



ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF *PRAYER*



NEWSLETTER

CANADA

SPRING 2008



THANK YOU

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

One evening, years ago, I got into a taxi at Lester Pearson Airport in Toronto and asked the driver to take me to Queen of the Apostles Conference Centre in Mississauga.

My memory is that it was already dark, probably a mid winter evening. At no time did he express any doubt about our destination but it eventually became painfully obvious that we were lost. However, after some phoning he found the way and we arrived.

In our long drive – and it was long – we had had a chance to chat and I found that he had come from Greece, so, when I handed him the fare I tried the one Greek word remaining in my college memory. I said “Eucharisto”. I spell it like that because I fudged the ending because I wasn't sure. But the response was astonishing. This dour, frustrated, tired guy brightened up. Even when he discovered that that was the extent of my Greek it did not dim his pleasure. I had said – or had tried to say - “thank you” in his language!

Isn't it interesting that there is a prayer we all make with absolute regularity that is so big, so obvious, so taken for granted, - one should add so beautiful and so awesome – that we don't recognize it as a prayer. I'm of course referring to the service we call Eucharist, sometimes forgetting that that wonderful name means simply “Thank you”. Thank you for what? For God ? Yes. For Jesus? Yes. For the fellowship and family we call the Church?

Continued on page 2



From our NATIONAL DIRECTOR

RT. REV. GARY WOOLSEY

Although it seems ‘a long time ago’ since General Synod, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Diocese of Rupert's Land AFP committee for all their dedicated service to the members of General Synod. Under the wonderful leadership of Heather Birtles and Wendy Bain, the ‘Quiet Room’ was created to allow a prayer and meditation space in the midst of a very challenging Synod. My thanks to members of the AFP National Executive who traveled to Winnipeg to assist the local committee in the Quiet Room and at the AFP Display booth. At the election of the new Primate, AFP members offered prayer in the Chapel at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Members of Synod as well as many observers joined us during the election process.

Over the next few years, the ministry of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer will be of vital importance for our church. We must be drawn to the example of Jesus who knew that when the ‘going gets tough’, then you come to the Father in prayer. Jesus could have opted out of his ministry but instead laid bare his agony and continued the course of doing the Father's will. His deepest prayer for his followers was that they be one, as he and the Father are one. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer must always strive to hold this vision at the heart of its ministry. I pray that all the followers of Christ would seek the guidance of the Spirit in holding in balance our inward journey of oneness to the Son and Father and our mission to the world as agents for healing, forgiveness, peace, justice and compassion.

May God continue to strengthen and guide you in your ministry of prayer.

+Gary

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Continued from page 1 - Thank You

Yes. For the faith we share, its long story and the ways in which it gives meaning and purpose to our lives? Yes. All this, and more.

Maybe the biggest thank you is to our Lord, because he gave us that first evening of bread and wine, then went out and paid the price so that we could have the beauty and grace of Eucharist ever since.

One of the many things I've noticed on the way through some decades of ministry is the difference between our reaction to being asked to pray for such things as healing for others, and our reaction to being asked to express our thanksgiving for whatever comes to our mind. Almost always there are many voices heard in intercessions (and so it should be) but almost no voices respond audibly to offer thanksgiving. I'm not saying we don't give thanks, but we seem less able to do it audibly as we do intercessions. I have no idea why that is, just that it is.

Michael Mayne was for ten years Dean of Westminster Abbey. He has written a book – a kind of diary - about those years in a building he came to love. The title is *Pray, Love, Remember*. In the entry for Easter 1996 (on page 131) he writes this: Remembering Meister Eckhart's words, that, "if the only prayer you say in your whole life is thank you, that would suffice"...and remembering too that Eucharist means "thank you", I have sometimes tried to look back on my own journey... In my mind I sort out the threads that have come together and which in retrospect have shaped my life. Starting with childhood I think of the role that words and language have played, the influence of stories, myths, poems, novels, plays, and especially those particular words and images of the Christian story that have burrowed away at my centre and become part of me. I think of the places that have been important, the buildings, the open spaces, the islands and the sea coasts, the shapes and colours and the textures of things, that I should like to remember with fondness when I come to die. And last, I try to name those individuals who by their teaching, their friendship and their love, have made all the difference...."

