



Morning Star

Volume 24, Issue 2

15 September 2008

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- Israel Trip
- Tech Support Needed
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- Peter Widdicombe Event
- Student Council News
- College Mission
- Founders' Day

Why Creeds? Ann Jervis

It is something of an irony that, of the faculty, Principal Sumner should ask me to address the topic 'Why the Creeds?' I grew up in a Reformed tradition where the historic creeds – the Nicene and the Apostolic – were rarely used and, in fact, were suspect. In the United Church world I inhabited this attitude to the creeds was rooted in a particular understanding of the Reformation – that *sola scriptura* necessitated being suspicious of the creeds. These ancient credal statements were regarded as reflecting only the time and concerns of the people who crafted them and *not* the concerns and emphases of the Bible itself.

On top of that, my training as a Biblical scholar taught me to be wary of the creeds – the creeds were viewed as obstacles to hearing the voice of the Bible. My training taught me that the job of the Biblical scholar was to approach the text with fresh eyes, fresh questions, and with as few assumptions as possible about what she would find. If a scholar approached the Bible with the framework of the creeds, she would find the same old, same old. She would not be able to help the progress of scholarship. And, if she was a person of faith, her vocation of seeking to reform the church through her scholarship would be fruitless. She would simply be involved



in an action of repetition.

Both my childhood conditioning and my academic training shaped me to think that the creeds *conceal* the Biblical witness.

There is another view, and it is one I have come to as I have become increasingly embedded in our Anglican heritage. This view regards the creeds not as *concealing* but as *revealing* the

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This Wednesday At Wycliffe

2:00—Cranmer Chapel Team Meeting - Conference Room

3:00—Wednesday Event - **Sheraton Hall**

Drunkenness, Nakedness and the Redemption and Fall of an Image: Noah and Christ

Prof. Peter Widdicombe

4:45—Holy Eucharist - Founders' Chapel

Very Rev. Stephen Andrews—Preacher/Rev. Canon Dr. Alan Hayes—Celebrant

6:00—Community Diner - Refectory

Editorial (cont)

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Biblical witness.

The Anglican heritage gives several reasons for why the creeds shed light on the Biblical faith. For instance, we claim that the creedal statements summarize the important emphases and contours of the Bible's vast terrain and so they greatly benefit Christian education and evangelism. We consider it is useful, perhaps essential, to give novices in the faith a framework within which to articulate and ponder their faith. This claim is closely connected with another: that the creeds are beneficial for purposes of interpretation of the Bible. I will focus on this claim.

Assumptions and a corroborative conviction underlie the idea that the creeds are a trustworthy hermeneutical guide. One assumption is that the Bible is a difficult book to understand – what *do* we do with the rape of Dinah? or with Paul's statements about slavery? or Jesus' statement that he came not to bring peace but a sword? A related assumption is that wise interpretation is at once life-giving and love-creating – as Augustine said, right interpretation

'tends to establish the reign of love.' The conviction attached to these assumptions is that the creeds are a repository of wise Bible reading; the creeds offer help and guidance as we aim to hear the Bible as a witness to God's action and intention for love and life.

Our culture is readily aware of the fact that the lens through which we view an object, a thought, a narrative, etc., goes a long way to determining what we see. In regards to Biblical interpretation, we may understand the historic creeds as a lens with which to read the Bible, allowing us to see things we might have missed, focusing our attention on the important highlights of the large expanse of the Biblical witness, and guiding us to God's voice in the Biblical texts.

The creeds, as a lens, provide both limits and horizons. As an adherent of the creeds this means that while I expect to find new and surprising things in the Bible - for it is God's dynamic word - there are limits to the novelties and surprises I will find. For instance, should I think I see Biblical reasons to deny the divinity of Christ, the creeds call me to look again, to search more deeply and rigorously

and prayerfully in the Biblical text. The creeds are a light which help me find God's word in scripture.

