

The Prayer Book Society of Canada Newsletter

Michaelmas 2003

Parish Alive! - A Bold New Teaching Initiative of Classical Anglicanism

by Pat Bryan

Since the introduction of the BAS in the mid-eighties, there has grown up a generation of Anglican churchgoers that has had little or no exposure to the basic tenets of our faith, as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. Not only have they been prevented from experiencing the liturgical riches of the BCP, they have been led down theological dead-ends all in the name of 'relevance' and modernity. The result is that often they are both uncertain of what they believe and ignorant of why they should believe it in the first place – given that the BCP remains the official standard of doctrine within the Anglican Church of Canada.

At the same time, those parishes and individuals across Canada which have remained faithful to the Book of Common Prayer are everywhere realizing and deploring the lack of teaching materials which will serve to reinforce and strengthen them in their faith and provide a resource to introduce the 'lost' generation to sound, orthodox,

BCP-informed religious education.

In fact, there is a grievous lack of *any* resources coming into parishes which can help over-burdened priests and inquiring parishioners in their faith journey. You only have to sit in at a typical meeting of a local clericus to hear this view expressed again and again.

With all the mish-mash of alternative liturgies, political correctness, inclusive language and general trending towards feel-good worship, we are in danger of becoming a church of the bland leading the blind. If we are to avoid this, it is important that both the clergy and the laity are reached on a regular basis with the teachings of classical Anglicanism. The best and simplest way to do this is through the existing parish structure of the church.

The hidden treasures of classical Anglicanism

Spread across this country are treasures of helpful resources – both human and material – that are waiting to be found and made available to the wider church. Some, perhaps, are programs that have been developed and used over time by single parishes. They have been created to fill the vacuum caused by the lack of centrally available resources, and have proved themselves as effective and soundly-based time and time

again. The current St George's Sunday School curriculum now being used by parishes across Canada first saw the light of day in St George's, Halifax; until its arrival, many Anglican parishes had to make use of United Church material in the absence of anything else.

There are teachers across Canada – priests and laity – who speak with the voice of classical Anglicanism, who could be of great benefit to a wider audience.

We call these 'hidden treasures' – and they need to be sought out and dispensed into the hands of parishes across Canada. And they need to be produced and dispensed in such a way that parishes will find them easy and desirable to use.

What do parishes need?

So what exactly do parishes need? Educational resources of almost every kind. Talk to virtually any parish priest in the ACC, and they will tell you of that need. Confirmation and marriage preparation courses. Pre-baptismal instruction. Quiet day planning. Newcomer programs. Lenten and Advent study materials. Training for youth groups, Sunday Schools, bible study – the list goes on. We must reach out to the minds of regular Anglicans. But it will not be sufficient simply to supply materials using yesterday's methodology.

– Continued on Page 2

INSIDE

- 1 Parish Alive! - A Bold New Teaching Initiative of Classical Anglicanism
- 4 Minneapolis Report
- 5 PBSC Annual General Meeting
- 6 Eastern Book Tour: Discovering the Book of Common Prayer: A Hands-on Approach
- 7 Summary of Recent Developments within the International Anglican Communion



Alex Raybould and Michelle Wenzel, St John's Nassagaweya, Ontario, June 8, 2003.



Michaelmas 2003

The Prayer Book Society of Canada Newsletter

Parish Alive!

– Continued from Page 1

Video-Based Parish Education.

The world-wide success of the Alpha program can serve as a model for today's way of reaching people. Its content may seem at times to be too simplistic for our purposes, but we can learn from its methods: simple, low-cost production - a dynamic speaker or speakers - a set theme with a clear outline and discussion helps - a set time period (e.g. 10 weeks, 2 hours each night) to provide busy people with clear parameters to their commitment. This is a potent new creative educational venue that is only now starting to be appreciated by Anglicans in every country:

Why does it work? It's easy for clergy to use. The content is predetermined. The progress of each meeting is predetermined and not open-ended. It is 'authoritative' involving, compelling. It requires the minimum of preparation from the course leader. It is inexpensive, compared to the cost of bringing in a speaker or speakers. It can make use of external images, graphics, music etc to make its points, and provide a rapport with its audience. It provides an excellent ground for subsequent discussion. It can be used again and again from year to year with a new audience each time.

