



John Smyth (1570-1612) - The Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes

By the time John Smyth, who is widely regarded as the founder of the Baptist Church, was born, Luther, Zwingli and Calvin were all dead and John Knox was approaching the end of his life. John Smyth sensed a call to ministry and studied at Cambridge after which he was ordained into the Anglican priesthood in 1594. Smyth served in both Cambridge and Lincolnshire, but before long some of his contentious views landed him in prison. After that ordeal he abandoned the priesthood and for a short time took up the study of medicine. By 1606 Smyth had left the Church of England and formed a 'Separatist' congregation in Gainsborough.

Like the Puritans, the Separatists took exception to alleged abuses in the state church, but no longer believed in trying to purify the church from within. They came to believe the church is a creation of the Holy Spirit rather than a creation of the state and that the essence of

belonging was birthed through a personal belief in Christ. Separatists also moved away from hierarchical leadership towards a more congregational form of church governance.

Though separatists would become very influential under Oliver Cromwell during the years of the Commonwealth, (1649-1660) and would eventually survive, they were heavily persecuted during the reign of King James I. Smyth's underground church in Gainsborough grew so rapidly that it could no longer function in secret and so in 1608 Thomas Helwys, a wealthy lawyer in the congregation, financed passage for members of the church, including Smyth and himself, to Holland. It was while in exile in Holland Smyth and Helwys came in contact with the Mennonites. Smyth, whose aim was to align the church with the model of the early church in the Book of Acts, responded positively to the Mennonite teaching on

Baptism as an expression of belief, obedience and testimony, rather than as an instrument of salvation to be imposed on infants.

Meno Symons, the founder of the Mennonites had been baptized as a believer in 1536, so Smyth was far from the first to reintroduce the idea of believer's baptism, but the Mennonites baptized by pouring as did Smyth initially. Smyth was the first to submit to believer's Baptism and then baptized the rest of his flock. Initially this was done by pouring, but it would not be long before his congregation was practicing Baptism by immersion. Helwys led most of the congregation back to England where they formed the first Baptist congregation in 1611. However, Smyth was never to return to England.

Smyth had other distinctive notions including the belief that everything offered in worship had to be of the Holy Spirit and therefore

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Editorial (cont'd)

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extemporaneous offerings were preferred over anything written by human hands. Smyth was very familiar with both the Book of Common Prayer of 1549, and with the early English translations of the Bible, but he was so suspicious of the works of human hands that their use was not permitted in worship. Instead Smyth preached from the Hebrew and Greek texts offering simultaneous translation in his sermons.

In other areas he was truly radical in his reforms. In terms of polity he gave

authority to the congregation rather than the clergy and in terms of religious freedom he insisted that it be extended beyond separatists and non-conformists to include Muslims.

As a lawyer Helwys rejected the Mennonites teaching against oath taking as well as their pacifism. Both Smyth and Helwys struggled with elements of the early Mennonite Christology, but after Helwys left for England, Smyth grew ever closer to the Mennonites with whom he formally joined before the end of his life in 1612 at the age of

forty-two. Though his life was short, his legacy as the founder of the first Baptist Church and as an early advocate of religious liberty, congregational autonomy, the freedom of conscience and Biblical authority was profound and significant.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes is a Wycliffe Grad (W86) and Pastor at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Dr. Holmes is also a member of the Wycliffe College Board of Trustees.

Chapel Schedule for this week...

