

Pastor's Ponderings...

Season of Spiritual Renewal

Bishop Andrew has called us to begin a two-year Season of Spiritual Renewal, lasting until Epiphany 2026. Right across our diocese people are praying for spiritual renewal (revival) to take hold in their own lives, as well as the life of their church, and our diocese. Let's make a daily commitment to spend at least a few minutes in prayer, drawing close to God, who promises to draw close to us and be at work in and through us.

As part of the Season of Renewal, we're coming together as a diocese to worship God at five distinct Eucharistic services throughout the year. Each service will include wonderful music, inspirational preaching, a joyful lay witness talk, and the opportunity for prayer and anointing, followed by a reception that will offer delicious food and plenty of time to reconnect with friends from other parishes. Each service is on a Saturday at 2 p.m. The first service is at St. James Cathedral on March 22 and the second is at Trinity Church, Streetsville on March 29. Let's join our sisters and brothers in the wider Anglican church for worship this year.

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5 this year, and it lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays), ending on Saturday in Holy Week, the day before Easter. Essau McCaulley, in his book *Lent: The Season of Repentance and Renewal*, writes, "Lent is inescapably about repenting. Repentance is a change of direction, a Spirit-empowered turning around...about turning away from our sins and toward the living God. A season dedicated to repentance and renewal should not lead us to despair; it should cause us to pray to God for his grace" (p.3).

In the life of the church throughout the past 2,000 plus years, Lent has come "to be about three things: the preparation of new converts for baptism, the reconciliation of those estranged from the church, and a general call for the whole church to repent and renew its commitment to Jesus" (p.8). It's important to say that while there are 3 traditional practices used by our sisters and brothers in the faith to mark the season of Lent - prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor, "we should not see the season of Lent as a series of rules but as a gift of the collected wisdom of the church universal. It is one of many tools of discipleship pointing us toward a closer walk with Jesus" (p.9).

One resource that might be of help in us walking closer with Jesus in Lent this year is called *#LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story*. It was developed by Dean Stephen Hance (St. James Cathedral) when he was the Evangelism and Discipleship Lead for the Church of England. Starting on Ash Wednesday, it includes a reading from scripture, a short reflection and a prayer for each day during Lent. At the start of each week, there is a brief introduction to set the scene for the whole week, with a weekly action to take. You can find it online at www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/season-of-spiritual-renewal

Ash Wednesday & Kingdom Come

I have always found Ash Wednesday to be hauntingly beautiful and I have developed a deep appreciation for the scripture readings and practice of being marked with the burnt ashes of last year's blessed palm crosses that are ground into fine dust and mixed with Holy Oil. It is haunting because in that service as the ashes are marked on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, the words, "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" are said.

The ashes are a sign and symbol of repentance (turning away from sin and turning toward God instead) that we see used throughout the Old Testament. The reality of the human condition is that we all sin (see Romans 3:23) and we all need God's forgiveness, so with special focus, as a whole worshipping community, at the service on Ash Wednesday we spend time asking God to examine our hearts and show us anything that isn't pleasing to Him. We then confess it and receive God's forgiveness. That is the beauty of Ash Wednesday!

Being reminded of our mortality, as a result of Sin (capital S, as in the Power of Sin) and Death (capital D, as in the Power of Death) is jarring and sobering. It's not everyday we're reminded of the truth and reality of our finite, frail bodies. Thankfully, that's not all we are reminded of with the use of ashes. In the prayer said before we are marked by them, the priest prays,

"Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,

and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen."

The ashes and those jarring, sobering words are also a reminder that it is through God's gracious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and through his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension that He HAS defeated the Powers of Sin and Death and we HAVE been given eternal life. So, while our bodies will, one-day, die and return to the earth, that is not the end! There is life-eternal with Jesus!

This year we will have **one service on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 10am**. In the evening we have again been invited by Bishop Jenny to take part in the next **city-wide service of worship and prayer for revival in Toronto, Kingdom Come**. A small group of us participated in the first Kingdom Come service in November where we gathered with 600+ people from many churches in Toronto. It was glorious! In recognition that historically, revival follows times of repentance, the next service has been planned for **Ash Wednesday at 7pm at St. Paul's Bloor Street**. CCSJ will be a partner church for this event, as will many others across the city.

I want to invite you all to attend that service with me. God is at work in unseen and important ways as His church comes together across denominations with the purpose of repenting, worshipping, and praying together. **Will you join me?** We will arrange to carpool for those who do not want to drive at night in the winter or for those with mobility issues, others who are able can also easily take the subway. My heart is filled with anticipation and such hope for a move of God's Spirit in each of us and in this city. Let it be, Lord, and may we not miss what you are doing!

Brian+



KINGDOM COME

Heal Our Land

An evening of repentance, seeking God's face, and praying for revival in Toronto.

HOSTED BY:



LIFT UP OUR HEARTS



Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m.

