# **Anglican Fellowship**



# **PRAYER**

# Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER - Vol. 22, No. 2

**SUMMER 2014** 



#### **ASCENSION**

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

If you could ask any of them how it all happened I think they would give you an answer something like this. Wherever they met him he captivated them. Finally they were driven to the

conclusion that this person somehow embodied the ultimate qualities that up to now they had always believed to belong to God alone, totally beyond the capacity of human life.

They then experienced the betrayal and destruction of everything. If they had not been able to face it themselves, they would have heard about the brutal and hideous death. Understandably they were devastated. The community they had begun to form threatened to disintegrate.

Then something of immense and irrefutable significance took place. When we read what they have written of this we find ourselves addressed in simple terms that carry their own integrity. They tell us that when some of them went to the tomb where his obviously dead body was laid, the body was not there. They tell us that some of them who had no expectation of ever seeing him again, least of all of touching him, found themselves doing these very things.

In this way they began what we might call the second stage or level of their relationship with him. It was mysteriously different. He was who he had been with them before the horror. But they also are quite clear that he was more, much more. They don't try to explain this. They realize that while he seemed linked, as we all are, to matter, time and space, he seemed to be using these in a way our humanity cannot know. He seemed to be no longer a prisoner of time and place, as we all are. To use

- Continued on page 2 -

# New Director for **AFP Canada**

The National Executive Committee of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada (AFP-C) is pleased to announce that

Archdeacon Paul Feheley Photo by will be the next National Director. Simon Chambers He will succeed the Rt. Rev. Gary Woolsey, who was the national director from 2007 until his resignation in

the Spring of 2013.



Paul will continue his work as the principal secretary to the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and as the priest-in-charge of St. Chad's Anglican Church in Toronto.

He is no stranger to the work of the AFP. He has participated and led workshops in both the diocese of Toronto and Huron, and his workshop on the Prayers of the People called "Touching the Heart: Prayer in parishes" was turned into a six-part DVD series.

A graduate of University of Toronto's faculty of music, Paul received his master of divinity degree at Trinity College in 1978. His thesis was on the theology of film. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1979.

Feheley was principal secretary to then primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, from 2004 to 2007. He has worked as incumbent at St. George's Memorial Church in Oshawa, St. Martin's Anglican Church (Bay Ridges), The Church of the Epiphany and St. Mark (Parkdale), the Parish of Caledon East, and as the assistant curate at St. Clement's Toronto. He most recently served as the interim managing editor of the

#### **ASCENSION**

- Continued from page 1 -

their deceptively simple words we know so well, Jesus their friend had become the Risen Christ. But this too had to end, and since that long ago community were, as we are, ordinary human beings, the ending came in a way that they could perceive. It is not a moment that can be explained and analyzed and in that sense understood. That is a 21<sup>st</sup> century longing – to understand, to analyze, to explain. They called the event, as we do, Ascension.

Before that encounter ended, some essential realities were made clear to them. They learned that all they had come to love and to expect from him would now have to be sought and found among themselves. They had been touched and healed by His hands of flesh. Later he had invited them to touch His pierced hands of transformed flesh. From now on however it would be their own hands, uplifted in praise or extended in His service, which would become the channels of His grace and healing. From that moment they realized that together they would be the means by which the divine will would be embodied through time and history.

Did they come to this easily? Of course not. Two millennia later you and I grapple with this wonder. In some ways we become blinded to it by over-familiarity, yet in another way we never succeed in fully accepting it.

This is the wondrous thing, that by way of unbroken bridges of Water, Bread, Wine and Story, that original community of very ordinary men, women and children, has become us. We have come from them and from all the generations of faith between us.

Hard to believe? Yes. Perhaps because we find it difficult to accept that we could possibly be worthy of His trust in us. Yet, as with that small group who witnessed the glory we call Ascension, something immense happens among us.

He accepts

our lack of confidence in ourselves, the dark areas of our humanity, our capacity for deceit and betrayal and greed. And having accepted us He calls us to be His people, and sends us out to serve Him.

