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INSIGHT

*The Wycliffe College Newsletter
for Alumni/ae and Friends*

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Tuning our Strings to Spiritual but not Religious

BY RICK MARANTA
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

WHEN I WAS A KID, we used to have “music appreciation classes.” I can’t say I always “appreciated” going to them (and sometimes I didn’t go... don’t tell my mother). But sometimes when forced to listen to a particular tune, I would think to myself, “You know, that tune isn’t half bad!” and began to see the possibilities in aspects of that particular music mix. Have you ever tried to get into a new style of music? It takes some getting used to. It takes some openness to some unfamiliar sounds, rhythms and lyrics. It takes a bit of effort.

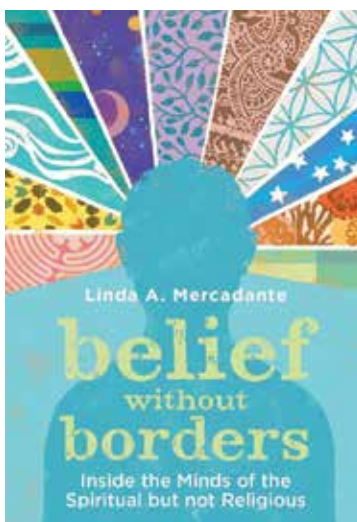
Facing change, like appreciating a new music style, isn’t always easy. It can take us out of our comfort zone; it can make us anxious, and it can leave us perplexed about our place in the larger scheme of things and even make us afraid. But sometimes it can be the best thing that ever happened to us, and to those around us. Sure, change can sometimes be hard, but Jesus often communicated to people around him that they needed to open their eyes and ears to new opportunities in times of change.

As a theological school serving the whole church, we need to find the positive propellant for our ministry within times of organizational and cultural change. A changing climate can force us to re-configure, re-evaluate and re-charge. It can give us that pivot point on which we can be vaulted in new creative directions and invigorate what we are already doing well. Wycliffe is facing that kind of change head on

as it searches for a new Principal, tries new ways to communicate the great value of Wycliffe to a new crop of students, and seeks to engage our culture in different ways so that we can continue to be salt and light in our world.

We recently invited noted theologian and researcher the Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante to spend time with us and help us understand the new realities of the growing “spiritual but not religious” culture. Linda, a professor of theology at the

Methodist Theological School in Ohio and founder of Healthybeliefs.org, has written an important book called *Belief without Borders* where she outlines what she sees as a seismic shift in the thinking of people when it comes to religion – a shift that the church and historic institutions like Wycliffe must face if we hope to remain relevant.



Continued on page 2...



Principal's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now you undoubtedly know that Principal George Sumner has been elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, Texas. George left for the south in early September and on November 14th, he was consecrated the 7th Bishop of that diocese.

Alongside this, it had been,

and continues to be, my privilege and delight to step into the breach as Interim Principal and I find myself enjoying challenges that are at once old and new. When I became principal thirty years ago, the College was a significantly different enterprise from the one we have today.

Student enrollment has nearly doubled, the annual budget has exponentially grown and a complexity of courses and programs tailored to an increasingly diverse student population are on offer. Wycliffe is better serving the whole Church and I wish to say thank you to every reader for your many gifts of time, money and prayer which have brought us to this day by God's grace.

I am impressed daily when I meet so many intelligent students who exhibit passionate determination to serve God and the Kingdom of Christ. Wycliffe remains blessed with a talented

faculty and dedicated staff whose varied gifts and strengths complement one another and accomplish an enormous corporate workload.

In this issue of INsight I hope you will be both challenged and encouraged by the faith journeys of several of our students, and that you will glean snippets of the lives and ministries of alumni/ae. Each of these "insights" is unique; but all are bound together as expressions of evangelical Christianity... a living faith guided by scripture, devoted to the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus, energized by his Holy Spirit, united in his church, and dedicated to the mission of his Kingdom in the world.

As you read, please pray for Wycliffe College students and for our leadership too, as we search for a new principal – that we may keep faith with our heritage and anticipate God's new and renewing work in the years ahead.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop Peter Mason
Interim Principal

Continued from page 1...

This shift is one of rapid decline in the involvement, affiliation, confidence, loyalty and belief in organized religion among a wide variety of people in our culture. Dr. Mercadante is quick to point out that according to her research, these people are not stereotypical anti-religious zealots, but represent a wide cross section of people in terms of age, race, sex, and economic status. They are also not necessarily people who have had traumatic religious experiences or are narcissistic, or atheists, or shallow people. On the contrary, they are mostly normal, thoughtful people who value morality deeply but for one reason or another, have come to the conclusion that organized religion is not the answer to their spiritual longing and so look elsewhere and within.

Though Dr. Mercadante goes into much more detail in her book about her discoveries, she offers hope. She finds that these people are often very open to the "sacred." They are seekers looking for meaningful practices that will satisfy their spiritual longings. They are open to theological discussion and want to be engaged on an intellectual level. They want tools to help them on their spiritual journey within an authentic community. I'd say they rather sound like perfect candidates to become Christ followers.

It's clear that religious institutions need to re-examine their relationship with this segment of society. However, we may not need to totally throw out the old hymnal to reconnect. Sometimes a classic song simply needs to be transposed to a new key and given a catchy beat for ears to begin listening once more.

From the Registrar's Office

BY BARBARA JENKINS, REGISTRAR
AND DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

In any institution there is a certain rhythm of activity that follows the seasons and then there are those times – and in Wycliffe's 138 year history, I am sure this is not the first time – when the unexpected shakes us up from the norm. Change is in the air at Wycliffe.

Our fall term started in a whirl of activity: more visitors, more events both inside and outside the College, and not just those to honour Principal Sumner's departure.

