

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

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Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer

I Will Pray For You... Really?

National Director Paul Feheley

I recently finished my ministry at the National level of our Church and have begun a new ministry as the Africa Partnership Officer for our sister Church in the United States- The Episcopal Church (TEC). Significant parts of this new ministry include nurturing TEC relationships with Anglican Communion partners in Africa, being a resource for parishes, dioceses and institutions of TEC, and being a bridge in nurturing and promoting relationships between TEC and our African partners. Normally this ministry would take me to Africa for significant amounts of time but given the Covid-19 pandemic that is not possible. I have had to rely on electronic means to renew friendships and create new contacts in that part of God's kingdom.

This ministry has brought home to me the importance of five words that we say so often, and I cannot help but wonder of the depth of our commitment to those words: ***I will pray for you.***

I have little or no doubt we mean them, but too often I find we are using those words to try and finish a conversation. Our prayerful commitment is a personal one with a promise of action. While we may find it a convenient way to move on to other things, those to whom we say it are counting on our 'conversation with God' to include their needs, hopes and faith requests among many other things. In my conversation with new partners in Africa I have the privilege of hearing some of their faith stories- war, gender based violence and peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, evangelism efforts in Burundi, dealing with floods and starvation in South Sudan to name but a few and every part of Africa dealing with the pandemic. I cannot solve the big issues in Sub-Saharan Africa but what I can do is to befriend people, to hear their stories, share to the best of my ability in moments of joy as well as their pain and sorrow and to pray for them.

I cannot leave those conversations casually; I need to mean *I will pray for you* seriously because I have learned how great the needs are and that my friends are relying on my commitment to them. There is no doubt that they take prayer seriously. Can I afford to do anything less than earnestly honour what I have said to them?

Please continue to speak those five words to others. They need to hear that from you, but please only speak it if you mean it - your words are your pledge to them and to God.



Current Work of the AFP Executive

Val Kenyon, National Chair



While the summer is usually a quieter time for the AFP Canada Executive, (but then again in these days of Covid the usual is frequently upended) we have met twice over the summer to consider how the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer might be supportive during these unusual days.

Some Farewells

We have had some changes in our Executive members. Win Mizon has retired from her positions within the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Executive as Membership and Newsletter Coordinator. Win has generously given of her time and talents over the past 12+ years in supporting us all in so many ways and we will certainly miss her contributions and her presence on the Executive. Win lives her life and offers her service from a deep place of faith. Her faithful ministry over these years has been a gift to so many! Anyone who interacted with Win at all will know her to be a kind, helpful, informative, prayerful person. We wish her every blessing and are deeply appreciative of all that she has shared with so many of us over these past number of years.

Looking ahead Libi Clifford who is currently our Treasurer will be taking on the tasks of membership. Jane Bourcet will be looking after physical distribution of our quarterly newsletters (see below). Thanks to Libi and Jane for stepping forward to take on these roles.

As well Deborah Lonergan-Freake has also tendered her resignation from the Executive. Deborah has been a wonderful presence with us during her time of service and we are grateful for her contributions. We wish Deborah every blessing in the days ahead and know that the work of the AFP will continue to be in her prayers.

Our Newsletter

As in many other aspects of our lives together the Executive is always reviewing our practices to ensure that we are addressing the needs of our members in the most responsible ways possible. We remain committed to providing both a paper and an electronic version of this newsletter as this currently serves a larger number of our membership. In 2020-2021, therefore, we will be releasing four newsletters, one in September, one in December, one in March and one in June. This is a reduction of one newsletter per year. This decision was made both for sustainability reasons (to reduce the use of paper), and for some cost savings.

As the newsletter is one way in which AFP members can share resources, we are all invited to suggest books and other prayer resources that we have found helpful in our prayer journeys. Thoughts and ideas should be sent to: newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

Looking Ahead

Given current realities imposed upon us by Covid-19, with so many scheduled events moving to an online forum, the Executive has been considering how we might provide support to our members in different ways. Our director Paul Feheley will outline some different ideas about this.

Continuing to hold you all in prayer in these days. Please know we are always glad to hear from you with any feedback you'd wish to offer and or suggestions you would like to offer.

Yours in prayer,
Val Kenyon

*"For our soul sits in
God in true rest, and
our soul stands in
God in sure strength,
and our soul is
naturally rooted in
God in endless love."
~Julian of Norwich*

Praying Through

Archdeacon Paul Feheley, AFP National Director

Dear Friends:

In our last newsletter I wrote the following:

“We applaud the variety of ways that our parishes are reaching out to people with online worship, bible study, children programs and a variety of ways for the community to gather. Within that we also recognize the pain and anxiety that isolation can cause through loneliness, fear, frustration, and depression.”

