



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

I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer. I was delighted to take part in the southern Ontario Cranmer Conference at the end of June, and also in our annual St. Michael's Youth Conference. This is now the second year that I have participated in the Cranmer Conference, and although attendance was again somewhat small, all who attended said that they found it very much worthwhile. St. George's Church in London gave us a warm welcome, and the venue was really excellent for the purpose. As I mentioned in my last letter, there were actually two Cranmer Conferences in operation this year, the other one in North Bay. That one was apparently a runaway success, with over twenty young people in attendance. So interest in classical Anglicanism is evidently by no means dead among young people!

On the subject of the St. Michael's Youth Conference - as I noted in my last letter, starting this year we moved to a new location: Selah Camp, just north of Warton. There were the inevitable few hiccups settling into the new place, but overall we decided that it was an excellent fit for our group. We found the grounds spacious, the cabins pleasant, the kitchen well-appointed and the staff friendly and helpful. We tried a few new activities this year, such as a low ropes challenge and a brief hike along the Bruce Trail, and there were a number of good suggestions made for next year. So I believe we have made the transition successfully, and can look forward to many more years in our new home.

Turning to our fall programme, we have an exciting lecture series coming up at the end of the month. Ian Robinson, retired from the University of Wales and a member of the English Prayer Book Society, will be doing a speaking tour visiting various points in southern Ontario. Prof. Robinson did a shorter tour in 2008, visiting the Hamilton area, which was so successful that he has been asked to return and pay a longer visit this year. Since it is the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible, the PBSC has requested that he speak on this topic - one

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THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA – TORONTO BRANCH

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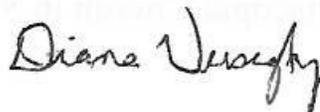
that he is well qualified to address, being a scholar of English literature, especially of the Shakespearean period. For his Toronto stop, the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College (downtown at 6 Hoskin Ave., near the Museum subway stop) has graciously agreed to host the lecture on November 1, at 3:00 PM in Seeley Hall. I realize that this time poses difficulties for those with daytime jobs, but we are hoping by scheduling the event during the afternoon to attract a good number of students, both from Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges. If you are in the area and are free at that time, please do come – attendance is open to all.

As usual, I add a few remarks on issues relating to the ongoing strains in the wider Anglican world. A very heartening development took place in this country in April, when six of our Canadian bishops (about one-fifth of the total number) announced that they were banding together to form an association of bishops who would be committed to the “gracious restraint” called for in the landmark Windsor Report, in observing three moratoria . These three moratoria address: 1. consecration of clergy to the office of bishop who are living in a same gender relationship, 2. the authorization of public rites of blessing for same gender unions, and 3. interventions by bishops into ecclesiastical provinces other than their own. One of the signatories is our new Episcopal Visitor, the Rt. Revd. Stephen Andrews, Bishop of Algoma. This is a very significant development, in that for the first time a group of Canadian bishops have publicly committed themselves to abiding by collegial decisions taken within the global Anglican Communion, and taking no action which would prejudice the consideration of the Anglican Covenant. It is very much to be hoped that more bishops will follow their example!

Before I close, a quick reminder that next year marks the 50th anniversary of our Canadian 1962 Book of Common Prayer, and the 350th anniversary of the English 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Plans are being developed at the national and branch levels to observe these anniversaries in several ways. More details to come!

Finally, as ever, we rely upon your spiritual and financial assistance to carry out the branch programmes and to continue our work of upholding the Book of Common Prayer and classical Anglicanism. We are grateful as always for your support!

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