MARCH 22	St. James Cathedral The Rev. Molly Finlay, preacher
MARCH 29	Trinity Church Streetsville The Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas, preacher
MAY 31	All Saints, Whitby The Rev. Gerlyn Henry, preacher
SEPT 27	St. James, Orillia The Rev. Dr. Rob Hurkmans, preacher
OCT 25	St. Paul's Bloor Street The Rev. Dr. Alvaro Adderley, preacher

Come together as the Diocese of Toronto to **worship God** in wonderful music, inspirational preaching and the witness of God's people.



HAPPY (ALMOST) NEW YEAR!

Dear Church Family,

Warm greetings from the Youth and Family Ministries corner! As we enter February, it's a time when the energy of the year is just beginning to settle in. While the calendar year is no longer so new, there is still a sense of momentum and possibility as we move forward together. It's often in this season that our resolutions and commitments are tested, and yet it's also where deeper growth can happen.

In ministry, this is a time for perseverance—building on the foundation laid in the early days of the year and moving forward with renewed commitment to God's work. It's a time to remind ourselves that every season holds opportunities to grow, serve, and be transformed, no matter how long the year has been underway. The Bible reminds us of the importance of persistence in doing good:



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

In our youth and family ministry, this verse resonates, especially as we navigate the colder season and its accompanying blues. In all of this, we are excited for what lies ahead this year as we continue walking alongside our young people, fostering a space of joy, friendship, learning, and spiritual growth. Let's keep our hearts open to what God is doing in this season and anticipate the harvest that is yet to come!

Sunday Mornings

Our Journey Through the Bible

For almost two years, our youth ministry has embarked on an incredible journey through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, discovering God's amazing story of love, salvation, and reconciliation. Throughout this journey, we have explored the character of God through creation, the call of Abraham and his descendants as vessels of blessing to humanity, the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, the calling of the disciples, Christ's death and resurrection, and the formation of the early church.

As we approach the end of this curriculum, we are excited to turn our focus to the final theme: God's promise of a new creation in the book of Revelation. This marks the culmination of our exploration into the story of God's unfolding plan for the world.

We invite you to join us on Sunday mornings as we wrap up this series and look ahead to new beginnings. We've learned in creative and interactive ways, connecting ancient stories to our lives today. Stay tuned for more on what's to come in the next chapter of our journey!

Sunday Mornings

Youth Service



On the first Sunday of every month, our youth actively serve during the church service in various meaningful ways. From reading scripture and greeting congregation members to leading the intercessory prayer, assisting as crucifer, helping with communion, and serving as side persons, our youth contribute to creating a vibrant worship experience. Their involvement is a wonderful opportunity for them to engage with the congregation and serve the church community



Upcoming Activities

Bread Tuesdays



Dear Youth, your helping hands are wanted! Join us on our monthly Bread Tuesdays for a time of serving and fellowship. We have dinner, fellowship, games, and sort/bag breads for the CCSJ Foodbank. Our next Bread Tuesday is on February 18. Upcoming Bread Tuesday events are March 18, and April 15.

The Bread Tuesdays is an excellent opportunity for our youths to serve, while fellowshiping. Remember to bring a friend.



Messy Church

We invite everyone to our next Messy Church gathering on the afternoon of February 2! The youth will have their own youth-focused segment. It's a great time for the youth to engage in meaningful discussion and activities while still connecting with the whole Messy Church family over a shared meal.

At this Messy Church, our youth will be concluding their workshop on the youth covenant code of conduct. This code is based on their own ideas and input about the values and commitments they want to see in our youth group. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to share their thoughts,

Upcoming Activities

Youth Choir

The youth choir is excited to lead us in worship as part of their service to the church.

On Sunday morning, February 2, they will introduce a new praise song called "*Build My Life*", written by Pat Barrett.

We look forward to joining them in worship and celebrating their dedication to serving through song.



Souper Bowl Youth Fundraiser

On February 9, the youth are hosting a "Souper Bowl" afternoon to raise funds for upcoming youth group activities, including camping trips and other outings. Join us for a fun time of fellowship, delicious soup, and support for our youth as they continue to grow and serve the church. Your participation will help make future events possible for our youth group!

Youth Winter Fun: Sledding Trip

Get ready for some winter fun! Weather permitting, the youth are heading to Centennial Park on Sunday, February 16 for a sledding trip, after lunch together at the Church. It's going to be a day of snow-filled excitement and fellowship. Don't forget to bring your warm clothes



For more information on the Family and Youth program at CCSJ, contact: Maureen, Youth Pastor, at ccsj.youth.group@gmail.com or 416-994-7375

A Quick Glance Back into Nov/Dec

....photo gallery



Joanna and Megan welcome oodles of winter wear warm hats and scarfs from CCSJ for The Dale Ministries

Suz Maurici prepares Christmas lunch for 150 people!



Serving turkey dinner,

Carolling together with The Dale,
....all a joy!



Looking Back (cont'd..)



Café Church
Outreach
and New
Year' Eve
Party



TNT – Thursday Night Together: the church
that prays together stays together



Looking Back (cont'd..)

Celebration Café....launching into Advent



The joyful Circle of Friends!



