



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

This mailing follows close on the heels of our December one, but the unusual timing is necessitated by the fact that our annual Lenten Quiet Day is taking place quite early this year, on Saturday, February 25. This year we are fortunate to have as our leader the Revd. David Garrett, rector of the parish of Cornwallis in Nova Scotia. He has been a member and staunch supporter of the Nova Scotia - P.E.I. branch of the PBSC for many years, and is a fine and thoughtful speaker, so this will be an event to look forward to. As usual, it will be held at my home church of St. Thomas's in downtown Toronto – see the notice in the current issue of *The Lamp*. Also as usual, I would ask that if you are planning to attend, please let me know by Monday, February 20 if at all possible, so that we know how many lunches to prepare.

Planning proceeds apace for this year of celebration of the 50th anniversary of our 1962 Canadian Book of Common Prayer, and also of the 350th anniversary of the 1662 English Prayer Book. There was a meeting via teleconference of the PBSC National Council on January 28, and our national Chairman, the Revd. Gordon Maitland, brought us up to speed on current developments. The Society has been approached by the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee of the national Church to work jointly with them to make this year of celebration a memorable one, with various ideas being discussed such as a dedicated page on the national Church website. An article on the anniversary year written by our Chairman will be appearing in the March issue of the *Anglican Journal*. Background reading material, and resources for observing the four dates that I mentioned in my last letter, are now being collated and will be posted on our own PBSC website, www.prayerbook.ca, throughout the coming year. (As a reminder, the four dates are the commemoration of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, March 21; the date of the nationwide celebration of the 1662 BCP in England, May 2; the date of the first recorded celebration of Holy Communion in what is now Canada in 1578, September 3; and the date of the official adoption in Canada of our 1962 book, December 2.)

(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 early months of 2012, I enclose a cheque made out to the "Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch", for:

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

Name: _____

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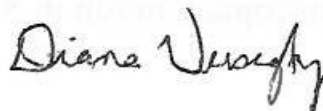
As I mentioned in my last letter, I am still planning to write to our five Toronto bishops asking for their support, and also to the incumbents of all of the parishes in the diocese encouraging them to celebrate this anniversary year and asking if we can be of any assistance. I have delayed writing these letters while our website is being updated with the resources that I mentioned, but I am now aiming to get the letters out by the end of this month. In the meantime, I am happy to announce that my own parish of St. Thomas's has been quick off the mark in observing this anniversary, with a service of Holy Communion according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer that was held on Thursday, February 2. A great deal of preparation went into it, with careful attention to historical detail and also to the inclusion of period music. I intend to request that permission be given for the PBSC to include on our website links to the service booklet and to supplementary information on the music, and also hopefully to a video of the service, for the benefit of other parishes that might want to do the same.

So do please encourage your parish clergy to observe this anniversary year in some way, and also encourage them to visit the PBSC website for ideas. Remember that we can point to a motion that was passed nearly unanimously by General Synod in 2010: "Be it resolved that this General Synod encourage parishes across the country to engage in commemorative activities to mark the 50th Anniversary of the 1962 Canadian Book of Common Prayer in 2012." So even if your parish uses mostly the Book of Alternative Services, this is a golden opportunity for the fostering of a renewal of interest in the Prayer Book and in our Anglican heritage.

Lastly, please remember the financial needs of the branch. We expect that we will be called upon to provide not only web-based resources for this jubilee year, but also printed material such as leaflet covers, etc. for needier parishes. So we would be grateful if you would consider making a special donation this year in support of these efforts. Many thanks in advance!

With best wishes for 2012,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
