



Partners in PRAYER

Lent 2006

⁸Newsletter of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Our Mission: The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer serves the church by encouraging, facilitating and promoting the understanding and discipline of prayer in the Anglican Communion.

March 28-30, 2006

Biblical Institute

Arts and Spirituality in Daily Prayer

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer will host the 14th annual Biblical Institute at the Canterbury Conference Center, Orlando, FL on March 28 - 30, 2006. Once again we have an excellent speaker, the Reverend Dr. C. W. McPherson of New York. Dr. McPherson is Adjunct Professor at General Seminary and at New York University, Contributing Editor for *Spirituality and Health*, author of numerous books and articles on spirituality, art, and history, and Priest Associate at the Church of the Transfiguration, Manhattan. His current course at NYU is "The Birth of the World: the Creation Story." He will deliver four talks:

- 1) A Shattered Church: the Character of Spirituality.** Why the surge in spirituality? That is, why are more people interested in this aspect of the faith than ever in living memory? In this talk we'll ask that question, try to find some answers by examining spirituality in a very intentional way, and pay special attention to the character of spirituality as a way of integrating Church, prayer, and daily life.
- 2) The Daily Office as Buried Treasure.** "Treasure" because the Office is central to the genius of Anglicanism. "Buried" because very few people - including many prominent leaders - seem to understand it. This session is designed to help us discover - or uncover - this spiritual gem.
- 3) Art as Window: Catalysts for Prayer 1.** Everybody knows that Icons are designed as catalysts for prayer (though very few westerners actually use them). In this session we examine the Icon as catalyst for prayer, trace its ancient origins (the visual icon is, in fact, one of the earliest Christian artifacts), and reclaim the western "religious image" as genuine Icon.
- 4) Listening to God: Catalysts for Prayer 2.** For most people, "to pray" means "to say things to God." Prayer is a conversation, and meditation - listening to what God says to us - is arguably the more important half. In this talk, we explore several familiar and some not-so-familiar approaches to meditation as a way of listening to the voice of the Creator.

Lodging and meals at Canterbury Conference Center are included in the price of registration. You can take advantage of Florida's natural beauty during your visit; a lazy canoe trip, a walk under the trees around Lake Gem or just enjoying a time of reading and reflection by the lake, a game of frisbee golf on the nine-hole layout, or quiet time in the beautiful St. Augustine Chapel. A wine and cheese reception and fellowship time is offered each afternoon. Canterbury is conveniently located to major interstates for driving or Orlando International Airport for air travel.

We will begin with a welcome reception and dinner at 5:30 pm and have one session at 7 pm on Tuesday. Wednesday will be a full day of worship, sessions, fellowship and relaxation and open discussion. Thursday will bring our last session, worship and conclude the Institute after noon lunch. Registration form is found on page 3.

Plan now to make this a Lenten Retreat and join us at the Biblical Institute for teaching, reflection and prayer. Make your plans now! For more information call 407-438-3166 or e-mail mary@afp.org.

Prayer Unites

When Winter comes

Can Spring be far Behind?

From the middle of the United States northward into Canada the answer sometimes can be resounding “Yes”. It certainly is so in my home state of Virginia. As I write this we are nearing the midpoint of winter and Epiphany, and though there are still many days of cold weather ahead, one can notice the days getting longer as the sun rises a bit earlier and sets a bit later each day. That wonderful hymn of Fortunatus says it best, “Months in due succession, days of lengthening light”. We rejoice in this, knowing that the Epiphany season will give way to the Lenten season which leads to that beautiful grand procession of Easter through all the time zones of the world.

