



Wycliffe
College

Insight

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Forward
in Faith

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A home, a sacred space

By The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen G.W. Andrews



Dear Friends,

MOST BUILDINGS ARE DESIGNED to be functional spaces. But because of the purposes they serve in the communities that inhabit them, they often take on symbolic or even iconic significance. Churches are the most striking examples of this. On the one hand, they are constructed to provide a place to gather for worship. But they are not always practical. Steeples, vaulted ceilings and stained glass—these things have no pragmatic ends. They are intended to stimulate our imaginations and to lift our eyes to heaven. Moreover, churches become associated with events that have deep personal significance. Upon hearing that her church had voted to close, a tearful parishioner said to me, “My dad helped to build this church. I was baptised and married here.”

By comparison to our neighbours to the north, Wycliffe College is not a particularly grand building. But our home has its own beauty and carries with it many rich associations. A Victorian structure made of local brick, it bears a simplicity that appealed to the low-church sensibilities of our founders. And, as a strictly practical structure, it has served us well. We offer accommodation to 75 or so mature students and families, we have 21st century technology in our class-

rooms, and we are hosts to a variety of events that serve the church and the university. As I write this, for instance, our foyer becomes a busy intersection for hundreds of U of T undergraduates nervously anticipating final exams in Sheraton Hall.

I say a quiet prayer for them as I thread my way to my office, hoping that their associations with Wycliffe are positive ones!

*But I know that many
of those reading this issue
will have their own
memories of the College.*

Hopefully the anxiety of sitting exams will all but be replaced by recollections of rich learning and the establishment of life-long friendships. From time to time, I will call a graduate to say that we are praying for them in the Wycliffe Cycle of Prayer. Every conversation will include some treasured memory and, not uncommonly, an amusing anecdote. The celebration of Dr. Stackhouse's life in December was very much centred on what this building meant to him. He enjoyed pointing out how important the Chapel steps were in his courtship of Margaret!

Of course, the engine room of the Col-

lege is the Chapel. It is there that we are reminded of the origins of our mission in the world, and where we uphold one another, our Church, our world, and our extended Wycliffe family in daily prayer. In the beautiful Chapel windows, we see the story of Bible translation and gospel proclamation in Canada and beyond, and in our spirits we see ourselves continuing that story—colourful figures, perhaps, in the windows being framed by a divine artisan. I know that my appreciation of the Chapel is shared by many, as our appeal for the replacement of the slate roof elicited a wonderfully generous response.

A major concern of ours is to see this cherished building preserved and enhanced. But just as the building represents more than bricks and mortar, so our aspirations for its use are greater. We see this as sacred space; space where students “may so learn truth as to bear its light along their ways, and so learn Christ as to be found in him.” Thank you for your interest in Wycliffe. We depend on your prayers and value your partnership.

With every good wish in Christ,

Stephen Andrews,
Principal

“An enduring mark” on Canada, on Wycliffe

By Alan Hayes

Reginald Francis Stackhouse (1925–2016) was closely associated with Wycliffe for most of his life. He moved into residence as an undergraduate in 1943 and did his theological studies there; he was appointed a professor in 1965; he served as Principal from 1975 to 1985; and during his so-called retirement, he was Principal Emeritus and Research Professor. But while Wycliffe may have been his greatest love after God, family, and country, he also served with distinction in the wider church, public affairs, business, and journalism.

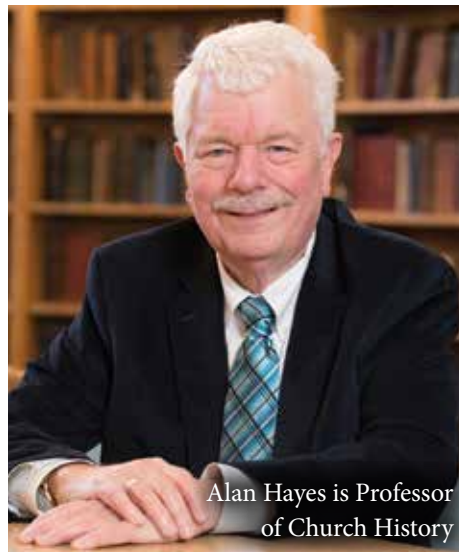
REG'S DISTANT ANCESTORS were farmers in Yorkshire, and his nearer ancestors were loyalists in New Brunswick. He was raised in a modest home in Toronto. He dropped out of high school to help his family when his father became disabled, but finished at night school. He then became the first in his family line to attend university.

One day in the Wycliffe parking lot he met Margaret Allman, who was taking courses at Wycliffe to become a deaconess. She smiled, and his heart melted. They were married, and raised four children. She became “a mother in Israel” (Judges 5:7) at Wycliffe, and transformed the College from a semi-monastic men's seminary into something very much like a family. No couple was ever closer.

After ordination in 1950, Reg ministered at the Anglican churches of St. Matthew, Islington, and St. John, West Toronto. He then took his doctorate at Yale. After returning to Toronto, he began teaching at Wycliffe.

In addition to being priest and professor, Reg was drawn into public affairs by his passion for community service and human rights. He began as a school board trustee in Scarborough. In 1965, when Ontario decided to develop a system of community colleges, Reg rallied a group of citizens to the cause, developed an academic organization, and, to everyone's surprise, persuaded the federal government to donate an abandoned factory. Reg became the founding chair of the board of Centennial College, the first community college in the province.

Reg served two terms as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, as what one friend called “the reddest of red Tories.” He also served with the Canadian delegation to the United Nations,



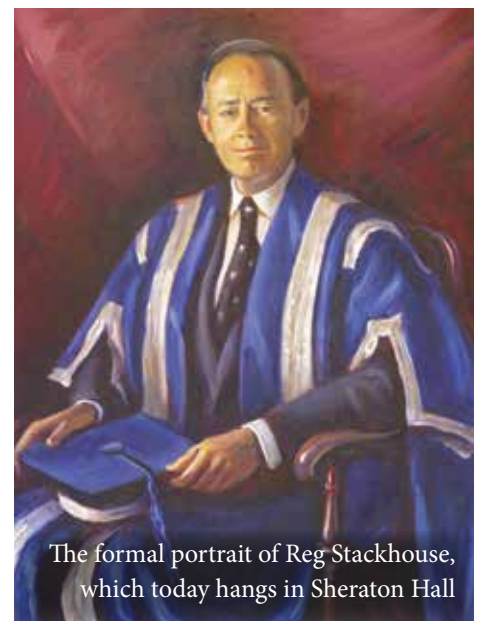
Alan Hayes is Professor
of Church History

the federal and provincial Human Rights Commissions, and boards of corporations. Along the way he wrote frequent columns for the *Globe and Mail*. Reg was proud to be a Canadian, and, without blinkers or jingoism, treasured its history. Where he saw problems to correct, he spoke out. As another Member of Parliament recently told the House of Commons in a tribute to Reg, he “left an enduring mark on the fabric of Canadian society.”

Reg became Principal of Wycliffe at one of the darkest times in its now almost 140-year history. Finances, enrolments, academic standards, morale, reputation, and the physical plant were in a disastrous state. In an amazingly busy and inspired five years, Reg turned the whole enterprise around. The faculty was strengthened; a successful capital campaign was launched and completed; accreditation was secured; the curriculum was reformed; Wycliffe entered fully into the academic culture

of the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto; and enrolment soared, as did the College's reputation.

Reg personified the best ideals of Wycliffe. He was a faithful follower of Jesus. His own liturgical tastes were unfussy and his ecclesiology was untriumphalistic, but by no means was he partisan or adversarial in his churchmanship. He loved teaching and preaching. He was a brilliant writer for diverse audiences: scholars, churchfolk, the wider public. His sense of discipleship extended way beyond the Anglican Church to issues of global peace and justice. With clarity but never intending to provoke, he offered a progressive viewpoint on a variety of current issues. He was a loyal friend, a supportive colleague, and a compassionate Christian gentleman. To have known him was among the greatest privileges that my wife and I have enjoyed.