The Alpha program originated in England. But we have many great teachers here in Canada who could easily find their way into parishes across Canada simply at the flick of a switch. Think of the possibilities - and they are as endless as the mysteries of our Faith:

"The Gospel of Mark - Ten Weeks with Dr. Edith Humphrey"

"A Confirmation Class led by Bishop Anthony Burton"

"The Four Loves - A Lenten Journey with C.S. Lewis by Dr James Packer"

or even *"The Plainsong of Merbecke - Hands-On Audio for Choirs"*

By creating, over time, such a library of educational resources, we can make

classical Anglicanism and orthodox Christianity once again a viable mainstream option, not something brushed aside by the headlong rush to secular modernity.

The need for an organisation

We have said that there is a wealth of hidden treasures across Canada. We need an organisation that has the cross-Canada resources and connections to search for and harvest these treasures and bring them forward. To re-present them and make them available in a new, user-friendly format. We need an organisation that will have the creative resources to carry this out where such treasures exist, to create and produce afresh where they do not - and the ability to make sure that the results can be disseminated across the country to every parish that will use them.

And parishes **will** use them. For two reasons:

First, they will be high quality, sound, non-confrontational, yet thoroughly orthodox and BCP-informed.

Second, they will be a boon to over-worked clergy because of their ease of implementation. Instead of weeks of preparation for an upcoming study group, busy clergy will have in their hands a ready-made solution that is too good to turn down.

The birth of Parish Alive!

Now, this organisation has come into existence. It is called Parish Alive! It had been recognized by the National Council of the Prayer Book Society of Canada for many months, if not years, that the Society had both the mandate (in our constitution) and the responsibility (given our strategic placement within the national Church) to attempt some sort of concerted educational initiative within the Anglican Church of Canada.

In February of 2002, a "Forward Planning Sub-committee" was struck

with the specific mandate of creating a proposal that would be later presented to the National Council. The proposed initiative that came out of the work of this Forward Planning sub-committee is "Parish Alive!".

This new initiative, while reporting to the National Council of PBSC, otherwise operates entirely separately. It has its own Governing Board, can co-opt 'partner' members to that board from like-minded orthodox organisations (*Essentials*, *Barnabas Anglican Ministries etc etc*), is empowered to set up its own staff, and acquire, create, publish and circulate teaching materials as it sees fit.

Importantly, it is designed to be financially independent of the Society, to raise funds and issue charitable receipts under its own name.

The members of the governing board, charged with making Parish Alive! a living, vibrant reality, are shown in the accompanying box.

How will Parish Alive! operate?

We are pretty sure we know what is needed - but, through our network of contacts in parishes across Canada, we will quantify and identify what is needed most, what we can produce first. At the same time, we will be uncovering the 'hidden treasures' of which we spoke earlier, so as to start with ready-made foundations on which to build.

Our board, and the resources and teachers to which we referred, is in the forefront of the reclaiming of the church for classical Anglicanism. But we also have the advice and support of those, many of them younger members of the Society, who have a handle on the latest in audio, video and other teaching techniques, and we shall draw upon their strength.

But, you may ask 'how do we reach the clergy in every parish? Simple. We get

– Continued on Page 3

Parish Alive!

– Continued from Page 2

into their mailbox, onto their desk, and then into their heads!

One facet of "Parish Alive!" will be the regular publication of a journal that is directed mainly toward the clergy and any other interested Anglicans. This journal will present material that is both soundly orthodox and BCP-informed, as well as engaging and thoughtful. The final pages of this journal will be a "catalogue" of "Parish Alive!" resources. All of the materials created and collected by "Parish Alive!" will be offered there to priests (and all others who receive the journal), who can then use them or make them available to their parish or parish groups.

