

# The Morning Star

*Wycliffe College Community Newsletter*



## Questions on aging worthy of reflection

*By Annette Brownlee*

Two years ago, my husband, Ephraim, and I were proud parents at our son's graduation from university. The afternoon before the graduation ceremony there was a baccalaureate service in the chapel of his school. Seating was limited; each graduate could only invite a few people. Not surprisingly the Chapel was packed with parents, grandparents, and a few siblings.

The keynote speaker was a professor. She spoke of the usual kinds of things heard at graduations: the gifts the graduates have to give the world, the need to dream big, to make a difference. Perhaps because I was sitting in a chapel filled with generations of the graduates' families, I was struck by how this generational reality was utterly absent from her remarks. The world she launched them into, the world where they were to shine, was devoid of family ties, of taking their place, and knowing themselves within the stream of the very generations who surrounded them that day.

This may seem an odd starting place on a blog about aging. But this same kind of abstraction happens when thinking about aging. We talk about how we deal with our failing bodies and face our mortality. How we let go of careers, if we've had them. If families are brought into the discussion, it's often in terms of caring for aging parents. But the question of our vocation as we age within the stream of generations is rarely asked. I'm not sure we even know what to ask.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WYCLIFFE?

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- Feb 13 – Integrative Learning Exercise Review for Graduating Students – page four
- FEB 18-22 – READING WEEK
- Feb 22 – Theology Pub Night with Bruxy Cavey from The Meeting House
- May 14 – Preaching Day \*rescheduled\* – page three

### Refectory Note:

Please note that due to a scheduling conflict there **will not be lunch** served in the Refectory on **Monday February 11<sup>th</sup>**. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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We need to start trying. To speak of aging at all is to locate ourselves within this stream. It's not only my creaking knees that tell me I'm getting older. It is the growing number of generations that follow behind me: my children, our students, the young people at church. More importantly, the many genealogies in Scripture, the apostolic nature of faith, and the blessing of the families of the earth through Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 12:1-3) all point to the centrality of generations in God's ordering and redemption of the world.

So, let me suggest a few questions for contemplation. First, as we age, what is our vocation to the generations who follow us? How does God call us to take our place among them? Second, what is the vocation of marriage as we age? If marriage is our vocation. When the kids are launched and, if we are lucky, the house is paid for?

The answers must be found in the reality that in Christ we are bound to each other across time. What is the vocation of younger people to older? Their life is not just about their future, but about the relationships they already have to those who are older. The older person who suffers with frailty and illness? What is his vocation to the fifteen-year-old teen who suffers with anxiety and depression? And her vocation to him? The vocation to our peers as we age?

***The answers must be found in the reality that in Christ we are bound to each other across time.***

These are Christian questions for the church to ask and worthy of the best of our thinking and prayer. Especially as our culture continues its erasure of the distinctions that are a part of human creatureliness.

No less a theologian that Oliver O'Donovan has addressed such themes. In a volume honoring the octogenarian ethicist, Philip Turner, this septuagenarian chose to write about "The Practice of Being Old" (Church, Society and the Christian Common Good: Essays in Conversation with Philip Turner, edited by Ephraim Radner, foreword by Stanley Hauerwas). I commend his essay to you. The practice of being old that O'Donovan describes is a vocation.

A vocation of living with and for one another—across time.

***About the author***

*Prof. Annette Brownlee is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of Field Education at Wycliffe College.*



## Upcoming Events

**UofT's Research Ethics Board Review Process Info Session – Feb 12 Tuesday** The DMin Program will be hosting a half-day information session on UofT's Research Ethics Board review process from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This session is open to all DMin, conjoint PhD, ThD, ThM and conjoint MA students who are using human subjects in their research. TST faculty supervising students in these programs are also encouraged to attend. The session is free and will be held in the Toronto School of Theology building. Register for the session: <https://www.facebook.com/events/795839930808455/>

### Theology Pub Night – Feb 22

Bruxy Cavey from The Meeting House will be joining us for the next Theology Pub Night! Come chill on a Friday evening, enjoy a pint, and be part of great conversations in a cozy and friendly setting! So don't miss out! [wycliffecollege.ca/about/events/theology-pub-wycliffe](http://wycliffecollege.ca/about/events/theology-pub-wycliffe)



### Preaching Day — \*rescheduled to May 14

Wycliffe's annual event designed to equip and encourage those who prepare and deliver sermons week after week - has been rescheduled from its original February date to **May 14, 2019**. Cultivating the art and craft of preaching is a lifelong endeavour that takes time, effort, and patience. At Wycliffe College we are committed to engaging deeply with the biblical text, with a focus on the theological reading of the whole of Scripture. This year, Dr. Joseph Mangina and the Rev. Dr. Annette Brownlee will look at the gospel of the beloved disciple, the book of John. Get tickets: [wycliffecollege.ca/preachingday](http://wycliffecollege.ca/preachingday)

## News & Announcements

### From the Registrar

**Tax Time** - we are coming up to tax time and if you have been issued a bursary from Wycliffe, a T4A tax form will be automatically mailed out to the mailing address listed on ROSI. Please make sure that the address listed on ROSI is your current Toronto mailing address! Conjoint students are able to download the form from ACORN.

**Summer Course** – Our summer course listing is now available on the website for your viewing. Learn about Summer Session at Wycliffe: [www.wycliffecollege.ca/summer](http://www.wycliffecollege.ca/summer). Want to plan your courses ahead of time? See our course offering at [www.wycliffecollege.ca/programs-courses/courses/course-search](http://www.wycliffecollege.ca/programs-courses/courses/course-search)

*More announcements from the Registrar on the next page >>*

## More News & Announcements

### More From the Registrar

**Graduating this year?** - If you missed the CanGrad sitting last week, it is not too late to participate in the composite photograph! Please contact Jeff Hocking at [jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca) about making alternative appointment with the studio.

**For doctoral students** – The deadline for application to the Allan L. Beattie Assistantship is April 1, 2019. See TST website for more information at [www.tst.edu/academic/scholarships-and-bursaries](http://www.tst.edu/academic/scholarships-and-bursaries)

**Dollars for Daycare** – Students with families may learn more about the UTSU Dollars for Daycare bursary at the information table at Emmanuel College on Feb 13. More information at [www.utsu.ca/resources/dollars-for-daycare/](http://www.utsu.ca/resources/dollars-for-daycare/)

**Reading Week is Feb 18–22. There will be no classes during that week.**

### Chapel Services

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

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

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

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

**Community Eucharist**  
Wed, 4:45 p.m.

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

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

### This Wednesday

**Wednesday Event: Integrative Learning Exercise Review for Graduating Students at 3:00 p.m.**

This event will be followed by Eucharist at 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel! This week's homilist will be The Rev. Chris Dow, W2012 from St. James, Caledon East.

And don't forget to sign up for the 6:00 p.m. community dinner at the front desk before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday!

### Job Opportunity at Wycliffe

**Hiring Program Assistant for Indigenous Leadership Week 2019** – Want to engage with Indigenous church leaders? The Program Assistant will coordinate pre-program details, then assist onsite during the program. Required: cross-cultural sensitivity; administrative competence; willingness to listen/learn; empathetic people skills; team orientation; creativity/flexibility toward planning. Starts 1 March. 240 hours; majority in May. Apply by 12 February to Rev. Julie Golding Page, Director of Indigenous Training Programs: [jgoldingpage@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:jgoldingpage@wycliffe.utoronto.ca).

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