

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP
of
Prayer

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CANADA

WHAT MAKES A PRAYER POSSIBLE?



— herbert o'driscoll

It's easy to miss the awe-inspiring assumption we make when we say a prayer. The moment we even think of praying we make the assumption that there is more to life than life itself. Maybe it was Gerard Manley Hopkins who said this most beautifully and most memorably when he began one of his poems with the line "The world is charged with the grandeur of God".

That was his magnificent way of saying what I have just said very prosaically. To pray is to make the assumption that there is more to life than life itself. The "more" is God!

My life, your life, every life, every creature, every conceivable element in creation, is "entheos" – it is all in God. Writing to the Christian community in the city of Ephesus, Saint Paul said this in a different way. "In God" he wrote, "we live and move and have our being".

To believe this is to make prayer possible. I suspect that even if we did not believe this we would still pray, but our prayers would be desperate instinctive pleas into the unknown.

Centuries before the coming of Christian faith the Greeks



formed a dramatic device in their great plays. Out in the front of the stage the human characters would act their various parts, but behind them would be the Chorus. The job of the Chorus then was not just to sing choruses! The function of the chorus was to be the voice of the gods as they looked down at human comedy or tragedy, human pain and joy.

We can still find this in some operas. Out front the human drama is played out. Behind, and sometimes above, the voices of various higher powers sound, once again speaking from a position beyond and above the human.

Both of these customs in drama make the same assumption as you and I do when we pray. They, and we, assume that there is more to human life than itself. Ancient Greeks would say the "more" is the gods.

As Christians we dare to go further. We would say "We believe in a God, who in the person of Jesus Christ not merely looked down but came down from the place of the Great Chorus and took a role among us in the human drama; took it so completely that he stayed until the bitter end and died with us, then rose among us to assure us that even when our role in the earthly play ends, the Great Play of God's great purpose goes on and has a role for us".

cont'd on pg. 2



Thoughts to Ponder

As truly as there is in God a property of compassion...

so truly there is in God a property of thirst and longing.

By virtue of this longing in Christ, we have to long for God in response...

The property of longing thirst comes from the endless goodness of God...

*Spiritual thirst will last in God as long as we are in need,
drawing us up to God's bliss.*

— Julian of Norwich

Editors Note



Pray with Anticipation

In mid-March during a walk with a friend, I stood still for a moment, and reflected that there was a stillness and anticipation in the air. It seemed that the whole world was holding its collective breath, waiting and listening. The ground was still frozen, plants still dormant, and the weather just a bit too cool for neighbours to begin their spring clean up. In the last few days the weather is warmer and the waiting is over. The robins and wrens have returned, crocuses are in bloom and the neighbours are rushing to rake lawns and clean flower beds. Spring has arrived!

My spiritual world had that same feeling of stillness and anticipation during Lent, knowing that Easter was coming, but needing to live through the darkness of Easter Week. Jesus gives us the opportunity of walking and talking with Him in the sadness of His death and the triumph of His resurrection. Easter has arrived!

Now I feel we are entering a new time of stillness and anticipation, with the whole world holding its collective breath, waiting and listening. General Synod is coming! The national and local organizing committees have been planning for months. It's an opportunity for everyone in attendance to share their lives and their commitment to our Anglican faith. A new Primate will be elected. Canadian Anglican family members will be meeting to discuss and debate. God's love will unite the delegates in worship. Let us pray with anticipation for this very important time in the life of our Church.

Blessings,
Wendy

... cont'd from pg. 1 – *What Makes A Prayer Possible?*

This is why we not only dare to pray, but why we almost always end our prayer with a reminder to ourselves of the One who stepped down, joined us in our humanity and, in a mysterious but utterly real way, plays his part among us and with us day by day. You and I commend our prayer to God “through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

This is why we pray. Thanks be to God.



For Pat, who not only worked to bring many to a greater awareness of the reality and power of prayer, but whose life was itself a prayer.