The creeds also provide horizons within which to search God's word in scripture. This may be the positive way to speak of the limits they create. The creeds lay out the expansiveness of our faith – from creation to new creation – and so make room for the largest of questions to guide Biblical interpretation. The creeds, in other words, do not shut down conversation about the meaning of the Bible, but encourage it. To confess, as we do in the Nicene creed, that Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, is eternally begotten of the Father, is to begin an immensely interesting discussion with the Bible and interpreters of it. The horizon the creeds offer is filled with possibilities.

Why the creeds? Well, because without them the life of faith could be ever so much more confusing, ever so much less interesting and challenging, and less likely to refract the divine life and love.

A Message from the Alumni/ae Association...

On behalf of the Wycliffe College Alumni/ae Association I want to welcome new and returning students to a year of learning, growth and formation. This is a great time to be enrolled at the College, with strong academics and a strong sense of direction and purpose. Please know that the Alumni will be praying for you as you settle in and will be watching with interest as you explore your call from the Lord. We look forward to serving with you in the mission field.

In Christ,
Robert Szo
President, Wycliffe College Alumni/ae Association
W '96



Israel!!

An exciting trip to

Israel is on offer to Wycliffe students in all programs. We will be starting at Mt Sinai and visiting many of the most important Biblical sites, including Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, the Galilee, Jericho, Qumran, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The trip will be led by Prof. Ann Jervis from Wycliffe and Dr. Steve Notley from Emmaus Educational Services.

Dates: evening of Feb. 9– Feb. 23, 2009.

Cost: will be determined by mid to

late September. All Wycliffe students can expect some bursary help; students in the Masters level and above can expect financial assistance of anywhere between \$400 and \$1,000.

Information meeting:

Two options:

Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Reading Room; *or* Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. – bring your lunch to Cody Library.

For those unable to attend either meeting, please contact Ann Jervis at 416-946-3539 or at a.jervis@utoronto.ca

PROFILES IN MINISTRY

REMINDER!!

ALL first year M.Div Students to attend a brief meeting in the East Lecture Room at Wycliffe on

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
1:45—2:45 p.m.

Bring with you to the meeting your completed answer sheet and the case booklet if you have not yet handed them in.

Questions? Please talk to Barbara Jenkins in room 107 or barbara.jenkins@wycliffe.utoronto.ca



Registrar's Reminders - Marie Soderlund

Welcome to the 2008-09 academic year!

Please note the following important dates:

Friday, September 19: last day to add course for this semester.

Sunday, September 21: Last day to receive a 100% refund for courses dropped. NOTE: if you drop out of all courses on or after September 8 and have paid tuition, you will be charged \$198.00 cancellation fee.

Fee Payments

Tuition invoices are no longer being mailed to students from the UofT fees office. Please make sure to check your fees on ROSI and pay through you bank as soon as possible, but by mid-September at the latest. If you are receiving a bursary or discount from Wycliffe, we will be sending in that amount in the middle of September, and it will be credited to your account.

Refund Schedule

Please check the refund schedule on the UofT website: www.fees.utoronto.ca

Email Addresses

All students **MUST** have a utoronto email address. If you have not already done so, please activate your account this week. *Remember to update your RSOI record with this address.* You will miss important information if you neglect to do this.

Registering for a Summative Exercise/Thesis

Guidelines for registering for an MTS summative exercise, and M.Div. and M.Rel. thesis are on our website (look under '2008-2009 Academic Year'). The deadline for registering is the same as for all other courses, Friday, September 19.

Twenty Questions?

Are you new to Wycliffe? Are you looking for a vibrant spiritual community to plug into while you study at Wycliffe? Do you love hanging out with youth? Do you have gifts you'd like to share and experience in youth ministry? Do you want to serve in the Church by investing spiritually in the life of young people?



Okay, so it wasn't quite twenty questions! Matt Adams is a Wycliffe Graduate (Class of 2008) and the Youth Pastor at St. Paul's Bloor Street. If you are interested in serving in youth ministry at St. Paul's, send Matt an e-mail at madams@stpaulsbloor.org or

call him sometime at 416-961-5727 ext. 243.

STUDENT TECH SUPPORT POSITION

Wycliffe needs student tech support for 2008-09. The position can be shared between a resident and a non-resident.

