



The Prayer Book Society of Canada
Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Branch

EPIPHANY 2015 NEWSLETTER

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fr. David Curry

E*piphany.*

Such a rich and wonderful word. It signals something intellectual, something grasped in the mind but in such a way as to move our hearts. Christmas gives way, finally, to Epiphany. But what is Epiphany?

The after-glow of Christmas? The post-Christmas 'hang-over' as we enter into the dreaded and dreary bleakness of the winter?

January, as the forgotten poet of Stanley, Nova Scotia, Alden Nowlan, reminds us is about the truth of winter, *"a truth that all men share but almost never utter. This is a country where a man can die simply from being caught outside."*

So it is good to stay inside where challenges of another sort await us. They are the deep and great challenges of the Epiphany season. Our thoughts turn away

from what has so easily become the cloying sentimentalities of Christmas, all tinsel and wrap, on the one hand, and so over-laden with impossible expectations, on the other hand. Our thoughts are turned from the God made flesh to the God who came in the flesh. We are awakened to the mystery of God. We turn, as the 17th

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century Anglican Bishop John Cosin puts it, from considering *"His coming in the flesh that was*

God" to *"His being God that was come in the flesh"*; in short, *"to turn ourselves from his humanity below to his divinity above."*

The paradox is great. In making this turn we discover a far greater truth about our humanity. In thinking God we learn the deeper truth and meaning of our humanity. There is no greater truth for our sad and weary world where we are well along the way to losing our humanity. Epiphany is about regaining our humanity. It is

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, January 25, 2015 – 5:00pm

Choral Evensong at St. George's Church
 2222 Brunswick Street
 Halifax, NS B3K 2Z1

Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 9:00am-4:00pm

Annual Lenten Quiet Day at King's-Edgehill School, Windsor, NS

Theme: 'The Kiss of Judas: the Themes of Betrayal and Forgiveness in the Scriptures'

found in thinking God, the God who reveals himself to us and in so doing reveals so much of ourselves to ourselves.

It is captured providentially and wonderfully in the Collect for the First Sunday after Epiphany. *"Grant that they [we] may both perceive and know what things they [we] ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same".*

The counter to the thoughtlessness of our world and culture, the Collect suggests that something of ourselves is realized in our actions, that our actions reveal more than we often realize. What saves us here from the tyranny of our sub-conscious is the way in which the Epiphany season brings everything to light that everything may be seen in the glorious light of God's encounter and embrace of our humanity in Jesus Christ. The Collect recalls us to the logical priority of our thoughts over our actions and suggests the deeper unity of their truth. Isn't this what is wanted in our lives? The unity of our thinking and our doing as opposed to the endless hypocrisy of our lives, doing what we ought not to have done and not doing what we ought to have done, as the Prayer Book Confession puts it?

"In this was manifested the truth of God towards us that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world that we might live from him." One of the Christmas anthems, it also illumines something of the nature of the Epiphany. The key word is ἐφανερώθη – manifested – an epiphany. God is made manifest and in him we learn what it means to be human. This is the teaching which is ours to make manifest to our world. It is all about the ideas that matter, the ideas that open us out to the wonder of God made manifest in the one who has turned to us, God's Son and Word, Jesus Christ.

The Prayer Book Society will sponsor a Choral Evensong at St. Georg's Church, Halifax, 5:00pm, on Sunday, January 25th, 2015, courtesy of Fr. Chris Snook and the Parish of St. George's. The annual Prayer Book Society Quiet Day will be held at King's-Edgehill School, Windsor, Nova Scotia, on Saturday, March 14th, 2015, from 9:00-4:00pm. The theme will be 'The Kiss of Judas: the Themes of Betrayal and Forgiveness in the Scriptures'. Contact: Fr. David Curry, currydp@gmail.com or 1-902-790-6173.

Our email: prayerbooksocietynspei@gmail.com

Our webpage: www.stpeter.org/pbs.html

National Webpage: www.prayerbook.ca

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

From the Treasurer

A sincere thank you to all who supported the Branch throughout 2014. Your tax receipt will be mailed soon....hopefully before the end of January. Our annual charities return was submitted on time and has been acknowledged by CRA. Our post office box has been renewed. All bills have been paid and we have a modest balance to carry us into 2015. Traditionally we provide a little support to the Atlantic Theological Conference each year. Hopefully will be able to do so in 2015. We like to offer each host for

Branch events a small honorarium, primarily to help offset heating costs, since most of our events are in the fall and winter. If you would like to contribute to the sustainability of our Branch, please make your cheque or money order payable to **The PBSC – NS & PEI Branch** to our address below.

Jan Connors

Charitable Registration No.

893059246RR0001



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