We continue to recognize that as we move into the autumn season that, while some things are different, other struggles remain. In most dioceses Churches are opening up for in person worship, with many restrictions in place. Many of the ‘normal’ things we do in Church: sing, have Sunday school, coffee hours etc. are either not able to happen at all or are severally restricted. Considering this the AFP executive has made some decisions that we hope will make life ease some of the difficulties as we look towards the future.

One of those decisions is to delay our fall financial campaign. Normally in this newsletter we make our annual appeal for your financial support for the coming year. We recognize the uncertainty that many people face with their finances and are delaying our specific request for support. Your contributions are of course welcome at any time of the year, but we are trying to be thoughtful in our approach to our stewardship needs.

We are also considering some different ways to be online and what, if any, would be the most appropriate zoom meetings webinars or other presentations for AFP to hosts and make available. Thirdly, we recognize that as some restrictions are lifted small groups may be coming together, often with a sense of trepidation. We have some very wonderful resources that we want to make available without charge. Paul Dumbrille, our resources co-ordinator, has put together the following note re: this initiative.

Resources for Small Groups

The COVID-19 Pandemic has restricted opportunities to gather in large groups for prayer and has caused many to consider meeting together in smaller groups for prayer and spiritual nourishment. A small group can come together to: pray; seek to learn and share what each has learned; experience more about prayer; and to provide prayerful support for one another. They can meet in people’s homes or other small, safe places. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) is offering to provide free resources to encourage individuals or parishes who want to explore the richness of Christians meeting in small groups. A complete list, and electronic copies, of all AFP Resources can be found on the AFP Website, www.anglicanprayer.org. Some of the resources that might of useful are:

• Parish House Groups	• A Home Quiet Day	• How to Spend an Hour in Prayer
• A Day of Prayer	• Daily Prayer	• Listening to God
• A Week of Daily Prayers	• Prayer Groups	• The Anglican Rosary

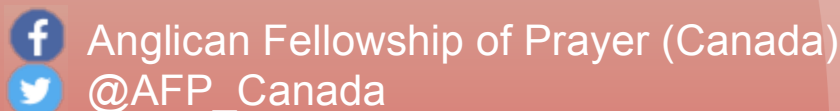
These resources can be obtained, **at no cost**, from the AFP Resources Co-ordinator, Paul Dumbrille, who can be contacted at resources@anglicanprayer.org, or 613-225-0806.

Please know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers as we continue to work our way through this pandemic. We are here to help if there is any way that we may be able to assist.

Archdeacon Paul Feheley

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Next Newsletter: December 2020

Submission deadline: December 01, 2020



Meet The Executive: Elise Chambers (Diocese of Huron)

I have always prayed. I cannot remember a time when I didn't. As a child, I learned that our God is all around us. We didn't have to be in a church to be in his presence. One of my favourite memories from my childhood is that of fishing with my Opa on Colpoy's Bay, at Wiarton. We would get up around 4 in the morning, make the special weak Caro coffee that my Opa loved, and with a pocketful of smarties, head out into the lake in our fishing boat. We spent many hours together this way, and he taught me a lot about the world around me in our time together. I remember the sunrise; the loons calling, the sight and sounds of the early morning on the lake. Even today I can recall the smell of the damp earth in the morning as we walked down to launch the boat. This is also where I learned the power of prayer.

I am sure as a child, my prayers were simple- but I remember feeling calm in my heart when I prayed. This has never left me. I still do feel closest to God, in my "thin place", when I am near the water. I am very blessed that I live now on the shores of Lake Erie. My prayer life today includes so much more than my own personal wants or needs. It may seem more generic, but it's more inclusive. I pray for the good of all, for guidance for those who are in positions of power, that their decisions may be for the good of all in the world. I pray for strength for us all to battle the poverty and disease and inequality that plagues our world. I give thanks to God for creation and the opportunity that we have to be good stewards. I pray often when I am walking the shore, or when I experience yet another beautiful sunset. I pray throughout the day. It is part of me.

Does God answer prayer? Yes! In God's perfect timing, in God's perfect way, and when God sees we are ready for the answer! Has it occurred to you lately to thank God for the sunrise? For paved roads, for the autumn leaves, for the smell of the earth in the morning and in the evening, for church potlucks (missing those), for the gift of laughter, for teenagers, for waves lapping on the shore, for babies, for Grandparents, for music?

When do you talk with God? If you limit your conversations to bedtime prayers, then you are missing out on a whole wonderful world of sharing your life with God, of letting God come into your life, of having God fill your life. For, when you allow God into your life, when you put God first in your life, you will never, ever, be the same again. Praise God! Amen.