



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

As you can see on the front page of this issue of “The Lamp”, we have exciting news about a brand-new project, that has just been launched under the auspices of the national PBSC: a Sunday school curriculum for teens, called “622”. (The name refers to the page in the Prayer Book where the “Service for Young People” begins.) The person who has been commissioned to undertake this work is Kerry Dickson, a friend of mine and a fellow parishioner at St. Thomas’s Church in Toronto. Here is an excerpt from the proposal that she submitted to the PBSC earlier this year, outlining the rationale for this initiative:

“Solid Christian education resources for teens are crucial to the future of the Church. In the face of a world of declining belief in God, biblical literacy, and church attendance, the answer is not to abandon a rich heritage and sound theology. The past few decades have demonstrated this powerfully, but left us with a growing gap between the culture of the Church and the minds of those we seek to engage. It has never been more clear that the Church needs to find effective ways to engage the young in the tradition, facilitating the spiritual formation of a new generation of disciples.

“There is a great deal available on the youth market from conservative evangelical and progressive liberal publishers. Unfortunately, while these programs may offer some insights, more often they miss the mark, losing an opportunity to go beyond the issues of the day or failing to remain faithful to orthodox teaching. There is a real need for resources that can guide teens into a lifelong practice of meaningful and biblically-faithful private and corporate devotion.

“622 seeks to meet that need with a curriculum geared towards teens ages 12-16. It is designed to run the length of one school year in 42 lessons. The study series aims to facilitate an experience of God – grounded in scripture and tradition, to help youth understand their relationship with him, discovering who they truly are in the process, while at the same time

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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 2014, I enclose a cheque made out to the “Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch”, for:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other: _____

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equipping them with the tools they will need to answer the questions posed by life, culture, and critics of the faith.

“There is no limit ... to the use of this curriculum by only traditional parishes. Its potential adoption by less traditional Canadian parishes, and by parishes throughout the Anglican Communion (outside of Canada), makes the project even more exciting and even more powerful: Imagine a new generation of Anglicans who are formed spiritually through an orthodox understanding of scripture and a meaningful private and corporate engagement with the prayers of the BCP!”

Inspiring words indeed! Kerry has produced several draft lessons to date, and we are looking for interested parishes to help “test-drive” them. If your parish is interested in participating, please contact me.

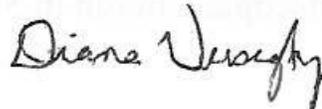
Further to the subject of resources for young people, you may have noticed that the annual Cranmer Conference, the weekend event aimed at 20- 30-year-olds, did not take place this year. This was owing to a convergence of unfortunate circumstances. However, some previous participants in the Conference have been in touch with each other recently, to discuss ways and means of re-starting it next year. A proposal has been put forward for a couple of young representatives from each PBSC branch in southern Ontario to form a planning group and to turn the Conference into an official PBSC-sponsored event. We will see how that progresses.

(Not that the PBSC is neglecting its more “mature” members! Your branch executive is already deep in plans for our annual Lenten Quiet Day in 2015, and for the proposed fall learning event. More on these in the next mailing.)

I close with my usual reminder: please remember that we rely on your financial contributions to carry on our work of upholding the Prayer Book and classical Anglicanism! We hope that we can continue to count on your support and prayers.

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.)
