



***The Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch***  
*Diana Verseghy, President – 12 Sherbourne Drive,*  
*Maple, Ontario, L6A 1G8. Phone: 905-303-4490.*  
*E-mail: diana.verseghy@sympatico.ca*

December 2, 2011

Dear members and friends of the PBSC Toronto Branch,

2011 is rapidly drawing to a close, and we are gearing up for an exciting year in 2012. As I mentioned in my last two letters, 2012 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our 1962 Canadian Prayer Book, as well as the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1662 English Prayer Book (which is still the authorized standard of worship in England and many other Anglican provinces). The PBSC National Council has been discussing what we could do to promote nationwide observance of this anniversary, and you will have seen in the recent National Chairman's letter that we will be encouraging parishes across the country to commemorate the following key dates:

- Wednesday, March 21 – The anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, the compiler of the original 1549 Book of Common Prayer.
- Wednesday, May 2 – The date that has been chosen in England for their nation-wide celebration of the 1662 BCP.
- Monday, September 3 – The first recorded celebration of the Eucharist using the Book of Common Prayer in what is now Canada, by the Revd. Robert Wolfall at Frobisher Bay in 1578. (It was also on this date in 1959 that the future 1962 Canadian BCP was first authorized on an experimental basis for use in the Canadian Church.)
- Sunday, December 2 (the first Sunday in Advent) – The date in 1962 on which the new Canadian Prayer Book was mandated for use by all Canadian Anglicans.

In January, I will be writing to the incumbents of all of the 200+ parishes in the Diocese of Toronto, encouraging them to observe any or all of the above dates in their parishes, and offering the assistance of the PBSC. I will also be writing to the five Toronto bishops to ask for their support. The Toronto Branch executive is considering what other special events we might organize, such as a possible repeat of the exhibition of antique Prayer Books that was mounted in 1999 to commemorate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original 1549 BCP. More details to come!

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**THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA – TORONTO BRANCH**

The work of the PBSC Toronto Branch is important to me! In support of it through the end of 2011, I enclose a cheque made out to the "Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch", for:

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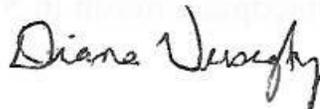
On the global Anglican scene, things have been relatively quiet while the national churches of the Anglican Communion consider the proposed Anglican Covenant. The process is a slow one, since the provinces must duly discuss it and put it to a vote by their national governing bodies before they can formally adopt it. It is expected that this will take up to five years in total. Thus far, four provinces have given their assent: Mexico, Myanmar, the West Indies and Ireland. The province of Southern Africa has given an initial vote in favour, which must be ratified at their next general synod in three years' time. Sadly, the province of the Philippines has declined to accept the Covenant. It will remain to be seen what the consequences will be for such provinces, but the Archbishop of Canterbury has suggested that some sort of "two-tier" system might evolve, with Covenant-accepting provinces forming the core of the Anglican Communion, and the other provinces becoming in some sense "associate" bodies.

In the meantime, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Advent letter to the Anglican Primates, has again urged provinces to favourably consider the Anglican Covenant, and has rebuked the ongoing flouting by some provinces of the three Windsor moratoria. In this letter, released on November 30, he wrote, "These questions are made all the more sharp by the fact that the repeated requests for moratoria on problematic actions issued by various representative Anglican bodies are increasingly ignored ... the effects are often to deepen mutual mistrust, and this must surely be bad for our mission together as Anglicans, and alongside other Christians as well. The question remains: if the moratoria are ignored and the Covenant suspected, what are the means by which we maintain some theological coherence as a Communion and some personal respect and understanding as a fellowship of people seeking to serve Christ?"

These are indeed worrying and challenging times. But whatever the outcome, the PBSC remains committed to our work in this country, of upholding the Book of Common Prayer and classical Anglicanism. We hope we can continue to rely on your financial and spiritual support!

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy new year,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

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***We welcome your comments!***

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