

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

Serving, supporting, and encouraging prayer



*Photo by
Simon Chambers*

A PENTECOST MESSAGE

The Ven. Paul Feheley

In his book *A Firm Foundation*, Paul Chappell (the senior pastor of the Lancaster Baptist Church) tells the following story, "A little boy was flying a kite. It was a windy day, and the kite kept going higher and higher. Finally it got so high that it was out of sight. A man passed by and saw the little boy holding onto the string. The man could not see the kite, and he asked the boy, "How do you even know you have a kite up there?" The boy replied, "Because I can feel it."

Hearing the blazing story in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, our focus at Pentecost is centered on the Holy Spirit. Too often I believe we do one of two things with the Holy Spirit. The first is to treat the Spirit as an academic exercise, learning the story and striving to understand it, but making sure it takes no effect in our heart, mind and soul. The second is to dismiss the Spirit because we have "heard" others talking about incredibly emotional things happening - speaking in tongues and waving hands in the air and after all, Anglicans don't do that!

The truth, as it so often does, lies somewhere in the middle. Our prayers at Pentecost, inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, need a time of solid biblical learning. Exactly what happened in the Acts 2 passage is not easy to understand. As we pray for understanding and guidance I believe we need to open our hearts and minds to feel the Holy Spirit's presence. Knowledge of God is never only an academic task. It is also an invitation to look inside ourselves, to hear God speaking to us and discern how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

It is impossible to say where all of this will lead. When we read forward in the Acts of the Apostles we see a group of fearful disciples becoming strong emissaries of Jesus Christ. They move from inside closed doors, and perhaps closed minds, to speak boldly and powerfully from the heart. The growth of the Church begins at this time because these newly filled followers of Christ, "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42). Their devotion to prayer was at the heart of all that they did.

My hope this Pentecost is that prayer may also be at the heart of all we do and that we may find and feel ourselves richly inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

***When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability...***

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Connects

A poem by Julie Palmer

Prayer connects, invisible yet tangible, human to holy, earth to heaven, child to father. Prayer changes, creating new pathways and spaces. Prayer. Prayer covers, keeps and holds, prayer brings safety and sanctuary. Prayer persists, anew, fresh to each moment, entwining daily life with the mercy of heaven.

Prayer stretches higher, standing on tiptoe, off-balance, daring and bold. Prayer illuminates, throwing light into dark places, reviving hearts with warmth. Prayer journeys, faithfully through the unknown to settle upon truth and declare hope. Prayer, sees, beyond the physical constraints of time and space, pulling the inheritance of the past together with the hope of the future. Prayer joins, redeems and unites, our whole being, emotional, spiritual and physical. Serenity is found here.

Prayer transforms, pushing out the crushing insecurities, the fallen fears and the bitter cries. Prayer throws lifelines of forgiveness and grace far and wide, prayer unlocks doors, pushes down walls and opens eyes. Prayer places it's feet firmly upon resurrection hope, walks in peace, runs with conviction and takes flight. Prayer like a heartbeat, alive, forming a rhythm in our lives, changing the way we move, the decisions we make and the impact of our faith.

Prayer is a home, a safe place to relax and rest, a place of provision and a place of submission. Prayer lays a blanket of grace, soft and new each day, fresh beneath our feet and without condition.

Prayer is a gift, guided by love, carried by hope and expectant with faith.

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DIOCESAN EVENTS

Diocese of Rupert's Land

Order of St Luke Healing Conference
September 22-23, 2017; Free Will Offering
St. Andrews Church, 2700 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg
With the Rev. Raymond Knight and the Rev. Dr. Canon Murray Still
Contact Person: Hazel Birt, hgbirt@shaw.ca 204-888-6743

Diocese of Huron

Diocesan Prayer Conference
"Praying Into the Calm: Creatively Responding to Life in Flux"
October 7, 2017
St. Michael and All Angels, 397 Springbank Dr., London
With the Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz
Contact Person: the Rev. Kim Metelka, kametelka@gmail.com 519-869-2403

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Prayer Matters—a Mini Conference
September 22-24, 2017
Port-de-Grave, Spaniard's Bay, and Upper Island Cove
With the Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz
Contact Person: the Rev. Christine Lynch, lynchchristine@hotmail.com

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE

National Director: The Ven. Paul Feheley

A Torontonion from birth, Paul graduated from St. Michael's Choir School in 1971. His studies continued at the University of Toronto where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in 1975. In 1978 he graduated from Trinity College with a Master of Divinity (Honours) degree. His thesis was in communications.