The Collects of Epiphany are wonderful collects to read and pray as a unit. Starting with Jesus’ baptism in the first week, the Epiphany 2 Collect is the proclamation that Jesus is the Light of the World. This is followed by a prayer having us ask for Grace to proclaim to the world the Good News of His salvation that all may perceive the Glory of His marvelous works. Next we ask God to hear our supplications and to give us His Peace which is followed by a prayer seeking Him to set us free from the bondage of sin. We then ask God to accept our prayers acknowledging that we can do nothing without Him. The penultimate Collect (Epiphany 7) is the pinnacle of our desires which is to be filled with His Holy Spirit and to receive His greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of Peace. Finally we give thanks for all things, knowing that is God’s will for us. Fearing only the loss of Him, we cast all our cares on the One who cares for us. I would like to encourage you to pray these Collects as a unit before each Sunday service. I think you will find them more meaningful as we proceed through the season of Epiphany.

On a sad note I need to report to you the death of Mildred Greene, a long time Trustee of AFP. Please see the write-up in this newsletter. Also, we were saddened to learn of the tragic death in an automobile accident of the Rev. Peter Bishop, our colleague and Chairman of the Executive Committee of AFP, Canada. Peter, who had become a good friend of ours here in the U.S., you might remember from our recent international conference in Kanuga. He was a very good Chairman and leader in Canada, and he will be sorely missed by the AFP constituency in Canada as well as in the United States. Our condolences and prayers are with his wife Sheila and his children.

In His Name,

William C. Williams
Chairman, U.S. Council

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you; Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Jesus, in thy dear Sacrament,
Thy Cross I cannot see,
But the Crucified is offer'd there,
And he was slain for me.

Jesus, in thy dear Sacrament,
Thy Flesh I cannot see,
But that Flesh is given to be our food,
And it was scourged for me.

Jesus, in thy dear Sacrament,
Thy Blood I cannot see,
But the Chalice glows with those red drops,
On Calv'ry shed for me.

Jesus, in thy dear Sacrament,
Thy Face I cannot see,
But angels there behold the brow
Thorn-crown'd for love of me.

Jesus, my Maker and my God,
Thy Godhead none may see,
But thou art present, God and Man,
In thy Sacrament with me.

Saint Augustine Prayer Book

Mildred Greene, a long time trustee of AFP, died on December 17, 2005. She is survived by her husband Whit and together they made a deeply dedicated team of strong supporters of AFP. They delighted in attending all of the AFP conferences where Mildred often led workshops on prayer. In her diocese Mildred was very active in promoting and encouraging the life of prayer and often wrote insightful articles for this newsletter as well as for the Bible Reading Fellowship. Her easy going yet devout manner will be remembered and missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to know Mildred as a friend and spiritual leader.

Prayer Means Offering All To God

*Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.
Psalm 102:1*

To pray does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather it means to think and live in the presence of God. As soon as we begin to divide our thoughts into thoughts about God and thoughts about people and events, we remove God from our daily life and put him in a pious little niche where we can think pious thoughts and experience pious feelings.

Prayer can only become unceasing prayer when all our thoughts -beautiful or ugly, high or low, proud or shameful, sorrowful or joyful - can be thought in the presence of God. The question is not so much what we think, but to whom we present our thoughts.

Lord, help me to dwell in your presence today and in moments of prayer, give thanks for the faith You have given me. Amen.

..... from the works of Henri J. M. Nouwen

AFPConferences

Diocese of Springfield
24th Pausing for Prayer

Most Rev. Gregory Venables
Primate of the Southern Cone
Saturday, February 25, 2006.
Details call Rob Barry
217-735-1721

Biblical Institute
March 28-30
Canterbury Center
Orlando, FL

Rev. Dr. C. W. McPherson
Arts and Spirituality in Daily
Prayer
Details on page one

AFP Colorado Conference
April 28-29, 2006
St. Stephen's Episcopal
Church
Aurora, CO
Staying in Touch with Reality

The Rt. Rev. William Wolfrum
Details call Carol Sherran
303-772-1652

BIBLICAL INSTITUTE REGISTRATION FORM

Rt.Rev./Rev./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ Name for Name tag _____

Address _____ Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Lectures, 2 nights shared room, 6 meals.....\$245 Wish to share room with _____
 ____ Accompanying Spouse.....\$200 Please assign a roommate _____
 ____ Lectures, 2 nights, single room, 6 meals\$335 Single accommodation is very limited.
 ____ Commuter (includes lectures, 1 dinner and 2 lunches) \$80 Please be prepared to share a room.