Meet Anne Moore

New Member of the National Executive



The Reverend Anne Moore, although a cradle Anglican, came to a faith in the Living Lord in her early twenties while serving with the Canadian Forces. She

had very few Christian friends so was delighted to be invited by her parish priest to attend something called a “Prayer in Practice” workshop being held in Ontario diocese. Betty and Tom Gracie were just beginning their ministry in AFP and were helping to lead it. The conference was a highlight for her growing faith. She has been a member and promoter of AFP off and on ever since.

She was delighted to be invited to join the Toronto Diocesan Bishop's Committee on Prayer (AFP) three years ago and has been actively involved in helping the committee put on two prayer conferences and producing a DVD called “Developing Prayer Ministries in Parishes”. She attended the national consultation for DRs in Winnipeg in June, learning much more of the work of AFP and meeting DRs from across Canada. Anne says, “As a member of the National Executive Committee, I hope to be involved in the production

and updating of some of the excellent resources offered by AFP.

Anne was ordained in 1990 in the Diocese of Toronto and has served three parishes. She is currently looking for a new position because her last church was closed due to low attendance and a huge debt. In the meantime she continues to teach and preach on the power of prayer, and encourages others to practice being with God.

Meet Grace Anthony

New Member of the National Executive



The Rev. Grace Coleman Anthony is rector of St. Paul's Church, Point Edward, ON. The church is known as the “Mariner's Church” because of its close

association with shipping on the Great Lakes. Grace is also the first chaplain to be appointed to the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Central/Arctic Region. She and her husband Bill have three grown sons and six grand children. Grace has been active in AFP for over five years in the Diocese of Huron, and promotes its importance whenever possible. She is looking forward to working with AFP at the National Executive level.

Patricia Emily Curtis

1935 - 2006



Neither death nor life, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

On December 19, at Christ Church, Calgary, the church celebrated the life of Patricia Emily Curtis. Pat died December 13, 2006 at home after a long and brave struggle with cancer. Though it was a merciful end to her earthly life, to those of us who mourn there is a great sense of loss and bereavement.

Pat celebrated the joys of life, challenged the darkness, and found God in both the beauty and the pain.

Pat was born and raised in Calgary. During her youth she was an enthusiastic member of the Youth Hostel Association, with whom she hiked, camped and skied throughout the mountains. She also enjoyed many cycling adventures through the mountains to Vancouver, in New England, and with her own family in various parts of Europe.

Throughout her life music gave her much pleasure. With a lovely voice she sang in operettas, musicals, and also as a soloist for weddings.

Pat attended Teacher's college and taught in a one-room school in Alberta, then headed east to attend the Anglican Women's Training College, Toronto. There she met, fell in love with, and married Barry in 1959. They moved to Pembroke, Ontario, and Pat worked as a

Child Protection Worker with a Children's Aid Society. Over the years they served in several parishes in the Ottawa Diocese, and Western Quebec. During this time their four children were born. Joys of camping, hiking, and swimming in the lakes of Ontario, Quebec and Vermont, was a time to form happy memories and lasting friends.

While in Ottawa, Pat served as a Family Life Educator with the YM/ YWCA. Pat and Barry were responsible for the Preparation for Marriage Program in the Diocese of Ottawa for many years. Pat was active in Christian Education Programs in the Canadian church, a part of her life long passion for teaching and learning.

In 1980 Pat and their family moved to Alberta, "home again" for Pat. She resumed her pleasure of hiking and skiing in the mountains. While living in Calgary, Pat and Barry were greatly privileged to travel to many parts of the world, sharing their gifts of insight, and compassion, and being enriched by beauty of other cultures.

Some years ago, Pat felt called to the ministry of Spiritual Direction, went to the US for training, and began to bring the insight of those gifts to many who came to her. In that ministry she brought healing, hope, and new direction to those in need. Pat felt an immense sense of social justice to the less fortunate of our society. She spoke her mind, challenged the status quo, and did her part to give hope to others through work with the Inn

From the Cold, and Daybreak, a home for refugee women and their children.

Pat and Barry, following his retirement, served as National Directors of The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Canada, from January 2000, until June 2006. As directors, they sought to share their belief that prayer is one of the foundational ways of sustaining a deepening of our communion with God, and our daily lifelong discipleship. Prayer also moves us beyond ourselves to a profound concern for the well being of others, especially the most needy. It drives us to a deep commitment to the issues of peace and justice. Pat and Barry together, and sometimes Pat on her own, led conferences, retreats, and workshops across the country.