The formal portrait of Reg Stackhouse,
which today hangs in Sheraton Hall

The Lord was leading us,

EDITOR'S *note*:

Just over three years ago in March 2014, Reginald Stackhouse, Principal Emeritus and Research Professor at Wycliffe College, sat down at his typewriter and tapped out a story that he believed needed to be told. Previously unpublished, it relates a remarkable episode in the history of the College that occurred during the author's tenure as Principal.

Stapling his three pages together in the top left corner, Reg entrusted them to Wycliffe's Director of Development, Rob Henderson, with instructions to publish them "when the time was right." In view of Reg's death last December, and of the College's 140th anniversary, we feel that the right time has come.



Patricia Paddey,
Director of Communications

How did the Wycliffe community understand itself on the eve of the College's centennial anniversary in 1977?

There was hope—but also apprehension. The College needed money—big money—but Wycliffe had not had a major [fundraising] campaign since 1911, and had not enjoyed a balanced budget since before World War II.



Principal Reginald Stackhouse in his office

is leading us still

UNDERSTANDABLY, ONE TRUSTEE estimated we would be doing well if a campaign raised enough to pay for the centennial celebration. Another scoffed when a drive for \$100,000 was proposed.

Were the rest of us delusional when we set a target of \$2 million?

It is now clear that the Lord was leading the College, even as he led his people in the days of the Acts of the Apostles.

But how could any of us believe that then—really believe it? How can any of us believe it now?

Because with the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that over and over, the Lord led us every step of the way. If that sounds pious and unreal, join me in reviewing the years when God himself took over the College's leadership.

To give a \$2 million campaign [\$8 million in 2017 dollars] any realistic hope demanded leaders able to think in those terms. But our governing body had no fundraisers in that league. Who but the Lord himself could reach out beyond our trustees to call the Chief Executive Officer of what was then Canada's largest retail organization [to join our team]? Tom Bolton had been such a major contributor to every big money appeal in Canada, that once on board with Wycliffe, he could remind others it was now their turn to give to his cause.

As a result, our appeal came in a winner—raising \$1.8 million—but we would soon see that that was only the beginning of what would happen, because the Lord had taken charge. We had hoped that half the money raised would be spent on academic needs, but almost the whole amount went to pay-

ing for needed improvements to the building—fire escapes, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire safety doors, etc.

But how does such prosaic spending indicate we were being led by the Lord?

Not too long afterwards, a critical fire in a University of Toronto campus structure led the provincial authorities to order that every U of T building be inspected by the Ontario Fire Marshal, with authority to close all that did not meet his standards. Imagine what could have happened had he inspected the old, unimproved, ill-equipped Wycliffe? What did happen was that the newly safe College became the first building on campus to pass the inspection. But that was only the beginning.

We later applied to the Association of Theological Schools in North America (ATS) for a full accreditation of our degrees, a step the College had held back from taking ever since the ATS had become operative in Canada. But reasoning that a team cannot claim to be big league if it does not meet big league standards, Wycliffe applied for accreditation—the last theological college in the U of T to make the leap. We could not know, however, that had we not done so, Wycliffe would have been shut out of a huge financial leap forward.

After two years of patient negotiation between the university and its theological colleges, all agreed to enter into a significant new relationship. For the first time in U of T history, degrees in theology would be conferred by both the university and each college.

Had Wycliffe not gained ATS accreditation, the College would have been left out of that radically new relationship. As a result, we would also



Reg Stackhouse

have been left out of major provincial funding, because the new funding depended on degrees in theology being awarded by the parent university, and we simply would not have qualified. The university would never have awarded an unaccredited degree—and Wycliffe would have gone short. What some may have thought our doing, was actually the Lord's.

As Scripture (Genesis 28:16) reminds us, surely the Lord was in this place and we knew it not.

But it is not only because of Scripture that Wycliffe people can believe that God has been—and continues to be—actively, personally, powerfully directing us.

Who could have expected a generation ago that the day would come when Wycliffe would be one of the largest Anglican theological colleges in North America? Who could have expected it, unless they believed the Lord would still be leading us? Let's believe that he will continue to do precisely that in the years ahead.

“Just trying to keep things going”

By Patricia Paddey



*“They break it,
I fix it.”*

David Durance

The sun had not yet risen on the frigid January morning when David Durance arrived at his basement office in Wycliffe College and knew, immediately, that something was not right. The floor outside the large green double doors leading into the maintenance area was wet. Really wet. And it should not have been.

“I CHECKED ON THE SUMP PUMP to ensure it was working,” he recalls, mentally retracing his steps. “It was working—as fast as it could—but it just couldn’t keep up. It was literally under water. So, I went into the boiler room.”

“There was water spraying everywhere.”

It wasn’t just water that was spraying everywhere—sparks were too. The electrical system is located in the same room. A 12-year-old pipe had ruptured, sending water running across the ceiling, down the walls, and into the electrical panel. Small fiery particles crackled and arced off the fluorescent light overhead.

And when you see sparks? “You use the back side of your hand to touch electrical switches,” David says with a shrug.

It wound up being a very long day. But the building did not float away.

David is calm, matter-of-fact as he relates his story, and you get the sense that it must take a lot to ruffle this man’s feathers. But maybe that kind of calm is what de-

velops when you spend your working life taking care of a building that’s more than 125 years old.

Working with hands—and heart

David is the building superintendent and facilities manager at Wycliffe College, a position he has held since 1998. He loves his work for its variety, which he summarizes with a grin, “They break it, I fix it.” But in truth, the job entails far more, everything from maintaining the complex’s ancient steam heating system to the waterworks and electrical circuits, wood-working, installing and repairing flooring, painting, and moving furniture.

“I’m actually trained in all of those fields,” he says with another shrug. “I had four uncles, and each was a different tradesman. I worked with every one of them.”

His formal training is in carpentry. He is a licensed master carpenter (and has the belt buckle saying *Carpenter* to prove it). But get him talking about himself, which he does with reluctance, and he can regale you

with tales of days gone by when he shingled rooftops as a 10-year-old, or later drilled water wells, maintained antique roller coasters, renovated houses, and even taught church groups and night school classes how to make smooth water kayaks and canoes.

David makes his home in Long Branch—where he has lived his entire life—with Sheila, his wife of 35 years. Together, they raised two children, Jennifer and Matthew.

His has been a life of working with his hands, but he has put a great deal of his heart into the work as well. Lately, he has been forced to make repeated repairs to the rickety, original-to-the-College wooden chairs that now grace the Cody Library. Ask him about it, and cracks in his normally calm demeanour just might appear, letting some of the passion through. “People use them all the time as rocking chairs,” he’ll tell you with a note of disbelief. “I keep having to put them back together again.”

At the end of the day

At the end of each day at Wycliffe, he likes to spend time with his own tools (some of which he inherited from his grandfather) in his own woodshop in the garage behind his home. There he crafts beautiful things: toys for children, Christmas ornaments for friends and loved ones, a tiny acorn that is treasured by his wife.

His greatest challenge at Wycliffe these days is “just trying to keep things going.”

“There’s a lot we should be doing in the building,” he adds, “but we just don’t have the finances.”

A lifelong Anglican, David is as matter-of-fact about his faith as he is about his work. “I know I believe it,” he says, conceding shyly when pressed that his faith is a comfort to him.

Ask him what he makes of the fact that the Son of God was also a carpenter, and he pauses. “I’ve never really thought about it,” he says with a final shrug. But then he does think about it. And he smiles.