In the Admissions Office we processed a record number of Masters degree applications last year, up 25% over the previous year and we were predicting an additional 81 new students in August. Current students, our alumni/ae and friends of the College are the providers of first information most cited by the incoming class. Prospective students may land at our website for information but you have prompted them first, and we are grateful.

We admitted 64 Masters Degree Students, 3 more than last year. While our accrediting body, the Association of Theological Schools in North America and Canada (ATS), is reporting an overall decline in the numbers of students registering for the MDiv program, we saw 25 new MDivs enrolling in the fall, compared to 19 last year and another 5 deferring to January 2016. We admitted 33 incoming MTS including a cohort of 9 MTSD this fall.

For many of these students the reality of beginning school in September brought financial difficulties and competing demands on time that meant a change of plan. Some have deferred to January or to 2017. Others reduced the number of courses taken. Because of these realities, we saw the percentage of dropped classes in the first month of the term rise to 5.45% when the average percentage of dropped classes in the previous 4 sessions is only 1.75%.

Many of our students are forced to take a term away or a year off to raise funds. 16 students in our MDiv program and 33 MTS students are inactive this term.

This, seen in combination with the continuing trend towards part time studies, is putting a downward pressure on overall tuition revenue which



Continued on page 4...

Save the Date Upcoming Events

January 18-25, 2016

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 29, 2016

**Society and Culture Lecture Series with
Denis Alexander**

February 1, 2016

Preaching Day with Will Willimon

March 5, 2016

Open House for Prospective Students

March 10, 2016

**Institute of Evangelism Dinner with
Mike Michie**

March 19th, 2016

**Science and Faith Seminar (live-
streamed) with Lawrence M. Krauss,
Denis O. Lamoureux, and Stephen Meyer**

April 23, 2016

Women's Breakfast with Amy Orr Ewing

May 6-7, 2016

Refresh with Richard and Nathan Foster

May 9, 2016

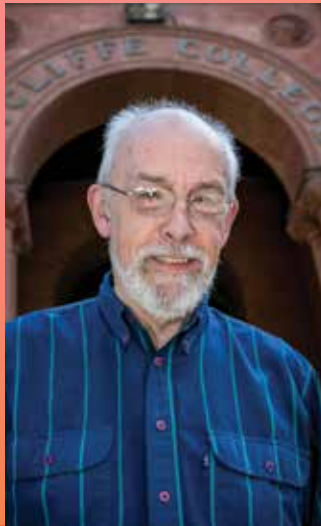
2016 Annual Convocation @7:30 PM

For more information:

Visit www.wycliffecollege.ca

Or find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/wycliffetoronto



AN UPDATE

BY JOHN BOWEN

Wycliffe Serves! is now in its third year of operation. Our goal remains to build bridges to churches where we are not known, by offering quality programs that serve their needs.

- Early in the school year, we linked with **Ravi Zacharias International Ministries** (RZIM) to host a book launch for Canadian Director Andy Bannister's new book, *The Atheist Who*

Didn't Exist: Or the Dreadful Consequences of Bad Arguments.

- On September 24th, we hosted a session of **Q Commons**. This event features international speakers whose talks are webcast from a central location in the US, with local speakers in 75 cities around the world. This was the first time Toronto had been one of these centres. Os Guinness was the featured speaker, while local speakers were Alexander Best, Joy Smith, and John Bowen. Seventy-five people attended. We look forward to the next Q event in March.
- In late October, the second **Peace in the City** conference took place at the college, in partnership with World Vision, attracting 50 people. Since *Wycliffe Serves!* seeks to partner with other organizations, this seems like a good fit.
- At the start of November we hosted one **lunch for university faculty** and another in our Society and Culture lecture series featuring Linda Mercadante, author of *Belief Without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious* (2014).

Then, in the New Year, we plan the following events:

- At the end of January (29th), we are hosting another **faculty lunch** and a **Society and Culture** lecture—with Dr. Denis Alexander of Cambridge University, a foremost expert on faith and science issues.
- **Preaching Day** will be on February 1st, and features the renowned preacher and Christian leader Bishop William Willimon.
- We are planning two **"big events"** featuring world-class speakers for an evening of dialogue that will be webcast to churches across Canada.
- The weekend of May 6–7 marks the return of the college's signature conference, **Refresh!** We are delighted that Richard Foster and his son Nathan will be with us, including Sharon Garlough Brown, author of *Sensible Shoes*.

In the background, we continue to support the Rev. Dr. Judy Paulsen as she puts together a new **Christian Foundations** course, and Dr. Wanda Malcolm in her **research into clergy wellness**.

Watch the college website for details of these exciting events as they unfold.

Continued from page 3...

is so important to the College. It highlights further the need for additional bursary funds so that we may better support students in the transition to graduate study.

Part time study also offers a challenge to class scheduling. We are looking to make our classes accessible from a distance by investing

in the technology to make this possible, and looking for innovative scheduling times.

Whilst institutional change can be unsettling, it also provides new opportunities and new solutions that will benefit Wycliffe College and our students in the future.

LEARNING TO LEAD TOGETHER

BY RICK MARANTA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

This past August, Wycliffe successfully piloted its first Indigenous Leadership Development week. Here is a brief description of the program.

The Indigenous Leadership Development program is a unique one week program each year that gathers Christian Indigenous Leaders from across the country to learn and grow together in partnership with Wycliffe College in Toronto.

One Goal, different experiences

To break the mold of western style learning and meet the needs of Indigenous people according to their cultural experience and heritage.

