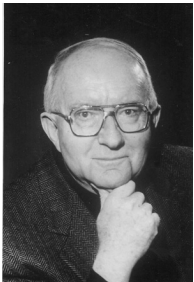


Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER - Vol. 17, No. 3

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2009



PRAYER THAT HANGS IN HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Prayer and intimacy are inextricably linked. How different it is for, example, to pray for such-and-such a community on the other side of the globe—something we do every Sunday in the Prayers of the People—than to pray for Mary and John, whose voices and faces

may be utterly familiar, and with whom we may have shared meals, talk, laughter, and perhaps even tears.

Obviously part of the difference is that I may know next to nothing about that community on the other side of the world. Yes, perhaps I should, but then there are so many things in our frantic lives that should be. You and I have come to know a great deal about some far-away places, but almost always this is because we know someone there. Perhaps we knew them before they went there, or we met them at a conference or in our travels. Everything is changed by such intimacy, however transitory.

Prayer benefits from the memories of faces and voices, the recollection of the way someone walks or greets us when we meet—all those little acts that make us real to each other. This does not mean that we should not pray for people whom we have never met or for places we have never visited, but it does mean that, where some intimacy exists, prayer can be richer and deeper, and certainly more focused.

How can we focus our prayers for those who need them? If we know the persons well, and especially if they are dear to us, we will wish to offer more than a generalized prayer.

Often if someone needs our prayers because of illness, they may be facing or recovering from surgery, enduring the threatening experiences that the world of medicine hides in that little word *tests*, not to mention the draining period that follows tests, the period called *waiting*. We may be praying for that person over a considerable period of time. How can we make our praying more than a reiterated overall plea for their well-being and recovery?

Norman Cousins, once the editor of the *Saturday review*, was an exceptionally thoughtful man who went through a long period of illness during which he was hospitalized. While in hospital he wrote a book, *Anatomy of an Illness*, which has become

- Continued on page 2 -



MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

THE RT. REV. GARY WOOLSEY

PREPARATION FOR THE JOURNEY

There is an old saying - "Not to plan is to fail". Most of our life experiences require some type of planning. So here we are entering into the Advent season knowing that Christmas will soon be upon us.

There are all kinds of influences which will put us into other seasonal planning: Christmas shopping, cards and newsletters, parties to arrange and attend, holiday travel plans, home decorating (inside and outside), food preparations, decisions on what charities to support, and the list goes on!! I can actually become physically, emotionally, and mentally tired just thinking about the planning, let alone how I feel when I actually start to carry out my planning! And I have not even included all the preparation that goes into the church activities: decorating, all the worship planning for Advent and Christmas Services, Christmas parties with organizations we belong to, organizing outreach projects to the needy, etc. "Lord, what is really important for my life? What if this was the last Advent and Christmas season that I would experience?"

I cannot stop the flood of activities that are happening all around me. So what can I do to make this Advent and Christmas season one which speaks to the spiritual aspect of my life, as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Maybe it goes back to basics, or laying a foundation on which to face all of that will flood upon me. One of my foundation stones is to use a daily Advent meditation book in addition to my regular devotional materials. I am allowing myself to 'get focused' on what is most important at this time of year, namely my relationship with God in Christ. If I plan to be centred in Christ, and to take simple steps to make this happen, then I will be opening myself to the Spirit who brings the joy, peace and love that God wishes to bestow in my life. This prayer-centred time can help me to be guided and strengthened to make this Advent my gift to God and others. Through my attention to prayerful preparation and action, I will be ready once again to acknowledge and receive God's precious gift of Jesus to the world.

May God help you to enter the Advent and Christmas seasons with a spirit of hope - a hope that leads us to new life through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

+Gary

Bishop Gary Woolsey

AFP-Canada National Director

PRAYER THAT HANGS IN

- Continued from page 1 -

extremely well known. His story is full of timeless, wise insights about illness. One passage in particular I have never forgotten, where Cousins lists his many feelings during the months he was acutely ill, feelings such as

helplessness, a disease in itself...
the fear of never being able to function normally again...
the reluctance to be thought a complainer...
the desire not to add to the apprehension of one's family,
thus adding to isolation...
the conflict between the terror of loneliness and the desire
to be left alone...
the subconscious feeling that one's illness was a
manifestation of one's own inadequacy...
the fear that decisions were being made behind one's back,
that not everything was being made known that one
wanted to know, yet dreaded knowing...
the fear of intrusive technology, the resentment of strangers
who came with vials and needles...
the distress of being wheeled through white corridors to
laboratories of all sorts for strange encounters with
compact machines and blinking lights and whirling
discs...
 and finally, *the utter void created by the longing—*
ineradicable, pervasive, unrelenting—for warmth of
human contact. A warm smile and an outstretched hand
 were valued above the offerings of modern science,
 Cousins says, but the latter were far more accessible
 than the former.