At Home

By David “Ted” Williams

The Wycliffe Student Council’s annual *At Home* took place February 3, 2017. This year’s theme was “Cocktail with a Country Twist,” and the event brought together students, staff, faculty, and residents for a convivial dinner and dance. Chef David Heward cooked a tender prime rib roast, served with champagne, spring salad, and glazed vegetables. Afterwards, guests contra-danced the night away with the help of a live band and caller in Sheraton Hall. Between spinning in circles and do-si-dos, guests strolled into the front hall to take photos with friends at a professional photo booth. Over 100 guests attended the event.



The *At Home* has a long tradition at Wycliffe. Some say it stems from college life in England, when guests sported tuxedos and gowns, and the day would end watching the sunset from rowboats along the local rivers. At Wycliffe, it was once an event during which ordinands would introduce their fiancées to the Principal. In those days, during the month prior to the *At Home*, weekly ballroom classes were held in Sheraton Hall.

The *At Home* has since remained an event laden with fond memories. Rachel Lott (née Bauder), remembers attending a masquerade-themed *At Home* in 2009 with her future husband, Wayne. For the Lotts, the *At Home* added a celebratory element to the school year and brought residents together as an extended family.

What are your At Home memories? Did you meet your special someone there? Please share your anecdotes with the student council by mail: c/o Social Committee, 5 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5S 1H7.

STUDENT FOCUS:

The DMin at Wycliffe: putting theology to work

By Grayhame Bowcott

MY EXPERIENCE WITH WYCLIFFE College and the DMin Program began 10 years ago when I met Dr. John Bowen, Professor Emeritus of Evangelism, through my seminary studies at Huron University College in London, Ont. John caused me to reflect on the role of evangelism in the process of formation for ministry and its necessity for growing congregations. Well into my second theology degree, I had never taken a course on

evangelism; in fact, not a single course on evangelism was being offered at that time. John invited me to the Vital Church Planting Conference, hosted by the Institute of Evangelism, where he suggested that I would experience theology being put to work!

I have attended every VCP conference since. They have inspired my interests in researching congregational decline in the Anglican Church of Canada and, more impor-



...continued on page 8

'Grayhame Bowcott' continued ...

tantly, the places where we are seeing growth. Inspired by VCP, I went on to lead a church plant for a closed and deconsecrated building, which was reopened as St. Anne's Mission in Port Franks, Ont. Starting with six members, we grew to a community of 55. The secret of success wasn't so secret after all: our new con-

gregation was dedicated to serving Christ and telling others about it.

For me, the DMin Program combines full-time ministry as a pastor and doctoral studies that enable me to apply my work and research to my ministry context. Wycliffe is the ideal place to experience theology in action, and I am thankful for the

faculty and staff who are committed to enabling this in my own ministry.

Grayhame is the rector of St. George's, The Anglican Parish of the Blue Mountains in the Diocese of Huron. Married to Jacqueline Marr, they have two young children, Alyvia and Laelynn.

STUDENT FOCUS:

An intentional search

By GailMarie Henderson

THE DMIN PROGRAM IS INTENSE, vigorous, demanding, and sweetly satisfying, offering a learning framework so each student can *seek to understand* what the Spirit has laid on their heart from parish life. What brought me to the program was a desire to understand how the decline in my small congregation happened, and what could be done about it.



A DMin is an integrative learning journey. It stimulated my mind and offered a learning experience that created the opportunity for the Spirit to *wake me up* to insights valuable to my ministry. The DMin put me among brilliant theological minds. But it went further, forming me into the person God was calling me to be, still a country parish priest, but better able to serve God's people.

My advice to others? Don't be afraid to embrace a DMin and *seek to understand* your deepest question, for it is the Spirit stirring in you. Don't be afraid you are too old, your distance too far, your bank account too small. Open the door trustingly, for the church needs your insights to navigate the 21st century.

I will never regret my DMin learning journey; it has taught me how to better serve God's people, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

Rev. GailMarie Henderson serves the Anglican Parish of Muskoka Lakes in the Diocese of Algoma. She and her husband Jeff have three grown children and three grandchildren.

STUDENT FOCUS:

Equipped for service

By Val Kenyon

I AM A DMIN STUDENT AT WYCLIFFE and a parish priest in the Diocese of Huron. Ours is a time of great change; many parishes are re-examining their particular purpose and the role God would have each of us play in God's mission. In deciding to return to my studies, my hope was to more knowledgeably respond to



the needs of parishioners during these transitions, allowing God's Spirit to work in and through my studies so that I might be better equipped for service.

As an Anglican, I had heard much about Wycliffe College and was attracted by the variety of programs and learning opportunities. Wycliffe is known as a place that encourages ongoing spiritual development and the living out of our faith in everyday life. I knew I would feel right at home.

Embarking on a new educational adventure, particularly after a few years away from the classroom, I was full of questions. Yet at every turn I was met by knowledgeable, kind, and helpful individuals prepared to make my time at Wycliffe the best it could be. I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome I received, and feel honoured to have been accepted into this learning community of faith.

Rev. Val Kenyon is a DMin student at Wycliffe College. She lives in London, Ont. with her husband and family, and serves as Rector of Trinity Anglican Church in nearby St. Thomas, Ont.

FACULTY COMINGS AND GOINGS

Curated by Thomas Power

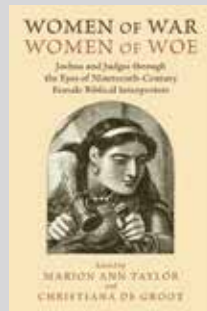
DAVID KUPP and participants in the MTSD International Development course attended the 2017 Global Citizens Forum at Humber College in February, 2017. In the same month, David spoke on a panel at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus's International Development conference. The panel engaged in a challenging and lively discussion of "Saviour Complex: Navigating Religion's Messy History and Current Role in Development."



Last October WANDA MALCOLM led the clergy retreat for the Diocese of Saskatchewan, in March 2017 she co-facilitated (with Archbishop Colin Johnson) the vocational deacons' retreat for the Diocese of Toronto, and in May she was in Egypt at Cairo Cathedral teaching a one-week intensive for local MDiv students. In June she will lead a one-day workshop for the Companions of the Sisters of Saint John the Divine, Toronto. For her sabbatical projects in Fall 2017 she will be working on a journal article about the initial findings from the Wycliffe Wellness Project, and a textbook for the Boundaries and Bridges course.



MARION TAYLOR's co-edited book *Women in the Story of Jesus: The Gospels through the Eyes of Nineteenth-Century Female Biblical Interpreters* has appeared, while her other publication, *Women of War and Women of Woe*, was favourably reviewed by a panel at the Society of Biblical Literature conference last November. As President of the re-named Canadian-American Theological Association (formerly the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association (CETA) Marion organized its meeting in May at Ryerson University, Toronto. She gave a paper at the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies on a re-examination of the enigmatic epilogue that concludes the book of Esther (Esther 10:1-3).



In May, ANN JERVIS participated in the Building Bridges Seminar at the Berkeley Centre, Georgetown University, the topic being Religion and Power. Over the past decade the Building Bridges Seminar has brought together a range of internationally recognized Christian and Muslim scholars for intensive study. Texts from the Christian and Islamic traditions are used as the basis for discussion. Ann has contributed an essay entitled "Paul the Theologian" to the *Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies* (2017).



For his sabbatical project for the Winter 2017 term, JOSEPH MANGINA continued to work on his book *The True Vine: Scriptural Ecclesiology and the Gospel of John*. He is also writing the article on "Barth and Bultmann" for the *Blackwell Companion to Karl Barth*.



ALAN HAYES attended a conference co-sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church, at the Oneida reservation in Wisconsin on the history of Christianity among First Nations peoples. He published an article on the Canadian Anglican evangelical lay leader Samuel Hume Blake in the Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society in the fall. He is completing an article on Anglican deaconesses, an order which existed in Canada from the 1890s to the 1970s. He has compiled online resources on the theme of Christianity in Canada since 1960, available at http://individual.utoronto.ca/hayes/xty_canada.