Up to 10 hours per week. If you have computer system skills, apply to:

Tom Power, Leonard Hall,

call 416-946-3526 or,

email:

thomas.power@wycliffe.utoronto.ca



Hello from Students' Council! With one week of classes under your belt, you are good to go for the rest of the year. It is still that blissful time where stress has not yet come into the picture and we are excited about everything that we will learn this year. Now is the time to start planning our calendars so that we can be good students, and also be a part of the community as well. Wycliffe hopes to make well-rounded Christians. So, we at Students' Council encourage you to get involved with different committees, events, and community. Let us all get to know each other. Here are two ways:

ELECTIONS: Calling all first years, second years, and residents.

We need people to represent you!! How can we at Students' Council make sure your needs are met, if we can't hear you? Make your voice heard and nominate someone, or get people to nominate you, for the position of First Year Rep.—This person represents the first years, and only first years can vote for this person. This person is the advocate for first year students and plans an event each semester for them, which can include the larger community.

Second Year Rep.—It's the same as first year, except this position is elected by and representative of the second year class.

House Advocate: This is a resident who champions the needs of the residents. This person builds community throughout the residence by planning an event each semester, and works with the floor dons.

Nominations will be open from Wednesday—Friday this week. Forms will be available at the Front Desk.

Are you a part of the Wycliffe community (students, residents, involved family) and interested in how Wycliffe ought to live out the Gospel in active, practical, and evangelistic ways? Consider joining the Missions Committee—a year-long sub-committee of Students' Council. Our first meeting is this Tuesday, the 16th, at 1:30 p.m. If you are interested, contact Jonathan Crane right away in person or at jon.crane@utoronto.ca

THANK YOU!!!

I would like to extend deep appreciation to Dr. George Sumner for your openness to try something different, and to Rev. Annette Brownlee for leadership at the Wycliffe end in pulling together a very successful 1st annual Windrider@Wycliffe event. Many thanks also to all staff (especially Barbara Jenkins), student and the many faculty who came, helped out and participated—(and those of you who tolerated our intrusion).

Hope you all enjoyed it. I especially appreciated all the positive feedback. If you didn't take it in, I am sure you are hearing that you missed an interesting and thought-provoking series of evenings.

This event, in its formational stages, stands to become deeply significant to/in Toronto, at many levels. We are pleased to be partnering with Wycliffe, and other organizations such as Imago, and look forward to future events that lead to deep reflection, discussion and action—all part of the Kingdom.

To keep up to date on future events, check in at the www.windridertoronto.com site. Look for news of a scaled down version of this event in the coming months. We would appreciate discussion at the site—you can comment/provoke discussion at each of the three movie listings on the front page. For overall comments, helpful feedback, and if you would like to be involved on a forward going basis, feel free to email us at the Windrider site as well.

Thanks again, and many blessings on a successful academic year.

Imbi Medri-Kinnon

This Year's College Mission

... will be to the Northern Lights Parish in the Diocese of Algoma. This is a four-point rural parish north of North Bay, six hours north of Toronto. The priest is Linda White (a candidate in the upcoming election for bishop in Algoma) and a Wycliffe grad.

Dates: Thursday, October 23 till Sunday October 26 (the end of Reading Week). A weekend of fun, fellowship, learning and good ministry. More information at the Front Desk or speak to John Bowen.



Founders' Day

Sunday, October 5th

11:00 a.m.

St. James Cathedral

65 Church Street

Toronto

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Ann Jervis

(All Wycliffe students are strongly encouraged to attend and mingle during coffee hour - placements are cancelled for the day.)



WYCLIFFE
COLLEGE

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY EVENT

September 17, 2008

Biographical Information:

Peter Widdicombe, an Alumnus of Wycliffe College, is an ordained priest in the Diocese of Toronto and an Associate Professor at Mc Master University.

With A D.Phil. in Patristic Theology from the University of Oxford, his publications include "The Fatherhood of God from Origen to Athanasius" published by Oxford University Press and numerous articles in the Studia Patristica and other renowned theological journals.