I see two remarkable things in this list: first, opportunities for focused prayer and, second, opportunities for action, which can be the consequence of prayer for another.

In our prayers, offered over a period of time, we can engage each of the many demons that the person we care about must face. We can pray for their fears, for their sense of inadequacy, for their loneliness, for their hope for the future, for their actual physical suffering, or for their need of reassurance. As we focus our prayer on each issue, we can ask for grace for our loved one in his or her struggle with that particular demon.

To pray like this requires a certain amount of discipline. It demands at least a simple listing of the various aspects of protracted illness. Praying like this may also have an enriching effect on our relationships. Having acknowledged the reality of various demons in our prayers, we are more likely to be open to talking about them when we are with the person for whom we are praying. Through prayer, we can lovingly extend ourselves in ways that might not have been possible otherwise.

This article is taken from Herbert O'Driscoll's book PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS, a Path Book published in memory of Pat Curtis. A copy can be obtained from the Anglican Book Centre (www.afcanada.com) and from local church bookshops.

**A REFLECTION ON 1 COR: 13**

by Esther Jackson

National Chairperson

For some time I have been meditating on 1 Cor: 13, as it seemed to be an important passage in my life just now. Over a space of time different lines would strike a cord of awareness, of concern, demanding my

attention, and reflection, like "Love does not insist on its own way," or in the New English Bible translation, "(love) is not easily offended," or "it (love) bears all things, believes all things, endures all things", and so the pain, anxiety, and grief of people affected by recent world disasters of tsunamis, flooding, ongoing war and violence, came flooding into my thoughts. As Christians we are given the command: "This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12

It often seems that when a line of scripture stands out, the same theme crops up in other ways. And so it was. Recently, my husband, as well as an adult son and I attended lecture by the Dali Lama while he was in Calgary. His theme was showing joy and compassion in our lives. At the end he addressed questions submitted by people of all ages. One question was from a young man who said, "My wife is pregnant. I want my children to appreciate the world's religions. How should I go about teaching them?"

The Dali Lama reflected for a moment. Then he said, "First, your child is not born yet, don't worry." Then he added, "The most important thing to do is to love your child, hold them close to you often, and show that you love them. When they are six or so, you can talk about religion." After a pause, he added, "One more thing, don't fight with your wife!"

On the same theme, as Christians, it is our privilege, and challenge to acknowledge the presence of the living Christ in others, and to manifest the love and care of our Lord to the world and to each other.

Thank You

On behalf of each member of the Executive Committee, I want to express our appreciation and gratitude to all the donors who have made a financial contribution to the Fellowship in recent days. To each of you our heartfelt thanks for your support which enables the Fellowship to encourage Christians in a number of ways in their prayer life. Please be convinced that there are no paid persons in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer.



Prayer & Spiritual Pathways

Paul Dumbrille

In the book, *"God is Closer Than You Think"*, John Ortberg writes, "Our individual uniqueness means that we will all experience God's presence and learn to relate to Him in different ways." We

will all nurture our relationship with God in our own unique way. Prayer is how we connect with and communicate with God, and the ways of prayer that work best for each of us will be different. Ortberg sets out seven general ways, or "Pathways", as he calls them, to God.

Intellectual Pathway. People on the intellectual pathway draw closer to God as they learn more about Him. These folks love to study scripture and can easily move from thinking to the prayer of praising. Praying with Scripture and using "Lectio Divina" prayer is useful for people on this pathway.

Relational Pathway. People who follow the relational pathway find that they have a deep sense of God's presence when they're involved in significant relationships. These folks pray best when they can do so in relationship with others e.g. in a small group. They hear God better in conversation with others rather than while reading.

Serving Pathway. On the serving pathway people find that God's presence is most tangible when they are involved with helping others. They sometimes find that if they are just attending church with no place to serve, God begins to feel distant. For these folks the challenge is to find ways of praying while they are serving, using "arrow prayers" and praying and worshipping with those they are helping.