THOMAS POWER edited *Confronting the Idols of Our Age*, the first volume in a new series with Wipf and Stock entitled *Wycliffe Studies in Gospel, Church, and Culture*, of which he is general editor. He will be speaking on the topic "Trinity College Dublin and the development of the church in Canada in the 1830s" at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies conference in Derry, Northern Ireland in June.



Graduating Class of 2017



Congratulations



THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Spencer Miles Boersma

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Jeong Geun Choi
Ajeng Chrissaningrum
Parker Allan Cotton

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY, HONOURS

Sarah Margaret (Jackson) Armstrong
(Pioneer)
Kaitlyn Michelle (Jongsma) Tompkins
Kira Moolman

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

Wonsang (Sam) Cho
Steven Chung
Allison Kelly Dean
Michael J. Degan
Molly Jessica Finlay
Jeffrey Bruce Hynds
Orvin Lao (Pioneer)
Kevin Conway Love
Daniel James McMullen (Pioneer)
Jason E. Murray
Derek Günther Neal
Michelle Yeung (Pioneer)

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT

Misa Chihara
Mark Kenneth Evans
Byron Dale Hamilton
Ashley Kathleen Louise Patton
Chantal Sarah Sathi
Flora Yu

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Jane Elizabeth Boehr
Veronica Dorothy Carrington
Cumberbatch
Virginia Cummings
Patricia Gooch
Cindy May Kasten-Hayley
Andreas Sigrist
Ilana Clare Wiebe
Wing Yin Yuen

CERTIFICATE IN ANGLICAN STUDIES

Karen Rose Isaacs
Matthew Isaac Neugebauer



Honorary Degrees Conferred in 2017

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DIVINITY (HONORIS CAUSA)



From left to right:
The Rt. Rev. Dr. George Sumner,
The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison,
The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Walsh Shaw

The Rt. Rev. Dr. George Sumner Bishop, Diocese of Dallas and Past Principal

Before his election as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, George was the second longest standing Principal in Wycliffe's history. During his tenure George led Wycliffe through two successful ATS reaccreditation processes, a successful capital campaign, and brought in well-known scholars, lifting the profile of the College. Ordained in Tanzania in 1981, he was elected the seventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas in 2015. He has served in cross-cultural ministry in Navajoland, and has a doctorate in theology from Yale. He has written several books, including *Being Salt: A Theology of an Ordered Church*. He is currently working on a book about sin. George's pastimes include playing squash and cheering on the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto

After graduating from Wycliffe with her Master of Divinity and being ordained in 1997 in the Diocese of Toronto, Jenny served in the Diocese of Tokyo, then in the Diocese of London (U.K.). Just over a decade ago, she settled in Toronto and was on staff at St. Paul's Bloor Street for eight years as the Associate Priest for Evangelism. She served as the first Archbishop's Officer for Mission for the Diocese of Toronto, promoting fresh expressions of church and mission-focused ministry. Born and raised in England by medical missionary parents, she has lived in Pakistan, India, Singapore, and Japan. Her passion is to connect with those who are spiritually searching and asking questions, and to deepen the faith of those who are learning how to follow Jesus.

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Walsh Shaw Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto

Riscylla (W99) is passionate about the Good News of Jesus, social justice, and creating space for the voices of marginalized peoples. She served as an active listener and witness at the seven national events of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools. Riscylla has Métis and settler heritage. She has ministered in rural, suburban, and urban parish settings, and has been engaged in innovative community and missional ministry. She has consistently participated in the councils of the church, has been a Fresh Start facilitator, a Regional Dean, and a leader in her local community. Consecrated in January, Riscylla is building bridges and bringing the saving Good News of Jesus to all aspects of her life and witness.

Recently Ordained Students and Alumni

John Sundara (W16) was ordained to the **DEACONATE IN THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS** on January 7, 2017

DIOCESE OF TORONTO

May 6, 2017 - deacon - at St. Aidan
Michael Van Dusen (W11)

May 7, 2017 - deacon - at St. James' Cathedral
Sean Davidson (W16), Molly Finlay (W17),
Philip Hamilton (W16),
James Liu (W16), Philip Stonhouse (W16)

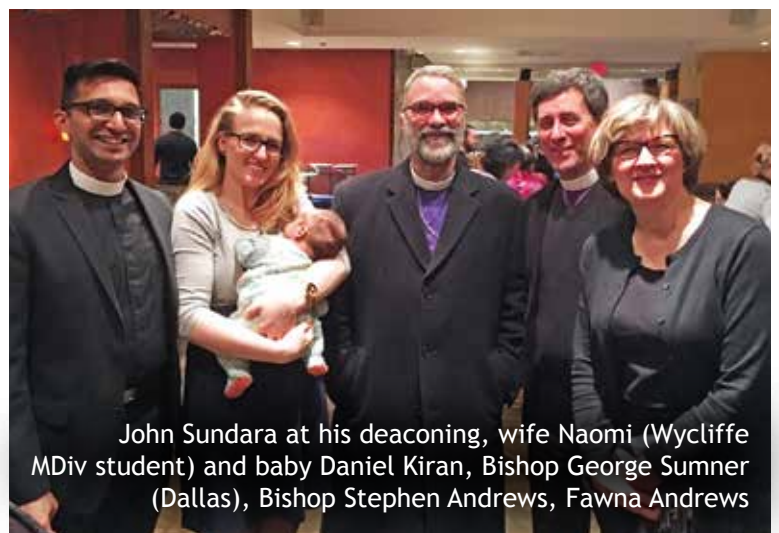
Pictured with Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre) are Wycliffe graduates: Sean Davidson (W16) at far left, Molly Finlay (W17) third from left, Philip Hamilton (W16) third from right, James Liu (W16) second from right, and Philip Stonhouse (W16) at far right.



Pictured with Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre) are Wycliffe graduates: Philip Stonhouse (W16) front row, far left), Sean Davidson (W16) front row, second from left, Molly Finlay (W17) front row, third from right, Philip Hamilton (W16) front row, second from right, and James Liu (W16) front row, far right.



Bishop Stephen Andrews, Bishop George Sumner, John Sundara



John Sundara at his deaconing, wife Naomi (Wycliffe MDiv student) and baby Daniel Kiran, Bishop George Sumner (Dallas), Bishop Stephen Andrews, Fawna Andrews



A beachhead for evangelism

By Gillian Arnold

Mission Week at Wycliffe was a successful event, bringing new people into the College to engage in lively discussions, answer difficult questions, and open minds and hearts to new ideas and perspectives.

FROM JANUARY 16 TO 20, 2017, the College became a missional centre as it hosted the “Relevant Series” of lunch-time talks and partnered with 10 campus ministries at the University of Toronto, with a common goal of making Christ known on campus. Working together were Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), Power to Change, Every Nation Campus, Agape Impact, Network of Christian Scholars, The Missions Hub, Leader Impact, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Athletes in Action, and University of Toronto Chinese Christian Fellowship. By the end of the week some 1500 enquiring individuals had come through Wycliffe’s doors to hear various speakers.

Multiple talks followed by panel question-and-answer sessions were scheduled dai-

ly throughout the week to deal with barriers to belief and spark curiosity. Speakers also stayed after events to respond to private questions.

Topics ranged from “Is Christianity Irrational?” to “Who is God? A Muslim Christian Dialogue,” and from “Where Is God When Life Hurts?” to “Am I More Than My Resume?” RZIM North American director Abdu Murray said that Wycliffe is a gorgeous building that is welcoming to other perspectives. “Other places wouldn’t allow some of the hot button topics presented this week,” he said, adding, “I find it very encouraging that we can bring together so many groups for a common goal, be hospitable, and make non-Christians feel welcome. To show it is possible to discuss opposing views in polite, gentle, non-antagonistic ways.”