____ Handicap room needed ____ Special Diet (special needs) _____

Make checks payable in US Funds to **Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Mail to Institute Secretary, 3801 Appleton Way, Orlando, FL 32806.**
 Refund, less \$40 cancellation fee, if cancellation received 30 days prior to Institute.

New On The Bookshelf

First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journey through the Ancient Great Canon by Frederica Mathewes-Green, \$20. In this fascinating and sometimes magisterial guided exploration of an eighth-century hymn that is central to Lenten religious practice for the Eastern Orthodox, Mathewes-Green encourages her readers not only to examine but also to personally apply fundamental Christian concepts like repenting, understanding the nature of sin and experiencing God in prayer. . . evocative and provocative.

Embracing Grace: A Gospel for All of Us by Scot McKnight, \$17. This fascinating book explains that the gospel is about the restoration of "cracked Eikons" (fallen humans) so that humans can be in union with God and in communion with the saints. In the candid and lucid style that has made McKnight's *The Jesus Creed* so appealing to thousands of pastors, lay leaders, and everyday people who are searching for a more authentic faith, he encourages all Christians to recognize the simple, yet potentially transforming truth of the gospel message: God seeks to restore us to wholeness not only to make us better individuals, but to form a community of Jesus, a society in which humans strive to be in union.

Thou Art My Refuge: Psalms of Salvation and Mercy by Artist Gloriam Dei Cantores, \$17. The Psalms have been used for private and public worship for thousands of years. While they have been interpreted in numerous ways, they have been a source of hope and comfort for many. Now, Gloriam Dei Cantores presents a three-volume series of the Psalms of David. Gloriam Dei Cantores provides a wealth of experience in the communication of the rich texts of these psalms, having chanted the psalms for nearly three decades in worship services. Perfect for contemplative listening at any place or time, *Thou Art My Refuge* will be welcomed by all who love the Psalms for their beautiful poetry and spiritual depth.

Living Scripture, The Guidance of God on the Journey of Life, Herbert O'Driscoll, \$15. A sequel to *God with Us*. Where can we find truly inspiring models of leadership, friendship, creativity, and humanity to guide and motivate us today? How can we deal constructively with human shortcomings that continually trouble our world? Reflecting on twenty-nine well-known biblical characters - including Moses, Abraham, Naomi, and Jesus himself - O'Driscoll shows how their strivings to live wisely, fully, and joyfully have timeless relevance for us. Learning from their journeys with God can deeply enrich our own spiritual journey.

Finding Freedom in Forgiveness, Charlie T. Jones and Daniel R. Ledwith, \$10. "The faith of the Christian is centered on the simplest and most beautiful of words, forgiven. Love is wonderful, but...forgiveness is love in action." That is just one of the powerful lessons Jones and Ledwith offer in this encouraging look at the importance of forgiving and being forgiven. You will discover how forgiving others can open the doors to reaching your most desired goals - and how your most important relationships can be strengthened by extending grace in every situation.

The Prayer God Longs For, James Emery White, \$12. White guides us through the Lord's Prayer in search of what God longs for in his relationship with each of us. As profound as it is simple, this prayer of Jesus is what God longs for: a divine-human dialogue that transforms us on earth and prepares us for heaven.

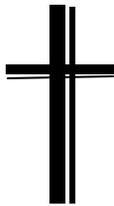
Praying In The Cellar, A Guide to Facing Your Fears and Finding God, Anthony Delisi, O.C.S.O., \$16. This engaging guide to contemplative prayer will take you through the depths of what it really means to follow Jesus's instructions for prayer: "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." Fr. Delisi encourages us to accept Jesus' invitation to enter our interior cellar and in the darkness let our fears come to the surface. Along the way, he also shares his own experiences and reflections on his own journey toward discovering God's deepest healing, and love. This inviting and helpful book is for all of us who have had trouble praying because memories, family, loves, concerns—life!—gets in the way.