Worship Pathway. For people on the worship pathway, something deep inside finds release when praise and adoration are given voice. Folks on the worshipping pathway often want church worship services to go on for hours. Music is more often than not directly connected to the love of worship. Prayer forms such as Taize music and worship often appeal to those on this pathway.

Activist Pathway. The main characteristic of a person on an activist pathway is a high level of energy. Activists tend to say things such as, "Somebody's got to do something! I'm in. Who's with me?" Activists sometimes have difficulty discerning what God wants of them and it is important for activists to spend prayer time in solitude and reflection to allow God to speak to them about what is truly motivating their action.

Contemplative Pathway. If a person has a contemplative pathway, he/she loves large blocks of uninterrupted time alone. Reflection comes naturally and one of the several types of contemplative prayer would be natural for this person. God feels most present when distractions and noises are removed. Meditation and centering prayer are useful on this pathway.

Creation Pathway. For people on the creation pathway, there is something deeply life-giving and God-breathed about nature. They have a compassionate ability to connect with God when they are experiencing the world He made. On this pathway it is useful to have times of prayer or meditation in nature. The beauty of creation can spark praise and worship as well as awe.

While a particular pathway may come naturally to us, we need to pay attention to those pathways that may not. No one can ignore their intellectual life or opt out of worship, or not acknowledge God in nature. Other pathways allow us to find new ways to God and we are enriched by them.



Resources For Prayer Leaders

From time to time you might be asked to lead or contribute to a prayer event or you might be asked to make available materials for a prayer learning experience.

We have several resources that can assist you in such circumstances, some of which are:

1. A Day of Prayer (G-20) - How to organize and lead an all day workshop on various aspects of prayer
2. Prayer Vigils (G-) Guidance and materials on how to organize a prayer vigil
3. A Home Quiet day (G-19) - How to organize and lead a Quiet Day in a home setting
4. Powerhouse of Prayer Workshop (G-23 & G-24) A complete set of leaders instructions and a participant's workbook for an all day workshop on various aspects of prayer.
5. Listening to God (P/G-30) - Contains 10 sessions, a selection of which could be used in one or more quiet days or over a 10 week period.

If you have any questions about Resources or wish to order any of our Resources, please contact: Paul Dumbrille (paul.dumbrille@sympatico.ca) or write to the

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada) Resource Centre,
P.O. Box 5131, Ottawa, ON K2C 3H4.

AFP ACROSS CANADA

Diocese of Keewatin AFP Conference



Conference organizers: L. to R. Michael Kurek, the Rev. Audrey Hazelwood, Archdeacon Pat Cleghorn and the Rt. Rev. Gary Woolsey

Eight new deacons at their ordination from the Diocese of Keewatin



National AFP Director,
The Rt. Rev. Gary Woolsey presenting
Nan Henderson Kits to new deacons in
the Diocese of Keewatin



Province of Canada

In September the province of Canada held its Provincial Synod in Gander, Newfoundland. They also elected a new Metropolitan Bishop. The AFP held a Prayer Vigil at St. Martin's Cathedral. They also set up a display at the hotel where the meetings took place.



L. to R. The Rev. Chuck Lockhart, Claudette Ingram, & Bishop Eddie Marsh



L. to R. The Rev. Chuck Lockhart, Claudette Ingram, Ruby Lockhart, Emmie Marsh, and Beryl Barnes

Prayer in the Morning

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day; Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Prayer at Noon

Blessed Saviour, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms; Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen*

Prayer in the Early Evening

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen*

Diocese of Nova Scotia & P.E.I.



Come Pray in Circles & Colours was the title of the prayer workshop offered on October 3, 2009 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Charlottetown, PEI. The day, presented by the Rev'd Charles Wagner, the Rev'd Lorraine Quinn, and AFP Diocesan Rep Deborah Lonergan Freake, focused on various types of prayer including intercessory prayer, praying with Scripture and imagination, centering prayer, and prayer with art. Charles, who is a member of the Diocesan AFP Committee, led a very engaging session on intercessory prayer and concluded our day with a celebration of the Eucharist. Lorraine's skills as an artist were put to good use as she led those gathered in painting *mandalas*. Deborah shared some insights into various methods of praying. About 20 people from PEI and NS participated in the one day workshop and shared their prayer experiences and wisdom with those gathered.



