

The Prayer Book Society of Canada

# OTTAWA BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Thanksgiving 2014

*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*

**G** Almighty and everlasting God, who crownest the year with thy goodness, and hast given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season: Give us grateful hearts, that we may unfeignedly thank thee for all thy loving-kindness, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for the Blessings of Harvest, *BCP*, page 620

### FORTHCOMING SERVICES and EVENTS

*Sunday, November 16*  
7:00 p.m.

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

*Sunday, November 23*  
4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong for the Sunday Next before Advent will be sung by the Cranmer Singers, directed by Frances Macdonnell, at Emmanuel Church, Arnprior.

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

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

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

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

### 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

*Please remember that for those members who normally receive their Newsletter electronically, when inserts are being included, as with this issue of the Newsletter, your copy will be mailed by regular post.*

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**BCP Mattins** . . . Sung Mattins is held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral. The Service lasts about 30 minutes.

**BCP Evensong** . . . Choral Evensong continues the first and third Sunday of each month from September to June at 4:00 p.m. at St Matthew's Church, Ottawa, and every Sunday between Thanksgiving and Easter at Christ Church Cathedral at 4:30 p.m.

**BCP Holy Communion** . . . At St Bartholomew's, (The Guards' Chapel adjacent to Rideau Hall), each Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion is celebrated according to the *BCP* rite. The *BCP* rite is also celebrated every Sunday at 8:30 a.m., and weekdays except Mondays at St Barnabas' Church.

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### ***NOTES FROM THE TREASURER***

The Branch spent \$1,620.75 on its recent Poetry Competition, poems to be inspired by and based on the works of Dame Julian of Norwich. The results of the contest are reported on elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In spite of our recently-incurred expenses, we have been able to make our usual donations of \$500 to the St. Michael's Youth Camp, \$500 to the Cranmer Conference (see the report elsewhere in this Newsletter), and \$700 to clergy attending the annual Atlantic Theological Conference. We will also donate money for the purchase of new BCP's for the students attending Augustine College this fall, and as well we will incur the usual costs of publishing our Branch Newsletters and contributing towards the cost of the National Newsletter.

We received \$366.00 in the offering at Bishop Peter Coffin's presentation on Sunday June 22 (see the report elsewhere in this Newsletter), and we are glad that this event attracted new members to the Society. The present bank balance for the Ottawa Branch is \$973.32.

We are most grateful that our members continue to support the work of the Branch through financial donations. Your support is always appreciated, and all contributions are fully tax-receiptable. Please use the tear-off on the calendar order form (page 10), using the enclosed addressed envelope, to send donations.

Frances Macdonnell, Treasurer

## POETRY CONTEST 2014

The Poetry Contest offered by the Ottawa Branch, Prayer Book Society of Canada, asking for poems to be inspired by or based upon the works of Julian of Norwich, has now reached completion, and the winning poems are to be published in the National Newsletter of the Society. We are very pleased to have received twenty excellent entries to our contest, and to have raised considerable interest in the Society and its work.

The judges for the contest, in alphabetical order, were:

- Rev. Canon James Beall, Honorary Assistant, Church of St. Barnabas Apostle and Martyr, Ottawa
- Ralph Heintzman, Adjunct Research Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, and a Senior Fellow of Massey College
- Emily Martin, Professor of Literature, Augustine College, Ottawa

The judges, who read the poems with no knowledge of the identity of the poets, decided on the following awards:

First Prize (the Elaine deTemple Prize) of \$500, to

Patrick Gray, Port Hope, Ontario for a poem entitled *The Hazelnut*

Second Prize of \$300, to

Pamela Jones, Toronto, Ontario for a poem entitled *Renatus - to Dame Julian of Norwich*

Third Prize of \$100, to

Marjory Webster, Scarborough, Ontario, for a poem entitled *Inspired by Julian of Norwich*

Honourable Mention to

Patricia Sears, Chelsea, Québec, for a poem entitled *A Simple Soul's ABC - An Acrostic inspired by Julian of Norwich*

The First Prize was donated by Ottawa Branch member Jean de Temple in memory of her late sister, Elaine de Temple, also a member of the Branch from its earliest days.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual St Michael's Youth Conference, Ontario

Another successful Ontario Conference was held from August 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, near Warton, Ontario on the beautiful Bruce Peninsula. Check their website at [www.stmikesontario.com](http://www.stmikesontario.com) for updates of the 2014 Conference. You might enjoy looking at pictures from earlier camps.