Behind the Scenes....making a world of difference!

Looking Back (cont'd..)

Sunday mornings with a great bunch of young people!



Thanking God for our neighboring churches that
partnered for our Toy Mountain



Looking Back (cont'd..)



Our Christmas Meal to Kēlele had enough to feed 80 young people in Parkdale with our friend Kyla Sinclair-Peters

New Year's Day Community Lunch Party!



The first Women's Breakfast of 2025



Looking Way Back

Recognize anyone? Recognize neighbourhood?

This is the Christ Church St. James, formerly named St. James (Humber Bay) Sunday school class of 1956.

Far right is Mary Lou Becker, her assistant on the left is Marilyn Goodyear, center is Ron Stockey.

In the background on the right is Park Lawn Baptist Church before it moved further north on Park Lawn Road.

Thank you to Ron Stockey for this submission



On our Horizon...



Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Sunday February 9 (after coffee hour)

You've warmed your soul, now warm your body while helping our wonderful youth raise funds for camp, retreats and other programs

the prayer course

**An eight week journey
through the Lord's Prayer**

3 Sessions to Choose From
Starting Week of February 11

1. **Tuesday nights**, in-person at the church, 6pm dinner included, we'll be done no later than 8:15pm.
2. **Wednesday night, on Zoom**, 7-8:15pm. Barbara Patterson and Muriel Henderson will be hosting the online group on Wednesdays.
3. **Friday morning**, in-person at the church, 10:30-11:45am. Marabelle's Small Group that normally meets at this time is going to run the course and offer a day-time, in-person option for any who would like to join.

On our Horizon... (cont'd)

CCSJ Day of Prayer

The last Wednesday of each month you are invited to pray from wherever you are during the day and then to join us online for a time of prayer together at 8pm



We will pray for CCSJ, our community, our friends and family, ourselves, and for the world in which we live. We will pray for renewal in God's church and that God will help us reach those in our community and lives who don't yet know Jesus. Watch Plugged In for Resources

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday February 26

Wednesday March 26

CCSJ Annual Vestry (Annual General Meeting)

Sunday February 23

Find out the What, Where, Whys of 2024

And

The What, Where, When, Why, Hows of 2025 and beyond...and of course the Who's Who?

Return Your Palm Crosses

Still have your Palm Cross from last year? Return them to CCSJ so we may burn them and make ashes for Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday)

Tuesday March 4

5-6:30pm

More Info to Come



Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday March 5 @ 10:am

A quiet service of repentance, grace and forgiveness to prepare us for the season of Lent

Celebration Café: Sunday March 16 10:00am

Diocese Happenings

Season of Spiritual Renewal

Bishop Andrew has called us to begin a two-year Season of Spiritual Renewal, lasting until Epiphany 2026.

Renewal begins with prayer

Right across our diocese people are praying for spiritual renewal to take hold in their own lives, as well as the life of their church, and our diocese. Let's make a daily commitment to spend at least a few minutes in prayer, drawing close to God, who promises to draw close to us and be at work in and through us.

Kingdom Come

Ash Wednesday, St. Paul's Bloor St.

Heal Our Land

March 5, 7:00pm,

An evening of repentance, seeking God's face, and prayer for the city of Toronto. **CCSJ will be attending.** Let the office know if you would like to join a group going either by car or subway.

World Day of Prayer

Friday March 7 1:00pm

Hosted by CCSJ

You are invited to join us for this World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service at Christ Church St. James.

A light reception will follow
We Hope To See You There



"I Made You Wonderful"

Psalms 139: 1-18

Artists: Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa



« J'ai fait de toi une merveille. »

Psaume 139, 1-18

Artistes: Tarani Napa et Tevairangi Napa

Lift Up Our Hearts

Come together as the Diocese of Toronto to worship God in wonderful music, inspirational preaching and the witness of God's people.

Saturday March 22 2:00pm St. James Cathedral Preacher: The Rev. Molly Finlay

Saturday March 29 2:00pm Trinity, Streetsville Preacher: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas

Saturday May 31 2:00pm All Saints, Whitby Preacher: The Rev. Gerlyn Henry

Saturday Sept 27 2:00pm St. James, Orillia Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Rob Hurkmans

Saturday October 25 2:00pm St. Paul's Bloor Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley

“Don’t Just Stand There: Pray Something!”

I’ve a hunch most parishioners would agree that prayer is important? Right?

Now if those same parishioners were asked ‘just HOW important is it’, what might the response look like? Somewhat? It depends? Occasionally? Often? Lots?

Bottom line: Just as we *need* to eat, to exercise, or even to sleep, we *need* to pray. Some would struggle to imagine entering each day without first checking in with Jesus. Why? Because without Him, they are aware of just taking up space. Our best efforts miss the mark, miserably. We aren’t meant to go through life without prayer, any more than we are to go through life without food or drink.

