



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

from the
NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH OF THE PRAYER BOOK
SOCIETY OF CANADA

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EVENTS

The "All Ontario" Prayer Book Society Wine Tour

The newly reconstructed *Niagara North Branch* of the PBSC is hosting the biggest ever search for that elusive commodity "The Perfect Communion Wine" (or actually anything else we think drinkable) on

October 29, 2005

Starting at St. Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 11:00 AM.

All other branches and their members are invited to this most worthy quest.

Dunnville Evensong

Sunday, **September 25, 7:00 PM.**

The Niagara North Branch will be going on pilgrimage to St. Paul's, 233 Lock Street West, Dunnville, For Information, call the church at 905-774-6005

London Branch Activities Resume in Style

The "kick-off" event will be an Evensong at Church of the Transfiguration in London, on Sunday, **October 16** at 7:00 pm. A guest choir coming to sing the service and to make things festive.

For more EVENTS, see "Guest Speaker" on Page 3

Make sure you keep checking the web site for the latest up to date events information!

www.geocities.com/niagaranorthbcp

BBQ for St. Mike's at Sobeys's a Success



The youth from St. Luke's Hamilton, spent the afternoon serving customers at the Sobeys's in Ancaster, raising funds for St. Michael's Youth Conference, cheered on by delegations from St. Luke's Burlington and St. Georges.

Important General Meeting to Be Held In Parking Lot!

Niagara North, as an entity is going out in style as it becomes part of the new Dominion of Niagara Branch or Greater Niagara Branch (or what ever name we vote for). Where would this band of Anglicans find solace in their adventures in promoting the Book of Common Prayer? In a winery parking lot of course! The intrepid band of Cranmer fans bids adieu to Niagara North to join up with the St. Catharines / Niagara Branch as most befitting their style which is happy and carefree, out in God's creation, voting on serious stuff and letting the devil take the rest! The last meeting is happening on our Annual Wine Search! We are doing the Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries as most right and proper as we now have to contend with those of the Deep South of Niagara, Laura Dodson and her company, who brook neither second rate wines nor liturgies! **October is the month, 29th is the day, and St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake is the kick off spot, 11:00 AM is the time.** Those looking to car pool please let us know if you need a ride. We will even let Grand Valley and Toronto members join in, but each must be ready to enjoy the rest of us with an appropriate tale of their branch's endeavours. If that doesn't make our day then the wine sampling will!

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Evening Prayer Down at the Docks

Our scheme to give the Port's Days shindig in Hamilton a dignified close was successful. We had asked the chaplain of the Seafarer's Mission if he would have an Evening Prayer Service. When the time came though Father Hudson was occupied at the Seafarer's Booth and was going to be late. Parties of people were landing up from places as far as Brantford, one family of six sailed in on their boat, and others had even walked a distance from the city proper and certain unnamed persons were already into the sherry and cheese. Seeing this we quickly shanghaied the deacon (Brian Munro) of St Luke's Brantford into leading us in prayer which he did in fine style.

The little Seafarer's chapel gave a feeling of security and closeness to God's presence as we held those wonderful Books of Common Prayer that had been donated not so long ago by the Toronto Branch. They are beginning to look used folks, which is a wonderful sight to warm the cockles of the heart of any member of the society!

All told we had a great turn out to the event (which if they had all come on time would have been too many for the chapel). After the provided nosh was depleted and all was put ship shape, many of us toddled off to continue the happy times at nearby beaneries where stories and tales of great Prayer Book Society's battles and skirmishes were retold in the most humourous style to the delight of everyone there.

We are thinking that we are just having too much fun in our battle to bring the Anglican Church of Canada back to using the Book of Common Prayer. Our fear is that what happens when we succeed? What will we do for excitement then? Oh the worry of it all.

