



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

from the

NIAGARA NORTH BRANCH OF THE PRAYER BOOK

Issue Number 9

SOCIETY OF CANADA

February, 2004

Contact the Niagara North Branch at
27 Legend Crt. Box 10144
Ancaster, On. L9K 1P3
www.goecities.com/niagaranorthbcp
Email: NiagaraNorthPBSC@Canada.com



Harbour Service and Blessing of Icon

This is an invitation to all St Michael Youth Conference grads and anyone else that has had an affiliation with the Ontario Conference or any of the other St Mike's Conferences. On March 21, 2004, at 7:00 PM, the Harbour Service at St. Luke's, Hamilton, will include the Blessing of the St. Michael Icon by The Bishop of Niagara, Ralph Spence. Above is a photo as the icon was being written last summer at the Ontario Conference. There will be a reception after the service in the Parish Hall. Plan to attend!

March 21, 2004, at 7:00 PM
St Luke's Anglican Church,
454 John Street North,
Hamilton, ON

The Frozen Chosen

AKA: the Niagara North AGM

That band of Anglicans known as "Members of the Niagara North Branch of the Prayer Book Society of Canada" held their third and biggest yet Annual General Meeting on Valentines Day. "Traditionalist" has always been one of the monikers hung on our great people, but this meeting was taking things too far. The energetic parish of St John Nassagaweya has just completed installing new furnaces as part of the building's upgrading program. Much to the consternation of our hosts the new equipment suffered a glitch and we held the service in near zero temperatures. As our forbearers did we sang out the hymns and knelt and prayed in our winter coats. The liturgy of Morning Prayer led by Mr. Bill Phipps and the Reverend Canon Charlie Masters hadn't changed much in five hundred years. The hymns were Victorian and older, and excepting the modern P.A. system we felt transported back to earlier times when this historic stone structure was first built. What a wonderful way for the people of St John's to give us the ambience of what Matins must have been like in those pioneer days. We must point out that the temperature had risen by forty degrees by the end of the sermon and although the "fire and brimstone" factor counted it was only a small part of the heating efforts.

The actual meeting in the warm parish hall was changed to preface the service and was noted for its brevity and levity. Most of the executive was acclaimed (again) with new additions to the posts of Recording Secretary of Miss Rebecca Hunt and Membership Secretary of Mrs Margaret Bienert. The treasurer noted the lack of funds with which we generally operate. (Imagine what we'd do if we had money!) The president gave the surprising long report of all the activities we had managed to do. The Web Master, David Nusko, announced the launch of our new no-cost web site. We had a wonderful networking session afterwards with reports from the Grand Valley Branch, Toronto Branch, Essentials and all sorts of news items of import and interest to the Society.

With the "warm" words of the sermon delivered by Canon Masters, still in our hearts, we retired after the service to the cosines of the "snug" of the Mohawk Inn where we feasted and made rather merry for the rest of the afternoon. It seemed no one wanted to go home. A most successful meeting as acclaimed by all!

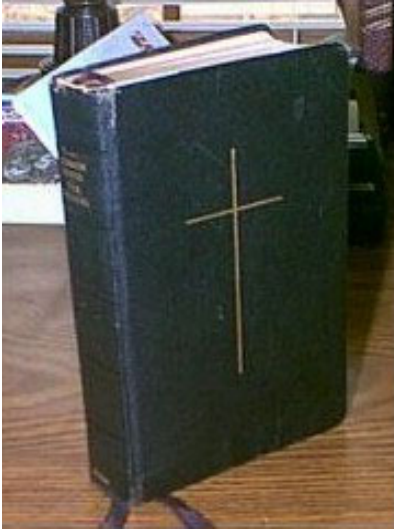
"For Such a Time as This ..."

Finding Our Way Forward

February 28, 2004

Don't miss this national satellite conference – see *The Lamp* enclosed for more details.
Note that a portion of the conference will be available locally, at 3:00 pm EST on CTS, (Channel 36)

Old BCP's Going for Big Bucks on Ebay



Yikes! Dear reader, that Old Book of Common Prayer lying in that box in your basement is treasure in more ways than one. As this is written, an old small leather bound BCP with the hymnal addendum is being bid up to \$99.79 on EBay. And with fees, shipping and tax, some one is going to spend a pretty penny for it!

What does this bidding war for something a lot of "Anglicans" have shuffled aside mean? It means that there is a very strong demand for the BCP out there. People are demanding it and are willing to spend hard earned cash to have a BCP.

So what does the average Anglican Church in Canada offer their congregations? Typically it offers either the green substitute or perhaps some bulletin liturgical rehash made up by whomever. When are the liturgical revisionists going to get the message? In the mean time hang on to your BCP's for dear life, (mortal & immortal)! Your heirs will benefit, perhaps in more ways than you can imagine!

BCP Lectionary: A Tool for Evangelism?

I have been informed the two churches, St John's Nassagaweya, and St. George's Lowville have returned to using the Book Of Common Prayer Lectionary. Both churches use the BCP extensively and both have attracted what one would call strong congregations. Little, small town, St George's is actually bursting at the seams with a very large youth group who are in contact with even more young people in the Milton High Schools, and need three Youth Pastors to minister to all these people.

While our diocese has had to face the closing of many churches that had accepted "significant liturgical changes"¹ there are some of the diocese's churches besides these two that have a healthy youth attendance (therefore a future) and low and behold use the BCP as a liturgy of preference. For example St Paul's Dunnville, St Luke's Hamilton, both contend with poor if not extremely poor demographics, e.g. small town population, small parish boundaries with nearby diocesan seat, yet manage to have a significant youth attendance.

There are many of our diocesan churches with significant youth attendance to be sure, but one wonders if they succeed because of their demographics in spite of their liturgies. Some I'm sure are also blessed with dynamic leaders in clergy and laypeople. What would happen one wonders, if those "Christmas & Easter" Anglicans, who had wandered into those churches looking for the liturgy of their youth with the intention (although belated) of raising their children in the "faith of their fathers" had not fled "because it's all different".

As a member of the Prayer Book Society of Canada I am very biased of course but I suggest that we may have to think about "Evangelism" in an old way.

Walter Raybould, Niagara North Branch of the
Prayer Book Society of Canada

¹ John Bullivant, Feb 2004 Niagara Anglican "Letters to the Editor"

Wine Search 2004

Ladies and gentlemen the wine tour returns again as the faithful members of Niagara North PBSC continue their quest for a suitable communion wine and anything else that tickles our palates in passing. Last year there was one wine that nearly passed the rigorous testing, but after all the sampling by our party we found we'd drunk it all! Never fear, the new crop is mellowing in its vats awaiting our inspection.

Therefore we are setting the date for **May 29th, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.** . . . We will begin at Peninsula Ridge Estates, that fine winery overlooking Lake Ontario from high on the "Bench". (Address: 5600 King St. W., Beamsville)

Not only does Peninsula Ridge have an excellent vintage, it also boasts a huge parking lot for those who wish to car pool. Our intention is to cruise the wineries of the area and return to "Butterballs" our acclaimed restaurant of last year, in Jordan, where the food is plain, the quality is terrific, and the price just right!. Just like us! Please contact a member of the executive if you are coming or need a ride.