Herbert O'Driscoll Easter 2014

#### **New Director**

Anglican Journal. Feheley has worked in communications for the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference of Bishops, the Primates' Meetings and the Anglican Consultative Council.

In commenting on his appointment as the new National Director, Feheley said, "I am deeply honoured and humbled to be asked to take on such an important and significant ministry and to work with the executive and diocesan and parish representatives across the country. Prayer lies at the heart of our lives as Christians, and I believe that AFP can enliven and continue to develop and build on the work of previous leaders such as Gary Woolsey and Tom and Betty Gracie. It is a unique gift that we have, both to enable us to share who we are with God and to help others to find and build a relationship with Jesus. An important author in the development of my spiritual life is Henri Nouwen, and I find this quote to be deeply meaningful:

"To pray, I think, does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, or to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather, it means to think and live in the presence of God."

## A Prayer

O Lord, preserve me from the pattern and print of the age I live in. Today, O Lord, cleanse me from hurry, and keep me purely and calmly Yours. Renew your joy and power in and through me for your glory, keeping me clear and pure for you. (Little Book of Prayers by Oswald Chambers)

"My goal is God Himself, not joy nor peace, nor even Blessings, but himself, my God".

If you want to kiss the sky you'd better learn how to kneel.

#### "Weaving Our Bonds of Affection" Anglican Women at Prayer Conference

by Jane Richardson Jensen, former DR of Calgary

From March 14-16, 150 women from 17 countries gathered at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria to pray and tell our stories. Thanks to technology, the conference was shared with clergy and students at Msalato Theological College in Tanzania. Their participation and the conference itself was incredibly moving.

The conference was organized by the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross along with the Center for Anglican Studies at VTS. Over 50 years ago, two Companions, Helen Shoemaker and Polly Wiley, founded the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer as a way to link praying people everywhere. The Companions still put their prayer into action, usually to bring about justice where it's needed. Companion and Human Rights advocate, Elizabeth Loweth of Toronto, was the only other Canadian there besides me.

Guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Eleanor Sanderson of New Zealand talked about weaving in traditional Maori society and the never-ending thread that Spirit weaves through every aspect of the universe, thereby linking us all together. Weaving involves seeing cross upon cross upon cross. So it re-affirms our relationship to Christ over and over again.

This never-ending thread reminded me of the quote by Helen Shoemaker that's on our "What is the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer" leaflet. Thankfully, Celinda Scott from the AFP-US had set up a display. So I got a leaflet from the table and gave it to Dr. Sanderson for future reference. (In case you've forgotten) Helen said, "Prayer is the mightiest force in God's universe. . . . When we pray, we throw our love with His like a lariat around the world." After five years of emailing, it was a joy to meet Celinda finally, and also to meet Gillian Delancy from AFP - Turks & Caicos Islands (the Bahamas).

Zeyneb Sayilgan, who was born in Germany to Kurdish Muslim immigrants from Turkey, spoke about the Islamic practice of praying five times a day. She also raised the issue of multi-culturalism, a situation where some family members live in a place they weren't born or raised in. The cultural differences can mean she thinks more like the people around her than like her immigrant parents or relatives in Turkey.



<u>Left to right</u>: Celinda Scott, Gillian Delancy, and Jane Jensen at the AFP display.

A common thread throughout the discussions was that we often become the prayerful women we are now because sometime in the past, we chose, or circumstances dictated, going against the grain of our prevailing cultures. I realized that my husband, children, and I have experienced some of the confusion or isolation stemming from our multi-cultured family and international moves. With God's help, I am stronger for it. I'd like to thank Mr. Tony Day for writing the letter and the National Executive for recommending me for the conference. It was an intensely prayer-filled weekend.

Check out Jane's Week 1 course on "The Bible & Shamanism" at <a href="www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca">www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca</a>. It includes readings from her book, *Fire & Spirit: A Woman's Visionary Epic*.

