

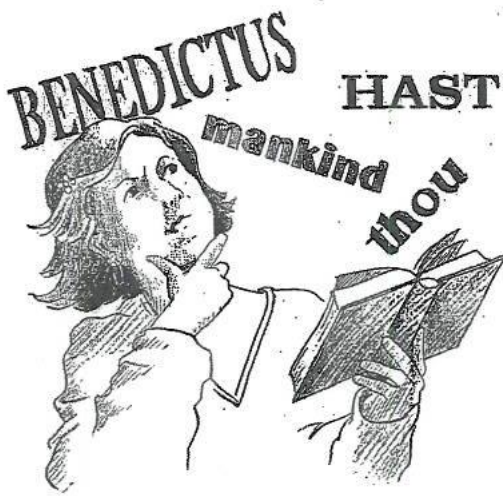


THE LAMP



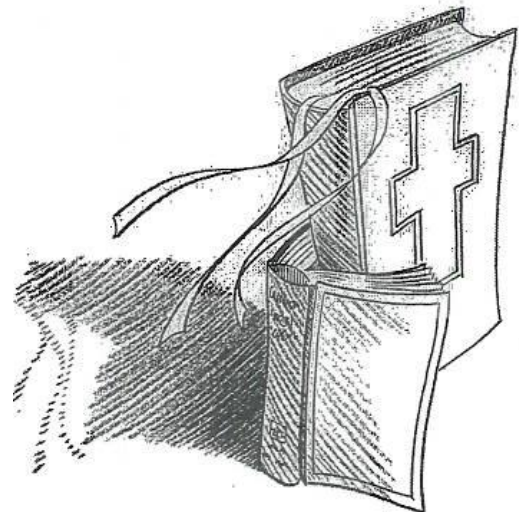
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119)

“DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A HANDS-ON APPROACH” Volume III due to be completed in 2009!



Volumes I and II of this popular series, authored by award-winning journalist Sue Careless, appeared in 2003 and 2006 respectively. Volume I covered the topic of daily prayer, including Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline, family prayers and the lectionary. Volume II addressed Baptism, Confirmation, the Catechism and Holy Communion. Volume III will cover the remaining services of Holy Matrimony, the Ministry to the Sick, the Burial of the Dead, Ordination, and the various shorter “occasional” offices and services of blessing.

This series is filling a real need; Volume I has already sold out of its first printing, and had to be reprinted! However, the PBSC Toronto branch is currently short of funds to produce Volume III. We would greatly appreciate any extra financial assistance that members of other PBSC branches can provide us, since we are hoping to have the book in print by the fall of 2009. If you are able to help, please contact Toronto Branch president Diana Verseghy (see information on the back page).



INTERVIEW WITH A ST. MICHAEL'S CONFERENCE VETERAN

(Shawna Reardon is a long-time participant in the St. Michael's Youth Conference. Diana Verseghy, the conference director, interviewed her just after this past summer's conference.)

Q. So: what keeps you coming back to the St. Michael's Conference? This is your sixth year – what attracts you about it?

A. Well, I have fun every year, and meet up with lots of people that I know. And this is where I found my faith.

Q. So you had some sort of faith before, but this strengthened it? Like, in what way?

A. Well, actually I had no faith before. I just went to church when my mom made me. And then I thought I'd like to go to a summer camp, and she found this camp, and I started coming here; and ever since then, I basically started believing.

Q. What things about the courses, or other things about the camp, did you find helpful? What did it give you that you didn't have before?

A. Well, knowledge basically. I didn't know anything about the Bible, I didn't have anyone to ask questions about it – I mean, you can't really go up at the end of church and, like, ask your priest a bunch of things!

Q. So your priest is there, but not always available to answer questions – not for a whole week, like this, right? And this is a more leisurely setting, I guess.

A. Yeah, and every year there are new people coming in and teaching us stuff. I think my favourite year was when Paul Burrows [David Burrows' son] came in. A lot of people benefitted from having someone only a little bit older than we are explaining stuff to them. I think everyone had a lot of fun in that course.