If our Church is to be revived from the slumber of modernity, the clergy of the Church will need to come to a fresh awareness of the vibrancy and splendour of BCP-informed orthodoxy. For this reason the Clergy Journal must be more than simply a "catalogue". It will also be a means through which solid teaching can be offered to the leaders of the Church across Canada.

What can PBSC members do?

You can help Parish Alive! In three ways. If your parish has created and used its own teaching program that you believe could be used by the church as a whole, we want to hear from you. Tell us if it works, how it works, and why you think it works. That way we can evaluate it for possible production and circulation to other parishes across the country.

We are also planning a fund-raising appeal to major donors; here you can help by identifying and introducing us to any in your community who you feel might be willing to listen to us and be receptive to the Parish Alive! initiative.

And you can pray for us.

Pat Bryan is Chair of the Port Hope/Cobourg branch of the Society, and a member of the Board of Parish Alive!

The Board of Parish Alive!

Mr Pat Bryan is chair of the Port Hope-Cobourg branch of the Prayer Book Society, and Rector's Warden of St Mark's, the oldest church in the area. He retired as Senior Vice-President and Director of Creative Services of one of Canada's largest advertising agencies, and has wide experience in the creation, direction and production of audio and video materials

Mr Michael Edward is the National Chairman of the Prayer Book Society of Canada. He is a graduate of Trinity College, U of T, and is currently Principal of Belfast Consolidated School in Prince Edward Island. He has travelled extensively over the past four years, meeting with many Anglicans across Canada concerned with the departure of the church from classical Anglicanism. He is married, with three children, the oldest of whom is soon to be ordained into the priesthood.

The Rev'd David A. Harris is Assistant Priest at St Peter's Cathedral in Charlottetown, PEI, and a member of the National Council of the Prayer Book Society of Canada. He has been involved with the concept of Parish Alive! from its first beginnings, and is a prime mover behind the planning of the clergy journal *Tolle Lege*.

The Very Rev'd. Michael Hawkins is Dean of Saskatchewan. Following his ordination, he had charge of a number of rural parishes in Nova Scotia and in Saskatchewan. Dean Hawkins is a charismatic and gifted preacher and public speaker, and a driving force behind the St Michael's Youth Conferences, both in the Maritimes and in Saskatchewan.

The Rev'd. Gordon Maitland is the Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration in London, Ontario. He previously was a Sessional Lecturer in Liturgics at Huron University College, while serving in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Huron. He is a member of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation, and has written and lectured extensively on the subject of liturgy.

The Rev'd Lars Nowen is the Rector of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, where he serves on the boards of several community organisations. He has worked with inner-city youth, and is involved with the planning and organisation of diocesan youth conferences and summer camps. He has been a part of the planning of Parish Alive! from the early stages.

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gary Thorne is the Rector of St George's Church in Halifax. It is from his fertile imagination that the beginnings of the *St George's Curriculum for Sunday Schools* came, a teaching course now in use in parishes across Canada. He is also responsible for Youthnet, an inner city ministry for young people that operates out of St George's.

Write to Parish Alive! at Box 446, Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3Z3

Michaelmas 2003

The Prayer Book Society of Canada Newsletter

Minneapolis Report

By Michael Edward

During the first week of this summer's 2003 General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the USA in Minneapolis, Canon Mark McDermott and I were privileged to represent Essentials Canada as guests of the American Anglican Council (AAC). The Convention would be momentous, we knew, as it would be asked to give its blessing to the election of a bishop living openly in a same-sex relationship, and thus consent to an open breach with Scriptural teaching as understood by the historic, universal Church. We came as observers, but, almost from the beginning, we were invited into full participation in the work and presence of the AAC at "Convention". It quickly became clear, within a day of our arrival, that the AAC now effectively represents the voice of traditional "conservative" Anglicanism within ECUSA.