Mandalas

Prayer at the Close of Day

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

"Growing With God" AFP Workshop in Calgary



On Saturday, October 3rd, the Diocese of Calgary's AFP Committee sponsored a day workshop entitled "Growing With God". Bishop Gary, the National Director of AFP (Canada) and member of the Diocese of Calgary's AFP Committee began the workshop by focusing on the topic 'Praying Aloud with Confidence'. Participants were led through a simple process that built on one's communication with God through active listening, writing and sharing one's prayer in a small group. The Diocesan AFP Chaplain, The Reverend Peter Millen, and Esther Jackson, a member of the Diocesan Committee and Chair of AFP (Canada) presented some of the AFP resources which could be used to help develop prayer ministries in the parish. Each participant was asked to select one of the resources and to describe how it might be used in his/her parish. Jane Jensen, Chair of the Diocesan AFP Committee, led a Prayer Walk using St. Andrew's Church and facility as the area for our walk. Betty Nadurak, the AFP Diocesan Resources Coordinator, had AFP material for people to view and purchase. Music for the day was led by Bishop Gary on the guitar. The Reverend Julianne Hendrickson, a Deacon at St. Peter's Church, Calgary, and member of the AFP Committee, encouraged participants to promote 'Prayer Fest '09', with speaker, Bishop Mark MacDonald, Bishop to Canada's Indigenous Peoples. The AFP Sponsored event will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Calgary, on Friday evening, November 20th, and Saturday, November 21st, from 9 am-3 pm.



Send articles or prayer events for
the AFP-C website to
Paul Dumbrille
paul.dumbrille@sympatico.ca

AFP (Canada) Website Looks Different

Go to www.anglicanprayer.org and you'll see that it is very different. It is much easier to find things and to move around. When you arrive on the Home Page you will see:

ANGELICAN FELLOWSHIP
OF
PRAYER
CANADA



PRAYER UNITES



About



Events



AFP Blog



Prayer



Membership



Resources



What's New



Newsletters



Contact

We have included a section labeled "Prayer" in which we have included introductions to different types of prayer. We have also presented our resources differently and made most of our resource pamphlets downloadable.

Let us know your reaction to the new look. We encourage and welcome comments and suggestions.

SIMPLE 12 STEP HEALING LITURGY

Several AFP members are also involved with the International Healing Ministry The Order of St. Luke. The OSL have developed a "Simple Healing Liturgy based on the 12 Steps". The 12 Steps are of course based on the Stations of the Cross. At each meeting a 12 Step would be studied followed by healing stations.

The idea is that not just alcoholics and people with severe addictions need to belong to these groups but that everyone is hurting and by meeting regularly in a warm friendly group we can all find healing.

Several of us were at our Anglican Conference 'Faith Horizons' where our speaker urged us to become more community oriented and so for the '12 Step Healing' the idea is that it be organized and run by lay people that meet in a community setting. Many members of 12 Step groups are also church attending Christians and of course many clergy are '5th Step' (confession) Counselors.

If you'd like a look at the liturgy, an email copy of the 'Simple 12 Step Healing Liturgy' is available for free from AFP member Hazel Birt (hgbirt@shaw.ca). Phone 1-204-888-6743.

New Diocesan Representatives

Sandra Tankard



Reverend Sandra Tankard (who answers to "Sandi") is the recently appointed Diocesan Rep for KEEWATIN. She worked behind-the-scenes with the Congregational Development Officer, Micheal Kurek, to realize the Prayer Conference *From Doubt to Hope*, held at St. Luke's, Dryden.

A graduate of York University, and then Trinity College, Sandi was originally ordained to Pipestone Parish in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, following in the footsteps of Keewatin's Archbishop, David Ashdown, and its Dean, Hugh Matheson.

She was introduced to the A.F.P. at a "Powerhouse of Prayer" Workshop held at Kipling, SK, and was instrumental in arranging a similar Workshop at Beausejour, MB for the Anglican and Lutheran congregations in that area of eastern Manitoba.

Sandi is presently the Honorary Assistant at St. Alban's Cathedral in Kenora, ON, leading two small Prayer Group activities in addition to "such other duties as from time to time may be assigned". She is also the foster parent of a lively nine-year-old boy, who will remind her that "We need to light a candle and pray for that!" if she isn't quick enough to respond to prayer requests.

She uses the e-mail address stankard@hotmail.com to receive and communicate prayer requests to others in the Southern Region of the Diocese of Keewatin. As "the last living Luddite", she is also the creator of the display board for AFP materials seen in the photograph.