Q. We must try and get him back, then! Any other particular subjects you found most interesting?

A. Well, your class two years ago – you were talking about having faith, and not putting your faith to use. And that really opened my eyes – that every day you have to bring your faith into your life – you can't just say "I believe", you have to see and take opportunities for living it out.

Q. Has it helped your prayer life at all?

A. Yeah, a lot. One of the things that I do now is, I think of God a lot – like when I'm downtown, and I see a homeless person, I always give them money – even if I don't have a lot of money on me. I try to go to church when I can, but I usually work weekends, so Sundays it's too early for me to get up, but really, this is such a treat to get away, and get back to God.

Q. I hope you do eventually find some sort of regular church-going opportunities. Because there are week-day services, too, that you could take advantage of. Like St. Olave's, I think, has a Wednesday morning service. And many other churches have mid-week services – like my own church too, for example.

A. Oh, thanks. I didn't even know that.

Q. Getting back to St. Michael's Conference – how would you describe your interactions with the kids who come here?

A. One thing I really like is that everyone gets to meet people from different areas, different churches, and you get a lot of different people here from really different backgrounds. Some of these kids have been studying the Bible forever, and they want to become priests – it's wild!



Shawna Reardon

Q. Whereas others have often hardly ever even looked in a Bible.

A. Yeah, specially the new ones. And a lot of them, specially the younger girls, are a bit shy about asking questions. Now that I'm about the oldest one among them, some were coming to me with their questions this year. I liked being able to answer them.

Q. It's nice to know that the kids are actually thinking things over like that. Sometimes, during the morning classes, I look around and everyone seems so groggy!

A. Well, like one of the girls said to me the other day, teens in general have an attention span of basically five minutes, and if within those five minutes you're not relating to us, or bringing stuff to us that we can understand, we're not going to be able to pay attention. The fact that kids come back year after year shows that you guys do relate to them and get their attention, and that's great.

*In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen,
Snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed*



*The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
which adore.*

*Angels and archangels
May have gathered there;
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.*

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him —
Give my heart.*

(Christina Rossetti, 1872)

St. Michael's Conference Reunion Weekend

9:00 AM, February 7, to 2:00 PM, February 8 – St. Olave's Church, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto

Activities will include Morning and Evening Prayer, short courses, Bible study, a visit to the Kensington Market, and participation in the parish Hunger Patrol on Saturday evening. For further information, contact the Revd. David Burrows at 416-762-0258 (e-mail: davidburrows3@hotmail.com). Shown below: a photo from last February's reunion.



ORTHODOX ANGLICAN ENCOUNTER

A meeting was held at the farm of Bill and Becky Creese, near Holstein, Ontario, on September 20th, to spark friendly discussions among orthodox Anglicans of various jurisdictions. Bill and Becky are past members of the Grand Valley Branch executive. Shown left to right: Becky Creese, Doris Hocking, Ursula Ellis, Dennis McCalla, Peter Ellis, the Revd. Robert Mansfield, Eleanor deWolf, Brian Munro. For further information contact the Creeses at 519-334-3602.



A TABLE LITURGY BEFORE CHRISTMAS DINNER

(Compiled by Grand Valley branch member Robert Lyon, drawing on Prayer Book forms and Jewish ritual.)

In the 60th chapter of Isaiah, the prophet announces God's promises to his covenant people: both to Israel and to the Christian Church. Normally, a leader would read the first half of each verse, and those at table respond with the second half. Any other method may also be used, including plainsong chant.

*ARISE, shine, for thy light is come, / and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, / and gross darkness the people.
But the LORD shall arise upon thee, / and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, / and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Thy gates shall be open continually; / they shall not be shut day nor night.
The sons of them that afflicted thee / shall come bending unto thee;
And all they that despised thee / shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet.
And they shall call thee the City of the LORD, / the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, / wasting nor destruction within thy borders.
But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, / and thy gates Praise.
The sun shall no more be thy light by day, / neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee.
But the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, / and thy God thy glory.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Here an appointed person lights the candles on the dinner table. By Jewish custom, that would be the mother. The person who lights the candles then quotes John 8:12:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Then those at table (or one appointed on their behalf) reply from John 1:

In him was life; and that life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness could not put it out. The true Light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came to his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on his name.

