



The Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch
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Dear members and friends of the PBSC Toronto Branch,

It was a surprise today to look at the front page of the *Anglican Journal* and see an interview with Don Cherry, of hockey fame. Given the fact that Don regularly raises hackles with his outspoken manner, I was pleased to see that the article was quite appreciative, even highlighting the fact that he is a strong supporter of the Book of Common Prayer and knows whole sections of it off by heart. The article also mentioned, in rather roundabout wording, that Don is a supporter of “a group dedicated to preserving worship in the noble cadences of the Book of Common Prayer”. That group, of course, is the PBSC, of which he is a long-time member. I will be writing to the *Journal* to clarify this. Don, thanks for the publicity and Merry Christmas!

Less prominent in last month’s *Journal* was an article on an important event held at Wycliffe College on September 18th: the “Back to the Anglican Future” conference, which was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the landmark Toronto Anglican Congress that took place in 1963. A brief write-up also appears in this issue of *The Lamp*, together with the full text of the statement issued at the end of this conference. Seven bishops and archbishops from around the world participated, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, who spoke the conference via Skype. The focus of the conference was on examining the meaning of “Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in Christ”, from the summary statement of the 1963 Congress. In his address, Archbishop Welby commented, “We focus over and over on the massive damage in our culture over changes in sexuality”, yet in “other parts of the world it is corruption, persecution, complacency or poverty. In many places it is all of these. What is the context the church is facing?” “In places the church is full of people who are financially corrupt”, “in places sexually corrupt”, he said. “We need to look at our context. We need to look at the Communion in light of our vocation.” He emphasized, “The trouble with the Anglican Communion at the moment is that we focus on one or two sins and forget that all of us need to come in repentance and humility to the cross, and kneel before the cross, and seek the forgiveness of God.”

(Please clip this coupon and enclose it with your donation in the envelope provided.)

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 2013, I enclose a cheque made out to the “Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch”, for:

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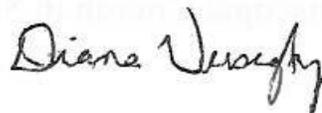
On a lighter note, Advent is the season of hope, and there was much to be hopeful about in this year's crop of theological students applying for PBSC bursaries, who were interviewed by the bursaries committee on Wednesday evening of last week. I have served on the bursaries committee since 1997 and have interviewed many dozens of applicants, and I must say that this year's group of candidates was the strongest that I have ever seen. For the first time ever, the interviewing committee is recommending that every single one of them receive a full bursary. The candidates were thoughtful, informed, and prayerful; they were under no illusions about the grave problems and issues facing our church, but were committed to bearing faithful witness and being the "leaven in the loaf". It was truly an inspiring and energizing evening.

Another encouraging piece of news comes from the national PBSC. A proposal has been brought to National Council for the development of a teaching resource aimed at teenagers. As we all know, the teenage years are the time when young people typically drift away from church, and this is an age group that is chronically neglected in church educational materials. Young people tend to come without any prior "baggage" about traditional worship, and are often very open to learning about a style and discipline of worship that, far from seeming stodgy, strikes them as interesting and special. This is an exciting prospect, and one that you will be hearing more about in national PBSC mailings next year.

The concluding word, as always, is about branch finances. Our treasurer, Marilyn Ramsingh, has asked me to remind you that in order to qualify for a 2013 tax receipt, donations must be received by her by December 31st. Please remember to support the PBSC at this time of year, when every other charity is also asking for contributions! We could not continue our efforts in support of the BCP and classical Anglicanism without you.

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

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
(If you would like to receive our mailings electronically, please send us your e-mail address.)