Those thoughts seem to me to be a rich and very helpful pattern for a few minutes of thanksgiving.



Bishop Gary & Marie "On Tour"

Prayer Planning For Parish Life

RT. REV. GARY WOOLSEY

When Marie and I were in the final stages of preparing for a month long motorcycle trip from Calgary to the Maritimes and return during August '07, we had maps ready, route and distances calculated, contacts made with friends for over-night stops, prayers being made for safe travel and for wisdom to deal with weather, physical/emotional/mental fatigue, etc. This whole planning process had started months before and we were in the waiting stage for events to unfold.

As I look back over my life as a Priest-Pilot, Diocesan Bishop and Rector, I know that without careful planning, some goals would never have been achieved. I know that there is a place for 'spontaneity' under the guidance of the Spirit and spiritual surprises make our journey through life very exciting. Yet being a spiritual leader often means that I must look at the near future with a sense of preparedness and use the gifts and experience God has given me to help others in their journey of faith.

As I look at parish life, I call upon all Diocesan and Parish AFP Reps to consider ways of encouraging the ministry of prayer in the life of the congregation. Use a check-list approach to see how resources could be used by clergy and laity in their leadership of others.

Step One: Review all the resources of AFP and determine who in the parish could benefit from each one.

Step Two: Meet with your Parish Priest (or Deacon) and offer any assistance in promoting prayer in the parish. What ideas does he/she have for making prayer a key component of individual and group life? Use the pamphlet 'Meeting the Needs of the Parish Priest' as a discussion starter.

Step Three: Choose one or two tasks for the Fall that will give you a 'hands-on' approach to promoting prayer.

Step Four: Look ahead to the seasons of the church year and get some resources in place that would help individuals and families to take the joys of Easter into Pentecost. You might also start preliminary plans for helping leaders in your parish see how prayer and prayer resources will make a difference in their particular ministries.

May God's Spirit direct you in your ministry with AFP.
+Gary

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 11-12: "PRAYER IN ACTION" CONFERENCE,
ST. STEPHENS ANGLICAN
CHURCH, WINNIPEG
(204-661-2432)

**JUNE 17-20: NATIONAL AFP
(CANADA) CONSULTATION,**
MOUTMARY IMMACULATE
RETREAT CENTRE,
ANCASTER, ON
(403-239-1004)

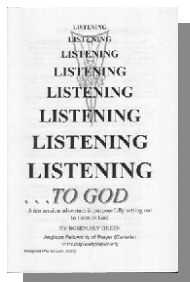
NEW AND IMPROVED RESOURCES FOR ENCOURAGING PRAYER IN PARISHES



We have recently produced a new resource called: *A Circle of Prayer: The Anglican Rosary for all God's People*. This is a prayer form which is a blending of the Marian (Roman Catholic) Rosary and the Orthodox Jesus Prayer Rope and encourages a wider range of prayers.

How typically Anglican! This AFP

pamphlet includes the ways one can use the rosary in prayer as well as details of how the Anglican Rosary is constructed and where to obtain one.



We have also updated our pamphlet; "Listening to God", written by Rosemary Green, which contains a ten session adventure in purposefully setting out to listen to God. It could be used in personal devotions as well as by small groups or at a Retreat.



A Strategy of Prayer

PAUL DUMBILLE

In many parishes and Dioceses these days there is talk and sometimes action in creating a Strategic Plan for the parish and/or Diocese. Prayer is the critical element in any Christian endeavour. It is the way that we connect with and listen to God. We always need to be mindful that it is God's work that we, the Church, are doing. Without God at the centre, we are not involved in a Christian endeavour, but rather one of our own making. Individuals, parishes and the Diocese must carry out their mission based on communicating with God in prayer.