Save the Date

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Diocesan Representatives

Conference/Consultation 2015

June 1 to 5, 2015

Watch for details!

#### **New Diocesan Representatives**



## Diocese of Qu'Appelle The Rev. Susan Salo

"Susan Salo has been married to an Anglican priest (Kim Salo) since 1979, with two married sons and one grandson. Susan and Kim have moved a lot; from Winnipeg where they both grew up, to Vancouver

where Kim went to seminary. They moved from Vancouver to the northern mining town of Snow Lake, Manitoba, then to a larger farming community of Swan River in Manitoba and then to the farming and oil town of Virden, Manitoba.

It was in Virden that Susan decided to leave her 20 year career as a registered nurse and answer her own call to ordained ministry. After taking courses by correspondence she was able to attend full-time at the University of Winnipeg, and finished her BTh by distance education after Susan and Kim moved to Saint John, New Brunswick, where Kim was principal of Taylor College of Mission and Ministry for what was then known as Church Army. They made the move to Pelly Deanery in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in 2009 where Susan was ordained. She and her husband Archdeacon Kim Salo serve as Canon Missioners in Pelly Deanery. This year Susan was asked to take on the position of Diocesan Representative for the AFP, with the main purpose to develop a network of intercessors for the mission and ministry of the diocese.

Susan has a background as a person of prayer, with roots in the charismatic movement that took off in the '70's, and developed in the testing ground of life with all its ups and downs. She has a passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and wants with all her heart for the message of what Jesus Christ has done for us to spread throughout the world.

Hobbies? Gardening, reading and "doodling in color".



Diocese of Montreal Stacey Neale & Valerie Bennett

Left to Right: Stacey Neale & Valerie Bennett

#### When God Winks\*

#### Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale Co-DRs for the Diocese of Montreal

Our story is one of coincidences. The first being Valerie's arrival in Montreal via New York from St. Kitts the year Stacey was born. We won't divulge these dates, but needless to say it was some time ago. Our paths actually crossed for the first time in the fall of 2007 when we both participated in a Fresh Expressions course offered by the Centre for Lay Education. Stacey felt extremely blessed to have ended up in a small group with Valerie who was able to distill the course material in the form of prayer with ease and insight. A real affinity was struck between us and we looked forward to meeting each other at various Diocesan events including, but not limited to PWRDF unit meetings, Lay Readers' workshops, and ordinations. Independently, we both thought it would be great to work together on a project. Now after our appointment by Bishop Barry Clarke as co-DRs for our Diocese, we will get to do just that.

A second coincidence is our fond memories of working with Norma Sklivas, the former DR for this Diocese. In Lent of 2007, Norma organized *Touching the Heart* workshop on parish prayer at Stacey's church. This three-evening study was the first event Stacey participated in after returning to church after a long absence. It made a strong impression on her and its importance was underscored by Norma's untimely death that summer. The key ideas from this session remain the same as always: make prayer relevant and meaningful. This can be accomplished by making prayer a **permanent priority** that is **personal** with **purpose** and **passion**. Valerie met Norma when she was moderating a workshop on launching the Alongsiders program at a Lay Pastoral Visitor's meeting.

Our lives in prayer follow different paths, but share the same goal to praise God in all that we do. Valerie is active in the Diocese as a Lay Pastoral Visitor and as a Lay Reader, leading morning-prayer on a regular basis at her parish, St. Paul's Greenfield Park. She is an associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine and is an Education for Ministry graduate. In 2004 she had the honour of presenting Bishop Barry Clarke with the pectoral cross at his ordination and she still prays for him that he will know himself sustained by the power of the Lord. At her parish St. Andrew's and St. Mark's Dorval, Stacey facilitates a prayer group that follows the method of Christian Contemplative Meditation. This form of meditation was revived by Dom John Main and promoted around the globe by Laurence Freeman OSB. Out of this practice came a summer series of meditative walks in the local parks scattered around the island of Montreal. For this initiative, Stacey consulted the AFP-C resources on walking prayer. She too is a graduate of Education for Ministry and is in discernment about becoming a Lay Reader.