This was the second year that speaker Michelle Tepper (also with RZIM) has been involved with Mission Week at Wycliffe. She says the week is all about relationships and the journey of faith; as the week progresses, she starts to recognize the faces of students coming to her talks, and feels she is creating relationships with many of them over the course of the week. “I love knowing I am opening eyes and minds to new perspectives,” she says.

Tepper has noticed that the students who come at the beginning of the week are mainly from Christian campus groups, but they quickly discover that the talks are both interesting and suitable for everyone, so they start to invite friends to join them. By the end of the week, audiences are larger and with students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

For Tepper, it is the combination of evangelism, teaching, and a pastoral approach that reaches students. “This is the heart of evangelism,” she says, “reaching students and not being afraid to talk about difficult subjects and answer tough questions. Talking about how God is real and the Bible is inclusive and meaningful for all.”

Among those who came to hear speaker Justitia Pak on the subject “Am I more than my resume?” were two friends, one a first-year statistics major and the other a first-year commerce student. As business students, they said they were drawn to Pak’s talk because he is a management consultant with years of experience at a large consulting firm.

“It is very effective for Mission Week to be located on campus at Wycliffe,” said Pak after the event. “[It is] the beachhead for evangelism at the university.”

A vivacious young woman with a strong southern accent who came to one of the sessions said she had just moved to Toronto from Alabama. She said she had been out walking, feeling out of place and insecure in her new city, looking for a community to help her feel less alone. She saw a flyer for Mission Week and decided to check it out. The woman said she was so glad she

had come, and the welcoming people she had found at Wycliffe reaffirmed her connection to God and reminded her that anywhere she was, God was with her and loved her.

To watch sample talks from the Relevant Series, search for “Wycliffe College Toronto, Relevant Series” on YouTube.com/wycliffeuoft.

Gillian Arnold worked as Development Assistant for Wycliffe’s Development Department. She has a background in fundraising and communications. She lives in Toronto and is mother to three almost grown-up kids.



Preaching Day 2017 with Fleming Rutledge

Having spent twenty-two years in parish ministry, Fleming Rutledge travels internationally, preaching, teaching, and teaching preachers. An award-winning author, her most recent book, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, has been acclaimed by Christianity Today as the 2017 Book of the Year. An audience representing 20 denominations, with people who travelled from as far as London, England, heard her teach on the sacred craft of preaching. Later, she

“I’ve been [to Wycliffe College] several times. I came some years ago—I think it was 12 years ago—to do a Preaching Day. That was the first time. I came back a second time to preach, and [then principal] George Sumner asked me if I would come for a whole term to teach homiletics.

That was a very important time for me, because I had never been officially a teacher of preachers. I had done a

lot of conferences, and held preaching workshops, and gone to places like Princeton Seminary to meet with preachers. But to be here at Wycliffe, and to have 30 students and two classes—one basic and one advanced—was an enormous challenge and a great privilege.

I will always be grateful for that. It’s the only time I’ve ever spent four months in an academic community as a

“I felt so much at home at Wycliffe.”

Fleming Rutledge



member of the faculty. I felt so much at home at Wycliffe. I have never felt more at home anywhere and that’s continued to be true in the years that I have returned.

I am very encouraged by Wycliffe’s commitment to staying firmly in the Anglican communion, bearing an evangelical witness.”

A transformative community: profile of Joanne Redhead

By Patricia Paddey

The red brick walls that compose Wycliffe College do more than permit shelter and a space for learning; they sustain a community for those who dwell within them. And for Joanne Redhead—who made the bold choice to live at the College during her 40th year—that community was transformative.

WHILE STILL IN HER LATE 30's, Redhead was promoted to the position of Acting Vice-Principal at the Mississauga elementary school where she had taught for years. But she responded to her success with doubts. In addition to her work, she had also been studying part-time toward an MTS degree here at Wycliffe, and as a result began to question the direction her life was taking.

"I did like the job," she concedes, "but it wasn't something I had seen myself doing. I began to wonder whether I was meant to be a Principal, what I should be doing with my life. I started to wonder if I might be called to ministry myself."

After a few months of "discerning," she decided to stop wondering and explore the possibility. And to explore it seriously. "I applied for a year's leave, rented out my house, put all my stuff in storage, and moved into Wycliffe College for a year."

But even as she sorted through her belongings, trying to decide what to take with her and what to leave behind, she began to have more doubts, asking herself, "Can I manage living in just a room?"

It was an easier transition than she had anticipated. "I just felt so at home there. It was the whole building. The whole experience. The presence and warmth of the people. Having meals

there. Being immersed in the Anglican tradition and patterns of prayer. I felt like I was getting to know God better."

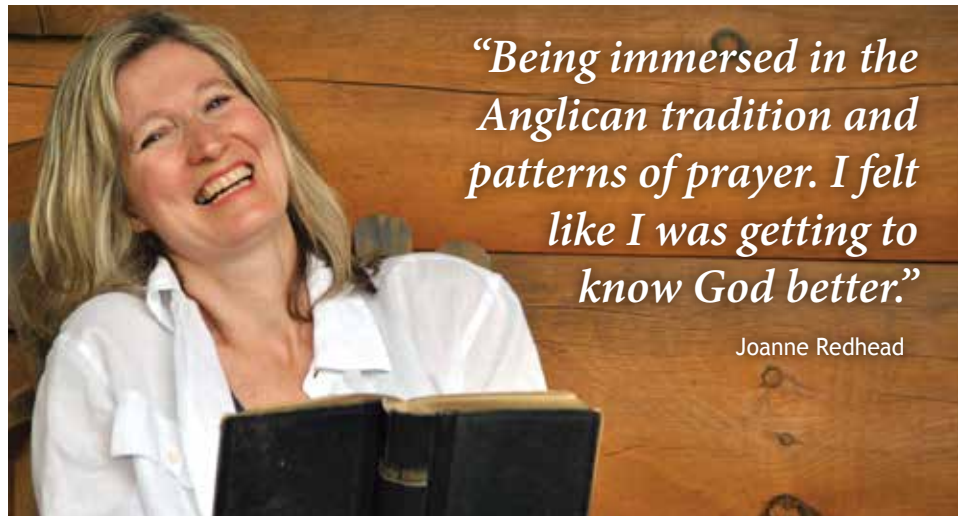
She describes the year she lived here from 2007 to 2008 as being "Foundational, a bedrock experience. It was deep learning for the joy of learning, and a growing faith."

When she decided to return to her Vice-Principal's role at the end of that year, it was with renewed joy and a deeper sense of confidence in that being her calling.

"Being immersed in that daily faith community was definitely transformational. It became a part of me. And I brought that [deeper faith] back with me. It gave me a sense of freedom, and purpose, which has given me less stress in the job."

"It helped me to realize that the work I do here at the school is God's work."

Today Joanne works as a Principal in a Kindergarten to Grade 5 School, and serves as choir director at St. James Anglican Church in Caledon East, Ont.



DID YOU KNOW?



Wycliffe College has been a popular venue with location scouts as a historic backdrop for film and video production and moviemaking. Over the past decade, here are some of the productions that have been filmed here:

- American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into the Spotlight
- IT (due out in movie theatres in September)
- The Strain
- Suits
- A Part of our Heritage (ad)
- John A: Birth of a Country (a CBC movie)
- Murdoch Mysteries

To see a sample of Wycliffe on screen, visit www.thestar.com, and search for "Being in a heritage minute."

Angela Emerson

By Patricia Paddey

Asked why she gives financially—and faithfully—to Wycliffe College, Angela Emerson tilts her head to one side ever so slightly, as if allowing the question to sink in. When she responds, she is momentarily solemn.

“What I found here [at Wycliffe] strengthened my faith.”

NOW A RETIRED LAWYER, Angela was in the midst of a thriving career practicing civil litigation when she felt called to pursue theological studies. “I had my own law practice, full time, very busy. But I felt that there was something missing in my life.”

