

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

AFP-C NEWSLETTER—Vol. 24, No. 1

LENT 2016



Rev. Anne Moore

“Forty days and forty nights, thou wast fasting in the wild.” That is my first image/feeling/remembrance of Lent – dull, dreary, just about dead. Each year I have to force myself to even acknowledge this Christian season. I have learned that not everyone feels this way, and I have learned to force myself to look at the time in a different way. Now I look at these 40 days as a new beginning, just like January 1st. I get a second chance; I get to try again: a do-over. And I do.

On New Year’s Day I began to “pray the Scriptures”. I started with Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, thinking that with just four chapters, I could be finished in four weeks. I wanted to read a short passage slowly and repeatedly. I wanted to ask myself questions about what I had read and how I was doing, and to pray through the answers. I wanted to memorize some verses and pray them through the day.

So I read in verse 3: “I thank my God every time I remember you.” I ask myself, “Do I??” Then I begin to pray: a prayer of confession for not praying for folks the way I want to, prayers of intercession, prayers of thanksgiving that God has opened my eyes to my neglect, prayers of praise that God loves me anyway. Wow, what a God we serve!

As I write this, Lent is still two weeks away. I don’t think I will be finished Philippians by then. I have enjoyed this new venture in prayer so much, I want to do it again from the start. Perhaps sometime in Lent I will move to another book of the Bible. I will have to forgive myself for not keeping a strict Lent, and my readers will have to forgive me that I am not giving them the traditional lecture on keeping a holy Lent.

Have a blessed and holy Lent in whatever way you conceive it.

Current Work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Archdeacon Paul Feheley

The word “Lent” comes from the old English “lencten” which means “spring.” While we may not feel much of spring in the middle of a cold and dark winter the derivation of that word is important. If we use the Lenten season as a time to work diligently at the three fundamental Benedictine spirituality demands of **rest, prayer, and work**, in that order, we will arrive at Easter with a renewed sense of hope and inspiration in our souls. Just as the spring season brings with it the promise of new life in creation so our prayer life can equally experience new life and vitality after a time of reflection.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer has been spending much time in reflection and looking at our future. Over the next few months we will be sharing with you some new and strategic ways of how this ministry will continue to develop and unfold. One change that we are introducing now is the new format of our newsletter. While it has fewer pages it will come more frequently, arriving in your mailbox five times a year.

We are very grateful for your continuing prayerful support and please be assured of ours as we move towards the springtime and the glory of Easter when the next issue of the newsletter will be sent. God’s peace be with you.



Photo by

Simon Chambers

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

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www.anglicanprayer.org

LENT

CURRENT WORK

NEW DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Frances Drolet-Smith**DR for Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island**

Frances' early life was nomadic as her father served in the Army, moving their family to Valcartier, Kingston, Churchill and Soest, Germany, before settling in the Montreal area.

Despite the frequent postings, Montreal was always "home," as her grandmother lived there, and was the place her family always "roosted" between moves.

Wherever they were posted, Frances' parents sought the instant community of the base Chapel or the local church. She has lovely memories of Christmases in Germany and Easters in Holland. At least three parish churches they belonged to were named St. Paul's; in Churchill, Manitoba; Greenfield Park and Lachine in Quebec. As a teenager, she attended Youth Synod, meeting kids excited about their faith. She was impressed that so many of them *knew* Jesus and she wanted that experience for herself. It was a different kind of home-coming.

Frances undergraduate degree from McGill is in religious Studies with special courses in education. When asked what she wanted to do with her life, she was quick to respond that "I wanted to be a Sunday School teacher - *and get paid for it!*" She graduated Huron College and was ordained in the Diocese of Quebec in 1982, and has since served parishes in Western Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. With her husband Paul, who is also a priest, she has two grown children, Matthew and Sarah. Frances currently serves as parish priest at St. Alban's in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and is a member of the local Christian Meditation community.

Frances is an Oblate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, where her life of prayer has been deepened and strengthened. Appointed as the AFP Diocesan Representative for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in June of 2015, she is looking forward to meeting people in her diocese and sharing in their life of prayer and action.

**The Rev. Debbie Edmondson****DR for the Diocese of Fredericton**

Rev. Deacon Debbie Edmondson is a Vocational Deacon serving in the Parish of Bright in Keswick Ridge, New Brunswick. Born in Ottawa, Ontario, she grew up in Keswick Ridge, where she still makes her home with Phillip, her husband of 39 years. They have two sons and daughters-in-law and four grandchildren, who are a source of tremendous joy. She is a life long Anglican with, as she describes, "a well rounded Ecumenical background". Drawing on her rural roots, she leads workshops and retreats with humour and a down to earth sense of the sacred. She has been actively involved in the Parish for many years as a Sunday School teacher, Layreader, Vestry Member, Vestry Clerk, and in leading Bible studies and Book groups.

Debbie was ordained as Vocational Deacon in February 2009. In 2014 she completed a two year training program in Spiritual Direction with the Haden Institute in conjunction with Mount Carmel Spiritual Center in Niagara Falls. Debbie is a member of Spiritual Directors International and subscribes to their code of ethics. She received Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton. Debbie is an on-call Duty Chaplain with the hospital and also assists with Palliative Care chaplaincy.



DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference
Sat., May 7, 2016—10 am to 3 pm
St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario
Doors open 9 am—\$20 lunch included
Registration: kametelka@gmail.com
519-869-2403 or text to 519-464-8892

NOTE: SAVE A TREE

Receive our AFP-C newsletter

1. By email

2. From the AFP-C website

www.anglicanprayer.org

3. By the Postal Service

Email me: newsletter@anglicanprayer.org



facebook

**We've started a new Facebook group,
with daily quotes on prayer. Join us at
"Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)"**

Getting to Know Your Executive

By Tony Day

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer in Canada, AFP-C, has an executive committee of ten people.

To enable you, the reader, to learn more about members of the committee we will feature articles about them, what they do with AFP, what they do or have done to earn money, AFP does not pay well usually less than zero dollars. In addition we will feature testimonies of their faith, prayer life and encounters with the Lord; exciting stuff.

There is a national director and a committee chairperson and eight people who represent the Anglican church membership from across Canada. Our committee meetings take place about once every month, nine times a year. Most of these are one-hour SKYPE meetings with one or two face-to-face group meetings taking place through the remainder of the year. These are held in various geographic locations. As you the reader can imagine the cost of face-to-face meetings, flying people to a central location is high. Due to Skype and other technologies the cost of running AFP Canada has been reduced, though not eliminated. More in the next issue of the Newsletter.



Current National Executive Committee for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer



Back Row: Rev. Greg Mercer (Canada Provincial Representative), Paul Dumbrille (Resource, Ottawa Provincial Representative), Mark Perrin (Website, Rupert's Land & British Columbia Provincial Representative), and Archdeacon A. Paul Feheley (Director)

Front Row: Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz (Technology and Website), Rev. Anne Moore (Secretary), Rev. Valerie Kenyon (Chairperson), Win Mizon (Membership & Newsletter), and Janet Stevens (Treasurer)

Inset Top of Page: Tony Day (Toronto Provincial Representative)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

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www.anglicanprayer.org

Lent

by Paul Dumbrille



Lent can be a time of prayer and spiritual renewal, a time of new life and hope, to open ourselves more deeply to the beauty and power of the dying and rising to new life in Jesus. It is a time to ponder the realities of the death and resurrection.

Prayer: Step aside from the busyness of our daily life, and pay attention to God in prayer. Lent encourages us to experience an authentic attentiveness to God, through which we learn to be strong and hopeful. Take a daily "Time Out" for God: read Scripture, contemplate on what it says, what it means and how it applies to your life; spend time listening to God, rather than speaking to Him; read a Christian book; and/or write a thankfulness journal.

Fasting: Fasting points to a willingness to be freed from the self-centredness that drives so much of our life, in order to experience more fully the liberating power of Christ. Fasting reminds us of the truth that the deepest hunger in our lives is a hunger for God. Set aside one day a week to go without one meal, and spend an equivalent time intentionally seeking God's presence with you. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, from sunrise to sunset, refrain from eating solid foods and only drink water or juice. Every time you feel hunger pangs, think of God and pray.

Almsgiving: True hunger for God leads to the giving of ourselves to others. Lent calls us to a greater compassion for others, especially the poor and needy. Through the days of Lent we are encouraged to focus our eyes on Jesus who gave his whole life in faithfulness to God out of love for all. Give up something that you normally do or spend money on, and donate the money and time saved to help others. Bring non-perishable food items to Food Banks for the needy; and give money to Lenten outreach projects. Visit someone who is shut-in, ill, alone, or needs a friendly visit.

PRAYER CORNER

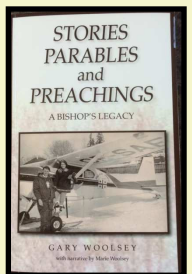
BOOK REVIEW

STORIES, PARABLES and PREACHINGS—A Bishop's Legacy

By Gary Woolsey with Marie Woolsey



For anyone who knew Bishop Gary, the previous director of AFP-Canada, will enjoy this, his third book. While Gary was in hospice, his wife, Marie, promised him that she would produce this third book. To quote Marie, "I have interspersed his writings with some of my own - an account of our life together - and I'm told it enhances the book by adding the necessary detail".



This book is very different from Gary's previous two, but very entertaining and informative. As a priest-pilot Gary ministered to 25 remote native villages in northern Ontario and Manitoba; as teacher-priest he ministered and taught in Norway House, Manitoba; as the Bishop of Athabasca he oversaw 20 parishes in northern Alberta and as a parish priest/bishop he served at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Calgary, Alberta. Throughout his ministry he wrote stories and parables inspired by events in his life. It was always his intention to publish a collection of his writings. Let Gary entertain you, challenge you and strengthen your faith as you share in this, the adventure that was his life.

While Gary was in hospice he wrote two books: "On a Wing and a Prayer", reviewed in Summer 2013 newsletter, and "Meditations from a Hospice Bed". A tribute to Gary can be found in the Advent/Christmas 2013 newsletter. Find past newsletters on our website, www.anglicanprayer.org. Gary passed away on October 18, 2013.

Book Orders - Please Contact

MARIE WOOLSEY - mewoolsey42@gmail.com or 403-251-9569

Gary's first two books - \$10 CAD each + postage & handling

STORIES, PARABLES and PREACHINGS - \$15 CAD + postage



AFP-C Newsletter Editor
Win Mizon

newsletter@anglicanprayer.org
Next newsletter in Easter Season

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