One people, different contexts

- Participants from Newfoundland to British Columbia from Southern Ontario to the Arctic.
- A wide range of ages from recent high school graduates to great grandparents.
- The meeting of Indigenous leaders with diverse cultural contexts but one faith

One agenda, different backgrounds

- Indigenous leaders like Bishops Mark MacDonald, and Lydia Mamawaka, and Ray Aldred team up with various Wycliffe Faculty to learn how to best serve Indigenous people and emerging leaders.
- Designed to adapt over time as leaders learn from students.

An investment in the formation of a future

- Free for all participants due to the generous financial support by the 3 year pilot project of Mr. & Mrs. Jim and Edna Claydon of Toronto.
- Additional costs covered by participant's local parish or diocese.



To learn more, read the article in the December 2015 print issue of the *Anglican Journal*.

To get involved, contact Julie Golding Page, Director of the Indigenous Leadership Development Program, jgoldingpage@wycliffe.utoronto.ca



From head of a school to head of a diocese

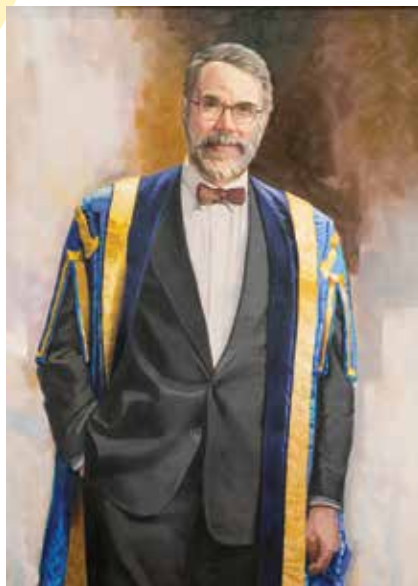
BY KAREN STILLER

(This article originally appeared in the autumn 2015 issue of In Trust magazine. It is reprinted with the permission of the Association of Boards in Theological Education.)

THE PRINCIPAL OF **WYCLIFFE COLLEGE**, one of the member institutions of the **Toronto School of Theology**, has been elected the seventh bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. The Rev. Canon Dr. George Sumner was consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church on November 14, 2015.

For Sumner, who earned a doctorate in systematic theology at Yale, this means a move from academia into local church leadership — in the crucial role of chief pastor of a 77-parish diocese. *In Trust* asked Sumner to reflect on this transition and the leadership lessons that apply to both academy and church.

What lessons from being a theological college leader will you bring to your new role as bishop?



Theological college principals are a pool from which people choose bishops. That overlap has been recognized in England and Africa for years. There are some similar dynamics. Bishops deal with young ordinands and fundraising, for example.

A principal has a kind of pastoral role, for faculty and board. However, a diocese is bigger than a college, so the pastoral role of a bishop is an order of magnitude larger.

What were the most important leadership lessons you learned at Wycliffe?

I learned to trust the people who created the authority structures in the school, who wrote the bylaws and handbooks. I found it was important to resist taking powers for myself that weren't mine, but at the same time, to exercise the authority I was given.

A principal needs to be sensitive to the faculty's hopes and interests and take all the different constituencies into account. But at the end of the day, you can't shy away from leading the organization. You have your thumb in every pie as the head of a school, but there is someone watching the kitchen, which is the board.



So, don't back away from authority, but use it. That's a strategic lesson.

Personally, I learned a lot about fundraising. The outsider doesn't understand that half of the job of a college principal is development. It is talking to friends, encouraging them, and raising money. Lots of people who have other areas of expertise don't have much experience in raising funds. It's good that schools hire scholar-pastors as their leaders, but they have to be willing to learn this other role.



How will that translate into being a bishop?

The classic definition of bishop is “pastor of pastors.” You’re also their supervisor, so people don’t always want to come to you with their pastoral issues. That’s one of the challenges with bishops. The idea that people will go to their bishop with what they are struggling with is not realistic, although you are their pastor ultimately.

The life of the diocese is the parishes. A bishop works through the parishes, but the parishes have their own life. A bishop’s role is to figure out what helps them thrive.

When I started here at Wycliffe, another principal said the engine that moved our college was the faculty. Because a school rises and falls on the faculty, they must be productive and not fight with one another.

And the administrators must not divert energy away from the faculty’s work. You can’t be running another, separate, ring of the circus. Everything has to come out of the faculty and go back into it.

Similarly, as a bishop, everything you do must feed into parishes. Parishes are where people hear the Gospel, so everything goes back to them. In both academic life and in church administration, it’s helpful to remember that administrators serve those who teach and lead others. Bishops serve their priests, who shepherd their parishes. Academic administrators serve their faculty, who teach and guide students.

Administration is letting people do their thing, not micromanaging, but setting up parameters. It’s saying, “Here’s the field, but I’m not going to manage your kicking and running.”

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

The role requires a person who is interested in knowing what to do in situations that are complicated, and where the path forward is unclear. There’s an excitement in that.

Dallas is dynamic and growing. It has a remarkable diocese, and the diocese wants to engage this exciting region evangelistically. It has a lot of young clergy who describe themselves as evangelically catholic.

In terms of leaving Wycliffe College, I live in a world of theologians, but the person who said the most interesting thing to me was Wanda Malcolm, who teaches pastoral psychology at Wycliffe. She said that for theologians, the greatest challenge is to feel. You have to let yourself feel a range of emotions, including loss.