The last coincidence we will leave you with has to do with Harvey Shepherd the editor of the Montreal Anglican who wrote an amazing article on the work that we intend to do in the Diocese on behalf of AFP-C.

Please see:

http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/adm/media/assets/PDFs/Newspaper/2014/MTL\_ANG\_May\_2014\_web.pdf?ext=.pdf

## Children's Ministry



Elizabeth Short

I have had the opportunity to spend some time with a friend who has, for the past ten years, lived in a Southern Ontario town I lived in as a little girl. That was many years ago! What

amazes me is what I remember. Familiar sights and names come back to me and I realize I've been carrying that information around with me for over fifty years. These are good memories and it's a nice feeling to recall them. I lived here for seven of my formative years and there is a sense of reassurance to feel connected to these roots.

Our early memories and experiences are important. Even if we rarely recall them they are a vital part of who we are. As parents we have a tremendous amount of influence. Another pleasant memory I have is of our regular bedtime routine. It included a story and a lullaby. It also included prayers. I was a fortunate child in that I was well cared for. My bed was clean, warm and safe. Saying my prayers before getting into that secure place has had its positive affect. Prayers were related to safety and security. Turning to God at the end of the day became part of my life, long past childhood.

Beginning a positive prayer life with your children early on can create a connection with God that will be part of who they are. Even if their life takes them away from God, that experience and memory is part of their makeup and you never know when it may be called to remembrance. This doesn't have to be complicated. The prayers I said as a child were primarily rote. One of the comforts was the routine, and I believe one of the strengths was also the routine. As a parent I know that part of the purpose of a bedtime routine is to help settle our children for a good night's sleep. Having prayer as part of this connects prayer to peace and calm.

As summer approaches and bedtime sometimes gets later I encourage you to continue with comforting bedtime routines, including simple prayer. You will be giving your children a gift that lasts a lifetime.

Dear Lord, I am so grateful that You sent Your Holy Spirit to guide and direct me. Help me to always be in tune with You in all You would have me do and say. Amen

Source: Because We Praved Ten Considerations for Effective Prayer by Mary Haskett ]

# **Prayer**

#### The Place Where God and Human Beings Meet

"If prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer." (Philip Yancey)



#### Looking for your feedback... Val Kenyon

While prayer may be described in

many different ways, it is essentially about connecting and communicating with God. Given that there are likely as

many ways of praying as there are individuals, and that who we are and what we have experienced in life shapes our ideas and our methods of prayer, prayer comes in many different forms. As we look ahead in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, we would like to know what supports, learning environments and opportunities you would like in the area of prayer, and how the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer could be of service to you both as an individual and as a praying community. Do you feel you know a lot about some aspects of prayer but nothing about others? Do you sense a call to prayer of a certain kind but are not quite sure where to start? Does the idea of prayer intimidate or make you nervous, or do you simply not know where to begin? What would you find helpful in your journey to learn more about prayer and to engage in it more frequently? Your thoughts together with any and all feedback are most welcomed and can be directed to:

Val Kenyon, AFP National Executive at vvkenyon@rogers.com or by calling 519-661-7000.

Diocese of Toronto Prayer Conference 2014 Bishop's Committee on Prayer

**PRAYER** A PASSION FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD

> "Abiding in the Word of God" Emma Marsh

Emma Marsh is a favourite at conferences across the country. Join us for a day of worship, learning, fellowswhip, and prayer.

God's Desire/Praying with Scripture/Praying on the Way

October 25, 2014

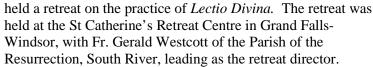
St. John's, York Mills 19 Don Ridge Drive, Toronto, Ontario

## Diocese of Central Newfoundland

The Rev. Brian Candow

# Anglican Fellowship of Prayer holds retreat on *Lectio Divina*

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer for the Diocese of Central Newfoundland recently



Fr. Gerald began the Retreat with the question, "What is the objective of the human life?" The answer explored was 'to realize union with God.' In order to do this a person must learn to 'die to their self. *Lectio divina* is a tool for helping to achieve this end, so that one can declare that which St. Paul testified, "It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me."