What Mark and I in fact became part of was a large and very well-organized community of the faithful that had taken up residence on the extensive premises of Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. Many dozens of faithful Anglicans were gathered there, mostly out of their own resources, to serve as volunteers in the work of supporting AAC's presence at Convention. Here, amidst the sanctuary, prayer rooms, meeting halls, kitchens, press rooms, offices and communications centres, the common rooms and living areas, the bishops' quarters and board rooms, we were privileged to catch a glimpse of how the Church fully alive might look.

From the outset we were reminded that, when some day we stand before God, we will not be asked if we were successful; we will be asked if we were faithful. And for us, faithfulness was to translate into activity. It meant showing up early, staying till the very end and, in between, participating with all the charity, energy, outreach, cheerfulness and passion we could muster through the unceasing prayer of both ourselves

and the intercessors around us. The clear implication of our training was that glowering at people from the full height of our theological correctness and intellectual superiority was unlikely to be very helpful to the work of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time we participated in a fervent belief and dependence upon the truth of God's word written - in its entirety and perfection - and that this directed and comforted everything we did. We were also comforted by a sense of communion with an Anglican tradition extending into the past and around this planet. In fact we were meeting Anglican archbishops from distant parts of the globe in the halls of Central Lutheran.

Viewed as critical to AAC's mission was the work of prayer. All that we did was bound and guided by prayer, an integral part of the planning for participation at General Convention; the AAC organizers had made certain that we should be "covered" by an enormous activity of intercessory prayer that would continue unceasing throughout General Convention. Always, we were called to humility; we were firmly reminded that none of us, in and of ourselves, could change anybody's mind! It *might* be that the Holy Spirit would choose to work through us and so it might be that a smile, an interest in the other person, conviction for what we represented, willingness to meet people where they were... any or all of these just might, at some pivotal instant, insinuate an echo of understanding into a soul thus met. We were reminded that, in typical human conversation, the verbal content of what we say accounts for perhaps 7% of what is effectively communicated. It is the tone we use and the body language that accompanies our words which accounts for all the rest of what is actually "heard" by our audience.

Discipline was expected, in a most refreshing way, in all that we did:

prayer, daily routines, the faithful and punctual completion of tasks for which we volunteered. In short we were steadily drilled into becoming better equipped to argue for His truth without falling - God willing! - into the deadly trap of Being Right.

For me the experience of living in such a community of faith for the week I was in Minneapolis has hugely encouraged me in the belief that, in fact, Our Lord's Church is alive and well. The whole of this present "situation" simply confirms that.

Of *course* the Church is in conflict and turmoil! To be the Church is to *be* in conflict and turmoil. Our Lord made it very clear from the beginning that that was how it would be. But in our comfortable association with the North American Anglican church of the last two centuries, the concept of the Church Militant has faded for too many of us into a quaint and properly disapproving sense of the brutalities of our ancestors.

Always the faithful are bidden to the struggle of healing: to plead and pray for all of us who may be caught up in the infections of the age; praying that it will be the death to self that comes with taking up His cross. We were disappointed by the outcome of the Convention: however, there can be no abandoning the fight. There may be repositioning. There may be prudent and orderly retreat. There may be redeployment of His forces. There may be a need to choose which battles we can fight. But the struggle to rescue our church must be unceasing.

This was the call to arms we heard clearly in Minneapolis this week. We saw so many take up those arms in faithfulness and devotion. Two Canadians were privileged for a time to stand with them and be trained in the fighting. In consequence, we have returned home in great joy... and great hope.

National Chairman's Report to the PBSC Annual General Meeting, Winnipeg, 2003

Let me begin with a very sincere and heartfelt word of thanks to the Manitoba Branch here in Winnipeg under the chairmanship of Father Sharman, who is, as usual, faithfully at work to my right. In particular, the thanks of this meeting is owed to Jenny Carter and her team of helpers who have done a wonderful job of completing all the arrangements for this 2003 AGM of the Prayer Book Society of Canada. We are all very grateful.