Aidan Armstrong

When I first arrived at Wycliffe at the end of the summer of 2013, I was a wide-eyed and excited 22-year-old setting out to start seminary and do my M Div. The previous year I completed my Bachelor of Theology at Huron College in London, Ontario, and was now set to start my M.Div. at Wycliffe as the final leg of my journey in training for the priesthood. I have now come to the end of that journey and am getting ready for ordination in the Diocese of Algoma. I look back at my time at Wycliffe with great fondness; the community, the classes, the placements and the chapel have all shaped and formed me in profound ways. Wycliffe has a lineup of world-class professors, high academic standards, and the most spiritually forming and supportive



STUDENT FOCUS

community, and is on the cutting edge of training priests for the church in the 21st century! As I look back over the last three years here at Wycliffe, I can see that it has truly been a blessing in my life, and has formed and shaped me to be a priest in the church in a very deep way. Wycliffe has offered me many wonderful opportunities to grow as an individual and a leader, whether through work done in Founders' Chapel or the various events that Wycliffe runs throughout the year. Although three years seems like a long time, seminary is a very short season in the life of a person training for the priesthood or leadership in the church. I would encourage all students to get as involved at Wycliffe as they can, because it will influence them in wonderful ways—and they will not regret it!

Amanda MacInnis-Hackney

When I was in seminary in Saskatchewan, I had several mentors who helped me discover a love for teaching theology. As I was finishing up my thesis and final year of classes, I realized that my educational journey wasn't done quite yet, and so I began to apply to PhD programs. I chose Wycliffe for several reasons. First, theology is done in and for the church, and because of that it is, at its very core, a discipline of prayer. Wycliffe embodies this, both in its deep desire to serve the church, and in its commitment to creating a space for prayerful theological reflection in the classroom and in the weekly practice of community Eucharist. Second, academic rigour and the Christian faith are not inimical to each other, and the quality of scholarship offered by the professors at Wycliffe



STUDENT FOCUS

is probably the highest of any theological institution in Canada. Finally, each student undertaking a PhD has unique challenges. For students who are married, the question becomes, How do you juggle two callings? For my family, these next few years will require us to be bi-provincial: my husband and kids remain in Saskatchewan, while I stay in the dorm at Wycliffe, flying back monthly and Skyping daily. Living on the third floor of Wycliffe has allowed me to be immersed in the college's community, and has given me the opportunity to attend a variety of extracurricular activities such as conferences, colloquia, and public lectures. I am thankful for the support and opportunities that I have received so far in this first year at Wycliffe.

Courtney Reeve

My name is Courtney Reeve, and this fall I entered the incredible Masters of Theological Studies in Urban and International Development program at Wycliffe College.

I grew up as a witness to Indonesia's poverty. The mosque's call to prayer would wake me up in the morning, followed by a plate of freshly cut pineapple, mango, and papaya for breakfast, prepared by my family's pembantu, or helper. I lived safely tucked into a tropical paradise while the Indonesians who worked in my home lived without privilege in their own country. These realities greatly confused me, inciting me to investigate the reasons why this was happening.

This investigation was never divorced from my faith. The deeper I dug into scripture, the more I saw the necessity for justice and reconciliation. The announcement of the Kingdom of God means the liberation of captives and the dancing of the lame!



STUDENT FOCUS

This investigation was also never divorced from the actualities of power and poverty. The more I learn, the more I see my own responsibility and complicity in systems that perpetuate injustice.

I chose the MTSD program to pursue Christian witness and transformational development. This program is enabling me to integrate my faith with rigorous academic work that is theological, practical and theoretical. I am wholly dissatisfied with the state of the world I live in, and I desire to see change happen from within our communities. Driven by the convictions of my faith to advocate for the poor, orphans, and widows, I seek actively to bring about the wholeness and well-being of communities one at a time! I enthusiastically embark on this academic journey towards fuller, more nuanced understandings of the complexities that explain the disparities of our lived experiences across the world.

Wycliffe's First MOOC a Success

BY THOMAS POWER

Wycliffe College is the first TST college to launch a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). Available through many universities and colleges around the world, these courses are available on the internet and available to anyone with an internet connection.



Jesus at the Turning of the Ages is the title of a free, online, non-credit course being offered through Wycliffe College's Open Learning initiative. It is open to all.

The course helps people read the books of the New Testament as they would be read, in light of Jesus' resurrection, in the context of the first century, and with an eye to our own world.

In each of the twelve course units, participants view a short video introduction, and then listen to and view audio slides, do an optional quiz, participate in a discussion forum, and do an optional assignment. The course was developed by faculty, graduates, and graduate students of Wycliffe College with financial support from the Anglican Foundation.

Available since September, the course has attracted over 125 learners across the country from Fort Nelson, BC to Twillingate, NL, and places in between like Winnipeg, Sydney, and Saint John, and places all over Ontario like Thunder Bay, Goderich, Mount Hope, Burlington, Sudbury, Woodstock, Orillia, and Waterloo. There are also study groups in churches in Brantford. Some are doing it with youth groups. Bishop Lydia Mamawkwa has ten students taking the course.

The majority of course participants are Anglican, but people of Roman Catholic, United Church, and Baptist background have also signed up. In most cases people are taking the course as individuals and for general interest. There has been a very positive response to the course.

Comments from students:

"I thirst for Christian education and long to gain knowledge to strengthen relationships and have an impact on those around me, hoping to bring them to Christ. Looking forward to the stress-free e-learning!! Blessings!"

"We have a group of four of us gathering each week to take the class, watch the lecture and have discussions on the readings. One of our group is a grade 12 student who is considering working towards study in theology in post-secondary education; the rest of us are lay readers of the 60+ age group."

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER IN FRENCH DONATED TO GRAHAM LIBRARY

BY THOMAS POWER

As a parting gift to the library, George Sumner donated a French translation of the Book of Common Prayer published in Dublin in 1704. Its full title is as follows: *La liturgie, c'est à dire, le formulaire des prieres publiques: de l'administration des sacremens, et des autres ceremonies & coutumes de l'eglise, selon l'usage de l'Eglise d'Irlande: avec le psautier, ou les psaumes de David, ponctuez selon qu'ils doivent être, ou chantez, ou leus dans les eglises.* A Dublin: Chez André Crook, Imprimeur de la Reine demuerant sur le Blind Key, 1704. It was translated by J. Durel. Although copies are plentiful in libraries worldwide, the Graham Library copy is unique for the University of Toronto Library.