After walking away from her faith temporarily as a young adult, she had returned to the church, but not without questions. A friend suggested she pursue answers at the Toronto School of Theology and so she enrolled in one course. “I dipped my toes in very tentatively,” she smiles. “Having done that, I transferred to Wycliffe’s MTS program and thought, ‘This is wonderful! I want more!’” She went after “more,” studying part-time for seven years, and graduated with an MDiv in 2009, even while maintaining her law practice.

Angela describes the call to do theological education as “inexplicably strong,” so strong she says she was prepared to give up her legal prac-



tice had that become necessary. It didn’t, but the change that occurred in her life as a result of her studies was nonetheless profound.

“Coming here to Wycliffe moved me from darkness to light,” she says quietly. “Being able

to explore Scripture, the history of the Church. The depth of scholarship here, the sense of community, the availability of the faculty; all of those things made my years here so happy.”

She has been supporting the College since graduation, and has made provision in her will for that support to continue long after she is gone.

“I came later in life,” Angela says. “But my theological education has impacted every single area of my life.” Her retirement years are proving to be rich ones; a parishioner at St. James Cathedral in Toronto, she volunteers at the church’s drop-in centre. She occupies her mind learning two languages, Hebrew and sign language for the deaf, and with ongoing theological studies.

“I want other people to come here and have the sort of experience that I had,” she concludes. “I want so much for this place to thrive and grow and bring others the joy that it brought me.”



Cody Hall

Alumni news



Brothers and sisters,

It is a joy to be able to serve you as the incoming President of the Wycliffe College Alumni Executive Committee. I often reflect back on my time at Wycliffe with fondness and gratitude. It was for me a place of profound formation and nourishment. My prayer is that we can find avenues to stay in touch and to encourage one another in the faith as we labour together in our vocations, families, and neighbourhoods for the sake of the gospel.

*Grace and peace,
The Rev. Jonathan Turtle (MDiv, 2012)*



From the 1950s

John Townsend (W52) A collection of fresh essays was published recently in honour of Professor John T. Townsend. The volume is entitled *Bridging between Sister Religions: Studies of Jewish and Christian Scriptures offered in Honor of Prof. John T. Townsend*. It focuses on the interpretation of the common Jewish and Christian Scripture (the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament) and on its two off-shoots (Rabbinic Judaism and the New Testament), as well as on Jewish-Christian relations. The contributors, who are prominent scholars in their fields, include James L. Crenshaw, Göran Eidevall, Anne E. Gardner, Lawrence M. Wills, Cecilia Wasen, Robert L. Brawley, Joseph B. Tyson, Eldon J. Epp, Yaakov Elman, Rivka Ulmer, Andreas Lehnardt, Reuven Kimelman, Bruce Chilton, and Michael W. Duggan.

From the 1960s

Canon David Sinclair (W62, DMin '91) David was recently appointed a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. (He is already a Canon, retired, of St. George's Cathedral, Kingston). In retirement he serves the ministry team of the Laurentian Regional Ministry, a consortium of 11 churches north of Montreal, between Lachute and Ste. Agathe des Monts. David and his wife, the Rev. Georgia Copland, live in Ste. Anne des Lacs, Quebec.

From the 1970s

The Rev. Mike and Judy Guy (W78) After graduation and ordination Mike and Judy served with OMF International in Malaysia, Singapore, and the US for 48 years. Two years ago they moved from Denver, CO, to Waco, TX, to be closer to family. Their family has grown—four children, 29 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. They are thankful to

be in good health and able to play a supportive role in their extended family.

Dr. Barbara M. Leung Lai (W79) After 20 years of service at Tyndale Seminary, Barbara retired from full-time teaching in July 2016, and was reappointed as Research Professor of Old Testament. While actively engaged in international teaching (Ukraine, China) and in N. America, she has devoted herself to research and writing. Her recent book *Glimpsing the Mystery: The Book of Daniel* (Lexham) came out last fall and she is working on another monograph provisionally entitled *Text and Praxis: The Wisdom Books in the Old Testament*.

From the 1980s

The Rev. Canon Kimberley Beard (W89) Kim is leading a pilgrimage group to Israel in May 2017 which will include a 65 km walk from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. In July he will lead a 13-member mission team to serve in the Diocese of Tarime in Tanzania. The team will partner with church building projects, a women's sewing cooperative, and children's education projects.

Archdeacon Richard A. Jones (W81) Richard is enjoying retirement 2.0! He retired in June 2012 and then did two parish interims for the Diocese of Huron. He was appointed a territorial archdeacon (non-stipendiary) in 2014. His time of being a territorial archdeacon in the Diocese of Huron ended January 2016 and he settled into parish life in the pews at The Church of the Epiphany, Woodstock. He continues to record a half-hour radio show each week with the Rector of Epiphany. The show is now broadcast three times a week on the local Christian radio station, HOPE FM. The show is called "O For Heaven's Sake" and has developed quite a local following over the last 32 months. The show is biblical, relevant, pertinent, and

lively. It is also available on the station's website: www.hopefm.ca. Richard has just been engaged by the parish to encourage small groups and Bible studies at Epiphany; each week over 60 people meet in small groups. His wife, Heather, has been retired from teaching for over two years. She volunteers at an elementary school nearby and sings in two choirs. Heather is also involved in a couple of local community organizations. Together they have done some traveling, including a major journey in 2016. They spent a week in Dubai, followed by a cruise from there to Venice via the Suez Canal.

Carolyn (Robertson) Westin (MDiv W86)

Carolyn is a therapist/counsellor. She founded and has operated Hopewell Counselling Service in Saint John, NB, since moving there in the summer of 2013. She recently expanded her practice to Sackville, NB, where she works once a week. Carolyn has a special interest in EFT (Emotionally Focused Therapy), continues to study, and is enjoying her life and work in NB. She worships and ministers at the historic Stone Church, and also at Saint John Vineyard, where she is on the leadership team.

John Paul Westin (MDiv W86) John Paul graduated from Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, CA, with a DMin in 2014 (final project "From Broad Church to Narrow Way: Moving from Church Membership to Empowered Discipleship"). He is currently enrolled in the Renovaré Institute (Boston Cohort 2018) and enjoying his work as both Rector of St. John's (Stone) Church since 2013 and as Lead Pastor of Saint John Vineyard (since December 2016). This new shared ministry is an exciting and innovative venture that is opening up new possibilities for gospel work in Saint John.

From the 2000s

Brian Cooper (W07, W01) Brian has served at MB Seminary for the past five and a half years. He is currently Director of Student Development and a faculty member in theology. He is a member of the Board of Faith and Life of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and is grateful for his time at Wycliffe for fostering his commitment to Anabaptist theology.



The Rev. Dana Dickson (W02) After 10 wonderful years serving St. Paul's Anglican Church in Uxbridge, Dana is now the Incumbent of Trinity Church, Bradford. She is looking forward to the challenges of a new parish and being part of her community, from the famous farmers' market to boating on Lake Simcoe to joining the curling club.

Vanessa Rottner (W05) On Palm Sunday, Vanessa completed her Level 3 course in Therapeutic Touch with the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario, which is recognized by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and used at Casey House and local hospitals. She is now qualified to be called a "Practitioner in Training." Her goal is to complete her 75 case studies and continued education to achieve the status of Recognized Practitioner. She is excited to be on this journey to see God's will unfolding in this healing ministry for others.



From the 2010s

Sharon Abel (W16) Sharon has put her MTSD to work developing a social enterprise called Jubilee Designs with young people from The Yonge Street Mission's Evergreen Centre for Street Youth. They make beautiful decorations and accessories for weddings and other events, using broken or discarded materials. The youth also offer workshops, where parties come together and learn how to silkscreen or sew. www.jubileedesigns.ca



Dr. Gordon Belyea (W12) moved to Ottawa in August and has been called to the post of Associate Pastor at Église Évangélique Baptiste d'Ottawa, a church with the Union of Francophone Baptist Churches in Canada.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Dean (ThD, 2014) has recently published his second book, *Leaps of Faith: Sermons from the Edge*. The book includes a foreword by Fleming Rutledge and includes sermons Robert has preached across the GTA. Robert also spoke on the theme of "Confessing Christ in Troubled Times" at the recent Wycliffe College Preaching Day.