Essentials Meetings

Wednesday Sept 28, 2005,
7:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity, 9 Clarendon Ave.,
Hamilton

Presentation by

Canon Charlie Masters

1. The current situation in the Anglican Church of Canada and the world wide Anglican Communion
2. A proposed response through the creation of the Federation and Network

Presentation by

Dr Mark McDermott
on the St Michaels Report

There will also be worship in song & hymns and a scripture reflection.
Host is Rev Victoria Hedelius

Sunday Oct 16, 2005

Good Shepherd, 359 Grantham Ave.,
St Catharines

same format as Sept 28 (above)
Host is Rev Gerald Brodie

Memorial of the First

The first recorded Anglican Communion in Canada was held by Rev. Robert Wolfall at Frobisher Bay in 1578 to mark the safe arrival of Sir Martin Frobisher's expedition. The memorial of it warranted a singular 1552 Book of Common Prayer service of communion on September the third at that bastion of Cranmer supporters, little St Luke's of Hamilton.

The simple "board" with its single communion flagon and the lone book stand on the north end of the Lord's table, the cleric, Father Hudson, divested of all his Anglo-Catholic finery and then the juxtaposition of the nearby Marion Altar shimmering in the light with all its candles, flowers, icons and statuary was a sight never to be forgot. (While a service done from the "north end" seems to be very rare, it is standard practice at St George's in West Hamilton and perhaps in a few other places in Toronto.)

Meanwhile, listening to the 1552 service itself and the exhortation, was truly an experience. No one there dared not partake of the Lord's Supper nor think of it lightly. Old Archbishop Cranmer truly knew how to put the fear of the Lord in one's thoughts. The outstanding thing one realizes is that no one went near the chalice until the presider began to offer its contents to the flock. No signs of the cross, no raising it up. No it is God Himself who Blessed it. Neither man nor woman need interfere.

That many of our members missed this opportunity to take in such a special anniversary in Canadian Christian history is to be regretted. We stumbled badly here. We ask for your help in keeping us abreast of things that happen like this, so that we all can get our full of Cranmer. Please telephone us or go to our e-mail and keep your fellow members informed. *Thank you.*

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

St. Mike's Youth Conference Report



Those of you who see all the excitement that the Saint Michael's Youth Conference causes must think that all is well. After all most of the young people are from the Niagara/Hamilton region. All these young people who are getting the experience of having Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer with even some Compline for a whole week grow to love the liturgy. They can sing it off by heart. This connection with Cranmer's English and theology has always been one of Anglicanism's great strengths.

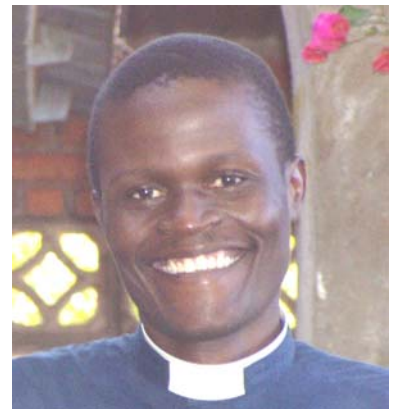
At this year's conference there were students from many diverse denominational backgrounds including Unitarianism, of course an agnostic background, and even five from Iran. The general feeling of those who had never experienced this kind of Anglicanism is that they wanted more. This is what we mean by church growth and this is how it is done. The Book of Common Prayer gives young people the standards and structure they seek.

But here is the problem. When they come to us here in Niagara and ask where can they hear again that liturgy that they want, what are we to say?

Does your parish church have the answer?



Guest Speaker



Fr. Raphael Mponda,
Chaplain to the Bishop
of Northern Malawi

Sunday Oct 2, 2005.

Guest preacher at St Paul's Dunnville

8:30 AM and 10:00 AM

For further information contact

Fr. Haynes Hubbard

Sunday Oct 2, 2005.

Evensong with reception to follow

St. Luke's

John St. N., Hamilton

7:00 PM

Reception by the Niagara North
Branch

Monday October 3, 2005,

Pot Luck lunch worship in song &
hymns and a scripture reflection.

