

October 2016



PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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Events 2016 2017 Be not anxious!

Choral Evensong:

Nov. 6th, 2016 at St.
Peter's Cathedral,
Charlottetown, PEI.

Choral Evensong: Jan.
22nd, 2017 at St.
George's, Halifax.

Choral Evensong:

March 12th, 2017 at
St. Paul's, Halifax.

Anxious and uncertain times? To be sure, but the real question is how we face them. Two of the most dominant imaginaries – sets of images – that belong to our post-modern world are the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and the Collapse of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center (2001). In a way they concentrate the challenge and the dilemma for contemporary Christians. They require that we think about good and evil theologically and place social, economic and political considerations within that perspective. Therein lies as in a nutshell part of the mandate and mission of the Prayer Book Society of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Not to presume the answers but to provide at the very least the beginnings of a way of thinking about what it means to be a Christian in a post-Christian and post-secular age. These two imaginaries recall us to the story of the Fall, a story utterly fundamental to a Jewish, Christian and Islamic understanding.

Our challenge is to recover in a thoughtful and prayerful way what belongs to our Christian identity and commitment to Christ in and through the wonderful vehicle of doctrine and devotion so wondrously concentrated for us in the classical tradition of the Book(s) of Common Prayer. Our Anglican heritage and history bears at once eloquent and disturbing testimony to the ways in which that has been so often betrayed but as such to be recovered and reclaimed. Not as a return to some imaginary social and political paradise but as a way of engaging the complexities and confusions of our contemporary world within and without the institutional churches.

It has been a trying summer in so many respects, worthy of the sobriquet, *"the summer of our discontent"*, with apologies to Shakespeare, of course. Yet it is in times of uncertainty and confusion that we are recalled to the principles which properly define and shape our understanding and our lives. I would like to see the work of the Prayer Book Society of

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Canada in that light, namely as setting before us and our world a prayerful and thoughtful way of engaging the confusions of the contemporary culture with the charity and the clarity of the Gospel.

It will mean being patient with ourselves and others, to be sure. But above all, it will mean a willingness to commit to the forms of our corporate life together in the Body of Christ. The Prayer Book remains the standard of doctrine and worship in the Anglican Church of Canada (and beyond). Our task is to uphold that standard as a dynamic and living reality in our lives particularly in the face of all our short-comings and failings. It is really about that constant *redire a principia* (a return to a principle, in short, to God) which must and always define our lives, our work and our mission.

We continue. Thanks to the outstanding of Jan Connors, our treasurer, we have been able to maintain and continue a programme that reflects the mission of the Society. She has kindly agreed to continue on as Treasurer but only for another year though without the added burdens of the mail-list and the newsletters. Those tasks will be undertaken



by Fr. Peter Harris and, in terms of the mail-box, Fr. Nick Hatt. We will, however, need to find a new treasurer next year. On behalf of the Society, I cannot thank Jan enough for what she has done and what she is willing to do in the year ahead.

So what lies ahead? The intended annual commemorative service in Michaelmaside unfortunately didn't happen this year but we are hoping to make it happen next year, again in Crousetown and in memory of the witness of the

Rev'd Dr. Robert D. Crouse. So for this year? Yes, an All Saints' Evensong on November 6th, 2016 at St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown; an Epiphany Evensong at St. George's Round Church in Halifax on the 22nd of January, 2017; and a Lenten Evensong at St. Paul's, Halifax on March 12th, 2017 (Times TBA, 4:00 or 5:00pm). A programme of anchor events.

Your support and prayers for our mission is greatly appreciated. The antidote to all our anxieties is to look to Christ. My prayer and hope is that the labours of the Prayer Book Society of NS and PEI will help us all to look to Christ, "*the author and the finisher of our faith*". For then we shall be not anxious.

*With every blessing,
Rev'd David Curry
President of the PBSC NS/PEI*

**Your Support is
Greatly Appreciated**

Thank you to all who helped the Branch with financial support in 2016. New donations may be made by cheque or money order payable to: PBSC - NS & PEI Branch

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