

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

“supporting, serving, and encouraging prayer”

AFP-C NEWSLETTER—Vol. 24, No. 5

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2016

Director Archdeacon Paul Feheley



Photo by
Simon Chambers

A 4-year-old boy was asked to bless the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and many others. He moved on to thank God for the food including the turkey, dressing, fruit salad, the cranberry, pies, cakes and even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

I wonder what Mary or Joseph offered as a prayer that first Christmas. We tend to have a distorted and highly romantic view of the birth - imaging no pain, no difficulty, no fear. I suspect Mary's prayer was coming from her trepidation of being a young girl expecting a child, being away from family that she knew and understanding very little of what was happening.

For Joseph, his prayer may have come from his confusion and anxiety about the future. Despite angels assurances his faith must have been pushed to the limit in trying to understand what he was to do and how he was to do it.

What will your prayer be this Christmas? For joy or peace? I know for some it will be thanks when the season is over and for others, regret for what they did not do or give. For far too many, their prayer will be a plea for Christmas not to be a terrible time of loneliness and depression.

My prayer for you this Christmas is to ask you to take all that you have in your heart, and share it openly and willingly with the Lord. I believe from the manger at Bethlehem there will emerge an understanding, an acceptance and a love that will reach deep into your heart and soul and bring you God's peace. May this be your greatest Christmas gift.

Current Work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

The Reverend Valerie Kenyon



As is true of the season in general, autumn for the National Executive of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer got off to a busy start. Meeting monthly by Skype, we have been occupied supporting the Canada Prays initiative with its next phase beginning Advent 1 (for more information on this please visit: anglicanprayer.org or prayersofthepeople.org), continuing our review of current and possible resources and considering the role of the Diocesan Representative (DR), and how best to support and equip those working in each Diocese. Having begun to provide summaries of Executive meetings to the DR's, the Executive is always looking for feedback from those 'on the ground' about what is needed or what would be helpful.

This past month the Executive said goodbye to the Rev'd Anne Moore who has served faithfully for many, many years. We have deeply appreciated her energies and commitment and while we will miss her, we are confident we will remain in her prayers and for that we are also grateful. May God's richest blessing be yours Anne!

We have also begun conversations at the Executive about the timing and location of our next Consultation (last one was in St. John's, Newfoundland in June of 2015). These are wonderful events and a tremendous opportunity to connect around prayer and meet others who are passionate about learning more. Watch for more exciting news on this in the days ahead.

As we head into this new Church year, we pause and reflect each day on the incredible gift of God's Son to a world in need. May God's grace abound to us all and may God give us the ability to imagine in new ways all that is possible in Christ, in our world, in our parishes and in ourselves.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

P.O. Box 78084, Meriline, NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1

www.anglicanprayer.org

Getting to Know Your Executive— The Reverend Valerie Kenyon

Originally from Toronto, Val has called London home for the past 28 years. Looking for an affordable home for her then young family, she and husband Doug ventured the two hours west along the 401 and have been very happy they did. The time since then has flown by filled with the joys and challenges of raising three wonderful sons.

Prior to attending seminary, for many years Val was the Administrative Director of a local independent school, where in addition to her regular duties, she enjoyed representing those in administration and fund development in a network of independent schools across North America.

Since her youngest days Val's faith has been central to her life as has been her involvement at many levels in the Anglican Church of Canada. In 2006 Val began her studies at Huron University College. Ordained to the diaconate and priested in 2009, Val's first placement was as Assistant to the Rector at St. James Westminster, in the heart of Old South, in London. In the Fall of 2013, Val became the Rector of Trinity St. Thomas where she continues to serve.

Also an Associate of the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine, Val is committed to ongoing development in her own spiritual life and that of those around her. In the Spring of 2016 Val began her studies towards a Doctor of Ministry with special interest in how best to support parishioners journeying through times of transition in their parishes.