Rev. Chris and Amy Dow (W12, W13) Amy and Chris Dow were pleased to welcome fraternal twin girls, Abigail (5 lbs.) and Hannah (4 lbs.), on 4 October 2016. Big sister Clara turned two on 21 March 2017. Chris continues to serve the Parish of Birch Hills, Kinistino & Muskoday in the Diocese of Saskatchewan. Amy is a proud stay-at-home mother.



Chris Evangelista (W13) Since leaving Wycliffe, Chris has been serving as an Associate Pastor with NorthLife Fellowship Baptist Church in Fort McMurray, AB, where he was caught up in the wildfire evacuation in May 2016. Currently, he is winding down his term, as he has accepted a position as a missionary in Osaka, Japan, which will start September 2017.

The Rev. Dr. Brian T. German (PhD, W14) Brian is an Assistant Professor of Theology at Concordia University, Wisconsin, and Director of the Concordia Bible Institute. He teaches a variety of biblical books and topics, the Christian faith, and introductory Hebrew. He is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and assists regularly in a Milwaukee area congregation.

Igal German (PhD, W14) Igal is grateful to Wycliffe's faculty and staff for their immense support and encouragement throughout his years of doctoral studies. He feels blessed to have married his wife Nataliya in March 2015. Says Igal, "She and I are not just soul-mates, but, more importantly, like-minded partners in serving the Lord Jesus Christ." Currently, he teaches biblical courses at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies. His first monograph *The Fall Reconsidered* was published in the summer of 2016.



The Rev. Dr. Anthony Siegrist (W12) After teaching for eight years at Prairie College, Anthony Siegrist is now serving as Lead Minister at Ottawa Mennonite Church. He remains active as a scholar. He recently completed an introductory theology volume for Paternoster and is currently finishing a short book that offers a theological reading of Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam trilogy. This year he also received a Pastoral Study Grant from the Louisville Institute to study the rationale behind the existence of three Mennonite Indian Residential Schools. He and his wife Sarah (a former Wycliffe College resident) live just outside Ottawa with their three energetic boys.

Maria (Marian) Nacpil (ThM, W16) Marian is with a non-profit research foundation as senior human resources manager. She is also a lay ministry leader in her church community (Islington Baptist Church), and founding director of Called to the Marketplace, a ministry that equips Christians for missional living and working for the common good.

Paul Wang (PhD, W16) Paul graduated with his PhD from St. Michael's College in a ceremony at St. Basil's Church on Saturday, 5 November 2016. There were four Wycliffe PhD students in total—Manhee Yoon, James Andrew Edwards, Joshua

Arp, and Paul—and two MA students, James MacKnight and Scott Fast.



Alumni Annual General Meeting



Pictured standing at left incoming Alumni Association President Rev. Jonathan Turtle, and standing at right, outgoing President, Rev. Simon Wynn Davis.

On Thursday, May 11th, alumni travelled from near and far to gather for the Wycliffe College Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting and the Refresh! Conference. We enjoyed lunch together, heard updates from the administrative offices of the College, and honoured graduates with anniversary years ending in numbers 2 and 7.

The Ven. David Peasgood was presented with the Archdeacon Harry St. Clair Hilchey Award for Distinguished Service for his lifelong commitment to the Church, and for mentoring so many entering church ministry. For questions about the Alumni Association, please contact our 2017-2019 Alumni Executive President, The Rev. Jonathan Turtle at jonathanturtle@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We Remember Those Alumni "Called Home" in 2016-2017

The Rev. Graham R. Bradshaw, *Class of 1970*

The Rev. Canon Walter J. Dryer, *Class of 1954*

Dr. W.O. Elliott, *Friend of Wycliffe*

The Rev. George Elson, *Student 1972 - 1974*

The Most Rev. Terrance Finlay, *Class of 1988*

Mr. Tom Harpur, *Class of 1956*

The Rev. Hugh A. Kernohan, *Class of 1991*

Mr. Cal Haverstock, *Former Trustee*

Dr. James F. Kennedy, *Former Trustee, Board Chair*

The Rev. William R. Osborne, *Class of 2003*

The Rev. Brian K. Prideaux, *Class of 1996*

The Rev. Canon John W. Roberts, *Class of 1965*

Mrs. Margaret A. Rose, *Friend of Wycliffe*

The Rev. Antoine Rutherford, *Class of 2015*

The Rev. Canon Dr. Reginald F. Stackhouse, *6th Principal of Wycliffe College*

Mrs. Pat Whitbread, *Class of 1954*

The Rev. C. Donald Wilson, *Class of 1960*

"...seeing then that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

Institute of Evangelism Dinner

The following is an excerpt from the speech given by the Rev. Graham Singh, rector of St. Jax Montreal, at the annual Institute of Evangelism dinner, March 9, 2017.





"IN THE UK WHERE MY WIFE AND I were based for 14 years ... one of our archdeacons famously concluded that "an empty church building is to a city, like the empty palace of a long-forgotten king."

When I looked back across the pond to my home and native land to take the pulse on this missional issue there, I found at Wycliffe College two allies in John Bowen and Nick Brotherhood. I asked John and Nick if I would be totally nuts for believing that some of what we had seen [work] in turning the tide on this situation in the UK—radical new models for church planting *only* after closing churches first—might be of some use in Canada. Were people desperate enough to really go for it, I enquired.

"Yes," they confirmed, "You *are* nuts. But we need this. We will help!" This, friends, is your hard-earned Wycliffe funds at work—stirring up what I believe is our part in the greatest reformation and revival of the church, ever! ...

... In Montreal, we consider ourselves the *Ghost of Christmas future!* ... Our situation in Quebec has helped us redraw the battle lines from against each other, to against sin, the world, and the devil. The unity and support we have experienced in our diocese has been a key to the success of our church planting project, and the science in this is that unity

and desperation were also the key ingredients for revival and reformation in England.

What is our project? We began by closing one of our diocese's flagship parish churches. St. James the Apostle, at the heart valves of Montreal's business, educational, commercial, and residential arteries had struggled to grow for more than 20 years. ... This ... has provided the setting for what has become the most exciting missional venture of my life.

We began with an Easter launch and then ran Alpha on Sunday mornings, making it clear with our actions and not just our words, that evangelism and discipleship were at the core of who we would become, and that our liturgy would be shaped by our mission, not the other way around.

By September, nearly 75 committed adult disciples and their children had rallied around our project. French, English, Mandarin, Farsi, and Arabic-speaking new believers began to gather as we continued to run Alpha as our engine of church planting.

Alpha gave birth to a more regular Sunday pattern. ... Our methodology has been to take a suitcase full of tools from Holy Trinity Brompton, and unpack them in Montreal. To our surprise, they all seem to work. And we are encouraged.

I believe we have leaders ready to do this kind of work all across North America. I believe there are bishops and denominations looking to release their flagship sites for this


purpose, and they are willing to invest some of the millions they are hemorrhaging into trying something radically new.

The problem is ... we need also to release the riches of our young ministers with significant early experience. It is my pleasure to announce that we will be launching a pilot training program for these City Centre Resource churches from Montreal, in late 2018.

In the meantime, we can all be both sobered and encouraged. And we can all work for the greatest reformation and revival of the Church ever!"

The Rev. Graham Singh is the Rector of St. Jax Montreal and Executive Director of Church Planting Canada. Born in Guelph, Ontario and educated at Huron College, the London School of Economics, and the Church of England's new St. Mellitus College, Graham brings a passion for seeing closed churches brought to new life, in the context of radical new expressions of church unity. Graham is married to Céline and they have three small children.





