



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. One of the highlights of mine was, as always, the St. Michael's Youth Conference, our week-long event designed to introduce teenagers to traditional Anglicanism through worship, study and fun. You may recall that last year the Conference moved to a new venue, Selah Camp just north of Warton. This year Selah Camp already felt like home, and the teens plunged with gusto into the classes and activities. And we have some potential new recruits for next year! Photos of this year's Conference will soon be posted on the website, www.stmikesontario.com.

As you may remember, the PBSC branches in southern Ontario have for several years supported another initiative geared towards young people: the Cranmer Conference, a weekend event of study and discussion on the Prayer Book and traditional Anglicanism aimed at 20- to 29-year-olds. A highly successful Conference was held in North Bay last year, and was followed by another this year. For 2013, the organizing committee is planning to go in a new direction and hold an expanded, week-long Conference in May which will be open to participants of all ages. Further details will be published on the new Conference website, www.stjohndivine.ca/ctc.

We turn now to this celebration year of the 50th anniversary of our 1962 Canadian Book of Common Prayer and the 350th anniversary of the English 1662 Prayer Book. Earlier this year our national Chairman, the Revd. Gordon Maitland, suggested four possible dates for special activities: March 21 (the commemoration of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer), May 2 (the date chosen in England for celebrating the 1662 Book of Common Prayer), September 3 (the date of the first recorded service of Holy Communion in Canada according to the BCP), and the first Sunday in Advent, December 2 (the date of the official adoption of our Prayer Book in 1962). Celebratory events have been a bit slow getting off the ground so far, but in retrospect this is perhaps not surprising, what with the May date having been overshadowed by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and the September date falling on the Labour Day long weekend.

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

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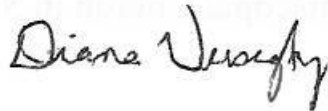
So it seems that most parishes will be targeting Advent I as their main celebration date. With this in mind, early next month (after the flurry of activity associated with “Back to Church Sunday” on September 30), I will be mailing out another letter to the incumbents of all the parishes in the diocese as a follow-up to the one that I sent them in March, reminding them of this anniversary year and of the significance of Advent Sunday. This time I will be able to point to a letter sent out to all the clergy by Archbishop Colin Johnson on May 2, warmly affirming the ongoing place and importance of the Book of Common Prayer in our church and encouraging parish clergy to organize commemorative events. This landmark letter is reproduced in full in the current issue of *The Lamp*, and is certainly a most positive development. In its wake I can report that there has been quite a brisk demand for the wall charts that I mentioned in my last letter (depicting in full colour the historical development of the Prayer Book); we have mailed out about fifty already, and more requests continue to come in every week. So I am hopeful that a significant number of parishes will be observing the anniversary on December 2.

An important upcoming event that will be of interest to PBSC members across southern Ontario is a series of talks that will be given at St. John’s Church in Elora on the weekend of November 3-4 by the Revd. Gavin Dunbar, the rector of St. John’s Church in Savannah, Georgia. Fr. Dunbar is a Canadian and is well known to long-standing members of the PBSC national executive, having been closely involved with the PBSC from its early days until he moved to the U.S. He is a committed, thoughtful scholar of the Prayer Book, having written and lectured extensively on it, and was recently elected as the national president of the American Prayer Book Society. Full details are given on the front page of this issue of *The Lamp*, and I heartily encourage our members to consider attending.

As ever, a reminder that we rely upon your financial support to carry out the work of the branch. Our coffers are always somewhat depleted by this time of year at the end of the summer, and this year is no exception. I hope that we can count on your help to get back on track!

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

We welcome your comments!
