



Partners in PRAYER

Advent 2006

⁸ Newsletter 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.

Romans 9:6-7. The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

October, 2006

Dear Partners in Prayer,

Several times a year you receive a letter from Anglican Fellowship of Prayer appealing for donations in order that we might fund our operating budget and continue as a viable organization. Generous contributions from people such as you and book sales are our main sources of income. We do not count on any appreciable income from the conferences or workshops we sponsor, and frankly we are experiencing a real financial “crunch” at this time.

Studies have determined that a person gives to a cause because of several reasons. One reason is that there is a shared bond between the person and the cause. That is, the person has a belief in its ministry, feels it is worthwhile in the world and needs to be encouraged to continue. A second reason for giving is that the person feels the work of the organization makes a difference in the life of the church and in people’s lives. Another major reason for giving is considering the urgency of the need for funds in order for the ministry to continue. Or perhaps a person may give because of a personal relationship with the people involved in its mission. Another significant reason is that the ministry has touched that person’s life in a meaningful way, and giving is a way of showing appreciation for this blessing.

I hope that you find yourself in one of these categories and will support Anglican Fellowship of Prayer with whatever financial help you can afford. I want to tell you that those of you who give to and/or pray for AFP become a personal part of the success of this ministry. You become our silent but very important partners and therefore have some ownership in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Frankly, without you we could not exist. That is why we come to you, our Partners in Prayer, to ask for your support, both prayerfully and financially, to enable us to carry on this ministry of bringing prayer to the forefront of people’s lives.

Faithfully,

William C. Williams
President, U.S. Council

O God, who endows us with many talents, grant us to use them as a solemn trust from you; that we may put out abundantly our health, our faith, our strength, our wealth, our time, and our influence with others; all in accord with your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dear Friends,

Advent is coming soon, and we pray that it will be a season of spiritual renewal for all of us as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Our Lord. Those who attended the Fall Biblical Institute October 6-8 were blessed by a wonderful teaching on "Entering the Word with Lectio Divina," a 1500 year old Christian tradition. Please read more about it on page three of this newsletter. We recommend it as a fruitful way to enter into prayerful dialogue with God through the scriptures appointed for Advent, either alone or with a group.

Prior to the teaching, the AFP Board had a day-long meeting about the future of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. One reason cited for the relatively low attendance at our excellent, well-planned teaching was the state of the Episcopal Church today. A friend of mine once asked me why the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is still part of the Episcopal Church, which he considered to be a dying church. Actually, this was an erroneous question as AFP is not officially part of the Episcopal Church. True, we are listed in the Church Annual, but AFP is really a ministry separate from the Church. AFP is not a line item in the budget in the Episcopal Church or the Church of Canada, nor do we have representation or voice and vote at General Convention or Synod. I'm not sure we would accept such a position were it offered, as our business is PRAYER and helping other people to learn to pray. When AFP began, small groups of praying people in the parishes were virtually unheard of in the Church. Because of the ministry of AFP prayer groups are now so well known that it is generally assumed most parishes have an active prayer group among their parishioners. Opportunities for Quiet Days and sermons emphasizing prayer and Bible study are now frequent in Episcopal churches.

So I answered my friend's question by saying that where we stand (or kneel!) is for PRAYER. The job of AFP is not to take sides or to pull out from one group and join another. Our job is to encourage people to pray for the church and its leaders, that God will guide it into all truth.

Therefore, I ask your prayers for this ministry, for the Episcopal Church, for the Church of Canada and its upcoming Synod in 2007, for the groups of people on both sides of the issues who feel disenfranchised, and for the leaders of these organizations that God's Will will ultimately be done.

Pray for the Church.

16th Century Coverdale Prayer

O merciful God, grant us love, that we seek not our own honor, but the profit of our neighbor and thy glory in all things. Expel from us all disdain greediness, ungentleness, headiness, and flattering of ourselves. Preserve us from discord and division; bind us together in uniform love; that we may be one body, and of one mind. Establish also our faith, that our minds may be always comforted in the resurrection of thy Son, and immortal life purchased by Him. Amen

Spirit of God, you live within us always drawing us more deeply into Christ. Open us to that joy, which is the fruit of your presence. In Christ we pray this for ourselves and all our sisters and brothers. Amen

Faithfully,
William C. Williams, President,
U.S. Council

Prayer for Trust in God..

when all is darkness and we feel our weakness
and helplessness,
give us the sense of Your presence,
Your love, and Your strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
in Your protecting love
and strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten or worry
us,
for, living close to You,
we shall see Your hand,
Your purpose, Your will through all things.