Pat's innate joyfulness, her sense of humour, her lively faith in God, her love of people, her passion to care for and serve others, and her infectious laughter, marked her life. Pat has returned to be with her Lord. Neither death, nor life, nor anything else in creation can separate us from the love of God. Pat is there "to see God face to face, to know him even as she also is known".

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

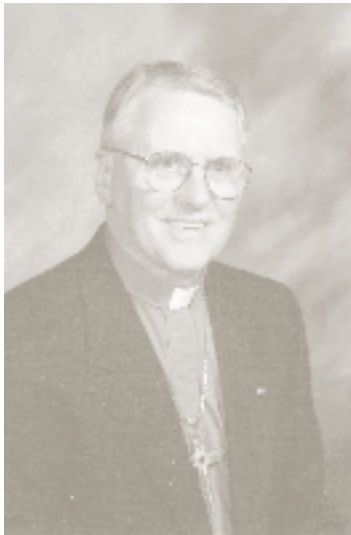
Picture a retired Bishop of the Anglican Church, then set that image aside and imagine a much younger person, scarcely old enough to be the father of four grown children and grandfather of five, who enjoys motorcycle touring throughout Canada and the USA with his wife Marie, Camping and making Music, and then perhaps you are beginning to see something of the person of Gary Woolsey who has graciously answered the call to be the new National Director of AFP.

Gary was ordered to the Priesthood in 1967 after receiving his BA from the University of Western Ontario in 1964 and his BTh from Huron College, London, Ont 1967. Following this he became a Priest-Pilot for the Diocese of Keewatin and also served there as Exec Archdeacon and Program Officer. He has offered priestly ministry in parishes in Northern Ontario and Northern Manitoba. He has trained and mentored clergy and lay leaders, and has been involved in marriage preparation courses and Alpha and Cursillo programmes.

He was Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca 1983-1991 and Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary and Rector of St Peter's Anglican Church, Calgary 1992-2002 He attended the Lambeth Conferences of 1988 and 1998. He has served on the National Executive Council and as a member of the National World Mission Committee he has represented the Anglican Church of Canada at Partners in Mission Consultations in the Sudan and Kenya.

Since his 'retirement' in 2002, Gary has continued active ministry in the Calgary Diocese and will conduct a weekend seminar at Sorrento Conference Centre in Aug 2006 on 'Biker Spirituality'.

Grace Anthony writes "I was so pleased when I heard that Bishop Woolsey had been appointed as our National Director. My memory jumped back 40



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this first message as National Director for Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada), I am humbled to be chosen to serve in this new ministry. In one way I feel that I am an 'extension' of the ministry of Archbishop Barry and Pat Curtis who have been special friends for many years. Their passion for serving Christ has been a wonderful inspiration to me as a bishop in the life of the church. Pat is a real 'saint' in the life of the church and her life will continue to be an inspiration for many in the years to come.

Each new year can be a time to reflect on God's blessings as well as to seek direction and strength for the future. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer has touched so many lives through the faithful prayers of its members, the many workshops and conferences across our church and the use of resources to assist individuals and parishes in their life of prayer.

How can we, the members of AFP, promote the ministry of prayer in our churches? I suggest that we begin with a renewed commitment of faithful prayer in our own lives. This may take the form of asking God to guide and strengthen us in our love relationship with the Father and the Son. We will then seek to allow this love to reach out first in prayer and then in action. The beautiful mosaic of prayer is to see how each person creates a path or journey with God and Christ that is unique. I will be blessed and encouraged in my prayer life as I walk with others who seek and serve Christ in their lives.

May God bless each of us as we face a future full of hope because Christ, the good shepherd, goes before us.

**Gary
Bishop Gary Woolsey
National Director AFP (Canada)**

years to when I first met Gary at Huron College. We were both members of the Canterbury Club and even then he was exercising a leadership role. As president he did much to bring together Anglicans from the main Campus as well as Huron College, and he organised and planned retreats. It is wonderful that he has accepted this position and AFP will be blessed because of his presence and

the guidance that he will give to us. I personally look forward to working with him again"

The National Executive Committee invites you to join them in giving a warm welcome to the Rt Rev Gary Woolsey and pledge to support him with your prayers as he begins his work as the new National Director of AFP (Canada).

