

The Prayer Book Society of Canada

# OTTAWA BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Thanksgiving 2013

*The Prayer Book Society of Canada promotes the understanding and use of the Book of Common Prayer as a scriptural system of nurture for life in Christ.*

*Society Mission Statement*

*O Most merciful Father, we humbly thank thee for all thy gifts so freely bestowed upon us; for life and health and safety; for power to work and leisure to rest; for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of men; but above all we thank thee for our spiritual mercies in Christ, Jesus our Lord; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

A Collect for Thanksgiving Day, BCP, page 307

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES and EVENTS

*Sunday, October 20*  
7:00 p.m.

Festal Solemn Evensong with Procession and Benediction for the Feast of Dedication, St Barnabas' Church, followed by a reception.

*Sunday, October 27*  
5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong for Trinity XXI will be sung by the Cranmer Singers, directed by Frances Macdonnell, at Trinity Church, 1230 Bank Street.

*Sunday, November 17*  
7:00 p.m.

Solemn Evensong and Benediction for Trinity XXV, St Barnabas' Church, Kent and James Streets, followed by a reception.

*Sunday, December 8*  
7:00 p.m.

Advent Carol Service "*From Darkness to Light*", St Barnabas' Church, Kent and James Streets, followed by a reception.

*Sunday, January 5*  
4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong will be sung by the Cranmer Singers, directed by Frances Macdonnell, at St Matthew's, in the Glebe. [tentative date]

### Branch Officers

<b>Chair</b>	Wesley Warren	2695 Priscilla Street, Ottawa, ON K2B 7E1	613-726-6341
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Ronald Bentley	737 Hot Springs Way, Gloucester, ON K1V 1W8	613-822-1911
<b>Past Chair</b>	Joan Wilson	1212 - 515 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, ON K1K 3X5	613-749-5058
<b>Treasurer</b>	Frances Macdonnell	303 - 3099 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2H 5A6	613-726-7984



**“In the Path of Abraham: A Visit to the Holy Land.”**

**Saturday, September 7, 2:00 p.m. - St. Barnabas Parish Hall**

On Saturday September 7, the members of the Branch were most excited to see the slides and hear the presentation by the Reverend Dr. Ron Hunt and his wife Andrea on their recent trip to the Holy Land. Held in the Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Church, the presentation attracted a good number of Branch members, including some of our younger members. Fr Ron and Andrea both spoke to the group, narrating their way through the many pictures which they had taken of sites they had visited in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Hebron, and Tel Aviv.

Since the Holy Land is an increasingly dangerous place to visit these days, few of us will ever get there, and we are most fortunate that people like Ron and Andrea Hunt are brave enough and energetic enough to go themselves, and then are generous enough to take the time to show us the results of their travels in such a way that it helps the rest of us to experience Jerusalem and the many other holy places almost as though we had seen them ourselves. Their observations and pictures, both indoors and outside, brought home the reality to all of us of a land which is shared by three faiths. The tour they were on was made up of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and they were able to describe to us how the believers in each faith were willing and able to share their thoughts and perceptions with each other.

Many thanks, Fr Ron and Andrea Hunt, and we wish you many more happy travels to come!

***Church Calendars for 2014***

If you are unfamiliar with the calendar advertized elsewhere in this issue of our Branch Newsletter, it is “*A Classical Anglican calendar based upon the historic Christian Year of the Church, as it appears in the Book of Common Prayer (Canada, 1962)*”. Each month contains a reproduction of an original painting of an Anglican church in Canada, by Julia Purcell, a Maritime artist who currently lives in Prince Edward Island.

***NOTES FROM THE TREASURER***

Thank you very much to those who made donations to the Branch earlier this year, which enabled to make our usual 2013 donations to the Cranmer Conference (\$500), the St. Michael's Youth Camp (\$500), and to clergy attending the annual Atlantic Theological Conference (\$700). We also donated \$390.70 towards the purchase of new BCP's for St. Barnabas Church, Ottawa. We only made half our usual donation to the National Newsletter, and we are now down to only \$384 in the bank, having paid already for the 2014 Church Calendars which are advertised in this Newsletter. We continue to need your help!

As you will remember from our last Newsletter, the Branch is now offering a Poetry Competition, aimed at encouraging participation by all Canadians. Although the Poetry Contest does not close until March 31, we have already received our first application! We hope that many of our own members, as well as others, may feel inspired to write a poem inspired by the thinking of Dame Julian of Norwich. Prizes are being offered in the amounts of \$500, \$300, and \$100.

We are most grateful that our members continue to support the work of the Branch through financial donations. Your help is always appreciated, and all contributions are fully tax-receiptable. Donations can be sent to me by using the tear-off slip below. Thank you very much!

- Frances Macdonnell, Treasurer

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To: The Treasurer  
Ottawa Branch, Prayer Book Society of Canada  
303 - 3099 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K2H 5A6

From: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I enclose a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to  
"Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch".



**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Atlantic Theological Conference**  
***“The Biblical Job: Comfort, Righteousness, Holiness”***

*The following reflections and comments are provided by Fr Ronald Hunt, St Bede’s, Nolan’s Corners,  
and one of this year’s Conference Delegates sponsored by the Ottawa Branch.*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Atlantic Theological Conference was held in Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton, NB, on June 23 to 26, 2013 with approximately 60 persons attending the opening Eucharist and 5 major presentations. The theme of “The Biblical Job: Comfort, Righteousness, Holiness” was presented with daily Morning Prayer and Eucharist and lively discussions following each presentation.

