

# ***THE MORNING STAR***

THE WYCLIFFE COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 9 2019 | VOL. 01



## ***3 ways seminary will change you for the better***

BY STEPHEN ANDREWS

At Wycliffe's recent Theology Pub Night on August 30, I was gratified when someone asked me if I was a student at Wycliffe College. I am often mistaken for a younger person, which I think I owe to my genes, but which my wife suspects may also have something to do with my behaviour. The hard-to-believe truth, however, is that this month marks the fortieth year since I began my formal theological training.

My wife does have a point. I suppose that by now I should be feeling a bit old and grumpy. But as the new academic year dawns and I see students begin to assemble, I recall what a thrill and a privilege it was to study at the feet of well-known theological thinkers and to make friends with others who were passionate about knowing God. It is a thrill that has never left me. I still get excited when discussion turns to theology. Like our last Theology Pub Night, where nearly a hundred gathered at the College to hear two well-known pastors talk about the public controversy over their theological differences.

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*“Seminary can enlarge our views of God as we find our convictions tested and discover new insights.”*

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### **1. Enlarging our views of God**

One of the things the dialogue partners agreed on was that the nature of their quarrel was complex, and that the social media that had fuelled their dispute had failed to understand this. It is an important point, and it really highlights one of the most significant ways seminary can change us for the better. Seminary can enlarge our views of God as we find our convictions tested and discover new insights. Now, this can be threatening. But in critically examining our assumptions, the aim is to grow in our certainty, and especially in the certainty that God is more beautiful than we had ever thought or could ever imagine.

### **2. “Rubbing shoulders” with those who have other points of view**

Now, many seminaries train students from a variety of different denominations. Our incoming class this year represents fourteen ecclesiastical traditions. It can be challenging to rub shoulders with professors and classmates whose views differ at key points from our own. But, in the cross-pollination of the seminary, our perspectives and our faith can be both stretched and deepened. It was while I was at seminary, in fact, that I discovered the riches of Anglicanism and resolved to align myself with this tribe. How I reached that decision is the matter for another blog.

### **3. Cultivating a community of colleagues**

One of the consequences of my new allegiance, however, was that I had to attend an Anglican theological institution. So, my pastor directed me to his alma mater, Wycliffe College. And it was here that my life was indisputably changed for the better. Not so much because I gained an appreciation for the Anglican tradition, but because God fashioned a community of colleagues that continues to enrich and nourish my ministry. Most significant of all was that I discovered a fondness for a particular Anglican, for this is where I met Fawna Crowther! And if you don't think this has changed me for the better, let me introduce you to my brother who will gladly enlighten you.

So, my friends, changes are afoot at Wycliffe College. We are a community in a continual state-of-change-for-the-better. In the course of our study here may our vision of God be enlarged, may our appreciation of the Church be enriched, and may God surround us with life-long friends and companions on the road of discipleship.

### **ABOUT**

*Bishop Stephen Andrews is Principal of Wycliffe College.*



## *Welcome from the Dean*

BY PETER ROBINSON

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year. Each September, walking through the halls of Wycliffe, it is wonderful to see so many new faces: people from all over the world with a wide variety of experiences, backgrounds, gifts and passions - including a great contingent from Texas! It is also a great privilege to listen to the stories of the work God has been doing in the lives of each person as he draws us together in this place. Each person represents so many others who have invested in them, mentored them, walked alongside and guided them. In the classrooms, in the refractory and in chapel we are regularly reminded that the body of Christ is rich and diverse. Of course, as we move through the year, we can be sure that there will be challenges, encouragement, times when we are provoked and times when we will be overwhelmed. Through it all I pray, that as we learn and grow up together in Christ, we may “live in a manner worthy of his calling, with all humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.”

## *Events & Announcements*

### **INTRODUCTION TO HOW WE PRAY AT WYCLIFFE AND TO CHAPTEL TEAMS**

***Wednesday, Sept 11, 3:00—4:15 p.m. in the Chapel***

Attendance is mandatory for all MDiv students for this event. All others encouraged to come! Cookies, tea and coffee are provided.