“Wycliffe College has recognized the crisis and has created a strategic opportunity to respond to the situation.”

Marilyn Draper

From crisis to opportunity

By Marilyn Draper

A crisis continues in the missional strategy of the North American church. For most Protestant denominations, this perceived crisis appeared foremost as a decline in numbers of people attending church in the middle years of the twentieth century. The initial response focused on a numerical solution. Church planting, the creation of new congregations where the message of Jesus Christ was embodied by a group of Christians in a particular geographical context, became the strategy.

RESOURCES WERE PUT INTO CHURCH planting efforts because it was assumed that the creation of new congregations in strategic locations could recover former attendees. In

the 1980s, optimism and expectancy abounded. If churches simply followed a clear methodology based on a church growth strategy and if church planters worked hard, new congregations would

grow and flourish. Emphasis on church planting rose to fever pitch in the last decade of the twentieth century as emphasis was placed on winning the world for Christ. Increased resources proved

insufficient to solve the crisis, however. While some congregations did flourish, many did not. Church planting had not reached its potential.

With the advent of the new millennium, the next proposed solution was that the cultural shift from Christendom to postmodernism was the problem that required a church planting solution. If church planting methodologies adopted a specific approach to attract this new type of postmodern person, the assumption was that then new congregations would flourish. Emphasis simply needed to focus on how to be relevant to the population. Yet this methodology has also proven inadequate. While new churches are emerging, many congregations continue to struggle.

Wycliffe College has recognized the crisis and has created a strategic opportunity to respond to the situation. We have determined that underlying theological foundations of church planting must be addressed in order for sociological and practical questions to be answered. Although the crisis is related to declining numbers, the crisis contains complexity and must involve more than a desire to attract greater numbers into congregations. Second, the crisis is not simply the result of the absorption or rejection of cultural values. Although the absorption of cultural values in church planting methodology is evident, the crisis is deeper than that. We need more than a methodological approach. We are determining, through current research, that the crisis is theological and spiritual. There is tension and uncertainty regarding God's role and the human role in mission. We need continued theological investigation to reflect more carefully upon how the Triune God and humans work together in mission-related activity.

The church planting literature reveals a lack of clarity concerning human and divine agency in mission. On the one hand, the work of people creates church growth; on the other, growth is considered solely the supernatural result of God's work through the Spirit, because the church belongs to God

and is shaped by God. Without doubt, church planting is undertaken with the sincere and compassionate desire that people experience life change through a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Church planters long to encourage this transformation. Somehow God and humans work together in this endeavour, but the relationship is not clarified and so leads to tensions within church planters, between different church planters, and between church planters and their denominations.

*As long as we assume
that the problem concerns
only numbers, the church
planting literature will
continue to focus on
“how to” solutions for
reaching larger numbers
of potential members.*

In my own active involvement on five different church planting teams, and through consulting with other church planting initiatives, I have witnessed the tension that comes with efforts to achieve “success” in church planting. I have seen and felt the tensions experienced by church planters who agonize over how they might connect with those who are unchurched, while still trying to live up to the expectations of their denominations. Many church planters question their own efforts and wonder why God does not bring forth the expected results. Other church planters work ever harder to obtain results, or willingly accept transfer growth in order to see their congregations grow. Some church planters see their congregations flourish as individuals come to Christ, but then face questions about how to encourage those new Christians to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Recognizing the different tensions experienced by current church planters offers an opportunity for students at Wycliffe to reflect more deeply on the relationship between divine and hu-

man agency in mission. While church growth materials have proved beneficial for some churches, the emphasis they place on methodology, and on expectations of success, results in frustration for others. Some church planters have become subject to discouragement and burn out. It is possible that we have become so busy doing mission for God that we have forgotten our primary invitation is to come and experience union in Christ in order to participate in what the Spirit of God is doing in our midst. We are invited to live in grace. Lavish, inefficient, uncontrollable, joyous grace is central to the good news of the gospel and integral to being united with Jesus Christ. However, the church planter needs to be theologically re-oriented away from cultural interpretations of success in order to be spiritually and emotionally equipped to encounter the tensions of church planting.

Because of this needed theological re-orientation, Wycliffe has developed a Pioneering stream as an emphasis within the MDiv program. Courses in Gospel, Church and Culture, Church Planting, Missional Spirituality, and Christian Worship encourage students to interact with theological categories, examine biblical passages, and make historical enquiries into the nature of mission and church planting. Theological reflection based on conversation enriched with biblical understanding allows for an appreciation of healthy debate and creative tension. The development of spiritual practices, the creation of a new ministry proposal, and the building of relationships enable Wycliffe's pioneering students to examine how they might perceive their church planting ministry as participating in Christ's mission in the world. The crisis in the North American church is real, but can be addressed. As students learn to reflect theologically on methods and models, they participate actively in mission that is empowered not primarily by human agency, but by the Spirit of the Triune God.

Marilyn Draper serves Wycliffe College as Professor of Pastoral Theology, part-time.

Israel, 2018



Who: YOU!

When: February 14-26, 2018.

With: The Rev. Dr. Judy Paulsen, Professor of Evangelism and Director of the Institute of Evangelism, and Dr. Stephen Notley, New Testament Professor and one of the most experienced guides in Israel.

Why: When you feel the Judean sun on your face and breeze in your hair, when your ears pop as you ascend to Jerusalem or climb the Temple Mount stairs that Jesus would have climbed, when you savour fish from the Sea of Galilee or watch Jewish schoolchildren scurry through the streets as they rush to get home before the Sabbath, then Scripture comes alive. And when scholars contextualize all you see, hear, feel, and experience, then faith grows deeper and more meaningful than ever before.

For more information: www.emmausonline.net/tours/2018-wycliffe

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE Social Stats

Social Media Followers



Website Engagement

TOP COUNTRIES SINCE JAN 2017



Facebook Page likes: 784 (30% increase compared to last year)

Twitter Followers: 817 (31% increase compared to last year)

YouTube: 371 subscribers, 75 490 views

14K+ new visitors to the website since January

“Is God a Figment of our Imagination?”

On 15 September 2017, esteemed theologian Alister McGrath, together with a panel of guests, will tackle this question on campus at the University of Toronto, Convocation Hall.

Part of the *Religion and Society* series, the purpose of the series is to generate discussions on critical matters of faith and social concern, and help individuals, community groups, and churches engage in conversations around topics that deeply matter. Each event is live streamed, enabling people from around the world to participate.

Plan now to join us - in person or through our live broadcast.

SAVE THE DATE

Wycliffe College seeks to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017) in a number of ways.

- 1. Preaching Series on the Reformation**
Founders' Chapel, Wycliffe College
Thursday mornings
Fall 2017
- 2. Free Online Course: Rediscovering the Reformation for Today**
25 Sept. - 15 Dec. 2017
- 3. Virtual Exhibition: The Reformation and Theological Education**
wycliffecollege.ca
October 2017
- 4. Founders' Chapel Windows**
Video series on the story of the English Bible as depicted on the windows of Founders' Chapel.
wycliffecollege.ca
Fall 2017
- 5. Wednesday Event**
Prof. Alec Ryrie, University of Durham, UK.
11 October, 2017
- 6. Principal's Dinner**
Prof. Alec Ryrie, University of Durham, UK.
12 October, 2017
- 7. Conference: The Bible and Mission**
13 October, 2017
- 8. Now Thank We All Our God: Hymns of the Reformation and the Rise of Congregational Singing**
22 November 2017

For updates see
wycliffecollege.ca/Reformation500

The Wycliffe College Newsletter for Alumni and Friends • June 2017, No. 83 • ISSN 1192-2761

INSIGHT is published twice yearly by Wycliffe College Communications

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