Bishop Gary Woolsey &
The Rev. Sandi Tankard

Lorraine Hardwick



Lorraine Hardwick has been appointed the new Diocesan Representative for Qu'Appelle. Lorraine was born in Saskatoon though lived many years in Winnipeg before moving to England for even more years. Having returned in 2001 to live in Swift

Current, she has recently moved to Regina and attends St James the Apostle in the north of the city.

Lorraine is married to Rob, Assistant to the Bishop and Executive Archdeacon. They have two adult sons, one who lives in England with his wife and baby daughter, the other lives in Regina. Lorraine loves to read and occasionally writes poetry.

Lorraine has been involved in various aspects of prayer ministry including: prayers of the people (intercessions), preparing and leading services in senior's residences and care facilities, facilitating prayer groups, preparing and organizing Bible study groups, praying with individuals with the laying on of hands.

Because they have lived in both Canada and England Lorraine has experienced various expressions of Anglicanism as well as being involved with other Christian churches in ecumenical projects. While in England Lorraine studied theology, while her husband was at seminary, attaining a Certificate in Theology and Ministry which has provided a base for much of her lay ministry.

Lorraine hopes to bring vision and new life to the place of prayer in the Diocese; raising the profile; and recognizing the importance of prayer to be at the forefront of all we do in the name of the Lord.

12 Step 'Hunger for Healing' Retreat Day

Diocese of Calgary



On Wednesday, September 24th, Bishop Gary conducted a Day Retreat at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane, Alberta. Those attending were members of two study groups from Calgary and Cochrane which use the book by Keith Miller, "A Hunger For Healing - The Twelve Steps as a Classic Model for Christian Spiritual Growth". This was the first time that the groups had planned a Retreat Day which combined meditations, silence, group sharing and prayer.

Bishop Gary's meditations focused on exploring one's spiritual journey of life which allows for many choices. Time was spent exploring how the 12 Steps can help one lay a good foundation for spiritual growth. Participants looked at 'The Summary of the Law' as a way to build one's life on love of God and on love of neighbour. From there one's spiritual life could see expression through the 'fruit of the Spirit' - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23). The second meditation allowed people time to look at their basic plan of life that could have various components: one's prayer life and using one's gifts and talents in service to others (family, friends, work-place, the church and community).

A special 'thank you' to Gwen Smith for organizing the Retreat. The day concluded with a Eucharist led by The Reverend Helen Belcher who ministers at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Calgary. The seed has been planted and this may be the first of more such days to come.



Thank you

AFP-C wishes to thank The Rev. Canon Marian Haggerty, The Rev. Grace Anthony-Coleman, Mr. Roger Harris, and Mr. Harry Langston for all of their dedication, hard work and devotion to prayer and to the AFP-C national executive over the past several years. They have recently retired from the national executive, but I'm sure will continue to contribute at the diocese and parish level promoting prayer.

We wish to extend to you all, our thanks and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

The AFP-C National Executive



L. to R. Mr. Roger Harris, The Rev. Canon Marian Haggerty, The Rev. Grace Anthony Coleman, and Mr. Harry Langston

Bible Kids

You may be interested in knowing that the Canadian Bible Society has a web site for kids called BibleKids.ca.

<http://www.biblekids.ca/>

Kids can select and listen to interactive Bible Adventure Stories. A child's voice does the intros and asks multiple choice questions. Adult voices tell the story with sound effects. I like the fact that the books of the bible where the story can be found are identified before the story is read.

Other online activities including using a magnifying glass to uncover animated clues as to who the mystery bible person is and colouring in pictures from Bible stories. There is also a creation story music video.

In the Parents section you can find out how to link this site to your parish website or homepage. There are a variety of visual links and banners to choose from.

It might be worth checking out!

Contemplative Prayer for Kids?

Bernadette Njegovan



“Christian writers throughout the centuries have spoken of a way of listening to God, of communing with the Creator of heaven and earth, of experiencing the Eternal Lover of the world...Scripture tells us that John was “in the spirit on the Lord’s Day” when he

received His apocalyptic vision (Rev.1:10). Could it be that John was trained in a way of listening and seeing that we have forgotten?”-Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline.

Contemplative prayer is a form of meditative prayer that focuses on communing with God. For me, David was probably the greatest biblical proponent of contemplative prayer, as recorded in the Psalms. The children may not be able to pronounce this kind of prayer very well, but they can certainly learn it! Contemplative prayer is simply being quiet in God’s presence, thinking about Him in a focused way, and allowing Him to speak to us as we contemplate His word, His character, His creation, and His works.

