



**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 by the fact that there is a copy of *The Lamp* included with this mailing, we have successfully weathered the financial challenges of the end of 2009 and are now back in a healthy financial position. I am delighted to say that we have taken care of all the bills associated with the printing of “Discovering the Book of Common Prayer” volume III, and that we are set to resume our regular round of activities. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who responded so magnificently to my end-of-year appeal!

The launch of the book took place as planned on November 28 at Wycliffe College. It was a well attended and thoroughly enjoyable event. We are most grateful to Dr. George Sumner for allowing us to use the lovely Soward Reading Room, and also for arranging to provide us with coffee, tea and cookies, all free of charge. The book is available in Toronto at both the Anglican Book Centre and Crux Books (the Wycliffe College bookstore), and I am told that it is selling steadily. Now that we are back in shape financially, the branch executive is planning to ask Sue Careless to do a couple of book promotional tours to the east and to the west, as she did with the first two volumes. Sue has a variety of contacts all over the country, and has been willing in the past to travel on a shoestring and take on a packed schedule of engagements, so we are keen, if Sue agrees, to take advantage of this very cost-effective way of raising the profile of the book series and of the Prayer Book nationwide.

The next upcoming event for our branch will be our annual **Lenten Quiet Day**. This will take place as usual at St. Thomas’s Church, near the intersection of Bloor St. and Spadina Rd., on Saturday, March 13th. The schedule for the day and further details are provided in the current issue of *The Lamp*. Our featured speaker this year will be Canon Bruce Glencross, the president of the PBSC Montreal Branch. He is a deeply pastoral and kindly person, a faithful priest and a staunch supporter of the Prayer Book. I am confident that he will give us an outstanding series of Lenten reflections.

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

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$200     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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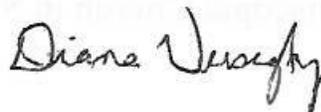
(Return to: 171 Boardwalk Dr., Toronto, M4L 3X9.)

On the global Anglican scene, there have been a couple of very important developments since my last letter. The final text of the long-awaited Anglican Covenant was released on schedule in December, and is now being sent out to the member churches of the Anglican Communion for their adoption. It is a very carefully crafted document; describing with admirable clarity what it means to be a member of the Anglican Communion. It also sets out clear consequences for provinces that go their own way without regard to the rest of the body. Which leads to the question of the American Episcopal Church, whose fate now evidently hangs in the balance. A partnered lesbian was elected as a suffragan bishop in Los Angeles in December, and if her election is ratified by a majority of the American bishops and diocesan standing committees, the Archbishop of Canterbury has made it clear that the future of the Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion will be in grave doubt.

Related to this issue, an eye-opening development occurred just this past week. A motion was put before the Church of England's General Synod to recognize the Anglican Church in North America. In its final form, the motion affirmed the wish of the ACNA to be a recognized part of the global Anglican family, noted that work would need to be done to see how this could be accomplished, and directed the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to follow up on this and report back in a year's time. The motion passed by an astounding majority – 309 in favour, 69 opposed (17 abstentions). Now, if the ACNA adopts the Anglican Covenant and the Episcopal Church does not, there will be quite a compelling case for the ACNA to be regarded as the bona fide Anglican presence in the U.S., rather than the Episcopal Church. What will happen in this country remains to be seen! The Anglican Covenant will no doubt be discussed at our General Synod this summer, and the Anglican world will be watching.

To come back to branch events, I have an important announcement and a request for your help. Our treasurer, Nancy Gall, who has faithfully served for a number of years, has stated that she would like to retire at our Annual General Meeting in May. So this means that we need to find someone willing to stand for election as the new treasurer fairly quickly. The duties are not onerous; Nancy estimates that they take up a couple of hours per month of her time on average. If you can help by suggesting a candidate (yourself or someone else), do please let me know!

With best wishes for a blessed Lent and Easter,



Diana Versegby.

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***We welcome your comments!***

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