But how? How can we make this mysterious thing called prayer less of a mystery and more of a treasured reality in our ‘day to day’ life? I’m glad you asked. 😊

Here’s a quick stab at an answer:

1) Start with “good morning”

Prayer is not supposed to be complicated, any more than it is complicated to chat with any friend or family member. The church over the years may have given the impression that prayer is for ‘the experts’ and has overcomplicated the topic. Yet you and I know that prayer is for the youngest and the oldest of us. “Good Morning, Jesus” is a super way to begin every day.

2) Prioritize prayer

“But I’m so busy!” Really? So busy you skip breakfast and lunch every day? So busy you have zero time to catch the sports highlights from last night? So busy you’ve no time to shower? Charles Spurgeon asked a gent who said he was too busy “I’ve noticed you weren’t too busy to put on your



pants before heading out to work today. How long does it take to greet our Lord and to offer yourself and your day to him?”

Personal note: when our kids were little, life was nuts as they prepared for school each day. So we did a daily “**P.O.W.**” together in the car, - we **Prayed On the Way** to school. We can do the same on the way to work, can’t we, be it in the car or on the bus. We can carve out time in our schedules and set it as a priority appointment. One friend of mine has his phone alarm set for a certain time each morning for this very purpose. For some of this, it will be first thing each day, while for others, it may well be just before your head hits that pillow. Point: *when* we pray isn’t the huge deal. What matters is *THAT* we pray. Right?

We make time for the things we consider a priority. Jesus is worth it. Right?

3) Remember Jesus actually enjoys (and waits for) our company

None of this is meant to be complicated. When those first disciples walked the road with Jesus, they were free to chat with him every step of the way. Likewise for you and me.

A real simple outline (if it helps) is simply to **P.R.A.Y:**

-Praise (just take a moment to thank God for Who He is...if reading a psalm or a favorite hymn helps, go for it).

-Reflect (or just come clean with God. Just be honest about any struggles, shortcomings, failures...He's all about forgiveness so let Him. Why let anything pull you down when He wants to lift you up?).

-Ask (I'd suggest for others, initially. Who is on your heart and mind? Why not literally write those names down and tuck them away in your bible as a reminder to pray each day until there's a breakthrough?).

-Yield (this is when prayer gets real personal....commit your day to him, your life to him. Bring all your concerns, worries, headaches, fears, issues...He's not called the God of all hope for nothing).

4) Don't make room for discouragement

Keep at it! We may go through times where our prayers seem vibrant and other times where it's a struggle. Giving up is a very real possibility, for all kinds of reasons. Yet Jesus knows all this. That's why he said "always pray and do not lose heart". (Luke 18:1).

Where do we go from here? I'd suggest taking a look at our calendars and putting a fence around some time to pray each day.

(Another personal note: when my dad was pushing 100, he told me *"If you call me between 8 and 9pm and I don't answer, do not worry. I'm not dead. That is my hour each night with Jesus"*).

Every relationship requires Time, Trust and Talk. If we're serious about our relationship with Jesus, let's go for it. Sound good?

"The church that isn't praying is straying". Let's keep in step, together.

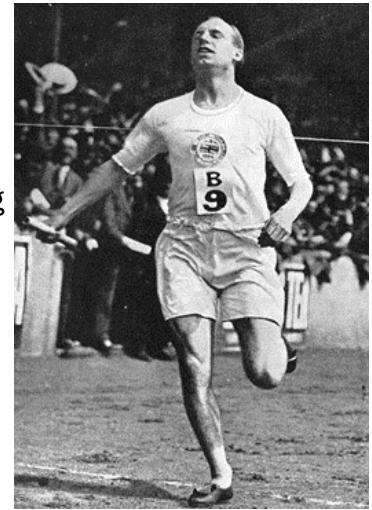
Bruce



My Creed

Many of us might remember the film “Chariots of Fire” concerning the life of Eric Liddell. He was a well-known Olympian who would go from the gold medal podium in Paris to serve as a missionary in China, giving his all in serving the poorest of the poor in an internment camp during World War 2.

Below are his own words that clearly formed and shaped his life. They are shared as an encouragement to all of us as we *‘run the race set before us’*.



I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator, infinitely holy and loving, who has a plan for the world, a plan for my life, and some daily work for me to do.

I believe in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, as Example, Lord and Saviour.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is able to guide my life so that I may know God’s will; and I am prepared to allow him to guide and control my life.

I believe in God’s law that I should love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul, and with all my mind and with all my strength; and my neighbour as myself.

I believe it is God’s will that the whole world should be without any barriers of race, colour, class, or anything else that breaks the spirit of fellowship.

To believe means to believe with the mind and heart, to accept and to act accordingly on that basis.

“Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God’s plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God’s love is still working.”

ERIC LIDDELL

We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ.

— Eric Liddell —

AZ QUOTES

Laughter

submitted by Marabelle McTavish

A praising of God is what laughter is, because it lets a human being be human.

Laughter is a praise of God, because it lets a human being be a loving person.

Laughter is praise of God because it is a gentle echo of God's laughter, of the laughter that pronounces judgment on all history.

Laughter is praise of God because it foretells the eternal praise of God at the end of time, when those who must weep here on earth shall laugh.

