

November 2017

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

prayerbooksocietynspei@gmail.com | www.stpeter.org/pbs.html



Events 2018

Jan. 27, 2018,
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Prayer Book Studies
Programme at St.
George's, Halifax

Jan. 28, 2018, 5 p.m.
Choral Evensong at
St. George's, Halifax

Feb. 24, 2018,
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Prayer Book Studies
Programme at St.
George's, Halifax

March 10, 2018
Lenten Quiet Day at
King's-Edgehill
School, Windsor,
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 28, 2018,
Prayer Book Studies
Programme at
St. Peter's Cathedral,
Charlottetown

NOTE: Further
details about these
events are found in
the body of this
Newsletter, in the
President's message.

A Message from the President of the Prayer Book Society of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

The Gentleness of Wisdom

It is that time of year "*when yellow leaves or none or few/do hang upon those boughs which shake against the cold/bare ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang.*" A melancholy note? Perhaps, but then, perhaps, we need to think again which is precisely what Advent challenges us to do.

We come to the end of a year of grace and take stock of our lives in the light of God's grace. It marks a kind of harvest-time, as it were, for our souls, a gathering up of the fruits of the past year's grace in our lives. But it means too, that we are returned to our beginning, to Him who is the foundation and meaning of our lives. The grace is God's Word revealed. It is all *redire ad principia*, a return to a principle, a return to God and to God in our lives.

And so too it is a time to return to the work and mission of the Prayer Book Society of Canada in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. And that return is, I think, a necessary turning of the mind to the things of God as presented so powerfully and so contemplatively, so modestly and yet so compellingly in the Prayer Book tradition, itself an eloquent expression of the essential catholicism of the Christian Faith. In so many ways it is a return, a constant return to "*the gentleness of wisdom.*"

What is needed is that we and our words - our souls and our very being - should be brought under the wisdom and the word of God, "*for both we and our words are in his hand*", as *The Wisdom of Solomon* puts it. What is wanted is that his word should take shape in us.

"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom."

In the meekness of wisdom, *in mansuetudine sapientiae*, in the gentleness of wisdom, really. It is a wonderful phrase which captures beautifully the point of Wisdom's prayer: *"May God grant that I speak with judgment and have thoughts worthy of what I have received."*

The gentleness of wisdom requires a certain disposition of soul, a certain attitude of mind. It requires an openness to that constant coming of God's Word to us, *"to that which we have received."* It challenges the arrogant assertions of our own petty 'wisdoms' and the follies of our complacencies and all our current uncertainties. It brings us under the tutelage of God's word and wisdom. Then we may say that *"both we and our words are in his hand."* Such is the gentleness of wisdom.

It seems to me that this provides the operative metaphor for the work of the Prayer Book Society in these times. And in that vein, I would like to lay out the programme of the Society in the upcoming year of 2018. What is planned are three Prayer Book Study Programmes, two in Halifax and one in Charlottetown. As well, a Choral Evensong at St. George's (Sunday, Jan. 28) with guest preacher, Fr. Colin Nicolle, from Summerside, PEI, and a Lenten Quiet Day on *Consolation* at King's-Edgehill School, Windsor (Saturday, March 10). I hope that you will be able either to attend some of these events or support the programme with your prayers and donations.

The first of the Prayer Book Studies Programme will be a consideration of Richard Hooker's important treatment of the meaning and purpose of the Sacraments in his celebrated *Lawes of Ecclesiastical Polity*, led by the young scholar Peter Bullerwell and to be held at St. George's, Halifax, on Saturday, January 27th, 2018 from 9:30-11:00am. Open to all and no pre-requisites necessary. Come and learn in the gentleness of wisdom! The second will be on *'The Fathers in Anglicanism'* by Dr. Evan King on Saturday, February 24th, 2018 from 9:30-11:00am. Likewise no pre-requisites necessary. The third will be at St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown, on *"The Book of Common Prayer: Past, Present and Future"*, published for the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, as led by Fr. David Curry on Saturday, April 28th, 2018.

These events along with the Choral Evensong on Sunday, January 28th and the Lenten Quiet Day at King's-Edgehill School from 9:30-3:30pm on Saturday, March 10th provide opportunities to renew our faith and to be refreshed in the gentleness of wisdom.

Your prayers and support for the spiritual work of the Society are greatly appreciated.

In mansuetudine sapientiae,

Rev'd David Curry

President, PBSC NS PEI

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated.
Thank you to all who have helped the Branch with financial support during 2017. New donations may be made by cheque or money order payable to: PBSC – NS & PEI Branch
Mailed to:
PO Box 8292 CSC
Halifax, NS B3K 5M1