Paul was ordained a deacon in 1978 and as a priest in 1979. He has served many parishes and committees in the Diocese of Toronto and represented the Diocese at the Provincial and General Synod level.

In 2004 he became the Principal Secretary to the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Alongside his national work, Paul is the priest in charge and musician of St. Chad's, Toronto, and the National Director of The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. He has been seconded by the Anglican Communion a variety of times to serve the communication needs at the Lambeth Conference, the Primates' meetings and the Anglican Consultative Council.

He is happily married to Jenni and has two younger children, Adrian and Sophie, two older sons, Kevin and Bryan, two wonderful daughters-in-law, Charlotte and Courtney, and one grandson Rhys.



~~ NEWS ~~

Welcome

to the Rev. Larry Chatman, new Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Central Newfoundland

Congratulations

to the Ven. Paul Feheley, who received a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) from Trinity College (Toronto) on May 9!

BOOK REVIEW

In God's Holy Light: Wisdom From the Desert Monastics

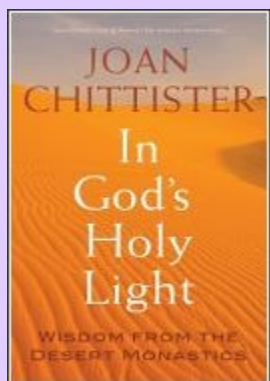
Joan Chittister. Cincinnati, Franciscan Media, 2015. \$22.99

Reviewed by the Rev Laura Marie Piotrowicz

The desert monastics of the 3rd to 6th centuries are "seen as the Olympians of the spiritual life" as they separated themselves from earthly distractions in order to engage more fully on their connection with God. Their wisdom and devotion made them the spiritual directors of the time, and people would make pilgrimages to them in order to ask questions of the Abbas and Ammas (Fathers and Mothers).

In this book, Sr. Joan Chittister re-examines many of the responses from the desert tradition in the lens of our modern western society. A collection of 35 chapters, each only a few pages, considers a classic teaching shared in the Egyptian wilderness, and gleans the timeless spiritual truth that applies to our journey today.

Topics include personal piety, the search for spirituality, temptation, peace, and grace. This book is useful for personal exploration, and for group discussions in faith formation. Chittister's style makes the topics approachable and accessible for all, encouraging the reader to delve as deeply as they are willing, and from wherever the reader is on their spiritual journey.



CURRENT WORK OF YOUR AFP EXECUTIVE

The Rev Valerie Kenyon



One of the basic goals of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is to support individuals and parishes in their developing understanding and practice of prayer. To that end we at the Executive are always asking ourselves how this might best be accomplished in the ever-changing landscape of the Church in these days. At a recent Executive meeting we have been exploring the idea of initiating an AFP (Canada) YouTube channel so that presentations that are given in one venue, might be shared with others in different and often remote areas. While only at the beginning stages of this endeavour, our hope is that this channel will give any who are interested in learning more about prayer, additional resources that may be used for individuals or for group events. We shall keep you advised as this develops. Please be in touch with any feedback about this new project, as hearing from those who use our resources is always helpful.

Conversations are underway for our next National Consultation (has it really been almost three years since Newfoundland?). We are working with the tentative date of June 4 to June 8, 2018, with the venue yet to be confirmed. Please set this week aside and watch for details in future newsletters and on our website as they develop.

A Summer Prayer for Children

Let me drift like a seagull
Up in the summer sky
Feeling the air grow golden
As the sun rises high.

Let me drift like a seagull
Out on the sea so wide
Feeling the ocean moving
As the moon pulls the tide.

Let me drift through the summer
Down by the ocean shore
Resting in God's creation
Now and forevermore.

~Lois Rock,
The Lion Book of 1000 Prayers for Children

Untitled

Guide me,
Holy One,
Into an unclenched moment,
A deep breath,
A letting go
Of heavy experiences,
Of shriveling anxieties,
Of dead certainties,
That, softened by the silence,
Surrounded by the light,
And open to the mystery,
I may be found in the wholeness,
Upheld by the unfathomable,
Entranced by the simple,
And filled with the simple joy
That is you.

~Ted Loder,
Life Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Blessings, and Affirmations to Celebrate the Human Journey

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AFP-C Newsletter Editor

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