So many people have contributed to another successful year for our Society and deserve our warmest thanks. In particular, I would like to extend the particular appreciation of this meeting to all the members of our National Council who have faithfully guided the decision-making process throughout the year. Particular thanks must go to the Branch Chairmen across the country, so many of whom do double and even triple duty in their various leadership roles.

I would finally ask you to join me in extending special words of thanks to three people who have made special contributions to the life and activity of the Society and especially to the work of National Council. Father Stephen Sharman has been unflaggingly faithful in his role as National Recording Secretary and has provided us with a huge and splendid record of all the meetings of National Council as well as of our Operations Committee. Dr. Edgar MacDonald has spent endless hours during the past months sorting through the financial story of the Society as he took over the role of National Treasurer. Muriel Pitt, who is watching over us all from her Charlottetown control centre, has been indispensable in her role as the ever-cheerful, usually-hilarious contact and manager of our communications hub.

Highlights of the Year:

Vital to the work of the Society during the past year has been the commitment of National Council to the development of the mandate and mission of the Society. Since our last AGM, National Council has held four regular bi-monthly teleconferences, two

special teleconferences (during last summer) and finally the on-site meeting earlier today here in Winnipeg. The leadership, vision and direction of National Council has been much further extended and effected through the work of the various committees and sub-committees of the Society.

Our Newsletter Committee, under the chairmanship of Desmond Scotchmer, continued the pursuit of excellence in the appearance, content and appeal of our national publication. Four excellent issues of the Newsletter were produced during the year.

The Operations Committee has provided oversight of the day to day operations of the Society and has been indispensable to the chairman in providing wise counsel, direction and often-needed support. Through the work of this committee, the Society enjoyed perhaps the most thorough budgetary planning process that we've had in a while and for that the chairman is particularly grateful.

The Programs and Selections Committee, under the chairmanships of David Bertsch and Pat Bryan, oversaw the forward planning, the development and the carrying out of the growing list of program initiatives of the Society. This committee created and oversaw the work of two sub-committees, the *Parish Alive!* Initiative Steering Committee, chaired by Fr. David A. Harris and the St. Michael's Conferences Sub-Committee, chaired by Wilfred Alliston. It also provided the liaison function with the Toronto Branch in the work of producing and publishing a major publication entitled *Discovering the Book of Common Prayer*, authored by Sue Careless.

The Policy and Liaison Committee, under the chairmanship of Diana Versegghy, operated increasingly as a "think tank" for National Council and generated a number of key guiding principles, policies, management strategies and recommendations for initiatives that informed the decision making of National Council.

The 2002 Canon Middleton Tour was another success thanks to the hard work and organizational leadership of Branch Chairman Joan Wilson and her Ottawa branch. Thank you, Joan!

During the past year (and more), the Society entered the world of serious publishing with the writing and publication of a book entitled *Discovering the Book of Common Prayer* written by veteran journalist and author Sue Careless and sponsored and produced by the Toronto Branch with joint funding and support from the National Society. It is a delight to have Sue here with us today and I know how much you're looking forward to hearing from her in a few minutes.

Essentials and the World Communion:

An increasingly important part of our mission has been our collaboration with and support for the work and influence of the Essentials Coalition. It is a particular honour and delight for me to welcome Canon Charlie Masters to our 2003 AGM. You will be hearing from Charlie in a short while and I want to pay my own sincere tribute to the work that Charlie has already done in his new role as National Director of the Essentials Coalition of Canada. He has brought special gifts of diplomacy and personal warmth to a brand new role as well as a creative energy and an incisive understanding of the complexities of North American and international Anglicanism. We are so grateful to have been blessed with Charlie's commitment to the work of Essentials. Being a true coalition, which continues only through the continuing assent and will of its three partner organizations, Essentials represents a unique exercise in charitable co-operation among Anglicans sharing different perspectives. The charity and the will to co-operate have both been well tested since the coalition came into being. The fact that it survives and is an increasingly respected voice within both national and international Anglicanism is a testimony to the faith that its members continue to have in its founding concept. The fruit of that concept,

Michaelmas 2003

The Prayer Book Society of Canada Newsletter

the 1994 Montreal Declaration, is quickly becoming a rallying point for Anglicans throughout the world who struggle for true and orthodox unity within our tradition. Canon Charlie Masters has been very busy building and extending the community of support that is rising around this cause. We are so pleased that he joins us today as our Guest Speaker.

