

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

“supporting, serving, and encouraging prayer”

AFP-C NEWSLETTER—Vol. 25, No. 2

EASTER 2017



Photo by
Simon Chambers

Director Archdeacon Paul Feheley

On my desk at the national office is a piece of tile from someone's floor. That may seem like a strange thing, but for me it is an important symbol of Easter's faith and hope, and I know I will never forget its meaning.

In October 2012, I had the privilege of visiting Japan for the 100th anniversary of the diocese of Chubu. A significant part of that visit was to travel to a portion of the land that had been overwhelmed with water in the Tsunami of March 2011. There are three things that are still vivid in my mind about that visit.

The first was what I learned of a young kindergarten teacher who started her work day as usual but at a quarter to three that afternoon the tsunami hit and the kindergarten, far too close to the coast, was engulfed. The teacher did all she could to save the children in her care. She carried eleven of the twenty through the raging waters, up the stairs – likely two at a time, to higher ground from where they were rescued. But the waters were fast – so much faster than her and, before she had time to save them all, the floods had filled the classroom. Later, when the terror and fury of the tsunami subsided, the body of the kindergarten teacher was found. She was in the classroom with two small children held tightly in her arms, seven more close by.

My second memory was of walking over the devastated land and seeing that flowers had begun to bloom.

The third memory was meeting in a condemned Church building to pray with a small group of elderly people. The parish was on top of a hill and although severely damaged had provided sanctuary to people of all faiths. The extraordinary faith of the community of St John's, where they had no homes and very little of life's comforts, was displayed so wonderfully when all they wanted to do was to pray. If that isn't Easter and what new life and hope is about I don't know what is.

The tile from the unknown person's floor continues to remind me of these gracious people whose faith is so alive in the midst of pain and anxiety.

In the resurrection we have God's promise that life is stronger than death, that love is greater than hate, that mercy overcomes judgement and that all sufferings and difficulties of this life are real and sometimes painful, but they do not have the last word and do not represent the final reality.

Fear and joy, despair and hope, doubt and faith; these are the two sides of our lives in this world. But in the end we have heard the resurrection promise that joy, hope and faith will ultimately prevail.

I know that group of elderly people in Japan believe that.

My prayer this Easter is that your hearts and souls will be filled with that belief, which we so deeply need in our lives.



Current Work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

The Reverend Valerie Kenyon

The AFP National Executive continues to meet monthly. Some of the things we have been discussing are:

Resources: Need resources for your personal or parish prayer needs? Be sure to visit our website for a variety of electronic and paper resources. We are always pleased to hear from you with any feedback about what is available or about what you would like to see.



(Continued on Page 2)

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

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www.anglicanprayer.org

EASTER

CURRENT WORK

Current Work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

(Continued from Page 1)

Creative Commons: We are often asked about copyright and whether other groups and organizations may copy our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada prayer resources. We are pleased to make our material available and have now registered with Creative Commons specifying that we be credited with the creation of the material, that no one may financially benefit from our work, and that it may be amended as long as the revised version is also shared. We hope that this is helpful.

Thy Kingdom Come:

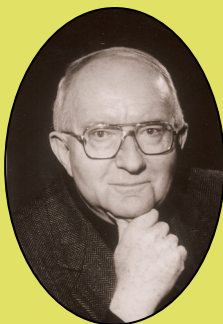
“We are invited to make a lasting difference in our nations and in our world,
by responding to his call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer.”

Archbishop Justin Welby.

This initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is a global prayer movement to which people around the world are being invited. Specifically, Archbishop Justin is calling on Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost, May 25th to June 4th of this year. In praying, “Thy Kingdom Come” we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.

Interested in learning more? Why not #Pledge2pray? Resources for individuals, families and parishes can be found at: www.thykingdomcome.global

Herb O'Driscoll



Herb's articles can now be found on our website: www.anglicanprayer.org by following the links. For those not able to access the internet, please send a request by mail to us at the address below and we will mail them to you. The following articles are now on the website:

THE MAN WHO INVESTED IN THE FUTURE	THE STAR
THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN	LETTER FROM NAZARETH
THE BICYCLE MAN	RISKING THE TIDE
THE DOUGH BOX	LETTER FROM AN EXPATRIATE

**NOTE: SPEAKER
HAS BEEN CHANGED.**

The Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference **GOSPEL IN FOUR DIRECTIONS**

Reverend Canon Virginia Doctor

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

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

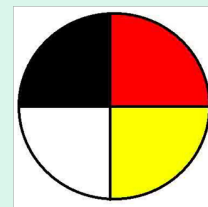
\$20.00 (lunch provided)

*Join us for a day with Rev'd Ginny as she 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.