Val has served as the Diocesan Representative in Huron since January of 2010 and has been a member of the National Executive since October of 2011 and Chair since the Fall of 2014. Val resonates strongly with the goals and objectives of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, and enjoys working with and learning from the other Executive members, Diocesan representatives, and indeed so many who cross her path in this work of prayer.



CANADA PRAYS!



The work of "Canada Prays" continues; the seven classical forms of prayer is now highlighted each day of the week. This wonderful resource is now providing daily prayers to more than 1500 people, and the prayers of the people, submitted through social media, create an ongoing digital prayer wall. If you haven't already, please visit prayersofthepeople.org to sign up and take part.

The Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference

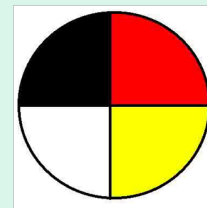
GOSPEL IN FOUR DIRECTIONS

Right Reverend Mark MacDonald

Saturday, May 6, 2017 - 10am - 3pm

Church of the Ascension, 2060 Dundas Street, East, London, Ontario

\$20.00 (lunch provided)



Join us for a day with Bishop Mark as he shares with us an indigenous perspective of the Gospel in Four Directions. To register please contact: Rev'd Kim Metelka kametelka@gmail.com; 2896 Old Lakeshore Road, Bright's Grove, Ontario, N0N 1C0; 519-869-2403 or text info to 519-464-8892.

Appeal: Come Pray With Us 2016

Did you remember to donate to AFP-C?

by mail, see address below, or by visiting our website: www.anglicanprayer.org

Herb O'Driscoll: For those of you who have missed Herb's articles in the newsletter, you can find them on the website: www.anglicanprayer.org and follow the links. For those not able to access this resource, please send a mail request to us at the address below. The following four articles are on the website now, or will be shortly:

**THE MAN WHO INVESTED IN THE FUTURE
THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN**

**THE BICYCLE MAN
THE DOUGH BOX**

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

P.O. Box 78084, Merilene, NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1

www.anglicanprayer.org



DIOCESE OF HURON: When Heaven Feels Silent

The Rev. Kim Metelka

The thing that I remember so well when our son Rob was first diagnosed with Cancer were all the stories that people shared with me about answered prayer. Their accounts were of loved ones and friends who had been healed *and* of how thankful they had been that their prayers had been heard.

Yet we know that the outcome of our prayer is not always that our loved ones are restored to us. When this happens it can sometimes feel that heaven has gone quite silent, leaving us wondering whether we have been heard at all. Questions fill our minds and our hearts, and our prayers grow more intent as with the Psalmist we say, "Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me." (Psalm 27:7-8) Something just does not feel right and the silence only grows more deafening.

As Christians, our faith can be challenged as we face some very real and painful struggles in life. As we respond to these struggles in prayer, it is common for us to hold a particular, hoped-for outcome, feeling that when God answers our prayers, it will take a certain form, and look a particular way. It is understandable why we do this, especially in the very difficult and painful situations and yet we may in those very same circumstances be missing how our prayers *are* being answered in other ways. When we have our minds so fixed on the answer we are expecting, we can miss the grace and the beauty that can be born out of the struggles in our lives, and in the lives of those with whom we are journeying.

From my experience, I believe our Lord does hear and answer our prayers, and he does this in many and various ways. Next time you feel the silence of heaven pressing in upon you in your prayers, I invite you to listen and look for the unexpected ways that God is answering your prayers today, opening yourself to all the different possibilities and then you too will realize that heaven is *never* silent.



DIOCESE OF EASTERN NFL & LAB.