Why would a French translation of the BCP be published in Dublin in 1704, since its population was largely English-speaking? The answer lies with the Huguenots, that group of French Protestants who were ejected from France by King Louis XIV when he revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The latter had been enacted by his predecessor, Francis I, in 1598 by which he granted toleration to French Protestants called Huguenots. An estimated 10,000 of them fled to Ireland in the 1690s.

Dublin printers worked closely with the Huguenot community in the city. The bulk of their output was religious in its subject matter. As well as careers in the army and the church, the Huguenots of Dublin were prominent in banking and international trade. Some also became booksellers.

The first decade saw the emergence of two types of Huguenot congregations: those that conformed and adopted the liturgy of the Church of Ireland, and those that were non-conformist who retained their own forms of worship, thereby incurring the hostility of the established church and foregoing financial assistance that the state made available to conformist congregations. Attempts to impose conformity were not always easy, for example, some of the French pastors resisted re-ordination under the Anglican rite. But on the whole conformity made sense as it opened opportunities for advancement in the religious, social, and economic life of the city for the refugees. The Church of Ireland produced various publications including this translation of the BCP to assist these French Protestants conform to its form of worship and liturgy.



The Facts of Fatalism

A sermon preached in Founders' Chapel at Wycliffe

BY PROF. CHRIS SEITZ

CONSUMERISM, INDIVIDUALISM, NARCISSISM, HEDONISM. Let's face it. The people caught up in these things are enjoying themselves. We may well have a dedicated hedonist or narcissist with us this morning! Take away the negative labels, and one can sense the allure. Even if corrosive over time and certain to bring a hangover.

But fatalism doesn't have this same aura. It seems more obscure. Darker. I can't recall many happy fatalists. Once in Scotland I shared a hospital room with a bona fide Wee-Free Presbyterian who not only believed in election but knew himself to be elect. I grant he did seem to enjoy this status, fated to be saved. But I have never met anyone like him before or since.

So I'm going to work this morning with an interpretation of fatalism, or the spiritual disease that animates it. I have in my mind's eye the man who for 38 years sat by the pool at Bethsaida. He told Jesus he couldn't wash there because people got in front of him, or pushed him aside. 38 years is a long time. That must feel like fate. Fatalism: the disease the monks called the Noon-Day Devil. The voice of despair. "Who cares?" "What's the point?" "I'm stuck." "Here we go again." "It's no use." "Time ain't on my side, no it ain't."

When I saw that Isaiah was chosen for our reading I assumed it was a passage often held to describe fatalism. "I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create woe. I the Lord, do all these things" You there, sit by a pool for 38 years. You over there, collect 38 million in a lottery. I form light, I create woe. I the Lord, do all these things.

These verses from the 45th chapter of Isaiah have been so read. But that would make them stand in sharp contrast to otherwise triumphant chapters. For Israel is in despair. She is stuck in time. The idol-isms that marked sinfulness and avoidance of judgment have crashed to earth. Full judgment has brought its curtain down. Kings murdered, people deported, land forfeited, temple gone, sacred memories shattered. "She has received double for all her sins," the prophet announces.

And it is into just this state of affairs that the prophet cries with energy, "Comfort, comfort my people, speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her, that her warfare is ended, her iniquity pardoned." Fatalism be gone. "Behold I do a new thing." "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."

Fatalism is a disease that refuses to pray because God is gone. That cannot escape the gravity of doubt, guilt, conviction of sin, or overriding injustice and spiritual confusion. That these ailments are not all on one page, and some may even be opposites, shows the strength of fatalism's grip. Our divinely inspired prophet counter-punches, because God counter-punches inside him. The silence of despair and fatalism is shattered exactly at the place where it

is allowed full voice.

If you were asked to name a psalm that most gives voice to despair and fated darkness—and the competition would be strong—I believe the average parishioner would say, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me, and art so far from my groaning." Far, but also painfully near in absence, in our felt loss of His presence.

There is no book in antiquity or on our shelves today that is more honest about the spiritual despair of the very people God has elected to share his life with. We want to bank the fires of despair, or call them unlucky. Things that will pass as mysteriously as they came. And when they are gone, we keep them out of the photo album. But the psalmist asks that his tears be stored in a bottle. His request is granted in the words of these psalms that we recite day by day. And on this law, Psalm 1 tells us, the righteous meditate day and night.

What then breaks the spell of fatalism? It is surely the participation in the cries and groans of those who have been faithful before us. Calvin knows that the Godly are those for whom these expressions of doubt and grief are most real and most true and most healing. How can that be?

Surely it is his knowledge and ours that the Son of God walked into the place of utter fated death and darkness, and joined his voice of forsakenness with every known human instance of that. "He became sin who knew no sin." Because it is God's very own self that wills to conquer all that comes between us and him. "Behold, I do a new thing. Created now, and not before." Something never created before: a death with the authority to destroy death. A fate, his fate, defeating fatalism. With the power to take up our cries of injustice or proper justice, sinfulness or innocence, entropy or stout rebellion,

attack from without and from within, allow them vent, and then say back with final full force "behold I do a new thing." Behold I make all things new. Get up, take up your bed, and walk. Roll the stone away.

The halls of time are littered with refuse from the work of the Noon-Day Devil. Israel's heart and spirit were broken by deserved judgment, a fate that engulfed and overwhelmed. Yet here it is, in just this place, where God promises to do his best work, for those who cry out and put their trust in his final power to declare and to make all things new.

"Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, – those
hedonists –
the jackals and the ostriches,
– O consumerist – O individualist

for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.