Individual Strategic Prayer Plan

We are taught that in living the Christian Life we should have what is called "A Rule of Life", an essential component of which is intentional, regular and consistent prayer. In establishing a Rule of Life, we are encouraged to find the times, places and circumstances most suitable to our situation and personality in which to communicate with God – both by listening and by talking. This allows us to stay connected to God and to ensure that we are trying our best to do God's Will and to fulfil His purpose for us. To establish and carry out a Rule of Life, we need a strategy, at the personal level, to stay connected with God – to pray to God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. While we don't often use the word "strategy" when we talk about a Rule of Life or living the Christian Life, it is what we are talking about. May we all construct an "Individual Strategic Prayer Plan" as our Rule of Life and include the time, energy and resources to carry it out.

Parish Strategic Prayer Plan

One could define the purpose of the parish church in many ways, but at the least it exists in order to bring people to know Jesus, to encourage people to live the Christian Life, and to be Christ's body here on earth. In order to carry out its mission a parish should have a strategy. My experience is that often the strategy of a parish has been unintentional and not well thought out. This may account for some of the decline in membership and attendance. In any case, in these times it is important that a parish have an understanding of its mission and a plan to carry it out. It is a positive step that many parishes are now coming up with "Vision Statements" and working on developing Strategic Plans. However, it is important that these be a result of listening to God i.e. they need to be God's plan. This happens when the plans have come from intentional and heartfelt prayer. A Spirit-led Parish Strategic Plan that comes out of prayer would contain a strategy for encouraging prayer at the individual and corporate level.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3 **A Strategy of Prayer**

It would contain intentional teaching about, and encouraging, personal prayer in the context of living the Christian life by individuals. An essential component of a Parish Strategic Plan would be a strategy for ensuring that all group meetings, decisions, activities, and events are based on corporate prayer. This would be in addition to structuring worship services to include prayer by all participants. May all of our parishes construct a Parish Strategic Prayer Plan, which would include having an Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Parish Representative with a suitable budget and support to assist him/her.

Diocesan Strategic Prayer Plan

A Diocesan Strategic Plan should include elements that encourage and enable parishes and individuals to have strategic plans for prayer, as described in the preceding paragraphs. Equally important to prayer being an essential part of individual and parish strategic plans is the inclusion of prayer in both the development of a Diocesan Strategic Plan and in its implementation. Many, if not all, of the points made in the Parish Strategic Prayer Plan section are equally applicable at the Diocesan level. In the planning effort, intentional effort should be made in ensuring that all meetings, discussions, decisions and activities are informed by intentional prayer. It is also critical that the resultant Diocesan Strategic Plan include the way in which all Diocesan events, meetings, discussions, decisions and activities are guided by intentional prayer. It should also include how resources and education on prayer will be provided to parishes and individuals, as well as plans to have Diocesan-wide prayer events. May all of our Dioceses construct a Diocesan Strategic Prayer Plan, which would include having an Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Diocesan Representative with a suitable budget and support to assist him/her.

Thoughts to Ponder

*Christ has no hands but our hands
To do his work today.*

*Christ has no feet but our feet
To lead others in the way.*

*Christ has no voice but our voice
To tell others how he died.*

*Christ has no help but our help
To lead them to his side.*

Adapted from Theresa of Avila



THANK YOU WENDY

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Wendy Bain who has been the editor and publisher of our Newsletter and member of the Executive Committee for the past several years.

She has produced an outstanding Newsletter that is the envy of volunteer organizations such as ours. She has devoted countless hours to this effort and we thank God for her ministry to us.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

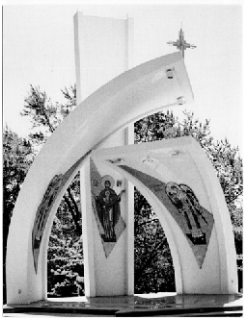
THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED OUR NEWSLETTER WILL NOTICE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS EDITION. THIS EDITION IS A “STOPGAP” MEASURE UNTIL WE FIND A NEW EDITOR AND PUBLISHER. NOTHING LASTS FOREVER AND WE ARE UNDERGOING A CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE PRAYING THAT A VOLUNTEER WILL COME FORWARD AND HELP US IN THIS REGARD. OUR PLAN IS TO SEND OUR NEWSLETTER THREE TIMES A YEAR. IF YOU CAN HELP OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE WE MIGHT ASK, PLEASE CONTACT US. PLEASE PRAY FOR SOMEONE WITH THE GIFTS NEEDED FOR THIS POSITION TO AGREE TO BE OUR NEW EDITOR.

