



**The Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch**  
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September 9, 2013

Dear members and friends of the PBSC Toronto Branch,

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. Mine wound up as usual with the St Michael's Youth Conference, held on the last week in August at Selah Camp north of Wiarton. We had a great group of kids this year, and several new faces, which made for a stimulating and enjoyable week. One of our alumnae has rejoined us as cook, and two more who had missed last year returned as counsellors. The weather was mostly cooperative, and we had a nicely varied programme of courses and activities, crowned by a hike on a portion of the Bruce Trail near Tobermory. We are all looking forward to the annual reunion in February!

Earlier in the summer, on the first week in July, I helped to staff the PBSC information booth at General Synod, which was held at the Convention Centre in Ottawa. The dynamic was somewhat different this year, since for the first time the event was held jointly with the Lutheran annual convention; so the delegates present were half Anglican and half Lutheran. The first part of the event was taken up with combined sessions, and then the Anglicans and the Lutherans met separately. It was an opportunity to renew contacts with our supporters in the national Church, to publicize our work in promoting the Book of Common Prayer, and also to educate a few Lutherans about Anglican liturgy! It made for a series of exhausting days, but we are confident that the effort was worth it.

I mentioned in my last letter the workshop for Prayer Book-friendly parishes that was being planned for the end of April at St. Olave's Church, with the intention of developing an information sharing network among these parishes in order to help them grow. This duly took place on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and an article appears in the current issue of *The Lamp*. Nine parishes expressed interest; and although only five were able to attend this inaugural meeting, a number of useful ideas were discussed, and it was felt that this networking was a good thing to have begun. A follow-up meeting is planned for later this fall; if your parish would like to participate, please contact the organizer, Mr. Paul Scrivener, at the e-mail address given in the article.

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**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 2013, I enclose a cheque made out to the "Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch", for:

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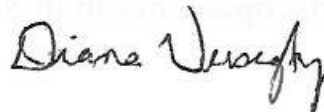
One of the initiatives from this meeting that the PBSC is keen to follow up on is the production of a new set of educational materials for confirmation classes, for young people and for older Anglicans needing a refresher or some supplementary devotional material. Perhaps some of you are familiar with two booklets that were published by the national Church in the 1950s and 60s, "In His Presence" and "God's Family". The first was directed at teens and older readers, and contained material on prayer and sacraments in the BCP and on membership in the Church. The second was directed at children, and contained similar material but simplified for younger readers. These books were widely used in their time, but their look and feel are now very dated, and something similar but reworked would fill a widely felt need. The PBSC is currently actively looking into producing resources along these lines.

Many members will be aware that there are two interesting new clergy arrivals in our diocese. One is Professor Jesse Billett, newly appointed to the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College. You can read a full-length article about him in this issue of *The Lamp*. Several people have recommended that I get in touch with him, and I am hoping that he will agree to give a talk to our branch sometime in the next few months. The other is the Revd. Dr. Walter Hannam, who has been appointed as Associate Priest at the Cathedral, with a special responsibility for the ministry at St. Bartholomew's, Regent Park. Dr. Hannam was for several years a professor of theology at the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in Saskatoon, and is a strong supporter of the Prayer Book. I attended the welcome service that was held for him at St. Bartholomew's yesterday, and he has already consented to lead our annual Lenten Quiet Day next spring! More on this in due course.

Finally, the usual update on our branch finances. I noted in my last letter that sadly, several of our most generous supporters have passed away over the past five or six years, and that our branch income has suffered as a result. I am happy to report that a number of our members have increased their support in response to this, and that our branch finances are currently in a healthy state. Many thanks to all who have increased their givings or who are planning to, and we hope that we can continue to rely on your generosity!

With best wishes for a pleasant fall season,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Versegby.

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*We welcome your comments!*

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