*We are pleased to announce that for the first time ever a young Anglican from the Diocese of Ottawa was one of the teens who attended this year.*



## BISHOP COFFIN'S PRESENTATION TO THE BRANCH

On Sunday, June 22, 2014, at 3 p.m., in Christ Church, Bells Corners, Ottawa, the Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch, was hosted by The Right Reverend Peter R. Coffin, Anglican Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Forces. Bishop Coffin's presentation was entitled

***The Book of Common Prayer:  
'A Reasonable, Religious, and Holy Hope' in War and Peace***

and was given on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Great War.

Bishop Coffin's talk, which was attended by about 75 people, was prefaced by his comment that it is the *Book of Common Prayer* which all his life has formed and informed his own spirituality. The music was led by the Cranmer Singers, directed by Frances Macdonnell, Organist Emerita, Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa. An open offering was received, amounting to \$366.00, and the Branch gained nine new addresses for its membership list.

Bishop Coffin's talk was given in sections illustrated by slides showing the use of prayer by the military in Canada and abroad, from Martin Frobisher in 1583 (the first Anglican Eucharist celebrated in North America was on one of his ships) to the war in Afghanistan. His talk was interspersed with music, as follows (the hymns were sung congregationally):

The Quest for Holiness

Hymn: *Teach me, my God and King (Tune - Carlisle)*

Worship in Canada at sea

The Navy Hymn: *Eternal Father, strong to save (Tune - Melita)*

The Wars, and the influence on the Home Front

World War I: *Motet: In Flanders Fields - Alexander Tilley*

World War II: *Motet: Let us now praise famous men - R. Vaughan Williams*

Favourite Sources of Comfort in the BCP

The Collects, and Compline

The Funeral Office: *Motet: The Iona Boat Song*

The Psalms: *Psalm 131 (chant by James Nares)*

The Holy Eucharist: Hymn: *Just as I am (Tune - Woodworth)*

Closing and Final Prayers

Hymn: *Lead on, O King eternal (Tune - Lancashire)*



## The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Theological Conference “The Meaning of Evil”

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

A Report on the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Theological Conference held at the University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The theme of this year's conference was “The Meaning of Evil”. There were 8 major papers presented with 5 responses. These reflections are on the 8 papers followed by comments by the author and including notes by Fr. Donald Tudin from St. Barnabas, Ottawa.

The conference began with a marvelous Choral Evensong which was matched by an evening Compline Service by candlelight both held in King's College Chapel, Halifax, NS. The worship service and music were a wonderful beginning to an excellent program of presentations over the course of the next 3 days. That evening we were invited to listen in on a conversation between Screwtape, an educator at the Tempters' Training College for young devils and Wormwood, his nephew and student who was learning the trade that God's way did not make any sense and was to be rejected. The presentation entitled: “My Dear Wormwood: a dramatized reading from C.S.Lewis' Screwtape Letters” was given by The Rev. Helena Malton, Rector of the Parish of Digby and Weymouth, NS.

The following day began with Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist in King's Chapel. The second paper was given by The Rev. Dr. Brian Spence, Rector of the Parish of Ludlow and Blissfield in the Diocese of Fredericton, NB., who spoke on “Evil in the Bible”. This was a *tour de force* on the theme of the Fall as presented in the Garden of Eden, through the meaning of choice and idolatry to the New Testament and following history of the understanding of Sin and Grace in the work of Jesus Christ. Several writers and theologians were incorporated into the paper which closed with a picture of the New Jerusalem in The Book of the Revelation of St. John and a meditation on the mystery of evil and goodness in Christian living. At 12 noon, we said Mid Day prayers together.

In the afternoon, Dr. Robert Kennedy, Chair, Religious Studies/Catholic Studies, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS., spoke on Augustine and Evil. Dr. Kennedy spoke of evil as being the absence of goodness and how in Augustine's own development included several years at a student of Manicheism until his conversion later in life. Several quotations were explained from the City of God to show that it is mankind's will that is corrupted in evil and that our journey back to goodness is accomplished through the grace of God in Jesus Christ. The responder was Dr. Derek Neal.