Lectio Divina means 'holy reading' and has been practiced in the life of the Church since St. Benedict of Nursia (c.480–547), if not before. It involves a method of listening intently to the Word of God in the Scriptures, with the practice of centering prayer and contemplation. With gentle wisdom, experience, and good humour, Fr. Gerald was able to lead the group over several sessions into the practice of lectio divina, teaching the art of letting go of thoughts and meditative breathing. He was careful to incorporate this practice within the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

New to most at the Retreat was the use of a 'prayer bowl' (a well loved and simple chime used at most if not all worship services at his home parish). When struck it emitted a beautiful call to quiet, and as its single-note tone subsided the participants were drawn into silence.

The Retreat provided new insights into an ancient Christian practice of prayer, meditation, and contemplation. Many were excited by the experience but realized that the fruit of the *lectio divina* method would require devoted and regular practice. However the possibility of union with God and openness to others in the Life of Christ might be sufficient motive for those blessed by the Retreat.



# Diocese of Huron

Anglican Fe<mark>llowship o</mark>f Prayer Fall Gathering

# RESPONDING TO LIFE THROUGH PRAYER

A Workshop on Intercessory Prayer Saturday, October 4, 2014 10:00am-2:00pm St. John's Arva 21557 Richmond Street

Join us to consider what it is to respond in prayer to the world around us. Beginning with some instruction around intercessory prayer. Afternoon discussion groups will be led by members of the EnviroAction Committee, the Social Justice Committee, The Huron Hunger Fund, the College of Deacons and others.

There is no fee for this workshop. Freewill offering will be taken in support of a pressing concern at that moment.

Please bring a bag lunch. Snacks and drinks provided.

To register, please e-mail vvkenyon@rogers.com or call 519-854-9998

## Diocese of Rupert's Land

Order of St. Luke

#### **HEALING CONFERENCE**

Friday, September 19, 2014 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday, September 20, 2014 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

St. Stephen's & St. Bede's Church 99 Turner Ave, Winnipeg

**Speaker: OSL Director Rev. Raymond Knight** 

Cost: \$35.00

Deadline September 10, 2014

<u>Registrar</u>: Gil Frederick

96 Coleridge Park Drive

Winnipeg, R3K 0B5

1-204- 888- 2473

gilfred@mymts.net



## **Diocese of Toronto**

Praying: Personally, Powerfully, Playfully
Antony Day

The Prayer workshop was held at Grace Church, Scarborough on Saturday, May

10<sup>th</sup>. Twenty six folk were present. The morning started at 9:00 with coffee and the program started 30 minutes later with a song and introductions.

This was followed by prayer. Three participants stated what they wanted to get out of the workshop. Each request was prayed about mentioning the person's name. It was interesting that all three requests were similar: they wanted to know Jesus better or follow him more closely.

After that we considered the story of the road to Damascus noting that the followers of Jesus listened to him as he described the scriptures relating to his life. This was followed by four minutes of silence in which folk were to spend time listening to Jesus speaking to them.

We then spent 25minutes "praying with pictures", 10 minutes in silence and 10 minutes sharing with a partner.

After coffee and a song we then met Angelina, the bentover woman of Luke 13:10-17. Following the presentation, the participants were given a few questions to reflect on by themselves and then with others. This included an invitation to pray for someone in their life who was 'bent-over' by life.

The next exercise was one word prayers where a few folk huddled shoulder to shoulder and used one word to reflect an intercession. Two topics were chosen. The first was the girls in Nigeria and the second was the provincial election in Ontario.

Finally groups of three were formed for an exercise in soaking prayer. Each person was prayed for, for ten minutes, by the other two. Some prayer was spoken, some silent; sometimes it was in response to a request the person being prayed for had mentioned; other times not so.