Wycliffe is pleased to offer students, faculty and friends the opportunity to hear his lecture entitled:



Peter Widdicombe

Drunkenness, Nakedness, and the Redemption and Fall of an Image: Noah and Christ"

Principal Sumner writes:

Dr. Widdicombe's research helps us to understand how to read the Old Testament as part of the canon in light of the tradition of the interpretation of the early church

3:00pm in Sheraton Hall
Wycliffe College
5 Hoskin Avenue,
Toronto M5S 1H7

For Further Information, Phone: 416 946 3546 or Email: [barbara.jenkins@wycliffe.utoronto .ca](mailto:barbara.jenkins@wycliffe.utoronto.ca)

Child Care & Activities now available at the Wednesday Community Eucharist Pass it on!

We are pleased to offer care for toddlers and young children during the Wednesday Community Eucharist, beginning this Wednesday, September 17. This is one small way Wycliffe supports the families of its students, faculty and staff.

Rose and Brenna McDonald, who will be providing the care, are both high school students at Jarvis Collegiate and the daughters of Virginia and the Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald, Bishop of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. They are parishioners at St. Matthew's Riverdale.

They will be in the West Lecture Room from 4:30—6:00 p.m. each Wednesday, providing safety, care, and activities. Please introduce yourself and your children to them. You must sign your child in and out each Wednesday, in accordance with guidelines for safeguarding God's children (and their caregivers). If you would like your child to join you for communion, we invite you to go get them.

Annette Brownlee
College Chaplain

Breakfast with Bonhoeffer

WEEKLY DISCUSSION AND BRATWURST

Come Wednesday mornings for fellowship, food and some impacting words from Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship*. It will be a relaxed atmosphere and everyone is welcome. This is a bring your own sausage event (gourmet mustards will be provided). *Cost of Discipleship* is available at Crux for about \$7.

"When Christ Calls a man, he bids him come and die." - *Bonhoeffer*



Wednesdays

8:00 AM

Apartment A9

**Wycliffe
College
Residence**

More info:

steve@cvmcanada.com

416-619-1269

Chapel This Week

Date	Time	Officiant/Homilist	
Mon. Sept. 8	MP - 8:30 a.m.	Gaile Sullivan	1. Chris Roth, 2. Rich Clark
	EP - 5:30 p.m.	Ephraim Radner	1. Dane Neufeld, 2. Peggy Scott
Tues. Sept. 9	MP - 8:30 a.m.	Annette Brownlee	1. David Turner, 2. Cinda Clark
	EP - 5:30 p.m.	George Sumner	1. Jeff Boldt, 2. Christine Curley Peterson
Wed. Sept. 10	MP - 8:30 a.m.	Glen Taylor	1. Karen Baker, 2. Jonathan Crane
	HE - 4:45 p.m.	Stephen Andrews (P) Alan Hayes (C)	1. John Anderson; 2. Sue Channen; Server—Ian Martin; Sub-Deacon—Tom Dean; Intercessor—Kevin Love; Cantor—Liz Sipos; Greeter—Melissa Graham
Thurs. Sept 11	MP - 8:30 a.m.	Kevin Love/Chris Seitz	1. Ian Martin
	EP - 5:30 p.m.	Chris Roth	1. Ian Martin, 2. Christine Curley Peterson
Fri. Sept. 12	MP - 8:30 p.m.	Kari Marcelle	1. Katie Silcox, 2. Ephraim Radner
	EP - 5:30 p.m.	Peggy Scott	1. Liz Sipos, 2. Tom Dean

Cranmer Chapel Team will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on Wed. Sept. 10th.

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14	15	16	17 WE—Peter Widdicombe	18 MP-C Seitz	19 Board Meeting	20
21	22	23	24 WE—TST Extravaganza	25 MP-T Donaldson	26	27 TST Open House
28 Married M.Div. Pizza Night	29	30 Spiritual Mentors	1 October WE—I. Rock Codrington Coll.	2 MP - Ian Rock	3	4
5 Founders' Day	6	7	8 WE Bp Poole & Simon Bell—Urban Ministry	9 MP - Fleming Rutledge	10	11