The evening paper, which followed Evening Prayer, was given by Dr. Matthew Robinson, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB., on Aquinas and Evil. The issue discussed here was the question #6 On Human Choice in Aquinas' *Summa Theologica* which asked “Do we have free choice?” Discussion followed around issues of human blame and praise without choice. The human will or intellect being the place of necessity or free choice moves through the particular and the general issues of experience to the final cause where freedom finds the principle and acts to achieve its end. The responder was Dr. Victoria Goddard who used the images presented by Dorothy Sayers and Japanese poetry and art reflecting on the work of an artist as illustrative of the struggle between choice and response and the nature of sin itself.

Tuesday morning, following Morning Prayer, Dr. Neil Robertson, Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, King's College, NS., spoke on “The Evil “I”: The Transformation of Evil in the Reformation and Enlightenment”. Dr. Robertson pointed out that from the

Reformation on there was a turn from an outward, objective approach to understanding evil to an inward, subjective discussion. Luther's 'salvation by faith alone' set up a dialogue with Calvin, Aquinas and the writings of Dante in which the human self-awareness of "I" is the fallen centre of the human condition and Grace which motivates action and good works is the only source of salvation. Even human freewill is a source of evil and creation can be saved only by God's gift of Grace in Jesus Christ. The responder was The Rev. Matthew Larsen, Doctoral Candidate, Yale University.

The evening was held at St. George's (Round) Church which has been beautifully restored following an earlier tragic fire, where in the Choral Eucharist service, The Rt. Rev. Anthony Burton, Rector of the Church of the Incarnation, Dallas, Texas, spoke on The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (St. Luke 1:57) and how his life and witness challenges us to claim Christ in our Christian living. The Service was beautifully supported by the choir and organist of St. George's Church.

That evening, back at King's College lecture hall, Dr. Daniel Brandes, Director, Foundation Year Programme, University of King's College, Halifax, N.S., spoke on "Hannah Arendt's Early Doctrine of Radical Evil". In the mid twentieth century, Hannah Arendt wrote about the horrors of the holocaust and how the evils of totalitarianism brought about a mindset among some leaders that could allow them to see no value in some human life. With lack of conscience, they were able to put to death large numbers of people and justify their actions. This radical evil could only be responded to with radical forgiveness, not for actions or motives, but by sheer gift of grace from God which was unconditional, absolute and made a new beginning possible. Christopher Rice, M.A., University of Sussex, Teaching Fellow, Foundation Year Programme, King's College, responded using imagery from Moby Dick, Heidegger and Charles Taylor to illustrate the spirituality of unconditional action.

Following Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist the next morning, the final paper was given by Daniel Watson, M.A., Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS., on the subject of "Eating Butter and Honey: On the practical means of discerning between good and evil according to St. Antony the Great and the Book of Common Prayer". This paper erupted into a lively discussion on all the presentations of the conference and a wide ranging time of reflection and responses. An ovation of thanks to all presenters and organizers of the gathering followed and thus ended the conference.



## **THE CRANMER CONFERENCE, 2015**

*The following reflections and comments are provided by Aaron James, the organizer of this year's Cranmer Conference, held in upper New York State, and sponsored by the Ottawa Branch.*

On the weekend of August 23rd and 24th, Holy Cross Anglican Church (Webster, NY), hosted the Cranmer Conference, an annual gathering of Anglicans interested in a deeper engagement with the liturgical and spiritual tradition of the Book of Common Prayer. Founded in 2006, the Cranmer Conference has been held at a number of locations in southern Ontario under the auspices of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, but this summer's conference was held on the American side of the border. Thanks to the generous hospitality of Fr Martin Mahoney and the people of Holy Cross, Webster became a temporary home to a weekend gathering of Anglicans from as far away as Toronto, London, the Niagara region, Pittsburgh, and Estes Park (CO).

