



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

from the

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH OF THE PRAYER BOOK

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SOCIETY OF CANADA

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Events

Wine Search 2004

May 29th, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

We will begin at
Peninsula Ridge Estates
5600 King St. W., Beamsville
Please contact a member of the
executive if you are coming or need
a ride.

Grand Valley Branch Church Crawl

Saturday July 10, in Fr. Haynes'
three churches - \$12.00/ person

Contact

Brian Munro
(519) 756-3053

Should be a pleasant ramble.

Service and BBQ



Sue Careless

Author of *Discovering the Book of
Common Prayer*,

will be speaking at St John's
Nassagaweya (Campbellville) on
Sunday June 27, 2004

Service starts at 4:00 pm with a
BBQ and meeting afterwards.

Pre-Synod Rally Success Story

They came in family mini vans, in sedate cars, and even on roaring motorcycles. They had come to hear the word and to pray for each other and our Anglican Church of Canada as it seemingly heads willfully towards the abyss of excommunication by the rest of the Christian world. They had filled the seats, the pews and the entire nave to the limit: and then the word went round, "a whole bus load has just pulled up!" The chairs went into the aisles, the pews groaned under the extra load and the Holy Spirit filled the hearts and minds of the congregation. The Church of the Holy Trinity on Hamilton Mountain was ready to bust with these concerned folk who were there not only for the service but to strengthen their resolve and to let people know they were going to do their part, no matter how minor, to save our denomination from disaster. With a format following a standard evening prayer, nearly a dozen clergy participated in the service with other clergy sitting with the people. The Reverend Canon Charlie Masters was the preacher and not only he but all the clergy empowered us. Solid old hymns and the newer folk tunes rattled the windows, and then, under the direction of the rector, Rev. Victoria A. R. Hedelius, a small group prayer session ensued which was an unfamiliar setting to those of us who hold fast to the Book of Common Prayer, but it was an enlightening experience nevertheless. It all ended on a high note of exuberance and we were fêted with an astonishing spread of cakes and squares etc. in the packed church hall.

Volunteers for the Essentials efforts at Synod 2004 were directed to speak to:

Lorraine Bryan at Office of the National Director
Toll-Free 866 883-7328 or 905-845-5211.

Youth and the Prayer Book

I am writing this article because there seem to be some rumours running rampant about the youth of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, and I would like to put the record straight.

Some people have suggested that the only reason we like the prayer book is that we were raised with it, as it is completely beyond the abilities of any teenager to comprehend. While I cannot speak for youth in other branches, in ours (Niagara North) it is an utter fallacy! My peers and myself were all "raised" in a BAS church, not a BCP one, we all choose the BCP as teens.

... Cont'd on page 2

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

... cont'd - Youth and the Prayer Book

Perhaps one could argue that my parish, and Prayer book branch is a special case so I examined the Niagara Anglican's Youth pages in the March issue where I found a picture of the SpiritQuest conference, which is a diocese advertised, supported and funded conference. It should be a strong representation of how other BAS youth are participating in conferences. When I compared the attendance with that of St. Michael's Youth conference which is a traditional Anglican youth conference using the BCP, St. Michael's has an excess of twice the attendees. In addition the percentage male attendees for SpiritQuest is 17%, while the percentage of male attendees for St. Michael's is 47%. This number is significant to any argument about language facility being an impediment to understanding the BCP, because statically, within this age group, boys score lower for language related skills on standardized tests, yet they attend St. Michael's where the language is BCP. Those youths who attend St. Michael's do understand the language of the BCP and if they need help, there is Sue Careless' book, Discovering the Book of Common Prayer.

While examining this I have begun to wonder if youth actually wish to be challenged, for I have seen teens at the Stratford Festival, attending other Shakespearian plays, and participating in them while enjoying the challenge.

And in response to the accusation that it is too hard for us, I say not everything good and worthwhile is simple. I do not enjoy algebra, nor only going the speed limit, but that does not mean that I should stop doing either, and do just whatever I want.

Submitted by David Nusko

The "Ruination" of St. George's

Being an "old fashioned church", especially one stuck in a basement gym in the downtown of Hamilton should be a certainty for failure. So seems to go the prevalent propaganda that has weaned the Anglican Church in Niagara at least, away from its roots and into the "New and Improved" era of what we now call for want of a better term "progressive church-person-ship".

Old fashioned in liturgy, old fashioned in Holy Orders and old fashioned in theology, the gentle people of the Church of St George's has had at least one wining card that has helped take this band of Anglicans (left out in the cold after the closing of their old parish church by the then powers that were), on to incredible gains. They have stuck to their liturgy and theology found in the Anglican Church of Canada's very own Book of Common Prayer. They have also avoided alternative and suspect liturgies, avoided new hymn books with strange terms for God etc. etc never mind having a hierarchy seemingly bent on remolding the faith to suit new "progressive" thought.

So where has this "certainty for ruination" program led St George's? It as led them to standing room only services, a Sunday school bursting at the seams and a very well stocked "war chest", never mind attracting "seeker families" from such diverse cultures as Korean and Islam.

In the mean time our diocese has been on a wild ride of church closings as parishes struggle financially and lose the battle of membership. The financially necessary, cruel and on-going winnowing of historic churches in Niagara has left many a plum ripe for the picking and St George's has picked one of Hamilton's oldest churches from being turned into a Pentecostal hall or even a student rental. The former St Margaret's in Westdale is to come into the Reformed Episcopalian fold as the new home of St George's in June. Interestingly St Margaret's was established as a mission church by the old St George's in 1909.

The location near the McMaster University is an excellent choice as the BCP has always been an attractant for students and intellectuals, a theory proved by St George's own congregation's demographics.

Those fortunate former members of St Margaret's who wish to remain with their familiar surrounding, will only have to re-familiarize with the services from the Book of Common Prayer, because St George's knows a wining hand when it has one. A hand, we, the PBSC, have been promoting since our inception.