The presentations were: Opening Eucharist: Dean Keith Joyce, “The Eve of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist”; followed by 1<sup>st</sup> paper: Rev. Dr. Thomas Curran, response, Ria Neish: “Philosophical and Religious Comfort in the Land of Uz”; 2<sup>nd</sup> paper: Dr. Danielle Layne, response, Martin Curran: “The Prayers of the Resolute in Neoplatonic Philosophy”; 3<sup>rd</sup> paper: Dr. Neil Robertson, response, Daniel Heide: “Job in the Enlightenment”; 4<sup>th</sup> paper: Rev. Christopher Snook, response, Rev. Dr. Brian Spence: “The Book of Job: A literary History from Gregory the Great to William Blake”; and the 5<sup>th</sup> paper: Rev. Dr. Lisa Wang, response, Rev. Dr. Gary Thorne, “Job and Holiness: What the Tradition makes of Job and taking Job into the future.”

The papers are too long and complex to report in depth, so I will summarize the main themes.

The opening Eucharist dealt with the life and ministry of John the Baptist, in whose octave the conference was held. John's call to repentance and The Kingdom of God was to prepare the way for the Saviour, Jesus Christ. His unique message of preparing the way for truth and life was a turning point of renewal and redeeming love to break into the world “...a light has broken into the world upon those who sit in darkness.”

The conference papers centred around the theme of theodicy, about God and Justice, justifying the ways of God to humanity, where is God in human evil, sin and suffering?, what is human freedom?

The biblical book of Job is very complex, some scholars questioning its inclusion in Old Testament scriptures, other scholars saying that it is, “one of the classics of our heritage.” The subject of the book is the problem of human suffering. In a world created by God and declared good at creation, why is there evil, sin and suffering? Job's life is changed through a brief discussion between God and the Devil who is given permission to test Job's faith with a series of calamities. First Job loses his property, then his family, and then his health. He is left questioning God as to the reasons for this visitation.

Job's friends berate him for his wickedness real or imputed and blame the victim, suggesting he repent and die. In the end, Job's fortunes are restored and his faith confirmed.

The date of the book is difficult to discover, perhaps from the mid 4 century BC and arising within the culture of early Mesopotamia. The book is a mixture of prose and poetry in 5 parts: the prologue 1-2; dialogue 3-31; speeches by Elihu 32-37; speeches of Yahweh with Job's rejoinders 38-42.6 and the epilogue 42:7-17.

The Hellenistic world in which the story takes place raises the question of evil's destruction in the lives of good people. It is a universal question for humanity with the moral lesson that piety, righteousness and justice are their own reward, and not to gain the favour of God. Several modern

illustrations were presented to show the impact of evil forces and the seeking the meaning of suffering such as wartime and tyranny. The story guides the listener to a role of patience and prayer within a life of faith.

The Enlightenment and modernity move the question of evil from ideas and metaphysics to a personal and existential search for meaning and understanding. What is the purpose and hope for humanity in the light of the experience of creation and sin? The question sharpens for modern men and women in the context of World Wars, Equality, and the Environment. Finally, suffering in the context of the life of Jesus is put in the focus of where he says to his followers, “You are no longer slaves, I have called you friends...”. God invites humanity into a loving relationship of redemption and salvation with eternal implications in light of the outcomes of human experience in creation.

The conference ended on a positive note with an invitation to continue the discussion at King's College, Halifax in 2014 with dates and subject to be announced.

Ron Hunt

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*The following reflections and comments are provided by Fr Andrew Nussey, from North Bay, and one of this year's Conference Delegates sponsored by the Ottawa Branch.*

I was happy to see that the theme of the Atlantic Theological Conference (ATC), held this year in Fredericton, repeated the theme of the Cranmer Theological Conference (CTC) held earlier this same year in North Bay. (Of course, one could easily point out that the genus of the CTC finds its roots in the ATC).

Conference attendees this year were treated to the perennially important subject of suffering and the human impetus to find meaning through it all. At the ATC, we focused on the Biblical figure of Job. As usual at these annual conferences of late, brainy presenters offered big words and obscure ideas which my little mind failed to adequately grasp and process in meaningful ways. My greatest relief, however, came in the person of the Reverend Dr. Lisa Wang of Toronto at the end of the conference. Dr. Wang, using the method of *Lectio Divina* (or “Divine Reading”), guided us into the Book of Job as we prayerfully entered into the Scriptures and the wisdom of the Church Fathers. Dr. Wang was a Soul Friend who put us in touch with the Holy Spirit who challenged us in our ways and assumptions. All in all, I found this last part of the conference particularly meaningful in my personal mini Job-like experiences.

These theological conferences are opportunities for both clergy and laity to be refreshed in body, mind, and soul, and I am grateful to the Ottawa Branch of the Prayer Book Society of Canada for graciously assisting me in attending the ATC again this year.

The Reverend Andrew Nussey

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**To the members of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch:**

The Branch's Christmas cards, the 2014 PBSC Church Calendars, and Sue Careless's books are all now available. Although we do not have a new Christmas card this year, we still have a number of sets of previously-offered cards still available, as well as the Hasti-Notes designed by Ruth Magel MacLean. Christmas cards are now available for \$10 per set of 10, and all other prices are unchanged from last year. To order these items, please call Frances Macdonnell at 613-726-7984, or use the order form below.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to order the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of the BCP Church Calendar 2014 @ \$7.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of 10 Christmas cards @ \$10.00 per package = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Christmas cards are @ \$7.50 per set if 5 or more sets ordered)

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of 10 "Hasti-Notes" @ \$15.00 per package = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of Careless Vol. I @ \$24.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of Careless Vol. II @ \$27.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of Careless Vol. III @ \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$3.00 *for each item* for postage and packing: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If you wish to make an additional donation before the end of the tax year, Dec. 31:*

I enclose the following tax-receiptable donation: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*Thank you very much for your support!*