



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

from the

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH OF THE PRAYER BOOK

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New Chapel in Need of BCP's - How We Help -

In what has become a VERY rare development these days in the Diocese of Niagara, is occurring down by the docks in Hamilton Ontario. Yes there is a NEW chapel under construction! That's right, a new house of God in the Anglican tradition, but one that is in need of Book of Common Prayer! Yes the new chapel for the Mission to Seafarers uses the BCP. The new chapel is being out-fitted with all sorts of recycled and new liturgical gear but is unfortunately lacking prayer books. Its small library of old ones, though very well used and loved, are a sad collection of repaired and battered books. Meanwhile all sorts of effort are being put into the beautifying what was an old office reception area into a beautiful little place of prayer.

Gentle readers, how can we as Prayer Book Society people let our newest chapel present to the world such a battered statement of our faith? This little chapel is quietly being one of our church's greatest outreach for our faith by just existing. Existing there as a statement of our Lord's openness to all who come to Him and a statement of our love to ALL of God's children, no matter what faith they have or don't have. In the mean time many other denominations and faiths are welcomed to the mission in droves as each ship docks nearby. This mission serves the busiest port on the Great Lakes and all sorts of Christians seek the solace of this tiny House of God which is probably the only one they will get to enter in months as they travel the world. We have seen the pristine liturgical books that are used there for other denominations and it is our privilege, nay our duty as the Society to assist the mission in this rare opportunity to make sure our liturgy is presented in decent copies. Various branches of the society are making sure that this sad situation is being attended to for you our members. If you would like to assist further in this respect, please direct your donations of either new prayer books or funds for that purpose or any other purpose you wish to address, to the Mission to Seafarers, Group Box 12, 600 Ferguson St North, Hamilton, ONT. L8L 4Z9.

The sanctifying of the chapel, which is to be dedicated to St Michael, and to St Nicholas, both patron saints of seafarers, will occur on Oct 19, 2003 at 2:30 PM by the Bishop of Niagara, the Right Reverend D. Ralph Spence. We will keep you all up to date on this rare occasion and perhaps we can make it an event to remember. More to follow!

Directions to the Mission: Take John St North to Guise St. Turn right and follow Guise to Dockside Road. Follow Dockside Rd. past Ferguson St. N. till you get to the grey building of the Harbour Commissioners and the mission is located on the first floor on the right. (If you see the mission's flag pole out front and the large sign you are there!)

TRADITIONS



The dramatic ruins of **Whitby Abbey in England** date back to the 13th century. Founded by King Oswy of Northumbria in 658, the first abbess was his daughter, later known as St. Hilda.

At the Synod of Whitby in 664, the calculation of the date on which Easter would be celebrated was agreed. Today, the date of Easter is still governed by that decision.

BCP Evening Prayer at St John Nassagaweya

The Prayer Book Parish of St John in Campbellville Ontario held an Evening Prayer Service on June 8, 2003 attracted attention from across the diocese having enquiries from as far as Peterborough Ont. With a lovely spring evening as a background, the stone country church glowed in the sun. A hive of activity buzzed around the place as cars kept landing in while barbeques were set alight, food began appearing from the kitchen. We made a brave show of young and old as we filed into the cozy church building to begin the memorable service. The Reverend Canon Charlie Masters, who is the rector of this parish, led the service and gave the homily. Bill Phipps the lay reader and "master of ceremonies" organized and kept the service running smoothly as those familiar words of Evening Prayer from the BCP soothed the savage breasts of us avid prayer book types in the pews. Among those "types" were two cantors from

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NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Essentials Clergy Conference in Niagara REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Christian "Redeemer College" in Ancaster/Hamilton was the scene for the Essentials Clergy Conference this past spring. Clergy and guests poured in from right across the continent to hear the guest speakers and to meet and network with their fellow peers. There were all sorts of people with very familiar and famous names and faces, some purple shirts including our own Bishop Spence and a buzz in the air on how wonderful this was for all who were attending. The speakers were more than excellent; the venue perfect, and the transportation network with the help of the Niagara Essentials volunteers etc. a great success.

The staff of Redeemer College was kept very busy with the unexpected high turn out. Much larger meeting rooms had to be arranged, and what happened to the food situation is anyone's guess but all went smoothly with out a ripple to disturb the conference's program.

Our Niagara North PBSC branch was right in the middle of things as the conference was in our back yard so to speak. (all right, with in walking distance of the backyard of some of us). Thanks to Grand Valley PBSC branch for bringing the National PBSC display to the conference after they had just used it at their Synod in London. (That display is going like gangbusters as it immediately left for Winnipeg!)

The spacious lobby of the college was well filled with Anglican displays. It looked like a mini sales convention! Niagara Essentials had their new display just built and donated by their chairman Mike Crans, Barnabas was on display with their terrific set up as usual and ARM was there in style! Our PBSC display glowing under its lights let all those there know just who we are and what we represent. The St Michael's Youth Conference display was doing a great job of promotion. Sales of pamphlets, books, and video cassettes did very well. The new "Discovering the Book Of Common Prayer" was more than well received and ran out till we back filled the supply from headquarters (twice)! The main tables for the conference were loaded with more material and were the centre of activity as attendees came and went to the meetings, speeches and services that were happening throughout the college.

The large college book store had a huge selection of material set out specifically for the conference and we have to let you know they actually were carrying the 1962 Book of Common Prayer in stock as a standard item. (They have staunch Anglican students of the BCP persuasion there, never mind Anglican professors!) (There was no sign of the "Green".) We recommend this campus store to all who don't wish the drive to Toronto for their supplies of not only the BCP but a huge range of religious literature, CD's and other great things.

The Rev'd Cannon Charlie Masters, and his great crew of volunteers have to be highly commended on their efforts for running not only an incredible conference but such a timely one too. With all the rave reviews from the attendees we spoke too, who lauded the conference for its reaffirmation of their values and faith, it is our hope that this conference will be become an annual event.

Cont'd . . . BCP Evening Prayer

St Luke's Hamilton who "dressed" for the occasion, and their rector Fr Bob Hudson who came limping in with a game leg and using an umbrella as a cane.

We have to thank all the hard working people at St John's Nassagaweya who did us all so proud. The wonderful food, the great friendly and warm fellowship and that never to be forgotten service will stand out in the annals of the Niagara North PBSC Branch as one of the "best"!

Other hardy types were Brian Munroe from St Luke's Brantford, who must be commended here and now as one of our Societies staunchest supporters of all types of prayer book services going, no matter where they are. All hail Brian!

All, including Brian, got to enjoy a service in which Canon Masters did an excellent job of working the Prayer Book Society's mission into his sermon. We also got to sing lots of great old hymns one hardly ever hears anymore.

As for other Branch activities, there were "Discovering the Book of Common Prayer" sales, some new additions to our mailing list and a lot of Society literature left behind and a lot of friends met and new ones made.

Donations are APPRECIATED!

Feel free to use the enclosed form and send donations to the address at the right.

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