### **GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP**

***Wednesday September 11, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Jay Boardroom in the TST building***

The Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students Association invites all students to attend our annual Grant Writing Workshop . We have a panel of experts who are prepared and well equipped to answer all your grant writing questions and provide you with

advice! A celebration BBQ social will follow from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Wycliffe College. This will be a great way to meet new friends and reunite with old ones!

### **FALL TOUR OF TST COLLEGES**

***Thursday, Sept 12, 01:00—03:15 p.m. at Wycliffe College***

This is another great way to get to know the campus and meet your fellow TST students. All TST students are invited to participate in the Fall TST College Tour hosted by the TST Roundtable. It will start with a lunch at Wycliffe College at 1:00 p.m. The tour begins at 2:00 p.m. and will include stops at various TST colleges and conclude with prayer at Knox. Please contact [tstroundtable@gmail.com](mailto:tstroundtable@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

**WEEKLY CHAPEL  
SCHEDULE  
STARTING SEPT 9TH**

**Morning Prayer  
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.**

**Taizé Evening Prayer  
Mon, 5:30 p.m.**

**Wine Before Breakfast  
Tue, 7:22 a.m.**

**Sung Evensong  
Tue, 5:30 p.m.**

**Holy Eucharist with  
faculty sermons &  
child care  
Wed, 4:45 p.m.**

**Prayer & Praise  
Thu, 5:00 p.m.**

**Evening Prayer  
Fri, 5:30 p.m.**

## *More Events & Announcements*

### **FOUNDERS' DAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sunday, Sept 15, 11:00—12:15 p.m. in the Chapel**

Sunday September 15, 2019, is Wycliffe's Founders' Day. We celebrate the start of Wycliffe College in the place that it all began. Please join us at the Cathedral of St. James, 65 Church Street, Toronto, ON, at 11:00 a.m. for our Founders' Day Service. The Rev. Dr. Annette Brownlee will be the preacher. It is an expectation that all students will attend this service.

### **PRINCIPAL'S DINNER: SOLD OUT**

**Tuesday, Sept 24, 06:00—09:15 p.m. at Wycliffe College**

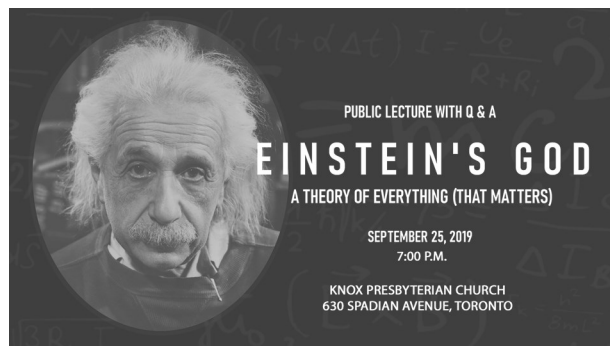
Dr. Alister McGrath will be speaking on "Unity for the Kingdom." This event has sold out.

### **EINSTEIN'S GOD WITH ALISTER MCGRATH**

**Wednesday, Sept 25, 07:00—09:30  
p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church**

Though Einstein revolutionized physics, he failed in his quest to discover a "grand theory of everything," a problem he wrestled with until his death. While Einstein did not believe in a personal God, Alister McGrath writes, he was driven by a "cosmic religious feeling" that became his "strongest and noblest motive for scientific research." Join McGrath as he sketches the religious views of one of the greatest scientific minds of the last century and shares insights from his forthcoming book, *A Theory of Everything (That Matters): A Brief Guide of Einstein, Relativity, and His Surprising Thoughts on God*.

You may purchase tickets online at <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/einstein>



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## **WYCLIFFE WEAR**

**50% off** selected merchandise during orientation week and the first week of classes! You may purchase Wycliffe Wear at the front desk.