The Re-Discovery of our Grassroots

There is a "constituency of interest" growing everywhere in this country. Canadian Anglicans are becoming increasingly aware of the loss of identity and memory within their tradition and are increasingly motivated to become involved in a grassroots response to this crisis. Heartfelt expressions of this have been coming in from all across the country, from places like Saskatoon and Grande Prairie in the West, from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and Montague, PEI in the East.

More and more, Anglicans are coming to appreciate that the BCP can be "sold" quite effectively as the essential doctrinal, liturgical and formulating expression of Anglicanism. It provides the vital *backbone* of our tradition. Without the BCP, Anglicanism loses its backbone and (to use an evolutionary analogy) reverts to being an invertebrate incapable of that deliberate movement that characterizes vertebrate creatures. Instead of swimming and growing into a great purposeful whale, our tradition appears to many to be rapidly devolving into a jellyfish, swept helplessly along by every cultural wave.

Whatever their personal liturgical emphases, predilections and prejudices may be, people are appreciating that without the BCP, Anglicanism cannot long maintain its own significant defining and directing identity.

As a consequence, small groups can be located and gathered together under PBSC sponsorship with increasing ease; we are no longer viewed as disparagingly as we may have been in the past. There is increasing appreciation of our stature as a national organization with a remarkable membership of committed, courageous, activist Anglicans who are supported and nurtured by an even more remarkable cadre of the best theological minds in the country. There are pockets of Anglicans all across the country who are gathering themselves together in the search for a renewed sense of lineage and

Eastern Book Signing and Tour

Meet and Hear Sue Careless, author of

Discovering the Book of Common Prayer:

A Hands-on Approach

<p>Halifax, Nova Scotia Wednesday, October 1, 7:30 pm St Matthias Church The Rev'd Peter Armstrong (902) 429-4919</p> <p>Saint John, New Brunswick Saturday, October 4 Taylor College, 230 Hawthorne Ave Bruce Smith (506) 832-9019</p> <p>Fredericton, New Brunswick Sunday, October 5, 7:00 pm Christ Church Cathedral Wilfred Alliston (506) 450-9548</p> <p>Charlottetown, PEI Monday, October 6, 7:00 pm St Peter's Cathedral Michael Edward (902) 659-2708</p> <p>Montreal, Quebec Friday, October 17, 12:00 noon Book Signing and Noon Luncheon, Talk and Question Period. St George's Church, Place du Canada Carol Lord (514) 938-5349</p>	<p>Ottawa, Ontario Sunday, October 19 Book signing and talk, after 11:00 am service, St. Alban's Church, Daly Avenue and King Edward Avenue Mrs Joan Sinclair (613) 749-5058 Monday October 20 Address to student body Augustine College, 18 Blackburn Ave, Ottawa Prof. Ed Bloedow (613) 832-2227</p> <p>Renfrew, Ontario Sunday, October 19 St Paul's Church, 191 Ivey Avenue Book signing and talk after 4:00 pm service. Joan Wilson (613) 749-5058</p> <p>Kingston, Ontario Wednesday, October 22, 12:00 noon Book Signing, The Church Bookroom, 90 Johnston St. Sue Orgill (613) 544-1013 Address and student supper 5:30 pm St. John's Church, 41 Church Street The Rev'd Ian Ritchie or Debra Fieguth (613) 549-7159</p>
--	---

meaning in their religion. My recent visit to Saskatoon suggests to me that we have an opportunity to develop a working "formula" for recruiting such groups. BUT - these groups will need "care and feeding": They are looking for real food. The availability of purposeful program will be critical to successful recruitment.