Ordination of a Deacon and a Priest

On Holy Cross Day, Bishop Geoff Peddle ordained the Reverend Dr. Owen Edwards as a Deacon to serve in the Parish of Carbonear and the Reverend Christine Lynch as a Priest to serve in the Parish of Upper Island Cove.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO: by Tony Day

To reiterate what many of you know AFP Toronto used to be known as BCOP or the Bishop's Committee on Prayer. The BCOP was disbanded earlier this year however for those of you reading this we are still able and willing to conduct parish workshops. The titles of the workshops that we offer are:

Simply Prayer

Prayer: Two sessions for hospital visitors
Prayer: an exciting adventure.
The Sweet Fragrance of Prayer
Praying in the Storm (requires an afternoon session)
Praying: Personally, Powerfully and Playfully

Spend a Quiet Morning with the Lord, which will enable people to pray aloud with each other.

OR

We can help you design your own workshop. We have for the past 30 years conducted a biennial diocesan prayer conference. Initially over 300 people attended but the numbers have dropped, until 2014, we had about 100 people. Once again we were working on a conference for this year but soon realised that many diocesan events are scheduled for October, the month we normally meet. We have decided to try a conference in Lent of 2017. The topic for the conference will be "**Praying for our Diocese**".

"Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Toronto" is our "facebook" page.



Bringing the Prayer Tree home!

By Jenni Feheley



It was a bright and sunny day and our neighborhood was holding a street festival. Children were cycling through sprinklers, listening to stories and playing table tennis in the middle of the road. It was summer freedom; complete with ice cream! Neighbors met for the first time, the tenth time, the millionth time. This was downtown Toronto at its most relaxed and friendly. Growing outside our house is one of the oldest trees on our street. Maybe 70 years old. From the beginning of its days as a young sapling, this tree has been witness to all the comings and goings of this street: happy faces, slumped shoulders, laughing children and, quite likely, a huge amount of grief. We decided that, given its trustworthy - ever there nature, we would turn the generous shade provider into a prayer tree for the day! Tied around the tree we placed a sign:

Prayer Tree of Contemplation and Consideration

As much as there is joy, there are also so many other things going on in our lives –

On this day of celebration, this prayer tree is a space where you can dedicate a few minutes to matters that trouble you, or bring great joy.

Feel free to tie ribbons and paper leaves on the trees, blank or with prayers/thoughts/considerations written on them.

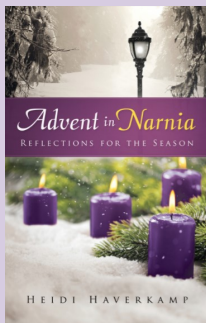
As some prayers are too fragile in the hearts to be written, small pebbles can be placed at the base of the tree, like a mandala, to speak for the hearts when words just won't do justice.

At the end of the day, maybe 50 pebbles were placed at the base of the tree, and 23 prayer leaves tied in place. One neighbor asked if we would keep it up, another commented on how simple and profound they found the opportunity to be. Sometimes its just enough for a person to know that, in this busy world, there is permission to hope, dream and pray, wherever you are!

"Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season" by Heidi Haverkamp

Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015, 100 pages

Reviewed by The Reverend Laura Marie Piotrowicz



This new book offers a journey through the Advent season that is just as engaging as a journey through Narnia.

CS Lewis' series has long provided readers of all ages a chance to engage as deeply as they wish; whether as a simple tale of a trip through the wardrobe, or as a quest into the deeper teachings and truths that Narnia offers.



So too, Haverkamp encourages readers to go as deep as they are comfortable; to challenge themselves into a spiritual journey that delves well beyond the words on the page.

Four weeks of daily reflections are provided: the 2-pages for 28 days can be used in any year. Each begins with a passage of scripture, and a recommended passage from "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," an offering from Haverkamp, and questions for reflection. The book also provides an extensive leadership guide for small group discussion, which suggests additional discussion questions and video references, prayers, and a possible "Narnia Night" for families.

The themes (which include cold/snow, temptation, sin and redemption, meals, gifts, light and darkness, forgiveness and hope) naturally intersect the journeys of the fictitious Narnia and the anticipatory reality of Advent.

Overall, this is a fun journey to embrace through the season - individually, as a family, and as a parish community.