AFP (Canada) National Consultation

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, as an organization is, above all else, a communications network of Christians who are involved in encouraging prayer to God in all its many facets. We establish and maintain this network primarily by having Representatives in dioceses and parishes across Canada.

One of the ways we encourage our Diocesan and Parish Representatives is to gather people together from across Canada every two years to share our experiences, learn what is going on elsewhere and to provide tools for the Representatives to use in their local circumstances.

All Diocesan and Parish Representatives are invited to attend our next such gathering, which will be held in Ancaster, Ontario Tuesday, June 17 to Friday, June 20, 2008.



We will gather together at Mount Mary Immaculate Conference and Retreat Centre, 437 Wilson St. E., Ancaster, ON, L9G 3K4, Tel: 905-648-4485, www.mountmary.ca

Our theme is:

Encouraging Prayer in Challenging Times

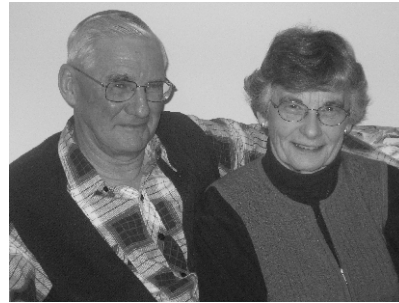
The registration deadline is May 31. Further information is available from either:

Roger Harris
Unit 92 - 371 Bronte St. S.
Milton, ON L9T 3K5
(905) 878-7391
rognet@sympatico.ca

or

Esther Jackson
235 Arbour Wood Close N.W.
Calgary, AB T3G 4C3
(403) 239-1004
estherj@shaw.ca

FAREWELL TO DAVE & LESLEY DUNKERLEY



On February 4th Dave & Lesley Dunkerley attended their final meeting of the AFP (Canada) executive committee, having decided it was time to retire from this ministry.

They first became AFP Diocesan Representatives for Ottawa in September, 1988 and joined the Executive Committee in September 1995.

They can look back over the numerous events that they attended both in Canada and in the United States. They represented AFP (Canada) at International Conferences in Pittsburgh, Orlando, Denver, San Diego, Louisiana, plus others in various parts of Canada such as Waterloo, Toronto, Calgary, Halifax, and a wonderful one that Lesley attended in Nassau Bahamas. They were also part of Diocesan Representatives Consultations in Calgary, Toronto, Newfoundland, and Winnipeg.

Lesley served the Executive as Chair during a time of transition and Dave has been the membership Coordinator for the past several years.

Words cannot express the huge contribution these two Prayer Warriors have made to AFP. Many readers of this Newsletter have been blessed by knowing and talking with one or both of them. They deserve our thanks and best wishes as they continue to serve the Lord and encourage others in prayer.

*Lord, let me be a mirror
made clean and bright
by your forgiveness,
and held up by your glory,
that I may reflect
your life and love
to those for whom I pray.*

Archbishop George Appleton

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting, Feb. 4, 2008

National Consultation

The Committee spent a lot of time finalising the details for our upcoming national Consultation to be held in Ancaster, Ontario, June 17 – 20 of this year. The primary purpose of this bi-annual gathering is to equip and encourage AFP (Canada) Diocesan and Parish Representatives in their ministry of encouraging others in prayer. See Page 5 for more information.

Revised DRs Handbook

The Executive Committee reviewed and approved production of a revised and updated version of our Diocesan Representatives Handbook. The new version will be distributed at our upcoming National Consultation. It will be sent to those who cannot attend that event.

Diocesan Representatives

The Executive continue to seek Diocesan Representatives for several Dioceses across Canada. This is particularly important as several of our Representatives are retiring after serving for several years.