Date & Sacristan	Service	Officiant /Homilist	Readers, etc.	Greeters
Monday—J. Smith	MP	E. Radner	R. Sykes/S. Otto	
A. Johnson	EP—Taize	A. Brownlee	M. Quach	
Tuesday—B. Poole	MP	+S. Andrews	E. Waller Roy	
A. Pohlod	Sung Evensong	D. Badgley	J. Mangina/J. Smith	A. Pohlod
Wednesday—B. Poole	MP	K. Steiner		R. Sykes
A. Polhod	HE	A. Jervis/ S. Keesmaat	B. Tshin/C. Upton Server—J. Sholl Sub-deacon—S. Pollard	M. Quach/ E. Waller Roy
Thursday—A. Johnson	MP	A. Brownlee	E. Waller Roy	R. Sykes
D. Badgley	EP	G/ Tayylor	D. Badgley/A. Pohlod	
Friday—A. Pohlod	MP	A. Brownlee	K. Baker-Bigauskas/J. Smith	
D. Badgley	EP	J. Duerrstein	C. Upton/C. Hazlitt	

All MDiv Pioneers & MDivs are invited!!


On Tuesday November 28th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., church planter Robin Waller will be interacting with students in our Gospel, Church & Culture course (West Lecture Room).

Robin has built and led teams that have planted churches on the campuses of McMaster and Brock Universities, with plans underway to plant at Guelph U in 2 years.

Come and learn from this young bi-vocational leader with a wonderful passion for disciple-making.

Any questions about this event? Email Prof. Judy Paulsen

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS



**THE
REAL &
RELEVANT**

ANDREWS BROWNLEE HAMILTON
JERVIS PAULSEN & RADNER
ON VITAL ISSUES FACING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF STUDENTS

Wed. Nov 29 3 pm | Reading Room | Refreshments to start

2017-18 Student Council:

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VP Theology
James "So you think you can dance?" Sholl

VP Spirituality
Secretary

Christine Ivy
Jordan Smith
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Cajun Kim
Parker Cotton

Student Council Info

Christmas Decorating (and Movie Night)

Wednesday 29 November, 7pm – end of movie. Gather in the Reading Room.

Let's beautify the college with lights, Christmas trees, mistletoe, etc! Join us afterwards for a well-deserved pizza and movie night.

Christmas: Lessons & Carols, Christmas Dinner, and Talent Show

Friday 01 December 2017 Mark your calendar for the annual Lessons and Carols service (4:43pm in Founders Chapel), fancy community Christmas Dinner (6pm in

the Refectory), and Talent Show (7:30pm in Sheraton Hall)! Dress is smart casual or semi-formal. Guests must have signed up to come to dinner. **Residents** should sign up for "late-dinner" if they haven't signed up for Christmas dinner.



Intramural Sports! Next Term (Winter):

Sign-up for Ultimate Frisbee and Indoor Soccer on the StuCo bulletin board.

Month-End Movie Nights

Join us for snacks and a movie after dinner! (7pm, movie locations TBD)

- Wednesday 29 November (Christmas movie in the Reading Room)
- Monday 29 January (Of Gods and Men)
- Friday 23 February (movie suggestions welcome)
- Tuesday 27 March (movie suggestions welcome)



In the Residence..

Residence Don

Lane Scuggs
X3030

Floor Dons

Joan Morris
X2329
Anthony Fredette
x2206

Calendar of Events—Nov/Dec 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 MP: Diane Lee	29 WE: SC Mini Development Day Pr: Sylvia Keesmaat	30 MP: T. Power EP: A. Pohlod	1 Lessons & Carols Dinner & Talents Board—Annual Meeting	2
3 First Sunday of Advent	4	5 MP: Joan Morris	6 Pr: Joan Locke	7	8	9
10	11 Last Day of Classes	EXAM WEEK				16
17	18	19	20 Admin closes @ 1:00 p.m. Meal Plan ends with Breakfast Residence Closes	21	22	23
COLLEGE CLOSED						
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
COLLEGE CLOSED						
31	1 January	2	3	4 Admin re-opens @ 8:00 a.m.	5	6 Residence re-opens
COLLEGE CLOSED						



Christmas @ Wycliffe

Decking the Halls

Wednesday November 29th following Community Dinner

Celebrating as a Community

Friday December 1st

4:43 p.m. Lessons & Carols

6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Dinner

7:30 p.m. Talent Show

Note: Sign-up for the dinner has closed, but you are welcome to attend Lessons & Carols and the Talent Show!