The laughter of unbelief, of despair, and of scorn, and the laughter of believing happiness are here uncannily juxtaposed, so that before the fulfillment of the promise, one hardly knows whether belief or unbelief is laughing.

—a found poem by Kathleen Norris, made up of sayings by Karl Rahner, from [*Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*](#) (Riverhead, 1999), pp. 257–58

Right Now Media: Free Bible Study Videos & Resources!

Amazing Free Online Library for CCSJ Parishioners and Friends. A “Christian Netflix This library includes teachers such as

- NT Wright, Tim Mackie (The Bible Project), Tim Keller, Francis Chan,
- over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos for Children
- top-notch videos for youth.

RightNow Media is a tool that can help us live out our faith in every area of life -

RightNow Media has videos for everyone on a variety of topics like

- marriage,
- parenting,
- personal finances,
- mental health,
- and more.



“How can I get this?” Jeff Coatsworth has made a clear and simple way:

- a. Go to our website (christchurchstjames.ca)
- b. Click on “Outreach and Programs”
- c. Click on “Digital Media Resources”
- d. And there you will see these words: To create your own curated account under our
- e. partnership with RightNow Media, use this link – [https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/ ChristChurchStJames](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/ChristChurchStJames) or click the Get Access button.

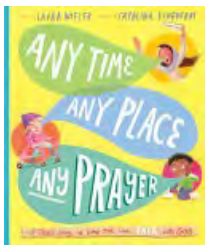
We pray that RightNow Media will be a huge blessing to you! Enjoy! p.s. if you have any questions, contact the church office and we will be delighted to help you set up your own account. Again, this is **absolutely free**,

Library Suggestions for February 2025 Walking in the Way

This time we have chosen Prayer as our topic for books to recommend. A search of our Library using the CCSJ website and browsing using the keyword “prayer” gave me nearly 300 book titles! I picked 90 from that group listing using the website and then chose a limited group to put in this review! I still had 25!!

So with grouping by similar content or approach I hope that you will get an idea of what the possibilities are. Each of the 25 (at least) will be on display in the library once the Walking in the Way is available. And more are to be had on the shelves!

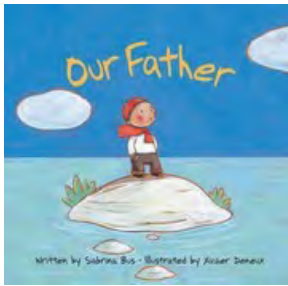
There are a lot of books on prayer for children of all ages Tales That Tell The Truth is a favourite series of mine.



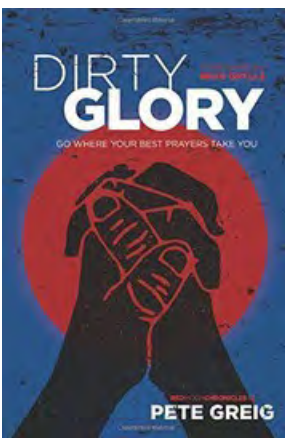
Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer: A True Story Of How You Can Talk With God

Unfortunately this title is currently out of the Library and has not been signed out. I hope it returns to us soon

Images Of God is a beautifully illustrated book explaining 39 aspects of God from the world around us showing children how God is present in every part of their lives.



Our Father is a board book illustrating the Lord's Prayer in a way that relates to a child's daily experiences.

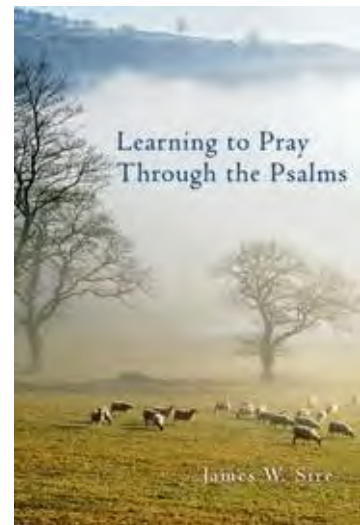
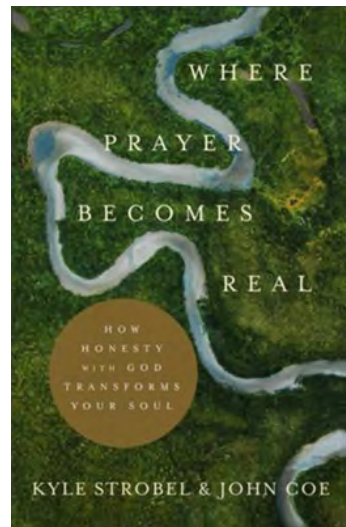
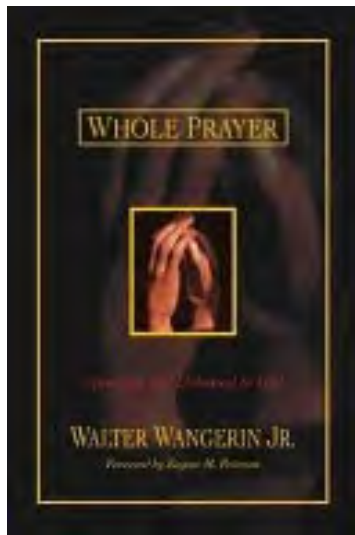