Lesley & Dave Dunkerley Retire

As you will read on Page 5 of this newsletter, Dave and Lesley Dunkerley are retiring from the AFP (Canada) Executive after many years of faithful service. At this, their final meeting, we prayed with them and asked God's blessing on them in the future.

Newsletter

After producing our wonderful Newsletter for several years, Wendy Bain is relinquishing her duties as editor and producer and we are now seeking a new editor. See Page 4 for more on this.

Archives

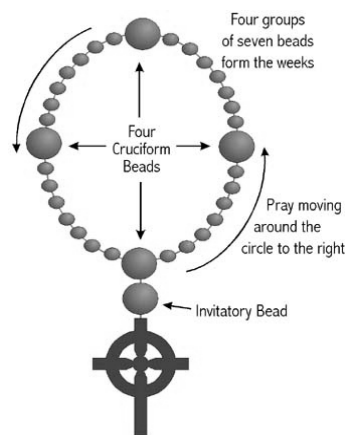
We are happy to report that we have given the records of several years activities of AFP (Canada) and the Executive committee proceedings to the National Church Archives.

Anglican Unity

We live in a time when the Anglican Church of Canada and our whole Anglican Communion are struggling with 'who we are' as a family and 'how we organize ourselves' with our varied theological points of view. The AFP National Executive affirms its purpose and vision to pray for the unity of the church and to promote and encourage prayer in individual lives and in all parishes. The Executive will continue to seek the wisdom of the Spirit to discern how we might best serve God in the midst of the stresses that exist today.

Praying the Anglican Rosary

The Anglican-Rosary was created as a tool for prayer. It is a prayer form which is a blending of the Marian (Roman Catholic) Rosary and the Orthodox Jesus Prayer Rope and encourages a wider range of prayers. It is a simple form of prayer available to all of God's children, and is a way of allowing God's Word to sink deeply into the soul and become prayer in us.



The rosary is made from 33 beads or knots, plus a cross or crucifix. The number 33 is a reminder of the Incarnation - the number of years Jesus lived among us.

The cross is a reminder of our identity as Christians, and of Jesus' call to take up our own crosses and follow him. It speaks of the lengths God is willing to go to reach us. It is our entry into the circle of prayer.

The knot or bead above the cross is the Invitatory. It is an invitation to trust God; to offer our worship, our praise, our whole life.

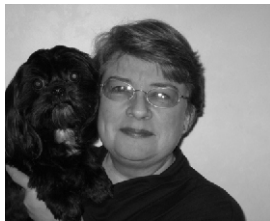
When the rosary is laid out in a circle, the four larger beads or knots represent the points of the cross. They are the Cruciform knots/beads. They also symbolize the four seasons; the sanctity of time; and the four directions - the sanctity of creation. The circle is a symbol of God's unending love and of our unity as Christians.

The four sets of seven beads/knots are called Weeks. They symbolize our offering of our time and lives. The number 7 is traditionally associated with completion and perfection in Hebrew and Christian mysticism. This is not static perfection, but the ongoing work of God in all of us.

More information on how to use the Anglican Rosary in prayer, where to obtain one and how to make one yourself are contained in the AFP Resource pamphlet: *A Circle of Prayer: The Anglican Rosary for all God's People*, which is described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

NEW DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Deborah Freake



Deborah was recently appointed Diocesan Representative for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Deborah is an active Anglican at the Parishes of Aylesford & Berwick and is a

full-time paralegal at the firm of Waterbury Newton. She has been a Church volunteer since becoming a Sunday School teacher at age 12. Born in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, Deborah lived in the Diocese of Moosonee (northern Quebec & northern Ontario) for 25 years before moving back to Nova Scotia with her husband, James, in 2004. Currently, Deborah is national Co-ordinator of the Grey Sister Associate Community and a Therapy Dog Handler with St. John Ambulance. She recently accepted appointment as Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, a position she formerly held in the Diocese of Moosonee. Deborah is a graduate of Laurentian and Thorneloe Universities and has training in Spiritual Companionship and Retreat Direction according to the Ignatian method from Loyola House, Guelph, Ontario. She and James and their little dog, Midnight, reside in Windermere.