As a consequence of all of the above, I feel we now have a compelling case to make to those who could help with resources. Funding is the critical next step. We have an emerging grassroots constituency. We have a national infrastructure. We have the academic support. We have new modes of technology at our disposal. We have a rising young leadership fired with imagination and a love of the truth of Christ, a leadership that is already becoming a lightening rod for other young Canadians on the hunt for a

substantive centre to their faith. Add some solid financial support to the mix and our work can now move forward on several fronts.

I see the Prayer Book Society of Canada emerging as champion and promoter of that "Anglicanism" which was framed, 450 years ago, to be an extraordinary expression and distillation of apostolic catholicism, the "faith of the Fathers", the great *consensus fidelium* of the Church Catholic. We are the voice of our tradition's formulating roots; we *hold* that memory of the recovery of apostolic catholicism that was achieved by the English Reformers. We *must respond* to the rise of interest in this country in the rediscovery of a defining Anglican ethos.

Michael Edward

The Same-Sex Issue: Summary of Recent Developments within the International Anglican Communion

1997

- The House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada passes a resolution affirming the traditional Christian understanding of marriage.

August, 1988

- The Lambeth Conference, consisting of the Anglican bishops from around the world meeting at Lambeth, passes a resolution affirming the traditional Christian understanding of marriage. The resolution is passed by 89% of all bishops present.

June, 2002

- The Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster approves the principle of same sex unions, and authorizes liturgies to enact this.
- Eight parishes, representing 25% of its active worshipping population, withdraw from the diocese, and establish the Anglican Communion in New Westminster (ACinNW), declaring their intention to remain within the Anglican Church of Canada, and within the wider international Anglican Communion.
- Thirteen Canadian bishops speak out against the New Westminster action, noting that it contravenes the express position of both the Canadian House of Bishops and the world-wide Anglican Communion meeting through its bishops at Lambeth.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury characterizes the New Westminster actions as “schismatic” and an “ecumenical embarrassment”.
- The Canadian House of Bishops requests Bishop Ingham of New Westminster to refrain from moving on the same-sex issue until it can be debated at Synod in 2004. Bishop Ingham announces his intention to proceed.

May, 2003

- New Westminster implements a new Rite of Blessing for same sex unions.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury expresses sadness at the action of the diocese of New Westminster.

June, 2003

- The Anglican Church in Nigeria, the largest in the world, with 18 million active members, severs ties with the Diocese of New Westminster, declaring that it has departed from traditional Anglican norms.
- The Anglican Church in South East Asia breaks communion with the Diocese of New Westminster, stating that Bishop Ingham has “deliberately and advertently broken communion ... with the wider Anglican Communion.”
- The Diocese of New Hampshire within the Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. (ECUSA) elects Gene Robinson as bishop coadjutor. Canon Gene Robinson lives openly in a same-sex relationship.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury requests ECUSA not to proceed with ratification of Gene Robinson. Ratification is a necessary step before the election can be confirmed.

July, 2003

- Canon Jeffery John withdraws his acceptance of the suffragan bishopric of Reading within the Diocese of Oxford, in England. The Canon states that he has been living in a same-sex union, but has been abstinent for many years. He has indicated that, in his position as bishop, he would work towards changing the rules of the Church of England with respect to same-sex unions.
- A ninth parish joins the ACinNW.
- On the eve of its General Convention, the Archbishop of Canterbury asks ECUSA not to proceed with affirming Canon Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire. Referring to the Lambeth resolution, he warns: “Any individual diocese, or even province, that officially overturns or repudiates this resolution poses a substantial problem for the sacramental unity of the Communion.”

August, 2003

- General Convention of the ECUSA ratifies the election of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire, and permits dioceses to exercise “local option” in the blessing of same-sex unions.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury issues a call for an emergency meeting of the Primates of all the Anglican provinces to deal the situation for early October, 2003.

