm

Highlights of the Gathering:
Information Session
Teaching Workshops
Sharing of Success
Meet the National Executive
Worship Services
Tour of Local Sites

Registration Info:
Margaret Jones
St. Mary Magdalene
3 St. Vital Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 1Z2

Conference Info:
Heather Birtles
(204) 255-8128
abirtles@mts.net

Journey Toward Wholeness

Calgary AFP Prayer Conference

November 17, 18 & 19, 2006

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Dr. Dana Fisher
Priest at St. Leonard's, Toronto
and Lecturer at Trinity College,
University of Toronto.

Registration Info:

Julienne Hendrickson
1531 110 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2W 0E2

Conference Info:

Rev. Deb Rivet (403) 251-0393
Esther Jackson (403) 239-1004

For Our Next Issue

If you have any ideas, articles or photos that you would like to have appear in the newsletter, contact the editor:

Wendy Bain

104 Champlain Street

Winnipeg, MB R2H 2J8

email: wendyb@ideamarketing.com

Deadline: August 1, 2006

... cont'd from pg.3 – Meet Ken Watts

Sexsmith, AB; Saskatoon, SK; and is currently Incumbent of St. George's, Westbank, BC. They have one son, Mark, currently attended the University of Saskatchewan.

When it comes to prayer, Ken's focus has been to explore the various forms of prayer that have been developed or adapted by the Church through its history; from prayer beads (the Rosary) to Icons to Centering prayer, to saying the Daily Office. He believes that our personality type and our spirituality are closely linked in assisting people to discover what ways to prayer will be most beneficial and 'natural' for opening ourselves to Christ, the Presence of the Holy Spirit and the Glory of God.

Boosting The NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

We need your help to continue our work!

The Canadian Executive has been trying to make the representation on the Executive Committee more closely Canadian. To accomplish this, there are now members on the Committee from the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Canada and Rupert's Land. Also, the Newsletter Editor, who lives in Winnipeg, has joined us. We are in process of producing new publications as we continue to update and improve our resources. These changes put increased burden on our available funds and we therefore appeal to you for support. We are certain that you realize that travel assistance to those coming to meetings as well as printing costs continue to increase.

We have been encouraged by the number of members who have made donations in the early part of this year. For those who have not as yet contributed, we urge you to make use of the envelope enclosed with this newsletter to continue this most important work in the prayer life of ourselves and our fellow Canadians.

Handbook for Readers and Intercessors

In a scriptural context, a prophet is a person whom God uses to deliver a divinely inspired message to an individual, a group, a people, a church, or even to nations. Any person who reads the divinely inspired Scriptures aloud to a congregation is therefore doing the work of a prophet. The Prayers of the People, or Scripture readings are meant to be an occasion for the revelation of God's truth and purposes for His people. Through reading and the work of the Spirit, the worshipping community is led to an encounter with the Word of God. The Prayers of the People are an expression of God's people gathered around Christ as their head and lord. They are joined in him and with him, in offering prayer to God through Him, with the world God has created and with the human family on their hearts.

The scriptures are given a prominent role in Anglican liturgy. The Church's services of worship are full of scriptural phrases and sentences. This prominence reflects the Anglican church's emphasis through the centuries on the primacy of the scriptures.

Much of the information given for the readers also applies to leaders of the Prayers of the People. It is vitally important that those who have been chosen to lead the intercessions are sensitive to the needs of those whose prayer they focus and direct. This requires reflection and preparation.

The above words have been extracted from the AFP (Canada) booklet entitled Handbook for Readers and Intercessors. In congregational worship, the liturgy is the work of all the people of all ages (as well as the presider). More lay people are exercising their gifts of ministry by acting as readers and intercessors. AFP Canada's Readers and Intercessors Handbook has been produced to provide some guidance in these important ministries. The complete booklet is available for \$0.75 per copy from our AFP (Canada) resource storehouse. If you would like to obtain this booklet, contact your AFP Diocesan Rep. or our Resource Centre directly:

Doreen Langston, hdlangston@sympatico.ca
#515 - 695 Regency Court
Burlington ON L7N 3H9