SENIOR STICK

**Rob Montgomery, 3rd Year
M.Div Pioneer, and 2015–2016
Senior Student**



We have much to be thankful for here at Wycliffe, even in the midst of challenges and change.

This fall we bid farewell to our long-serving and much-loved principal, the Rev. Canon Dr. George Sumner, as he has answered the call to serve God in a new way: as the Bishop of Dallas, Texas. As we send him south with our prayers and best wishes, and take up the challenge of discerning our own new way forward, we continue to trust in God's guidance, and have already experienced His gracious care.

At our fall retreat this year, we were blessed to hear from several members of Wycliffe's faculty on the topic of 2 Cor. 12:10 ("Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."), talking specifically about weakness, grace, and the spiritual life. As if to drive

this important point home, the staff and faculty again defeated the students in the annual volleyball challenge... very graciously, I might add.

Our Student Council has been quite active so far, with events like Oktoberfest drawing the community together, and our Advent/Christmas celebrations on the horizon. The council has also taken on some new and promising projects, such as hosting a Quiet Retreat in early January, planning to expand and solidify the college's green initiatives, and increasing Wycliffe's involvement in local mission and theological discourse. Overall, I am very excited to see what God will graciously unfold from their efforts, and I consider it an honour to serve our Lord and Wycliffe alongside this team.

Blessings, all, and give thanks with us for what God continues to do here at Wycliffe College.



Wycliffe's Bold Vision for the Future

BY RICK MARANTA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

One of the things George Sumner left us as he transitioned out of his role as Principal of Wycliffe and into his new position as Bishop of Dallas is a bold vision for Wycliffe's future impact on the church and the world. In the area of communications, we continue to try our best to move that vision forward by growing our social media presence, improving our print media, developing videos, and launching a new website with a new look that will better meet the needs of our prospective students.

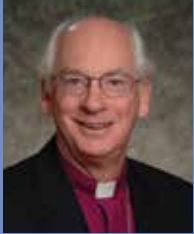
Our goal is to do justice to the tradition and excellence that Wycliffe is known for and to make it more widely known. We are one of the top theological

schools in North America, so we have chosen to push to the forefront Wycliffe's beautiful crest and re-present it to reflect modern standards. We are proudly rooted in an historic Anglicanism, we have world-class faculty, and we hold to an evangelical faith that places Christ at its centre.

It's time to get our message out more widely. Please take the time to visit our website, like our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, listen to us on SoundCloud, and watch us on YouTube. Most of all, if you see something that inspires you, share it with your friends, and let them know that Wycliffe is worth their time.



The banner features a large, vibrant stained glass image of John Wycliffe, a prominent figure in the history of Wycliffe College. He is depicted with a long white beard, wearing a blue cap and a green robe, holding a book. The background of the stained glass is filled with intricate patterns in red, blue, and gold. The website layout includes a dark blue header with the Wycliffe College logo and navigation links: 'The Difference', 'Faculty & Staff', 'Programs & Courses', 'Admissions & Finance', and 'Wycliffe Life'. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links: 'ABOUT US', 'CURRENT STUDENTS', 'ALUMNI/AE', 'GIVE TO WYCLIFFE', 'WYCLIFFE SERVES', and 'CONTACT US'. A search icon is located on the right. A white text box on the right side of the banner contains the text: 'Growth from the Roots', 'Rooted in an evangelical Anglican tradition. Growing together as a diverse Christian community.', and a 'Learn More >>' link. At the bottom of the banner, the text reads: 'A Graduate School of Theology at the University of Toronto.' and 'Learn what makes Wycliffe unique >>'.



My dear friends,

What a wide range of experience is represented in this collection of excerpts from various grads who have let us know of their current ministries and personal reflections. Enjoy catching up with some of your fellow Wycliffe alumni/ae!

Bishop Peter Mason, Interim Principal

From the 1950s

The Rev. Earl Gerber, W53. More than a half century ago, Earl, his wife Betsie and some of their children ministered in Canada's northland. A few months ago the manuscript of his book entitled *NAKOMENGAI* ("Our Life Among the Inuit") found its way into print. A healthy number of sales has been reported, and the book has found a warm reception by friends, neighbours, and fellow parishioners. Running to 153 pages with photos, the book depicts the life of the Gerber family among the Inuit of eastern Hudson Bay from 1954 – 1960 with a final chapter describing a return trip in 1969. The title of the book is an Eskimo expression which (roughly translated) means "THANKS A LOT, EH?" A copy will soon be available at the college; well done, Earl!

The Rev. Canon Howard Green, W54. Not to be outdone in the literary field, Howard Green recently wrote a book review of "Heresy: A History of defending the Truth" by the Rev. Dr. Alister McGrath. Originally written for the *Anglicans for Renewal* magazine, it was chosen by the Canadian Church Press for a Media Review Award of Merit in May, 2015. Congratulations, Howard.

The Rev. John Yamane, W57. News of the election of Principal George Sumner as Bishop of Dallas quickly reached Japan. John writes...I will remember the day of George's consecration and I will pray for the Holy Spirit for his new ministry... Thank you John for this encouragement and support.

From the 1980's

The Rev. William Sheppard, W80. Bill recently retired from pastoral ministry having served for three years at St. Columba, Manor Park, in the Diocese of Ottawa. Elizabeth and Bill have also been much involved in grandchild care in Ottawa, and are now headed home to Nova Scotia where their son has recently found employment. They all look forward to being closer to one another as extended family and friends.

The Rev. Canon David Barrett, W85. David has recently resigned as rector of the Parishes of Hammond River and Quispamsis in the Diocese of Fredericton. Now he has taken up duties as Anglican Chaplain at the Saint John Regional Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital. A new adventure for Alexandra and David: purchasing a home (their first!) in West Saint John. And another first? Attending university

graduation ceremonies for all three daughters in 2016!