St Peter's Church

705 Main St E., Hamilton

12 noon

Hosted by Niagara Essentials

**For more information about
Fr. Mponda, see story on page 4.**

Collector's Edition ?

One more thing, could this issue be
a collectors edition as Niagara
North joins with Niagara,
and the newsletter might be getting
a new name.(?)

Disguised Prayer Books Shipped West

Subterfuge and Cold War antics have been employed in the continuing great battle to keep the Book of Common Prayer in standard use by Canadian Anglicans. Sixty BCP's were seen boxed up in Gilbert's Gin boxes and shipped out for beleaguered Society members in Vancouver this spring by Niagara North. They were shipped out under cover of a PBSC youth rally in Mississauga, where the boxes of "contraband" were discreetly transferred from car trunk to car trunk, surrounded by innocent looking teenagers. Cameras were banned..... Well actually they were forgotten; otherwise we would be plastering pictures of the event all over this newsletter as you well know. As you well know too, we are making a mountain out of a molehill; things are really not like that in Canada, yet. But this is Niagara North's swan song and the Gilbert's Gin boxes were so lovely to see that we had to make something out of it. Can you imagine those Anglican's faces in Vancouver when they open those boxes and find not bottles of Gilbert's elixir but Cranmer's elixir in wine coloured bindings?

If you know of any unused BCP's or your church does not deem them suitable for the worship of our Lord (unimaginable!) please let us know and we will be glad to rescue them and see that they once again are used as fitting to our God. Just a further note Niagara North is donating twenty more BCPs to the St Michael's Youth Conference's summer digs, Prinkness Chapel near Durham. (Latest news is that won't be nearly enough for this year and still more will be borrowed to see them through.)

Father Raphael Mponda Visits Niagara

Report From St Paul's Dunnville

On the Weekend of October 1-3, 2005 St. Paul's looks forward very much to welcoming Father Raphael and Ester Mponda when they come for a visit from the Diocese of Northern Malawi in Africa. Fr. Raphael serves as Chaplain to Bishop Christopher Boyle. He accompanies Bishop Boyle on most of his visits and serves as his interpreter when in Africa. He also serves as Training Chaplain for the Diocese and is responsible for clergy conferences and retreats, catechist and church leaders. The Anglican Council of Malawi has elected him as chair for their steering committee for the establishment of their own Theological College in Malawi. Father Raphael has been to North America before and is very excited to visit this continent again. He and Ester have two children. We are pleased that Ester will be accompanying him on the trip. His hobbies include raising chickens and making handmade greeting cards.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, we will take the Mpondas to visit the Niagara peninsula - Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-lake and other sites. We hope to have lunch in a parish in Niagara Falls. That evening we will have dinner at the Optimists Club, to support the Food drive for the Salvation Army, and then return to St. Paul's for a pot-luck desert, where Fr. Mponda will speak informally to all of us, to tell us of his ministry in Northern Malawi.

Fr. Mponda will speak at both services at St Paul's Dunnville on Oct. 2, while Mrs. Mponda will speak with the children and their parents during the Sunday School. On that Sunday there will be a special parish breakfast between the services, in the gym, put on by the members of the Peru Mission from St. Paul's. In the evening, he will attend an Evensong and reception at St. Luke's, Hamilton.

On Monday morning the Mponda's will speak at the Dunnville Christian School, and then at a luncheon in Hamilton to clergy and people in that area. From us they go to Fort Worth, Texas, where they will spend a few days in that Diocese before returning home to Malawi.



Fr. Raphael Mponda's Church in Thunduti, St Peter's, in 2002

Malawi is a country in central Africa bounded by Tanzania to the north, Zambia to the west, and Mozambique to the east and south. Malawi is one of the 8 poorest countries in the world, with an annual per capita income of less than \$500