



The Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch
*Diana Verseghy, President – 12 Sherbourne Drive,
Maple, Ontario, L6A 1G8. Phone: 905-303-4490.
E-mail: diana.verseghy@sympatico.ca*

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Dear members and friends of the PBSC Toronto Branch,

I hope that you all had a restful and refreshing summer. As I mentioned in my last letter, I took part in two enjoyable youth events during the past months: the Cranmer Conference, at the end of June, and the St. Michael's Conference in August. The Cranmer Conference, led by Fr. Gordon Maitland of the PBSC Windsor Branch, was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of twenty-somethings. The lectures were well prepared and thought-provoking, and much lively discussion followed them. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. The St. Michael's Youth Conference was attended by 14 teens this year, and as always, a good time was had by all. Photos should be posted soon on the conference website, www.stmikesontario.com.

Also in June, I participated in the PBSC's presence at this year's General Synod, helping to staff our publicity booth and interact with delegates. There was not the direct threat to the BCP this time as there was at the last General Synod, but your PBSC Council thought that it was best to be proactive and to continue to maintain our profile and visibility with the national Church. Delegates for the most part reacted very positively to our presence. Our promotional item this year was an eco-friendly insulated coffee mug with the PBSC logo – we had 200 of them produced, and they were all snapped up within the first few days of Synod.

As for Synod itself, our Canadian Church continues to teeter on the brink. No formal decision was made on same-sex blessings, but the "local option" continues to be pursued in several dioceses. The Anglican Covenant was recommended to the dioceses for study, and is scheduled to be discussed again at the next General Synod in 2013, at which point a decision will presumably be made as to whether to accept it or not. There was, unfortunately, much denial in evidence at Synod regarding the consequences of breaking the moratoria which have been called for by the global Anglican Communion. We must continue to hope and pray that our Church will not take actions which will ultimately sever our ties with the Communion.

(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 fall of 2010, I enclose a cheque made out to the "Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch", for:

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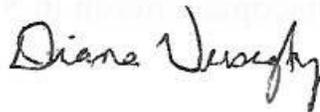
Because it is now clear that actions in defiance of the moratoria do have consequences. The election of Mary Glasspool, a partnered lesbian, as a suffragan bishop in California, which was ratified by the bishops and diocesan standing committees of the American Episcopal Church this past spring, has resulted in the representatives of the American Church being removed from the international bodies engaged in ecumenical dialogue on behalf of the Anglican Communion. Further concrete action cannot be contemplated until the Anglican Covenant has been considered by all the Anglican Provinces, and hopefully adopted by almost all. However, it now seems virtually certain that in the end, the American Church will effectively cease to be a member of the global Anglican Communion.

On a more cheerful note, to return to branch activities, we have two initiatives planned for the fall. The first is an address by the Revd. Christopher Snow, to be given at St. Bartholomew's Church, one of the staunchest Prayer Book parishes in Toronto. Fr. Snow is a thoughtful and engaging speaker and a long-time supporter of the PBSC, and was recently appointed as rector of Grace Church in Milton. (See the current issue of *The Lamp* for further details.) The second is a promotional tour being undertaken by Sue Careless. As we did with volumes I and II, we are sending Sue on a week-long trek to publicize volume III of her series "Discovering the Book of Common Prayer – A Hands-On Approach". On this trip Sue will be visiting a number of places in the Maritimes. She has put together a gruelling schedule, giving talks once and often twice per day, and as usual is travelling on a shoestring, as she will be billeted in homes en route. Sincere thanks are due to Sue for taking this on.

As always, I conclude with my customary financial appeal. After supporting the Cranmer Conference and the St. Michael's Youth Conference this past summer, our coffers are looking rather empty, so I hope you can help to replenish them in support of our fall activities. Marilyn Ramsingh was elected as our new branch treasurer at our Annual General Meeting last May, to replace Nancy Gall who is retiring after many years of faithful service, and we have been busy with the paperwork associated with the switch. Thank you in advance for your patience during this period of transition.

With best wishes for the coming fall,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