By now most of CCSJ regular folk know that there is a **Prayer Course** planned in February over 8 weeks and in 3 different time slots (so pick a time that works and sign up!! This course is by Pete Greig who some of us have become familiar with through Lectio 365 devotionals and 24-7 Prayer groups. So I'm recommending 3 of his books as complementary to the course. **Dirty Glory: Go Where your Best Prayers take you** tells a story of how the 24-7 prayer developed and gives a good background to some of his other books such as **how to pray: a simple guide for**

normal people and **how to hear God: a simple guide for normal people**



Next is a group of 3 books with specific approaches to going further in prayer .



Whole Prayer: Speaking and listening to God, was very helpful to me when I read it years ago. Arranged under four sections

1. We Speak 2. God Listens 3. God Speak. 4. We Listen

this format suggests a helpful flow for us to consider in our personal prayer.

Where Prayer Becomes Real: How Honesty with God Transforms Your Soul is practical showing us that Prayer is a place for us to be Honest, Present, and Known—a place to offer ourselves and receive God.

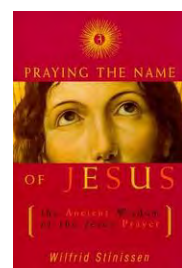
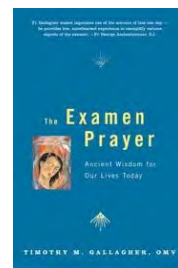
Learning to Pray Through the Psalms uses a selection of 10 Psalms to show how each is constructed and with background information, places it in the original context. Appropriate for individuals personally, group bible study material is also included.

Two Specific Classical Prayer forms

The Examen Prayer: Ignatian Wisdom for our Lives today

and **Praying in the Name of Jesus: The Ancient Wisdom of the Jesus prayer**

Three approaches to the Lord's Prayer



The Lord and His Prayer N. T. Wright

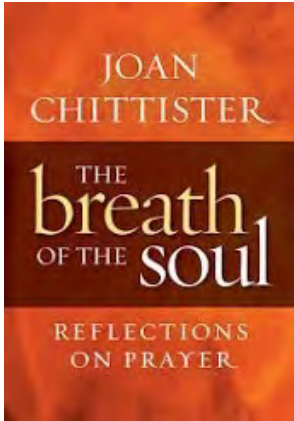
A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer W. Philip Keller

The Lord's Prayer from Wycliffe College

Professors edited by Karen Stiller

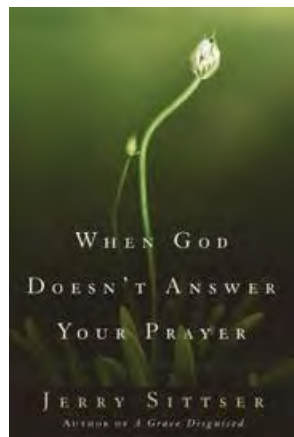
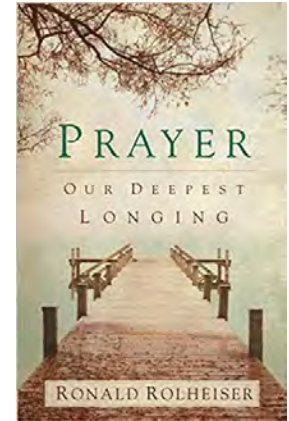


Next are six excellent authors whose books consider a specific aspect of prayer.



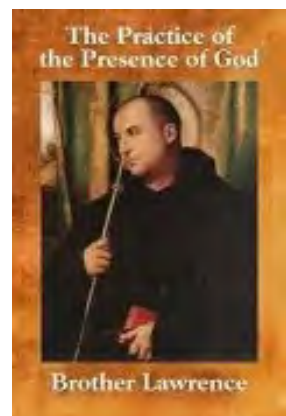
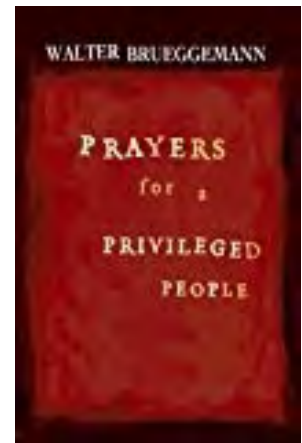
The Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer by Joan Chittister “is a discussion of the attitudes that prepare us for prayer. It is an examination of what we ourselves must bring to the discipline of prayer.”

In **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing** by Ronald Rolheiser, we are “lead to a deepening experience of God in prayer. Your own yearning and intuition mark the starting point.”



“**When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer** explores the mysteries and paradoxes of unanswered prayer.--Jerry Sittser offers hard-won spiritual insights that affirm the greatness of God's love and concern for us, even when we do not fully understand why-”

Prayers for a Privileged People is a collection of prayers in verse coming from his Christian faith convictions and awareness of the position of privilege most of us enjoy compared with much of the world. You will find the poetry speaks deeply to you.