The comments at the plenary session were these: folks enjoyed the different ways we prayed, silence was popular. One person was impressed that we operated right on schedule. We tried to show how silence and "one word prayers" can be used during "prayers of the people".

Many folk brought a bag lunch and were thus able to enjoy fellowship and browse the AFP resources table.





# **Future Newsletters**

Please consider receiving your newsletter by email.
Send your email address to

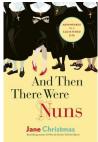
Win Mizon

winken@worldline.ca
AFP-C Newsletter Editor

Check out our web site:

www.anglicanprayer.org

# And Then There Were Nuns (2013) by Jane Christmas



A world famous Canadian author now living in London.

Reviewed by Associate Hazel Birt Manitoba SSID Associates

Jane is an Associate of the Canadian Sisterhood of St. John the Divine along with our Primate Fred Hiltz, priests,

laypeople, both men and women from across Canada and around the world. Christmas spent one whole year staying at various religious houses. She quotes an English Bishop who said, "The best kept secret in the Anglican Church is that there are nuns."

The very first convent Jane stayed was at our Canadian Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto. There she attended the "Women at the Crossroads" summer program. She writes, "I pressed the bell and the door opened to a pleasant receiving area. An impish woman with a broad smile approached me. She was dressed in civvies, a beige tunic over a white t-shirt, but her name tag identified her as Sr. Anne. I thought, "this doesn't look or feel like a convent. Is this the right place?" Sister Anne said, "You've been assigned St. Elizabeth cell while you are here with us."

Her stay at religious houses in England included both Anglican and Roman Catholic monasteries including the Quarr Abbey, St. Cecilia's Abbey and the Order of St. Paraclete.

The book ends with Christmas deciding to devote herself to being an Associate and helping the SSJD in various ways just like their Alongsiders, Oblates and Associates scattered in various parts of Canada and around the world.

The book has received warm reviews on the website. It's available off line and also from our Winnipeg Library although there is a long waiting list.

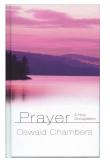
And Then There Were Nuns is well worth reading and our Sisterhood obviously approved the book.

Contact Person Associate Hazel Birt hgbirt@shaw.ca

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1 Timothy 2:8 (KJV)

# PRAYER: A Holy Occupation



by Oswald Chambers Reviewed by Tony Day

Oswald Chambers' writings are filled with thoughts on prayer because his life was filled with prayer. His



chief objective in prayer was to know

Jesus, learn his will, and to align himself with it.

I have owned this book for more than 10 years but have only just read it. It is 190 small pages with wellspaced print which makes it a quick read.

I chose, however, to read two pages a day and to repeat those pages for three or more days before moving on. For those of you familiar with the writing of Oswald Chambers, for example "My Utmost for His Highest", you will know that it is best understood a little at a time. So it is with this book.

There are eighteen sections which include:

A Holy Occupation Requires: Boldness

A Holy Occupation Requires: Desire

A Holy Occupation Requires: Wonder

The book follows a specific format which includes a statement about prayer from a book he has written, followed by a reflection question in the centre of the page. Each section concludes with either a prayer composed by Chambers or another statement.

There are a couple of thoughts which were particularly meaningful to me:

We have to live depending on Jesus Christ's wisdom, not our own. He is the Master, and the problem is His, not ours. We have to use the key He gives us, the key of prayer. Our Lord puts the key into our hands, and we have to learn to pray under His direction. That is the simplicity, which He says, His Father will bless. (So send I you)

Prayer does not fit us for the greater works: prayer is the greater work. (My utmost for His highest)

Reflection question: Do I consider prayer a means to an end or an end in itself? Which should it be?

O Lord, by your indwelling Spirit knit me together into worship and beauty and holiness; Lord touch my body and spirit till both are one with you.(Little Book of Prayers)

I should have read it sooner.

Tony Day.