- St. Ignatius of Loyola

Biblical Institute

“Entering the Word with Lectio Divina (Praying the Scriptures)” was the subject of the AFP Biblical Institute held October 6-8 at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center in Columbia, Illinois. It was led by Fr. Brendan Moss, O.S.B., of



St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana; an experienced retreat leader, he recently completed his doctorate on homiletics at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. There were four addresses, interspersed with discussion and time for personal reflection essential to Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina is a practice begun more than 1500 years ago. The goal is “a dynamic living exchange” with God as the Word is encountered. Starting with Epiclesis, prayer invoking the Holy Spirit, four steps follow. In Lectio, a short passage from scripture or canonical texts is read three times: first, to identify the literary genre and to answer “who, what, when, etc.” questions; second, as though to proclaim or tell it to another; and third to identify a passage or image that speaks to the individual reader. This leads to the second step, Meditatio: individuals “work to digest” the phrase they have chosen, answering questions like “What does this image, concept, or word speak to my relationships with God, self, or others?” In the third step, Contemplatio, we quietly listen and wait for a word from God, and in Oratio, the fourth step, we thank God. Lectio Divina can be done alone, or in a group.

The lovely setting of Toddhall added to our experience of the teachings, with its nature walks, beautiful plantings, and outdoor chapel and labyrinth. We were grateful to the Very Rev. Anthony Holder, originally from Barbados, but now vicar of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in O’Fallin (Diocese of Springfield), who officiated and preached at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the St. Cecilia Chapel at Toddhall on Saturday.

Upcoming prayer events include *Pausing for Prayer* in the Diocese of Springfield; Colorado Diocesan Day of Prayer and a Quiet Day during Lent in the Diocese of Western Oregon. Please let us know if there is a regional AFP event planned in your diocese. For more information on any of these listed above, contact AFP at 724-463-6436.

On Prayer...

Anglican Fellowship Of Prayer in the Diocese of Western Oregon

By Pat Hayes, AFP Representative

The Diocese of Western Oregon is large, and because of that many parishes are scattered. The 1977 visit of the Rt. Rev. Don Hultstrand began the presence of AFP in Oregon. Soon after meeting Don, I attended my first AFP conference, and by meeting others in prayer ministry, was encouraged to plan a local prayer conference. Harry and Emily Griffith spoke at an early prayer seminar in 1981, and were followed by other speakers and leaders over the years including, Archbishop Reginald Hollis, and the late Rev. Al Lott, all former Executive Directors of AFP.

Among the many great AFP resources, we have used the AFP video, THE POWER HOUSE OF PRAYER, the AFP designed prayer vigils for the election of Presiding Bishops, and prayer cards for General Conventions. Other helps include, prayer workshops, annual prayer retreats and a prayer newsletter to prayer chain contacts, 98% of that we e-mail. We also have an active, “Urgent Prayer Needs” e-mail intercessory list of praying people.

We are presently reviewing parish survey responses to better provide AFP resources, and currently planning a Quiet Day Retreat with Sr. Shirley Krueger teaching on Contemplative Prayer, in Lent, 2007.

As an AFP Representative, I attend diocese conventions where I present a display of AFP resources and books, and offer a prayer workshop. I am also Prayer Chain coordinator for my parish, and involved in the parish healing teams. As AFP representative I am encouraged and supported by the Board members and ministry of AFP, the newsletters, the conferences, and the personal encouragement of our Bishop Johncy Itty and clergy, as well as my many friends of prayer here in Oregon.

For God who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness
has shone in our hearts
to give the light
of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of
Jesus Christ.
2 Cor. 4:6

And His light brought
peace that passes understanding
joy beyond measure
and limitless love
His treasures to light our lives
Christmas Gift!

Behold I bring you Good
tidings
of great joy

I am come that you might have
life and
that you might have it more
abundantly.
John 10:10

I salute you!
There is nothing I can give you
which you have not, but there is
much that, while I cannot give,
you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless
our hearts find rest in today.
Take heaven!

No peace lies in the future which is
not hidden in the present instant.
Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a
shadow. Behind it, yet within our
reach, is joy. Take joy!

And so, at this Christmas time I
greet you with the prayer that for
you, now and forever, the day
breaks and the shadows flee away.
Fra Giovanni, A.D. 1513

May Christ light your path
and warm your hearts
with His hope, peace, and joy
this Christmas and always!

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
3801 Appleton Way
Orlando, FL 32806

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New On The Bookshelf

Sabbath Presence, Appreciating the Gifts of Each Day, Kathleen Casey, \$11. The most ancient of Judeo-Christian traditions can have real meaning in our hectic contemporary lives once we realize that the significance of Sabbath is our relationship with God. In thirteen reflections, each with scripture passages, meditative questions, and activities, Casey invites us to explore Sabbath as more than a day of rest or obligation. Discover, as she did, that Sabbath is a gift from God, a time apart from our busy everyday lives when we can get to know God, explore values, contemplate life's big questions, and express love and gratitude. This is a witty, deep, and profoundly helpful book.