Sheila Redding



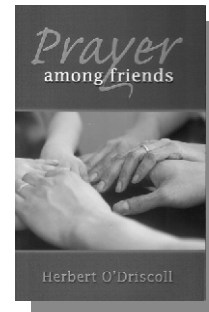
Sheila has recently been appointed Diocesan Representative for the Associated Parishes of Central Interior, B.C. She was born and raised in Prince George and doesn't see

leaving any time soon. She has been happily married to Les for almost 3 years now. When they met she re-committed herself to Christ and went back to church. She reports, "I told Jesus one lonely night that I was ready to follow; He has taken me on a journey that I would never give up now." She has four grown children, one of whom was married last summer. Two live in Calgary and the other two in Prince George. Sheila is a teacher at an inner city school where she teaches Kindergarten and Grade 1. She is in her fourth year of Education for Ministry. Her hobbies and interests are reading, writing, poetry, photography, sewing, gardening, hiking.

BOOK REVIEW

Prayer among friends

REVIEWED BY PAUL DUMBRILLE



As the title suggests this is a book about prayer. The author sets about to "show that prayer is far more than what we usually assume", and he succeeds marvellously.

Published by Path Books and available from the Anglican Book Centre, the book is made up of 21 short (3-4 pages) chapters, each of which is a personal reflection by Herb O'Driscoll on the role of prayer in everyday life.

As we read this book we appreciate that everything exists within God. When we grasp this reality, prayer ceases to be something formal and institutional and becomes something everyday and wondrously ordinary. There is no part of life that cannot be offered to God.

Herbert O'Driscoll's gentle and illuminating insights, and personal memories and reflections, together with suggestions by Patricia Bays for personal exploration, make this a special book for reading, reflection, or group study any time. His reflections demonstrate a simplicity and honesty about himself and about his relationship with God that is refreshing and very helpful for today's Christian living in our hurried world.

Of particular note for Anglican Fellowship of Prayer members is that many of the chapters are based on articles that have been written for this Newsletter. If one looks carefully you will find a chapter containing the lead article for this Newsletter. Also of note is that the book is dedicated to Pat Curtis, who was a Co-National Director of AFP (Canada) for several years and who died in 2006. It was Pat who stimulated O'Driscoll to write the articles for our Newsletter, and he says, "I regard those articles as prayers of thanksgiving for her life".

I highly recommend this book for all to read.



A letter from our Primate to Alongsiders



Anglican Church of Canada

Office of the Primate, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2
Tel. 416-924-9199 Ext. 276 / Email primate@national.anglican.ca

Dear Friends:

It is an honour to write a letter of encouragement for those involved in the 'Alongsiders' prayer program of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. As a parish priest I very much enjoyed visitation with those who were elderly sick or shut-in. I found them to very grateful for their ministry and deeply appreciative of the prayers of the church for them, their families and their caregivers.

Ministry of this kind is in the first instance an expression thanksgiving for the many years of faithful service that they have given to the Church, and in the second an expression of the Church's care for them in their present circumstances. That care is wonderfully enshrined in a prayer for "Relatives and Friends" found in the Book of Common Prayer. It reads as follows

O LOVING Father, we commend to thy gracious keeping all who are near and dear to us. Have mercy upon any who are sick, and comfort those who are in pain, anxiety or sorrow. Awaken all who are careless about eternal things. Bless those who are young and in health, that they may give the days of their strength unto thee. Comfort the aged and infirm, that thy peace may rest upon them. Hallow the ties of kindred, that we may help, and not hinder, one another in all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With gratitude for your commitment to the work of prayer,

I am

Sincerely in Christ

The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz
Primate

Questions about AFP?

If you have any questions about this Newsletter or AFP or want to find out how you might become involved in the encouragement of prayer, phone, write or Email to:

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)
P.O. Box 85133,
Brant Plaza P.O.
Burlington, ON L7R 2G0

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