



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

First of all, I am delighted to announce that as promised, I approached Dr. Jesse Billett and he has consented to speak at our Annual General Meeting, which will take place on May 24th at St. Olave's Church. Full details are provided in the accompanying issue of *The Lamp*. Dr. Billett grew up as a non-denominational Evangelical in south-eastern Ontario, and was introduced to the Prayer Book while attending a local boarding school. He came to fully appreciate the BCP during his time as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, in England. Following his return to Canada he joined the faculty of Trinity College here in Toronto, where he teaches courses on church history and liturgy. Dr. Billett is an excellent example of the increasing number of younger people who are re-discovering the Book of Common Prayer and promoting it as they are able. I am sure that his talk will be a very interesting and stimulating one.

Also, a reminder that the St. Michael's Youth Conference will be taking place in the last week of August. The conference is a great place for teens to meet other teens, learn more about the faith in courses that take them beyond Sunday School, worship according to the Prayer Book, and enjoy a fun-filled week. If you know of any teens who may be interested, please encourage them to check out the conference website! More details are provided in this issue of *The Lamp*.

Returning to the topic of the AGM, there is one matter that will need to be discussed at it, and about which I would like your feedback. As you know, as of the end of March, Canada Post has introduced a whopping increase in postage rates, which has raised the cost of letter mail by about one third. Commercial mailing rates have been relatively unaffected, which is good news for the national PBSC, which uses a commercial mailing house for its communications. However, in the case of the branches, our mailing lists are not large enough to make the use of a commercial mailing house cost-effective. This is true even in the case of Toronto Branch, which has nearly 800 members (making it the largest of all the PBSC branches).

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

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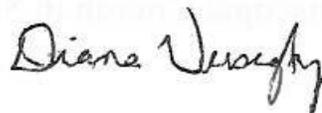
Your branch executive has therefore been considering, in consultation with the Ontario council of PBSC branches, moving from four branch mailings per year to three. This will mean that we need to revisit the timing of our branch events. It has been our custom to hold an annual Quiet Day in Lent; and according to our branch constitution, we are required to hold our Annual General Meeting before the end of May, so that the financial statements can be approved before they are submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency. Often we have also held an event in the fall. What we are proposing, starting next year, is that we move our Quiet Day to October, and make that our fall event, and keep the AGM as our spring event; thus having three newsletters, in March, September and December. This proposal will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting on the 24th. If you cannot attend, and have strong feelings about this, please let me know. We are thinking that since many parishes have quite busy programs of their own in Lent, it might actually be better to hold our Quiet Day in the fall. However, we invite your feedback.

Another thing that would help with our costs, of course, would be if we could get more members signed up to receive electronic mailings. So far only a few dozen have done so; so if you have not as yet, we do warmly encourage you to consider switching to this arrangement. Members who receive our mailings electronically may send in donations using CanadaHelps (information on this is included with each electronic mailing). So please let me know if you would like to take advantage of this option, and send me your e-mail address. Rest assured that we do not ever divulge members' e-mail addresses to any other organization.

Finally, as always, 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 Eastertide and a pleasant summer,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

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