Here are a few questions I had fun writing. And answering. Getting to know David, is getting to know Contemplative Prayer?

Q. What kind of things do you think David liked to do when he was tending sheep?

A. Lie in the grass; enjoy God’s creation; explore the pastures and hills; be alone with God; sing to God, etc.

Q. In what kinds of things did David see the Lord?

A. In the hills, the stars; the quiet waters; the green pastures, etc.

Q. How did David feel God?

A. In his heart; in his thoughts, all around him, etc.

Q. How do we know?

A. He recorded them in the Psalms.

Spend some time with your kids getting to know David. He was young, eco minded, a true naturalist He has been in our Bibles all along. A model who can lead our young.

Peace through prayer in Christ,

Bernadette Njegovan

To All Diocesan Representatives
If you need additional newsletters
please make a request from either
Paul Dumbrille
paul.dumbrille@sympatico.ca
 or
Win Mizon
winken@sympatico.ca

Prayer Presentation Ontario Provincial Synod

Margaret Dempster presented a great slideshow presentation at the Ontario Provincial Synod this fall. Her presentation was excellent and was not only a great advertisement for AFP, but was very useful to all those present at synod.

The presentation was shown for the "let us pray" with appropriate background music. Margaret let people pray "visually" leaving time between slides, depending on the amount of time allotted. The less talk the better which left people to feel and respond spiritually so it was quite personal.

There are thirty-eight slides in her presentation, but since it is modular, one can delete slides or add as one sees fit. You do need a powerpoint program for it to work though.

If you think this could be useful for you, you can contact Margaret at dempster@ontera.net or Paul Dumbrille at paul.dumbrille@sympatico.ca in order to receive an e-copy of the slide portion of the presentation.

An Anglican priest was once asked, "Which is more important, reading God's Word or praying?" His answer was in the form of a question. "Which is more important to a bird," he replied, "the right wing or the left?" Take the Bible and prayer as both the left and right wing and they will truly empower us to fly.



Being a Christian

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

AFP, US National Council www.afp.org

Consider checking out the US website at www.afp.org to find links to additional resources in prayer and to read the US-AFP newsletters: "Partners in Prayer".

Celinda Scott, correspondence secretary for the US national council of AFP, has sent us an article of interest, which I will include here.

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER 2009

We are very happy to learn that Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, whose wife Helen was instrumental in founding the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, is commemorated in "Holy Women, Holy Men" as of the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church. Helen used to say "My husband taught me to pray."

Bishop Austin Pardue of Pittsburgh suggested the name "Anglican Fellowship of Prayer" for our organization in 1958, hoping for the involvement of Anglicans worldwide in prayer. Helen Shoemaker had started encouraging and teaching extemporaneous prayer, often in the context of small groups, at Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City. When her husband, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, accepted a call to Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh in the 1950s, Helen and others continued the ministry there. It grew rapidly with the support of Bishop Pardue, and Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley of England.

Between 1958 and 2004 the US Council of the AFP sponsored yearly international conferences on prayer (in addition to Biblical Institutes), with speakers and workshops led by N.T. Wright, Phyllis Tickle, and many others. One of the conferences was a homecoming at Pittsburgh in 1989; housing and workshops were at Chatham College, and the choir at the opening service was from Holy Cross. Fr. Junius Carter was rector at that time, and one of the planners of the homecoming. The closing service was at Calvary,

Shadyside; Fr. Arthur McNulty had been the Master of Ceremonies throughout the weekend.

There are clusters of local groups, in dioceses and parishes, bound together in the US by a national council. We have been in communication with other provinces in the Anglican Communion through our International Executive Committee. Since the retirement of our national executive director in 2006, we have been an all volunteer organization. Our board members come from all over the country. We support prayer and workshops on prayer through our website (www.afp.org) and quarterly newsletter.

Helen Shoemaker wrote "Prayer is the mightiest force in God's universe. When we pray, we align ourselves with Jesus' eternal prayer for us. When we pray, we throw our love with His like a lariat around the world. Our prayers go where we cannot and speak whole spiritual continents into being."

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Celinda C. Scott
US Council, AFP
celinda@fastmail.fm

Lift us, O God, to your presence where we can be still and know that you are God, that you are closer to us than the breath we breathe, and that you are always doing for us and for those we love far better things than we ever desire or pray for.

Trinity Church,
St. Paul's Chapel
(U.S.A.)

AFP-C Newsletter Editor

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