Touching the Holy, ordinariness, self-esteem, and friendship, Robert J. Wicks, \$11. Drawing on the experience of contemporary Christians and the wisdom of desert fathers and mothers, Wicks suggest that the simplicity and openness of truly ordinary people are a meeting place with God. "The spirit of ordinariness invites each of us to find out what our inner motivations and talents are and then to express them without reserve or self-consciousness," he says. *I highly recommend this book for anyone who desires greater clarity about their goodness and the value of healthy relationships.* Joyce Rupp, OSM.

Summoned at Every Age, Finding God in our later years, Peter van Breemen, \$10. Life summons us at every age and calls us to be ready for new endeavors. Whether in youth, adulthood, or maturity, we are always learning, always growing. van Breemen invites us to recognize that amidst the many challenges of growing older, there is indeed profound beauty and grace. Aging is indeed a grace. But it is also a multifaceted and complex task. This

engaging and easy-to-read book will help readers to see that there is harmony and fruitfulness during this sometimes difficult stage of life.

Man Of Blessings, A Life of St. Benedict, Carmen Acevedo Butcher, \$22. Known to history primarily through Gregory the Great's *Dialogues*, written a century after Benedict's death, this great medieval figure is now made know to us in new depths of understanding by Butcher. She explores all aspects of his unusual life, illuminating important episodes in the foundation of Western monasticism at the end of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Strange Heaven, The Virgin Mary as Woman, Mother, Disciple and Advocate, Jon M. Sweeney, \$24. The Virgin Mary ignites the human imagination more than any other woman in history. Richly detailed, carefully researched, and imbued with spiritual sensitivity, *Strange Heaven* delves into the mystery and history surrounding the life and legends of the Virgin Mary. Award-winning author Jon Sweeney explores the many meanings of Mary's life and the celebration of her legacy throughout the ages and around the world.

The PAPA Prayer, The prayer you've never prayed, Larry Crabb, \$22. For everyone who struggles to pray in a way that matters, who is bored with prayer and doesn't know where else to turn, this book whispers of hope for change. Something new and real and deep started happening to Dr. Crabb when he began practicing the four steps of what he calls the PAPA prayer - a revolutionary, conversational approach to talking with and enjoying God. As this fellow seeker shares his journey and education in the mysteries of prayer, he guides us to see ourselves and God in a very different

light..which will alter the way we talk - and listen - to Him.

In His Footsteps, Living Prayer, Poverty, and Peace with Francis of Assisi, John Kirvan, \$9. Walk with Francis and his early followers on a journey of prayer, poverty, and peace. In His Footsteps is an invitation not only to pray but to become a prayer; not only to be free of material craving, but to love poverty; not only to cultivate interior peace, but to become peacemakers. Francis surrendered his whole self to the presence of God. He sought not to pray, but to become a prayer.

Special Christmas Pricing

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, ***Personal Prayer Notebook***, \$9.99. This Notebook covers five facets of prayer: Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession, Intercession, and Petition. A three ring notebook that encourages and enlightens one to have an effective prayer life, a place to collect prayers and other inspirational material for future use and for maintaining an effective intercessory prayer list and expanding your prayer horizons.

Children's Book

Uncle Walt's Christmas Box, \$11. Discover the real story of Christmas, along with Robin and Rosie, when Uncle Walter invites his nephew and niece to find a special box in his cluttered attic. As Uncle Walt assembles the Nativity scene, he reminds his young visitors of the very special events of that first Christmas night.

AFP Bookshelf

TO ORDER: Mark quantity of each item, calculate amount owed, add 15% for shipping (minimum \$2.50 regular/\$6 for Priority). Orders may be phoned, or e-mailed into office. An invoice will be enclosed with each shipment and payment is due upon receipt. All titles are not listed. Please call to order books not listed. **New books on shelf are listed in bold print.**

843-552-5675 phone mhilton@sc.rr.com

MAIL ORDER FORM TO: AFP Bookshelf, 5497 Clearview Drive, North Charleston, SC 29420

Bibles and Prayer Books

- _____ Prayer Book/Hymnal Combination, Leather, Black .. \$100
- _____ Traveler's Prayer Book \$16
- _____ Book of Common Prayer, Deluxe Personal, leather \$48
- _____ **Personal Prayer Notebook** **\$12**
- _____ New Zealand Prayer Book, Hardcover \$35
- _____ St. Augustine Prayer Book, Hardcover, Blue \$16
- _____ The Jewish Study Bible \$45