BOOK REVIEW

Travel around the world with children as you encourage them to pray... anytime... anywhere!



The book is entitled, "I Can Talk with God".

It is a colorful book with lively pictures which I think would hold the attention of children from 3 to 10 years. Its possibilities are endless... "God made tigers to roar, monkeys to chatter... and people to talk to Him"! The reader travels the world as they refrain "maybe someday I will talk with God... while petting a panda in China or exploring in Mexico... etc" ending with "perhaps I will someday talk with God while eating pickles in Paris!"... but realizing... right here... right now... is PERFECT!

I would suggest purchasing a small plastic tub & collect objects found in the story, (except the pickles of course!) What a great resource for a parish library or your Church Camp.

It's an American book & I would suggest putting a Canadian flag sticker by the American flag picture... stickers can be found

in most dollar stores as well as perhaps a little stuffed panda, Koala bear, penguin, plastic fish, little piece of Mexican pottery or a sombrero, a small globe or world map for the kids to find the countries. The props could be handed out and the appropriate child could stand when their object is mentioned, (make sure everyone gets a turn). You could read quicker the second or third time through... the kids could have the words memorized in fast time.

Small pickles on disposable skewers for snack after, of course, some wonderful quiet personal, "talk time" with God.

Let's make learning about prayer fun & exciting for our children. Educators tell us, "the more our five senses are used in our Learning, the more we will retain!"

If you wish to order a copy, "I Can Talk with God" by Debby Anderson Email: Crossway Home Books at www.gnpcb.org/home/books #1581344163 cost:\$9.99 (US\$)

— Bernadette Njgovan
Coordinator for the AFP Children's Ministry



Bernadette is a semi-retired schoolteacher who has been involved in Sunday School and youth ministry for 30 years within the Anglican Church. She is the wife of the Bishop of Brandon & the mother of The Rev. Noah Njgovan and Jessica. Bernadette is excited about this position with AFP as she feels it will give her an opportunity to share ideas she comes upon when praying with youth & children.

WHY WE PRAY... AND WHY WE DON'T

There are many things we come across in religious literature that talk about prayer, the need for prayer, etc. But why DO we pray? Generally, it's for some want or concern for ourselves (help me to get that job I really want, help me with my illness, etc.). Is this appropriate? Are we "selfish" in asking God for things we want? Of course not. God is like a close friend who wants to hear from us whether the conversation is good news or bad.

We also pray for our family members who have wants, needs, issues, and problems. Have you ever prayed for help for your children, you brothers, sisters, or parents? God will listen to these requests also.

What about prayer for others? Do you pray for the child soldiers in Uganda, the starving children of Asia, or others about the world? Again, it is a plea not only for those in great need, but perhaps also a prayer of thanksgiving for ourselves that we never

be in the situation of those poor souls. In all these cases, we pray for ourselves as well as others and God hears these pleas.

Whether you pray alone, with others, silently or aloud, on your knees, sitting or standing, God hears. We pray for our needs, and in relation to ourselves, the needs of others. And God listens.

But many people do not pray, or pray very seldom, or are even afraid to pray. Some feel that they have not lived a "good" life or are not worthy of having God answer their prayers. Do you think that when you pray, God says, "I am not going to listen to you. You only call me when you want something!" God doesn't ask us to be perfect, He just asks us to call Him. If we believe in Him, He is waiting and will always listen, like that old faithful friend who we don't see frequently but is always glad to hear from us. God is waiting until we do "show up". And like that old friend, he says to us, "Why don't you call more often. You know I am always glad to hear from you. I love you."

happenings

Touching the Heart Praying in Parishes

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Workshop for Huron Diocese was held on October 28th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme was Touching the Heart – Praying in Parishes. The workshop was an amazing success. There were sixty-two people that gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral to listen to Archdeacon Paul Feheley as he led us in a most wonderful



AFP book resources table (right to left): Rev. Grace Coleman Anthony, Anne Marie Deslippe and Mary Rothery, committee members