PrayerStreaming, Staying in Touch with God All Day Long, Janet Holm McHenry, \$13. *Pray Your Way Through Your Day*. More than two thousand years ago Jesus taught about the importance of prayer and the apostle Paul urged Christians to "pray without ceasing." Yet a rewarding prayer life seems almost impossible for those of us juggling busy schedules, family needs, friendships, home tasks, or a demanding job. We'd love to engage constantly with God: such as when we're working, driving carpool, or folding socks. But how can we, when we spend so much of our days just racing from one thing to another? McHenry set out on a personal journey to learn how to draw even closer to God through this crucial spiritual discipline. and found a life-changing guide to praying through the clutter and clatter of everyday life.

The Art of Prayer, Timothy Jones, \$14. Revised and Expanded Edition. A Simple guide to conversation with God. "Timothy Jones... guides us into a life of prayer not by cramming us with knowledge and technique, but by quietly returning us to simplicity of soul and the presence of God." - Eugenia Peterson

Glory Descending, Michael Ramsey and His Writings, \$25. "No church can flourish without prayer and a deeply rooted belief that is intelligently wrought and clearly and compassionately expressed. The spiritual theology of Ramsey could prove to be a foundation for a new era of integrity and confidence for Anglican Christianity in its doctrine, ethics, and witness throughout the world. These passages, which emerge from his many writing like a seam of gold, demonstrate that he was a true spiritual father." - Douglas Dales

Prayer Unites



Although General Convention is the work of Deputies and Bishops, every member of the Episcopal Church can share by prayer. To pray is to open the church's life to the leading of God's Spirit. We do not pray that our position or point of view may prevail at Convention, but that Convention will be lead by the Spirit into the Truth. Let us join together in prayer. Ask your priest to set at least one day a month (more would be better) to have a prayer vigil and Eucharist for General Convention. Pray for your Bishop and Deputies by name each day. You can call your Diocese to get the deputies names. Set up a prayer vigil during General Convention and let your Bishop and Deputies know that you are praying for them.

○ Father, give to our bishops in the midst of the stresses of their position a daily renewal in your presence that upheld in your peace, enlightened by your word, and strengthened by your grace, they may be true shepherds enabling your church to fulfill the mission you have given us, for Jesus' sake. Amen

A Prayer For General Convention

Almighty God,
you called your church
to be One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic.
By your Spirit guide
the deliberations of
General Convention
that our church may be
One because we find true
oneness in doing your will,
Holy because we seek inspiration
through your Holy Spirit,
Catholic because we maintain the
universal truth that is in Jesus,
Apostolic because we remember that
our mission is to share by life and
witness the good news of Jesus
Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A DAILY PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDING BISHOP

Holy Spirit, inspire the nominating committee for a new Presiding Bishop with a vision of your divine plan for the Church, and grant that they may discern from among your bishops those most highly equipped for this mission and ministry, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop 2006

Bishop Peter James Lee - Co-Chair
Ms. Diane Pollard - Co-Chair
Rev. Thomas J. Brown - Secretary
Bishop Gladstone B. Adams, III
Bishop David Alvarez
Mr. Don Betts
Bishop Bruce Cladwell
Mrs. Jane R. Cosby
Mr. Vincent Currie, Jr.
The Rev. Jeannette DeFriest
Ms. Blanca Lucia Echeverry
Dr. Scott E. Evenbeck
The Rev. Ann K. Fontaine
Bishop Duncan M. Gray, III
The Rev. James P. Haney, V
Mrs. Betty Jo Harris
The Rev. Mark Harris
Bishop Gayle E. Harris
The Rev. E. Claiborne Jones
Mrs. Sarah J. Knoll-Williams
Bishop Jerry A. Lamb
Mr. Albert T. Mollegen, Jr.
Bishop Kenneth L. Price, Jr.
Bishop Bavi E. Rjvera
The Rev. Luis F. Ruiz
The Rev. Richard L. Tolliver
Ms. J. Sierra Wilkinson
Bishop Don A. Wimberly
Mr. Bradley A. Woodall

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