- _____ St. Benedict's Toolbox, Tomaine \$17
- _____ **Strange Heaven, Sweeney** **\$24**
- _____ **Summoned at Every Age, van Breemen** **\$10**
- _____ The Art of Prayer, Jones \$14
- _____ The Cross of Christ, Stott \$25
- _____ The Da Vinci Question, White \$2
- _____ The Habit of Holiness, Warner \$18
- _____ The Mystery of God's Will, Swindall \$15
- _____ **The PAPA Prayer, Crabb** **\$22**
- _____ The Pilgrim Prayerbook, Stancliffe \$16
- _____ The Prayer That Heals, MacNutt \$10
- _____ The Rule of Benedict, Chittister \$17
- _____ **Touching the Holy, Wicks** **\$11**
- _____ **Waiting in Joyful Hope, Howard** **\$3**
- _____ Wisdom of the Celtic Saints, Sellner \$13
- _____ Workday Prayers, Jones \$13

Children's Books

- _____ **Uncle Walt's Christmas Box** **\$11**

Ministry/Prayer/Spirituality

- _____ A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to Old Age ... \$10
- _____ A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book, Fitzgerald \$10
- _____ A Good Life, Benedict's Guide to Everyday Joy, Benson \$14
- _____ Celtic Benediction, Newell \$18
- _____ Celtic Treasurer, Newell \$20
- _____ Celtic Way of Prayer, DeWaal \$13
- _____ Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening, Bourgeault ... \$14
- _____ Conversation Matters, Shaw \$16
- _____ Day By Day With St. Benedict \$15
- _____ Eternal Seasons, Nouwen \$19
- _____ Embracing Grace, McKnight \$17
- _____ Fabric of Faith, Winston \$24
- _____ Following Francis, Pitchford \$16
- _____ Give Us Grace, Webber \$30
- _____ Hour by Hour \$18
- _____ **In His Footsteps, Kirvan** **\$9**
- _____ Incandescence, 305 readings with women mystics, Butcher \$17
- _____ Live, Laugh, and Be Blessed, Smollin \$13
- _____ Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People, Westerhoff \$15
- _____ Living Scripture, O'Driscoll \$16
- _____ **Man of Blessing, Butcher** **\$22**
- _____ Perspectives on the Rule of St. Benedict \$22
- _____ Ponder These Things, Williams \$17
- _____ Praying, Packer & Nystrom \$18
- _____ Praying Our Goodbyes, Rupp \$12
- _____ PrayerStreaming, McHenry \$13
- _____ Pet Prayers, Bubbers \$8
- _____ Preferring Christ, Vest \$20
- _____ **Sabbath Presence, Casey** **\$11**
- _____ Sacred Rhythms, Barton \$16
- _____ Serious Times, White \$13
- _____ Slow Down, Champlin \$10
- _____ Some Things You Just Have to Live With, Crafton \$12
- _____ Spiritual Direction, Ruffing \$13

Music

- _____ Come and Journey, Haas, Haugen & Joncas in Concert \$17
- _____ Glory Day, David Haas in Concert, 2 CDs \$25
- _____ Great Hymns of the Church CD \$17
- _____ Guard Us Sleeping \$17
- _____ Hymns of Our Faith \$17
- _____ More Great Hymns of the Church CD \$17
- _____ Mystic Vista, LaGiglia, flute; Hutmacher, harp \$17
- _____ Gift of Grace, Instrumental, Doan \$17
- _____ Blessings, Instrumental, Doan \$17
- _____ The Promise, Instrumental, Doan \$17
- _____ Sojourners, Warner, James, Watz \$17
- _____ In the Spirit of Taize, Anderson \$17
- _____ Taize CD \$17 each
- _____ Alleluia _____ Songs and Prayer _____ Wait for the Lord
- _____ Sing to God _____ Veni Sancte Spiritus _____ Joy on Earth
- _____ UBI Carita _____ In the Spirit of Taize _____ Jubilate

Calligraphy Note Cards, Margaret Ane Campbell, artist \$10

Package of 10 Notecards w envelopes, 5 1/2" x 4 1/4", 8 different designs, inside blank. Outside script of each listed below:

- _____ #1 Cast All your cares on Him for He cares for you 1 Peter 5:7
- _____ #2 God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change
- _____ #3 Let the omnipotence of God be the measure of your expectations
- _____ #4 More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams
- _____ #5 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- _____ #6 Prayer is the soul's greatest privilege, its hardest labor, its purest joy
- _____ #7 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe. Proverbs 18:10
- _____ #8 The possibilities of prayer run parallel with the promises of God
- _____ **Anglican Rosary Beads** **\$25**
- _____ 33 beads, one bead for each year of Christ life on earth ; in various colors

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