The Practice of the Presence of God

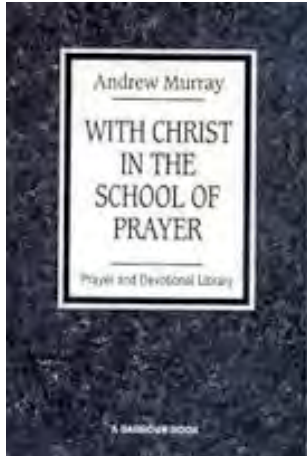
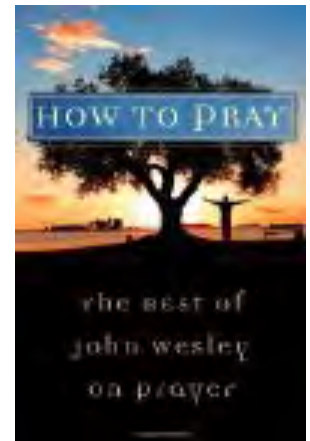
by Brother Lawrence is a classic from the 1600's that is well worth reading to learn how to learn to live with God's presence constantly through out your daily tasks.

Dallas Willard's **Hearing God** is a must read—actually start slowly and watch the DVD version with Dallas being interviewed by Richard Foster and John Ortberg and then go into the full book at your own pace



This last section focuses on several writers from previous generations who have a lot to offer our generation. The Christians in our past have much to teach us.

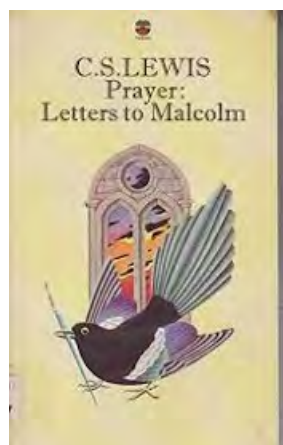
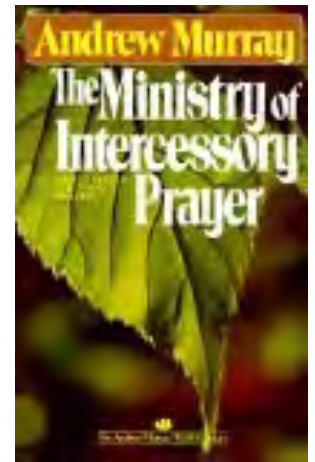
From the 1700's **How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer** has short excerpts from Wesley's writings matched with a scripture verse and a prayer.



From the 1800's two books from Andrew Murray

With Christ in the school of Prayer: Prayer and devotional Library has 31 short lessons that one can pick and choose to read any topic as an introduction to this author.

The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer is "the only book he ever wrote with a built-in thirty-day study course in the practice of intercession." (from back cover)



Next from 1963 C.S. Lewis **Prayer: Letters to Malcolm** was his last book and has enduring wisdom written as it is, as a series of letters on Prayer to a nephew Malcolm.

Finally from 1978, more recent times, but looking back some centuries with certain quotes is **Someone who Beckons: Readings and Prayers for 60 days** author "The Venerable Timothy Dudley-Smith, the archdeacon of Norwich, presents 60 brief meditations, each of which includes a passage of scripture and an

apt and striking quotation from an author such as C. S. Lewis, G. K. Chesterton, John Bunyan, or T. S. Eliot. He concludes each with a terse, poetic prayer which he asks us to make our own, "Slowly and deliberately, in the sight of God"" (from the back Cover)



I could easily go on but I hope that this gives some option of books to consider. These will be on display in the library as well as others. Additional books on Lent will be on display in a few weeks but many of these could continue to become a Lenten read as well.

From Muriel Henderson

To Make You Smile

When I look in the mirror and see gray hair, tiny wrinkles, and dimming eyes I think, "They sure don't make mirrors like they used to."

If there was a pill for procrastination, I'd take it tomorrow!



I am still going to get Coffee.



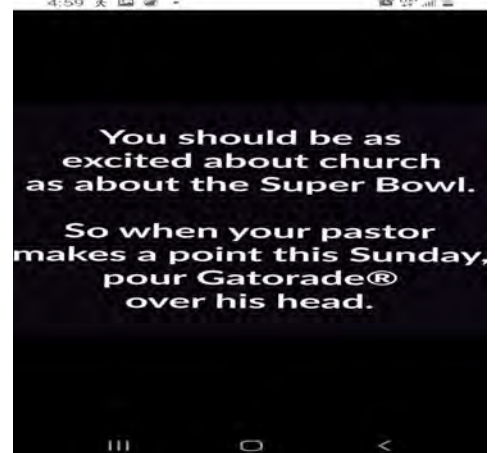
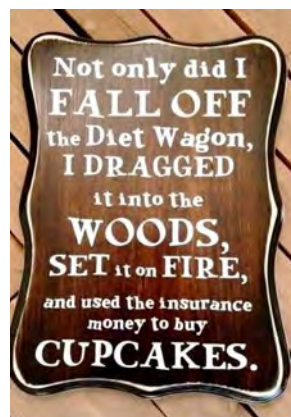
A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

ME YELLING AT A SQUIRREL
TO GET OUT OF THE ROAD SO
ITS NOT SQUISHED BY A CAR IS
PROBABLY THE SAME FEELING
MY GUARDIAN ANGEL HAS
WATCHING ME LIVE MY LIFE

Teacher told me not to worry
about spelling because in the future
there will be autocorrect,

for which I am eternally grapefruit



Words worth remembering.....

