



THE NIAGARA LIGHT

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

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Christmas Means "Traditional"

There is great puzzlement about the announcements that are posted by many of Niagara Anglican churches that they will be holding a "Traditional Service" for Christmas. One can only presume "traditional" means some thing that resembles a service in the Book of Common Prayer for what else can an Anglican mean?

Now why is this happening at Christmas? Is it because that is when the C & E's (Christmas and Easter flock) come out? Or is it when the liturgy committees get all warm and sentimental? Or is it **really** because the church treasurers know that a lot of money lands on the collection plates at Christmas and the budget has to be met and you don't want to turn off the fat wallet set do you?

The whole thing simply screams that "the powers that be" know the people really want the Book of Common Prayer when it comes down to it but most Sundays toe the company line put out by a set of revisionists who are blindly leading the flock where it really doesn't want to go. In fact if you see those empty pews on a regular Sunday the flock isn't following anyone at all!

There is no puzzlement to us here why we are the second fastest declining church in Canada.

Prayer Books Get Sent Off to the Northern Diocese



Packing up the Bill Phipps Memorial Books of Common Prayer sent to the Diocese of the Arctic. Thanks you for all those who donated to this worthy cause.

Niagara Light Article Picked up by Major Anglican Internet News Site.

Our little piece about the numbers of people signifying they were Anglican on the last Canadian Census as posted on the Niagara Diocese website and how many actually support the parishes of the diocese caused quite a stir. We reprint one of the comments from the VirtueOnline-News: "Re: DIOCESE OF NIAGARA: A PROFILE IN FAILURE - 18,062 of the 189,190 persons (one in ten) in the diocese who claim affiliation to Anglicanism were 'identified donors'. According to various parish profiles reported to the Synod of 1995 (the latest figures available in the 'Profile'), Niagara parishes claimed to have 38,000 total members but average Sunday attendance is less than a third of that figure - a mere 12,124.

These numbers are not only staggering in their implication but interesting in their own right. 190,000 people identify themselves as Anglicans but only 38,000 are listed as members of the diocese. Essentially, there are over 150,000 people waiting for the Anglican Communion to come back to Christ. Or, if you want to be even more accurate, 178,000 are on the sidelines when it comes too regular giving."

At our printing, over 3950 people have read the Virtue review of our article.

Greater Niagara at Synod

Niagara was well represented at the Synod in Winnipeg by our very own David Nusko who was asked by the Society to help man the booth. That booth was by all reports, the best looking and most dynamic booth at Synod ! (Yes we don't mind blowing our own trumpets here at the PBSC !) The picture shows David taking a break from his converting of the Great Unwashed to the delights of prayer the Cranmer Way.

He must have done a wonderful job as Synod decided to have the liturgical gremlins leave the BCP alone for now!

Congratulations to all those who fought, nagged, prayed and whatever else they did to have this turn of events !

**IF YOU DO NOT STAND FOR SOMETHING, YOU
WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING. (Isa. 7:9)**



Prayer Book Society Holds Ontario Chapter Meeting in Dance Hall



Those "boring old gits" of the Prayer Book Society have been at it again showing the world that they are NOT a bunch of boring old gits ! We held our Ontario Chapter Meeting in a dance hall as only befitting our true nature as a bunch of fun loving souls bent on chiding and nagging the Anglican Church of Canada to wake up and start using the Book of Common Prayer before they lose all their members from boredom! Yes it was hot Salsa dancing and a wonderful dinner of hot spaghetti and meatballs as only those high church Anglicans at Saint Luke's Hamilton can deliver. On top of all that Saint Luke's was launching their two new wines "The Bloodied Ox" and "The Soulful Soprano" which are available from Puddicomb's Winery in Winona on Hwy 8. (We recommend that you visit Puddicomb's and get in a good supply of these superb VQA wines ASAP.)

The place was packed with young people from the far reaches of the diocese and with a wonderful collection of our own PBSC members plus many more souls from the local area including the Mennonites from down the street who were out in usual force and the Roman Catholic contingent who were there with a visiting priest just to make it all ecumenical !

And one wonders why the Prayer Book Society keeps getting new members!

GREATER NIAGARA HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

In order to continue the mandate of the Society, Greater Niagara is folding into a larger branch of the PBSC in Southern Ontario. This will be our last newsletter.

We thank all those who have helped and supported us through the years. We all have had a tremendous amount of fun plus the joy of meeting and getting to know you has been a delight. We ask you to continue your support of the Saint Michael's Youth Conference and the Cranmer Conference. Thank you again and may God's Blessings be upon us all.

As the Bible says, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work" (2 Thessalonians 2:15-17).

And God's people answered:

AMEN!