Getting to Know Your Executive— Janet Stevens

Janet Stevens has been the treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada since the spring of 2005.

She is a native of England where she graduated with a degree in Botany from the University of London, and emigrated to Canada in the early sixties. After a number of jobs in a variety of disciplines she settled in Ottawa and worked at Agriculture Canada until retiring in 2002.

Janet is a longtime active member of her church family, the newly amalgamated All Saints Westboro, where she is a choir member, member of Parish Council, and alternate to Synod.



Paul Dumbrille



Julian of Norwich experienced severe bodily pain when she was thirty years old. It was during her illness that she received visions, which she later recorded in *Revelations of Divine Love*. Regardless of whether we are experiencing physical suffering, when we welcome and witness our body's sensations with openness, we are also open to the presence of God in a way that gets our busy minds out of the way. Julian wrote, "The fruit and the purpose of prayer is to be *one* with God in all things." In a Body Prayer, which comes from the motto of the Order of Julian of Norwich, you take a few minutes to let your heart and mind's attention sink deeper into your body, to remember your inherent oneness, through these simple words, postures, and intentions.

AWAIT (hands at waist, cupped up to receive): Await God's presence, not as you expect, hope, or imagine, but just as it is in this moment.

ALLOW (reach up, hands open): Allow a sense of God's presence (or not) to come and be what it is, without meeting your expectations.

ACCEPT (hands at heart, cupped towards body): Accept as a gift whatever comes or does not come. Accept that you are not in charge. Accept the infinity of God's presence, whether or not you are aware.

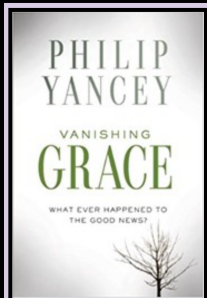
ATTEND (hands outstretched, ready to be responsive): In this stance of openness, attend to the action(s) that God invites you to take.

These actions are shown on a You Tube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iImZilFvOE>

Vanishing Grace – What Ever happened to the Good News?

By Philip Yancey

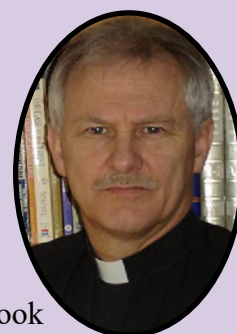
Reviewed by The Rev'd Gregory Mercer



In recent years it seems that more and more authors are writing about grace. This is the second book by Philip Yancey on this topic. And in his usual style, well researched, with loads of experience and personal stories Yancey tackles the subject forthright. On one page he questions the absence of grace only to come right back with what that could and should look like when grace abounds.

The author is addressing the 'disconnect' between the interest in spirituality and the downturn in Christianity. His opening chapter, 'The Great Divide' sets the tone of the entire the book. He begins by saying, "As a Christian, I have deep concern about how we represent our faith to others." What follows is an exploration and a journey of how the secular world views Christianity and how best to respond – by grace.

Grace is the one concept that Christianity alone can lay claim to. Are we in danger of losing it? Personally speaking this book spoke volumes to me and answered many challenging questions not the least of which is how Christians can make a positive, grace-filled difference in a world that desperately needs it. I will be reading this book a second time for sure.



This page is the space where we hope you will turn to with enthusiasm... but in order for that to happen, we'd like to hear what you would like to see here!

Are you looking for workshop possibilities?

Do you want new prayers?

Exciting articles?

Infographics?

Photo layouts?

The truth is, we can fill it up every season with what we think is good material, but we would rather use this space to provide you with *exactly* what will be most useful to you, for use in your prayer ministry.

Please let us know! You can send an email to:

newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

or

make comments on our facebook page or website
(anglicanprayer.org)

Please let us know, as you are able, so that we can provide this to you.

This is your newsletter!

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AFP-C Newsletter Editor

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Next newsletter - Pentecost 2017.