**'Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.'**

— John Wesley

There is NO STORM
that God won't carry you through.
NO BRIDGE
that God won't help you cross.
NO BATTLE
that God won't help
you win.
NO HEARTACHE
that God won't help you let go of.
He is SO much bigger than
anything you will face today.
Leave EVERYTHING in His hands
and embrace this day
confidently
knowing that
He WILL take care
of you!

Fear is "what if"
Faith is "even if"

Simple truths to repeat when you're in a spiritual battle:

- God's got this
- The Lord fights for me
- Jesus loves me
- Not today satan
- I am a child of God
- He is able
- It is finished
- His Grace is sufficient
- Joy comes in the morning
- I am not alone
- I am fearfully & wonderfully made
- Fear has no grip on me
- Christ is enough for me
- He has overcome the world
- I am a new creation in Christ
- Jesus conquered the grave
- Sin doesn't define me, Christ does
- Be still & know
- God is good

**Distraction
Distraction
Distraction**

**You have to
remove some
things to remain
with the right thing.**

No one heals
himself by
wounding
another.

— St. Ambrose



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KYWP: Kickstart Your Week with Prayer		CofF: Stonegate Circle of Friends G,C&Me: God, Coffee & Me (Nimman's Thai Rest.,	FB: Foodbank	CCoL: Café Church on the Lakeshore Big Guys Little Coffee Shop 2861 Lakeshore		1 Men's Breakfast
2 HE 10am Messy Church 4-6	3 KYWP 9am Prayer Team Mtg	4 CoF 12:30 G,C&Me 2:30	5 Dale Muffin Run	6 HE 10am Study 11am Café Church 7pm	7	8 FB 10-2pm
9 HE 10am Souper Bowl Fundraiser Vestry Reports Due	10 KYWP 9am Prayer Team Mtg 12:30	11 CoF 12:30 G,C&Me 2:30 Prayer Course 6pm	12 Prayer Course (zoom 7pm) Parish Council 7pm	13 HE 10am Study 11am Café Church 7pm	14 Prayer Course 10:30am	15
16 HE 10am	17 Family Day KYWP 9am	18 CoF 12:30 G,C&Me 2:30 Hearthstone Service 4pm Meal to Keele Prayer Course 6pm	19 Muffin Run FB 1-5:30 Prayer Course (zoom 7pm)	20 HE 10am Study 11am Café Church 7pm	21 Prayer Course 10:30am	22
23 HE 10am Vestry (after service)	24 KYWP 9am	25 CoF 12:30 G,C&Me 2:30 Prayer Course 6pm	26 Day of Prayer (all day with Compline via Zoom @ 8pm) Prayer Course (zoom 7pm)	27 HE 10am Study 11am TNT 6:00pm	28 Prayer Course 10:30am	

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	KYWP: Kickstart Your Week with Prayer	CofF: Stonegate Circle of Friends G, C & Me: God, Coffee & Me	FB: Foodbank	Café Church Big Guys Little Coffee Shop 2861 Lakeshore		1
2 HE 10am Messy Church 4-6	3 KYWP 9am Prayer Team Mtg	4 Shrove Tues CoF 12:30 G, C & Me 2:30 Pancake Supper 5pm Prayer Course 6pm	5 Ash Wednesday Muffin Run Prayer Course (zoom 7pm) Kingdom Come 7:00pm St. Paul's	6 (no service) Bible Study 11am Café Church 7pm	7 Prayer Course 10:30am World Day of Prayer 1:00pm	8
9 HE 10am Lent 1	10 KYWP 5pm 9am	11 CoF 12:30 G, C & Me 2:30 Prayer Course 6pm	12 Prayer Course (zoom 7pm)	13 Café Church 7pm	14 Prayer Course 10:30am	15
16 Celebration Café Lent 2	17 KYWP 9am Meal to Keel	18 CoF 12:30 G, C & Me 2:30 Hearthstone Service 4pm Prayer Course 6pm	19 Muffin Run Prayer Course (zoom 7pm)	20 Café Church 7pm	21 Prayer Course 10:30am	22 Women's Breakfast 9am
23 HE 10am Lent 3	24 KYWP 9am	25 CoF 12:30 G, C & Me 2:30 Prayer Course 6pm	26 Prayer Course (zoom 7pm)	27 TNT 6:00pm	28 Prayer Course 10:30am	29
30 Lent 4	31 KYWP 9am					