The Rev. Kenneth Davis, W86. Ken has recently moved to Perth, Ontario where he was appointed the incumbent priest and pastor at St. James the Apostle, Perth and St. Augustine, Drummond. Ken and Gillian are grateful for the warm welcomes they have received as they settle in to the wonderful community of Perth – perhaps the prettiest town in Ontario.

The Rev. Canon Kimberley Beard, W89. Wycliffe's own peripatetic missional entrepreneur and rector of St. Paul's On-The-Hill, Pickering, Ontario, co-ordinated a seventeen member mission team to work with Bishop Grant and Wendy LeMarquand in Gambella, Ethiopia, in July. The team laid tile flooring, provided construction mentoring, and processed books for the theological library at the Anglican Centre. Five team members also served with the Missionaries of Charity as volunteers with mentally and physically challenged children in Addis Ababa. Last month Kim visited St. George's Church in Tunis bringing donated supplies for mission work, and then next April he will lead a group to northern Spain to walk a 120 km portion of the ancient pilgrimage 'Camino' route.

David Locke and family



Alumni/ae Updates

of two Toronto long term homes – Fudger House and Bendale Acres. She continues to enjoy her involvement at the Church of St. George the Martyr and Contemplative Fire, Canada.

Luke LaRocque, W12. Luke has recently moved to Gravenhurst, Ontario, to become Executive Director of Beacon Bible Camp. Congratulations on this new appointment, Luke!

Jason Postma, W15. Jason is about to be ordained this November in the Diocese of Huron; he is currently serving as lay pastoral assistant and will become assistant curate in the regional ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara, and Chatsworth. Life consists of learning the ropes of rural ministry in a four point parish, and assisting the rector and leadership team in discerning the will and direction of God in the congregations and communities.



Martin Tam

Martin Tam, W15. Martin has recently begun a new position as the English Ministry Pastor at St. Christopher's Church, Richmond Hill, Ontario. He is responsible for ministry among children, youth, and young families, and also preaches an adult sermon every Sunday. He is hoping to kick-start a youth group partnering with other Chinese Anglican churches, including St. John's, Willowdale. And all of this is under the supervision of **the Rev. Philip Der, W94.**

From the 1990's

The Rev. Canon John Cathcart, W94. Having retired from parish ministry a year ago and settled in the Diocese of Niagara, John was pleasantly surprised to serve as interim priest at the Parish of Holy Trinity in Fonthill, Ontario. "I am thoroughly enjoying this opportunity to be among God's people once again, and to get to know one another in Jesus Christ our lord." May you continue to enjoy your 'retirement' John!

The Rev. Richard White, W94 & The Ven. Linda White, W94. Linda continues to serve at St. John's, North Bay, Ontario and Richard recently did an interim posting at the Parish of St. Martin's in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Richard anticipates returning to the Arabian Gulf, hopefully with Linda! The Whites have seven grandchildren and are enjoying a very busy retirement.

The Rev. Rob Szo, W96. Rob writes describing the 3rd annual parish weekend in the Parish of Central Saanich in the Diocese of British Columbia, with Wycliffe faculty member **the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen** as leader. Under the weekend theme – "Jesus said that?" Judy challenged parishioners to relate the teachings of Jesus to life today. One memorable quote...the Gospel is not easy or comfortable. But it is true. Rob concludes: "There was a real buzz during the weekend and I'm confident that many seeds were planted and much fruit will be seen. Thanks be to God!"

From the 2000's

The Rev. Doug Woods, W02. Doug indicates that he and former Principal Sumner both came to Wycliffe around the same time, and recalls him with great affection. Now retired, Doug is currently serving as associate for pastoral care at St. Luke's Church, Peterborough, Ontario, where fellow Wycliffe grad, the Rev. Steve Smith W 02, also ministered.

David Locke, W04. David and Joy welcomed their third child, Anna Christine, into their family last December. David continues in his role as worship pastor at ClearView Christian Reformed Church, Oakville, Ontario. Joy, in addition to being full time Mom and home school teacher, continues to serve part time as a Christian Counsellor in Oakville.

The Rev. Michael Peterson, W04. Michael graduated last June from Wilfred Laurier University with a M.A. in Religious Studies, focussing on the history and praxis of religious pluralism in the military and chaplaincy. This summer he took up a new posting as Course Director at the Royal Canadian Chaplaincy School at C.F.B. Borden, near Barrie, Ontario. Michael's wife Kay is currently battling ovarian cancer, and they ask for the prayers of the Wycliffe family.

From the 2010's

Ms. Mary Barclay, W11. Mary is now coordinator of spiritual and religious care



PRESENTING PAPERS AT THE SBL

A number of our faculty and students presented papers at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference and General Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 21-24.

Ramone R. Billingsley: A Recipe for a Feast: An Examination of Lady Hackett's Reading of Psalm 25

Robert G. T. Edwards: The First Advent of Christ in Victorinus of Pettau's Commentary on Revelation

J. Glen Taylor: Reading Psalms 51 and 130 with Protestant Reformer Katharina Schütz Zell

Marion Taylor: Biblical Criticism Æ la Femme

Nathan Wall: Malady and Medicine: God's Justice and Mercy in Anne Locke's Sonnet Sequence on Psalm 51

Chandra Wim: Hermeneutics of Love and Conversion: Augustine on the Character of the Interpreter

Andrew Witt: When David Strikes His Harp: The Work of Mary Anne Schimmelpennick on the Psalms

Bruce Worthington: Christianity Appears First, as Itself

Mari Leesment: Kierkegaard Explains Ecclesiastes: Contradictions as a Reflection of the Limits of Wisdom for Describing Life Under God

Catherine Sider Hamilton: Scripture Embodied: Perpetua's Passion and the Pauline Story of Salvation

A BOOK BY ONE OF OUR STUDENTS



Oriented

BY GORDON HARRIS

"In a world full of competing voices, where do we go to make sense of life? In *Oriented*, Gordon C. Harris takes us on a journey into the heart of Genesis 1-11, the ancient words meant to immerse us into the nature of reality. It is a journey coloured with poetic reflection and undergirded with scholarship and faith. One which engages both modern culture and ancient mindsets, but one which also faces the hard questions. It is a compelling read that awakens us to beauty and love. And ultimately orients us to God."