Rev. Marian Haggerty DR introducing The Venerable Paul Feheley as the leader of the workshop

way of dealing with prayer. With humour and a depth of honesty Paul helped others to understand what prayer is all about and of the importance of prayer in the parish. One of the comments from the day was that “one woman was sad because it had to end”. The day began with hymn singing in the Cathedral, led by Angus Sinclair. The day was balanced by talks, skits, group discussion which enthused those present to go back to their parishes and try to share what they had learned, and a closing Eucharist. We thank all those who came and

participated in this event. Our prayer now is that all those who attended will indeed go back and share what is possible in their parishes. The Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Fellowship of Prayer has produced a DVD with Archdeacon Paul Feheley leading this workshop and those DVD's are available for sale. (See Page 8) This DVD is a perfect tool for parish growth in all areas as everything needs to be grounded in prayer first.

— Rev. Marian Haggerty
Diocesan Rep for Huron

Journey Toward Wholeness Calgary AFP Prayer Conference, November 16-19, 2006

“My name is Dana Fisher and I am a sinner!” This was how the keynote speaker introduced herself. Dana proceeded to bless us with her forthright teaching on wholeness. She told us that to reach wholeness we must go through brokenness and sin. Wholeness is a journey to God with God. It is also a journey to ourselves. She spoke on forgiveness and its' importance in bringing wholeness to our lives.

Our conference ended with a Eucharist, led by Archdeacon Peter Millen, our Chaplain. He instructed us to do something very different than the usual exchange of the Peace. Based on a story Dana had shared with us, he asked us to go to one another and say “I forgive you, will you forgive me?” Needless to say it was very moving.

I would like to encourage you to attend a conference in the future. They are always open to everyone who wishes to attend, not just AFP members.

— Laura Anne Fink



New National Director with Diocese of Calgary AFP Committee
Left to right: Bishop Gary Woolsey (AFP National Director), Esther Jackson (Provincial Rep), Dinah Breu, Rev. Peter Millen (Chaplain), Julienne Hendrickson, Rev. Deborah Rivet (Diocesan Rep), Jan Wilkinson

general synod

June 19-25th



Prayers for General Synod

The most recent meeting of the National Executive of AFP was held at a parish church in Toronto named for Theodore of Canterbury. Should you be wondering who that gentleman was, let me tell you that he became Archbishop of Canterbury in AD 669 and set about organizing the English Church and encouraging learning. He brought about a diocesan system accepted at a Synod held at Hertford in AD 673. Theodore issued laws (“canons”) to regulate church life.

When we consider our own General Synod to be held in Winnipeg in June we can see that the pattern of gathering to discuss the matters of the day with a desire to debate yet remain in the unity of the body of Christ still continues. The executive has issued a pamphlet of prayers, which may help you to focus on the event. Feel free to copy it and share it in your parish and with your friends. Whatever your style and opportunity for praying we ask “Will you pray for all those involved in the preparation and support of this event? Will you pray for those who will give leadership and speak to the matters at hand? Will you pray for those who let their names stand for election to office in the church? Will you pray for our representatives who will make decisions and cast ballots? Will you pray for safe travel for all? Will you pray for good fellowship in this gathering of ‘family’? Of course you will. May we all be richly blessed by this event.



Prayer Vigils

Over the past number of years as I have been involved in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer at the Diocesan and National level it has been my privilege to organize Prayer vigils. These vigils have been held for a variety of reasons but the purpose behind each one has been to gather people together to pray for an extended period of time. We know that God in his infinite wisdom waits for our prayers in order that his power may be released into a situation. I have lost count of the number of times delegates at synods have said to me “I am so glad you folk are praying”. One of the most noticeable effects, is that when we support such events as Synods with concerted prayer, the atmosphere changes. It becomes more Christ centered. Experience has taught me that in these situations the closer you are to the proceedings the more effective the vigil seems to be. Those keeping vigil are able to listen to the speakers, pray and uphold the situation or concern as it is taking place. This often means that the area set aside for prayer is not a quiet space. This poses a special challenge for some who think we must have silence in order to pray.