Then the leader, or all at table if so desired, shall pray the Advent collect:

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; That in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

Here wine may be poured and dinner served, and a grace may be offered, such as:

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, king of eternity, who nourishest our bodies with the fruits of the earth and our souls with the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Here, or between courses, or after dinner, carols may be sung.



Robert Lyon

ONTARIO REGIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER, JANUARY–MARCH

(Over the next few months, please remember the following parishes in your prayers. You might consider using for this purpose one of Prayer #8 or #9, found on pages 43 and 44 of the Book of Common Prayer, or the prayer "For the Parish" found on page 736.)

JAN.	4	<i>Christmas II</i>	St. Paul's Church (Bloor St.), Toronto
	11	<i>Epiphany I</i>	St. John the Evangelist's Church, Elora
	18	<i>Epiphany II</i>	St. Mark's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake
	25	<i>Epiphany III</i>	Church of the Resurrection, Toronto
FEB.	1	<i>Epiphany IV</i>	Little Trinity Church, Toronto
	8	<i>Septuagesima</i>	St. Joseph of Nazareth's Church, Brampton
	15	<i>Sexagesima</i>	St. Luke's Church, Brantford
MAR.	22	<i>Quinquagesima</i>	St. Thomas's Church, Toronto
	1	<i>Lent I</i>	St. Barnabas's Church, St. Catharines
	8	<i>Lent II</i>	St. George's Church, Windsor
	15	<i>Lent III</i>	St. John the Evangelist's Church, Port Hope
	22	<i>Lent IV</i>	St. Margaret's Church, North Toronto
	29	<i>Lent V</i>	St. Brice's Church, North Bay

The Prayer Book Society of Canada was founded in 1986 by Anglicans who were alarmed at the erosion of classical Anglican doctrine, worship and spirituality that was proceeding alongside the adoption of new liturgies. The Society's aim is briefly to support the continuing use of the Prayer Book for all who value it as their preferred medium of worship, preserving as it does faithfulness to Holy Scripture and adherence to the orthodox Anglican doctrine of the Christian faith. The Mission Statement of the Society, adopted in 1995, is: "To promote the understanding and use of the Book of Common Prayer as a scriptural system of nurture for life in Christ".

The Society operates on two levels: the national level and the branch level. The National Council is responsible for setting policy and direction for the Society, and for overseeing activities with a national scope. All branch presidents are *ex officio* members of the National Council. The branches are individually responsible for organizing local activities and initiatives in their own geographical areas, in support of the aims and objectives of the Society.

The Ontario Council of PBSC Branches is an informal coalition of branches in southern Ontario, formed in 1994. It serves as a forum for the planning of joint activities, and provides a network of support for the branches. It publishes this newsmagazine, "**The Lamp**", which appears quarterly in the months of March, June, September and December. Opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Society as a whole. Contributions of articles and news items are welcome, and should be sent to the editor (see opposite).

Branch contacts within our region:

Grand Valley: Mr. Brian Munro, 508-258 West St., Brantford, ON, N3R 6N1. Tel. (519) 756-3053

London: Mrs. Patsy Allison, RR #2, Ilderton, ON, N0M 2A0. Tel: (519) 666-0394

Niagara: Mr. Alexander Urquhart, 320 Lock St. W., Dunnville, ON, N1A 1V5. Tel: (905) 774-3395

North Bay: The Revd. John Stennett, 115 Turner Dr., North Bay, ON, P1A 4H5. Tel: (705) 498-6549

Toronto: Mrs. Diana Verseggy, 12 Sherbourne Dr., Maple,, ON, L6A 1G8. Tel: (905) 303-4490

Windsor: The Revd. Gordon Maitland, 1983 St. Mary's Gate, Windsor, ON, N8Y 1J8. Tel: (519)-254-2901

Editor of "The Lamp":

Mrs. Diana Verseggy, 12 Sherbourne Dr., Maple, Ontario, L6A 1G8. Tel. and fax: (905) 303-4490