



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 must explain the fact that this letter is coming to you without the usual issue of *The Lamp*. As you will recall, we had to skip three issues of *The Lamp* last year because of the financial constraints associated with publishing the third and final volume of Sue Careless' set, "Discovering the Book of Common Prayer – A Hands-On Approach". This year our financial situation has been quite healthy throughout, but just recently I received a piece of news – good in one sense, bad in another! – which has once more necessitated this cost-saving measure. The good news is that Volume I of the set has sold out again (after the second print run!) The bad news is that the minimum cost of reprinting will be about \$2500, which we will need to scrape together within the next month so as not to delay the supplies. Clearly, Volume I has turned out to be the most popular of the three books. Although the other two volumes have been selling steadily, the first volume, which deals with daily prayer, has evidently been appealing to a broader Christian audience than the other two volumes, which are after all more specifically Anglican in their subject matter (dealing as they do with the sacraments and the BCP occasional services). The first and second print runs of Volume I together totalled 2,500 copies; note that in Canada, sales of 5,000 copies are enough to designate a book as a best-seller!

To reiterate, thanks to your generous financial support, up to this point in the year the Toronto Branch has been able to resume our usual level of activities. We organized a spring and a fall lecture event for branch members, in addition to our standard Annual General Meeting; we supported two events for young people, both the St. Michael's Youth Conference and the newly-reorganized Cranmer Conference; and we ran our usual bursary programme for theological students in the fall. As I mentioned in my last letter, we also sent Sue Careless on a promotional speaking tour of "Discovering the BCP" Volume III, in which she undertook an ambitious programme of 13 lectures in 8 cities and towns in the Maritimes, in 12 days! (The cost of this last initiative was essentially met by income from the book sales that resulted en route.)

(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 2010, 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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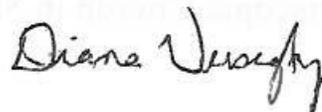
A brief update on events in the global Anglican Communion. In an important positive development, this past week the General Synod of the Church of England considered the proposed Anglican Covenant, and resoundingly voted in favour of referring it on to the dioceses for consultation. (The vote was unanimous in the House of Bishops except for one abstention, and passed by 77% in the clergy and 82% in the laity.) The Covenant is now slated to go out to the dioceses, and to come back to General Synod in 2012 for final approval.

This, however, was balanced by sombre news from the Global South. Several African church leaders have been outspokenly critical of the fact that the repercussions of the American church's latest flouting of the expressed common mind of the Communion (in consecrating a partnered lesbian as a suffragan bishop in California) have been so minimal (resulting in no more than a suspension of some individuals from ecumenical committees). Two Americans are also, inexplicably, members of the Standing Committee that is intended to oversee implementation of the Anglican Covenant; moreover, the Archbishop of Canterbury has unilaterally invited the American Presiding Bishop to the next Primates' Meeting (to be held in Dublin in January), apparently breaking promises to consult with the other Primates first. As a result of this, it now seems evident that a number of Primates, perhaps as many as one-third, representing more than half of the membership of the global Communion, will be boycotting the upcoming meeting, and the Anglican Communion will have moved another step towards schism. As ever, we must continue to watch and pray.

However, to end on a cheerful note, the PBSC continues to uphold the key place of the Prayer Book within Canadian Anglicanism. Our activities and initiatives will continue to reflect this objective. I found it heartening that this year once again, the bursary candidates that we interviewed continued to show staunch confidence in the strength and ongoing value of classical Anglicanism. It is very energizing for the rest of us, who have been fighting this battle for so many years! Anyway, to conclude: as always, we rely on your ongoing financial support, and are most grateful for your donations.

With best wishes for a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmastide,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