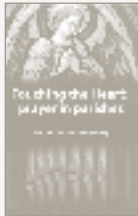
The word vigil comes from the Latin word for watchman. In unsettled times and places, most communities would set a watch on the city walls to warn of approaching enemies. In the same way we are told in I Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus said to his disciples “Watch and pray that you not enter into temptation.” Matthew 26:41

This June in Winnipeg The Anglican Church of Canada will hold its General Synod from June 19th to 25th in the Marlborough Hotel. As we have done before, the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer will be organizing an “on site” prayer vigil. There will be a space near to the plenary session set aside for continuous prayer to be offered. Teams of pray-ers will come to the site and intercede for the delegates and all the business of the Synod. How can you be involved if you are in another part of the country? One way is to pray wherever you are and I hope that you will do this. Another way is to organize a vigil in your church, this might be an “on site” vigil or prayers offered in homes over a designated time period. What ever you decide to do, it would be wonderful if you would let the Winnipeg AFP Vigil organizers know, by sending an email giving details of the vigil to wendyb@ideamarketing.com. These messages will be posted in the Vigil room where they can be read by the delegates as they drop by between sessions to pray. They will be a real source of encouragement to those who labor at this General Synod that they are not alone but surrounded and upheld by the prayers of the saints across Canada.

— Lesley Dunkerley

RESOURCE FOR ENCOURAGING PRAYER IN PARISHES*

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and the Diocese of Toronto have recently released a DVD called "Touching the Heart: prayer in parishes". The DVD contains a six part workshop series on prayer that can be used as a one-day workshop, or divided over two or three or six sessions. The DVD package includes a Leaders Guide booklet and a reproducible Workbook for participants. This is a very useful tool for encouraging prayer in parishes that stands on its own. It can be easily presented with a minimum of preparation and organization. The cost is \$40.00 plus shipping and can be obtained either from the AFP (Canada) Resource Centre or from The Toronto Diocesan AFP c/o 23 Vankirk Rd., Toronto, ON M1P 1M8



*Editor's Note

We used the "Touching the Heart" DVD in my parish (St. Bartholomew, Wpg.), spread over three alternative Thursday evenings in Lent, studying two topics per night. We followed a format that has worked well for us in the past: breaking into small discussion groups following each topic, with a larger group discussion over coffee, juice and snacks at the end of the evening. Our conversations deepened over the sessions, and we have since implemented several suggestions from the DVD. Talking about prayer is always a "good thing".

Questions about AFP?

If you have any questions about AFP, or want to find out how you can become involved, phone, write or email to:

AFP WEBSITE

We are happy to report that our new AFP Website has now been updated and we hope it will be a source of encouragement, information and resources for everyone, particularly the DRs across the country. An effective website can assist all AFP ministries and leaders. It is a way for 2-way communication (AFP Director and Executive with Reps) as well as allowing people to connect and support each other with their ministries.

The contact information has been updated, as well as the list of Resources, along with an order form available for downloading. The Events calendar, while still slim, is current. If you have any events that are related to prayer that you wish to include, forward them to Roger Harris rognnet@sympatico.ca and we'll do our best to have them posted.

If you have suggestions for improvement and further enhancement, please forward them to Roger as he is the person on the Executive who will be guiding the future of the website. All comments, corrections and suggestions will be gratefully received.

The website address is:
www.anglicanprayer.org.

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Huron Diocese
Bishop's Conference on Prayer presents
The Rt. Rev. Gary Woolsey

Praying For And With Others And For Ourselves

"So You Want Me to Pray for you.
Right Now?"

Saturday, October 13th, 2007

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Cathedral

472 Richmond Street, London

(corner of Richmond and Queens Ave)

Registration \$20.00

ask your rector or your AFP parish rep for a registration form. The registration form is also online at www.diohuron.org under Parishes and ministries – click on ministries – then on AFP.

Lunch

Please bring a brown bag lunch.

Sessions

Praying for Others and Ourselves
from God's Point of View

Praying for Others and Ourselves
from Our Point of View

Praying for Others and Ourselves
With My discipline

Prayer - A Gift from God
Accept it, Use it, Offer it

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:

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for the August 2007 issue.