Gordon has a Masters degree in Theology and is currently pursuing a PhD. He oversees all curriculum development for Catch The Fire.



SOCIAL STATS

In the past year,

- 454 Facebook Page Likes
- 513 Twitter Followers
- 58 YouTube Subscribers, 4,862 views and 41,378 minutes watched
- 254,832 web site page views
- 887 Audio sermons, lectures and seminars listened to online

Primed for a new PhD

BY ALAN HAYES

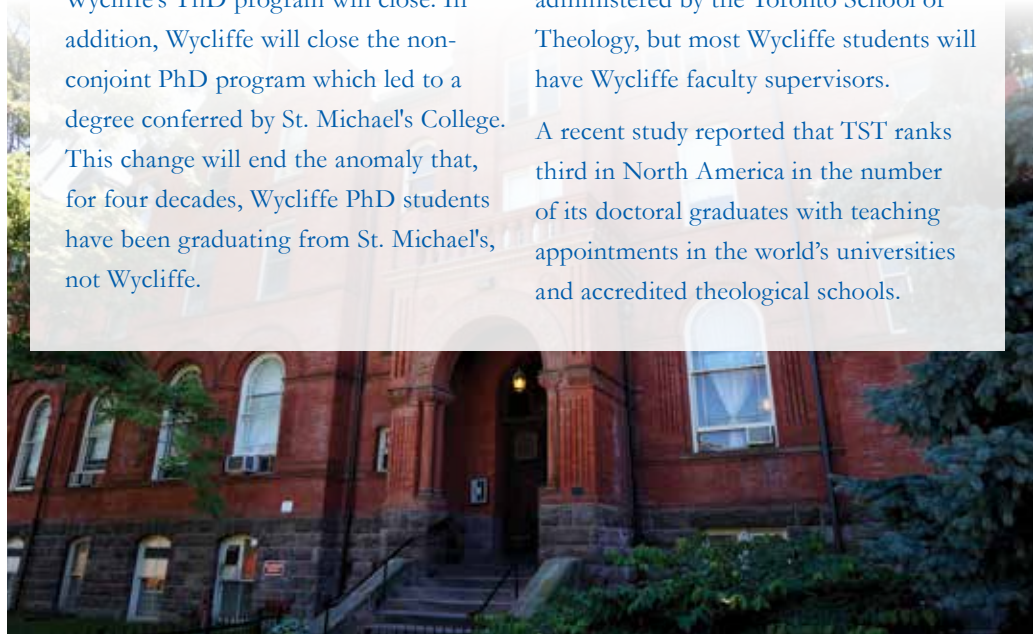
Wycliffe's newest program, a PhD in Theological Studies that's jointly awarded by the University of Toronto, attracted 24 new students in September. The quality of this program compares favourably with the world's best research doctoral programs in theological studies.

With the conjoint PhD in place, Wycliffe's ThD program will close. In addition, Wycliffe will close the non-conjoint PhD program which led to a degree conferred by St. Michael's College. This change will end the anomaly that, for four decades, Wycliffe PhD students have been graduating from St. Michael's, not Wycliffe.

Fourteen of our 24 conjoint PhD students were transferred from the ThD. Ten were new to Wycliffe.

The new program is characterized by strong supervisory arrangements, cohort formation, teacher training, focused attention on research method, and interdisciplinary perspectives. It's administered by the Toronto School of Theology, but most Wycliffe students will have Wycliffe faculty supervisors.

A recent study reported that TST ranks third in North America in the number of its doctoral graduates with teaching appointments in the world's universities and accredited theological schools.



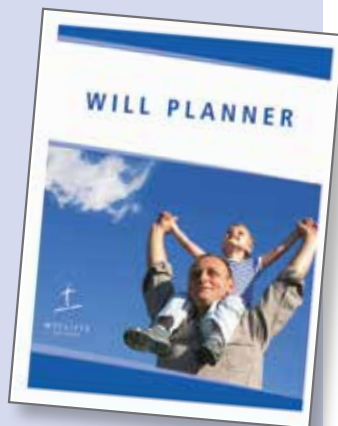
VISION...

Planning or Revising your Will?

Wycliffe College is pleased to offer a unique workbook that can help you plan your will or enhance the one you already have. It is free and yours for the asking.

With over half of Canadians reporting that they do not have a will, the Wycliffe College Will Planner is designed to help people start that process or refine plans already made.

To receive your free copy, please contact Rob Henderson by phone at 416-946-3538 or email rob.henderson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca.



WYCLIFFE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:



On November 7th, over 90 women gathered at Wycliffe College, shared a meal, connected with each other and listened to **The Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante** explore the topic of Spiritual but not Religious. As well, we heard from Wycliffe student, Amanda MacInnis-Hackney, who shared her inspiring story of her journey to begin her doctoral studies and living at Wycliffe, while her husband and young children are at home in Saskatchewan.

Please join us at the next Women's Breakfast on **Saturday April 23rd from 9:30 to 11:30 am** and listen to **Amy Orr-Ewing**. Contact Florence Chan at fchan@wycliffe.utoronto.ca or (416) 946-3535 ext. 2559 for more details and to RSVP.