The Prayer Book Society of Canada

National Officers and Branch Contacts

OFFICERS

National Chairman

Mr. Michael Edward,
R.R.#1, Belfast P.O.,
Prince Edward Island,
C0A 1A0

Episcopal Visitor

The Rt Rev'd Harold Nutter,
Retired Archbishop
of Canada

Honorary Chairman/President

The Rev'd Dr. Robert Crouse,
Professor Emeritus
Dalhousie University

Past Chairman

Mr. Ted Siemens

Vice Chairmen

The Rt Rev'd Anthony Burton,
Bishop of Saskatchewan,
1308 5th Avenue East,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 2H7

The Rev'd David Curry,
Anglican Rectory,
531 King St,
P.O. Box 2661,
Windsor, Nova Scotia
B0N 2T0

The Rev'd Dr. James I. Packer,
Regent College,
5800 University Blvd,
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6T 2E4

Correspondence Secretary

The Rev'd Stephen Sharman,
374 River Road,
St. Andrews, Manitoba
R1A 2Y1

Treasurer

Dr. Edgar MacDonald
Comlongon Farm
Box 57 Winsloe
Prince Edward Island
C1E 1Z2

Branch Contacts

St John's

Mr. Michael Donan
(709) 753-5193

Conception Bay North

Mrs. Marilyn Murrin
(709) 786-6270

Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Mr. Peter Westin
(902) 875-2423

Annapolis Valley

Sr. Margaret Luke
(902) 798-3782

Moncton

Mr. Peter Johnson
(506) 857-8500

Fredericton

Mr. Wilfred Alliston
(506) 450-9584

Fundy

Mr. William Holder
(506) 648-0682

Gaspé Coast

Mr. Cyrus Journeau
(418) 752-3609

Montréal

Mr. Richard Lord
(514) 938-5349

Ottawa

Mrs. Joan Wilson
(613) 749-5058

Quinte

Dr. James Loudon
(613) 966-7571

Port Hope-Cobourg

Mr. Pat Bryan
(905) 885-0518

Toronto

Dr. Diana Versegghy
(905) 303-4490

Niagara North

Mr. Walter Raybould
(905) 971-7863

St. Catharines-Niagara

Mrs. Laura Dodson
(905) 468-5202

Grand Valley

Miss Billie Farmer
(519) 583-0475

London

Mrs. Suzie Dann
(519) 473-2132

Lambton

Miss Naomi Luth
(519) 336-7874

North Bay

Mrs. Dorothy Chabot
(705) 472-1937

Manitoba

The Rev'd John Stennet
(204) 383-5327

Regina

Cicely Pritchard
(306) 586-9668

Calgary

Mr. Ted Owens
(403) 242-1727

Edmonton

Mr. David Bertsch
(780) 458-1194

Vancouver

Mrs. Norah Johnston
(604) 224-8986

Vancouver Island

Dr. Pat Radcliffe
(250) 758-5771

NATIONAL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 38060
1430 Prince of Wales Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3Y7

PBSC Web site

www.prayerbook.ca

Online Resources

PBSC Critique of
the new hymn book

[www.prayerbook.ca/
newhymn1.htm](http://www.prayerbook.ca/newhymn1.htm)

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

Editor

Mr. Desmond Scotchmer,
40 Homewood Avenue, Apt. 401
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 2K2
email:
desmond.scotchmer@mto.gov.on.ca

Editorial Committee

Mr. Wilfred Alliston
Mrs. Laura Dodson
Ms. Nancy Gall
Miss Naomi Luth
The Rev'd Dr. J. I. Packer
Mrs. Carol Schiavetto
Mr. Richard Spalton

**If you wish to join PBSC,
please e-mail your name
and address to
[billiefarmer@execulink.c
om](mailto:billiefarmer@execulink.com) or mail it to: The
Prayer Book Society of
Canada,
Box 1435, Port Dover,
Ontario. N0A 1N0.**