The Cranmer Conference aims to demonstrate the union of theological learning and practical

spirituality that has always characterized the Anglican tradition at its best. Accordingly, the formal presentations of the conference were set within the context of daily prayer according to the Prayer Book's morning and evening Offices. The day began with the office of Mattins, led by Fr Ed Ihde of St Nicholas Anglican Church (West Seneca, NY), and ended with the service of Compline according to the 1962 BCP, a service familiar to our Canadian attendees but unknown to many of our American guests, since it does not appear in their 1928 Prayer Book. The liturgical highlight of the service was a service of Choral Evensong led by Dr Walmisley's Folly, a small ensemble of singers associated with the Eastman School of Music, who sang the texts of the Office to music by Richard Farrant, Richard Ayleward and Thomas Mudd.

This rich pattern of prayer and worship provided an ideal framework for the conference's formal presentations, given by three distinguished theologians and church historians from the United States and Canada. The first paper, given by Dr Jesse Billett, a professor of church history and liturgics at Trinity College, University of Toronto, dealt with the medieval background of the Prayer Book's daily offices. Dr Billett explained the complex structure of the medieval liturgies that preceded the introduction of the Prayer Book, showing how the Anglican services of Morning and Evening Prayer adapt elements of older traditions while simplifying them for use by laypeople as well as professional clerics. Citing a number of medieval and modern authors on the spiritual benefits of the communal reading of Scripture and especially psalmody, Dr Billett presented an eloquent case for the continued relevance of this liturgical tradition: contrary to the many twentieth-century critics of the Prayer Book, the traditional Offices continue to be relevant because they provide a venue in which Scripture is read, rightly interpreted and ultimately allowed to permeate our consciousness.

The second and third presentations of the conference dealt with individual theologians from the Anglican tradition. Dr William Witt, a professor of systematic theology at Trinity School for Ministry (Ambridge, PA) offered a talk on Thomas Traherne, a late seventeenth-century theologian whose writings remain too little known. Never published in his lifetime, Traherne's meditations on creation, true happiness, and divine love remain unread by many Christians even though his most famous work, the *Centuries of Meditations*, was praised as "almost the most beautiful book in the English language" by none other than C. S. Lewis. Dr Witt outlined the key themes of Traherne's spirituality, especially his focus on desire as a gateway to the divine; our desire for created goods is really a desire for God, and we can only be truly happy when we recognize the goods of the world as God's gifts intended to be enjoyed, not possessed.

Last to present was Fr David McCready, a professor at Logos House Seminary and rector of St Francis Anglican Church (ACA) in Estes Park, CO. Fr McCready spoke on the life and ministry of John Wesley, admitting that the founder of Methodism was an unusual subject for an Anglican conference but pointing out that Wesley viewed himself as a loyal Anglican and intended to live and die within the communion of the Church of England. Although Wesley's followers have become a separate denomination, McCready showed how Wesley's own writings align with traditional Anglican views on the Church and sacraments, and demonstrated how Wesley's teaching on holiness and the desire for a more perfect union with the divine can be of spiritual benefit to present-day Anglicans.

Outside of the official presentations and worship services, the conference offered ample free time for informal discussion among the presenters and attendees, providing a chance to make new friendships and renew old ones. Members of the St Martha's Guild provided a typically warm welcome and laid out a spectacular spread of food for the conference attendees. The organizers of this year's conference are grateful to Holy Cross parish for hosting us; to Trinity School for Ministry, whose conference travel fund underwrote the costs of William Witt's appearance at this year's conference; and to the Ottawa Branch of the PBSC for their financial support.

## 2015 CALENDARS

The Society's 2015 Church Calendar is now available, and this year, it features a picture of our own St. Barnabas Church! These calendars are "A Classical Anglican calendar based upon the historic Christian Year of the Church, as it appears in the Book of Common Prayer (Canada, 1962)". All the paintings are by Julia Purcell, a Maritime artist who currently lives in Prince Edward Island. Although we do not have a new Christmas card this year, we still have the Hasti-Notes designed by Ruth Magel MacLean, and the books on the *BCP* by Sue Careless. All 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to order the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of the BCP Church Calendar 2015 @ \$7.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send your cheque, payable to "The Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch", to:

Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch

303 - 3099 Carling Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario K2H 5A6

*Thank you very much for your support!*