

The Morning Star

Wycliffe College Student Newsletter



Episco-Paul: Was the Apostle Paul an Anglican?

By Terence Donaldson

We have recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's "Ninety-five Theses," an event that marked a decisive step on the road to the Reformation. Luther's criticisms of the church, of course, were grounded in his reading of Paul's letters, and since then the Apostle Paul has had a special place in the churches of the Reformation. It is the Lutherans and the Presbyterians especially who have taken him as their own, and I know of at least some Anglicans who are prepared to say that these other churches are welcome to him. As one who has appreciated Paul for a long time, however (and who feels that Paul has not always been well-served by his Protestant interpreters), I do not count myself among this number.

In fact, I think that there are very good reasons to believe that Paul himself was actually Anglican. I was hoping that, in David Letterman fashion, I could present a top-ten list of reasons to believe that Paul was Anglican or (for our friends of American persuasion) Episcopalian (Episco-Paul, we might call him). So far, however, I have only been able to find seven. But seven is a pretty significant number in itself, and the seven reasons add up to quite an impressive case. Here they are:

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(7) He ends all his letters with the grace (see especially 2 Cor 13:14).

(6) He wants everything done decently and in order (1 Cor 14:40).

(5) He encourages his young curate to drink wine for the sake of his health (1 Tim 5:23). We would have had a clearer indication of his Anglican leanings, perhaps, if he had said sherry, or, in some circles, scotch; but it's close enough for present purposes.

(4) Young people found his sermons to be boring. One particular sermon caused a member of the youth group in the church at Troas not only to fall into a dead sleep but also to drop out of the church entirely (Acts 20:7-10).

(3) As we can see from 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, he had a hard time persuading his parishioners to contribute to the stewardship campaign.

(2) Like Henry VIII, he wasn't prepared to accept the primacy of Peter (Gal 2:1-15).

And the number one reason why we can believe that Paul was an Anglican:

(1) He knew that when all other arguments failed, his parishioners would be convinced by the argument that this is the way it has always been done (1 Cor 11:16).

Of course, life always comes with its ambiguities, and I have to confess that there are some things about Paul

that are not very Anglican at all. Here are three; perhaps you can think of others:

(1) Anglicans are known by their innate tendency to find obscure names for ordinary things—narthex, sacristy, vestry, warden, rector, sidesperson, mattins, collect, and so on—and Paul seems never to have heard of any of them.

(2) His sermons may have put people to sleep but they lasted much longer than twelve minutes (Acts 20:7).

(3) He was engaged full-time in evangelism and the development of new congregations.

Perhaps in the end, then, we should not try to claim Paul for ourselves, whether we are Anglican or Lutheran or Presbyterian or whatever. Instead let us join with all other Christians in being thankful for the legacy of Paul (and of Peter and all those “who were apostles before [Paul]”; Gal 1: 17) and for the faith that we all share.

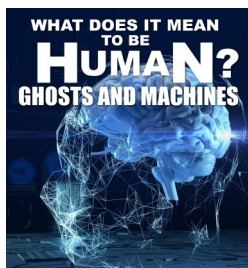
About the author

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This article is also featured on the Wycliffe Blog





Upcoming Events

“What Does it Mean to be Human? Ghosts and Machines” — Jan 25

The human soul has been described as “the ghost in the machine” [of the human body]. But not everyone agrees that the soul exists. On Jan 25, Geordie Rose, Julien Musolino and Michael Murray discuss artificial intelligence, cognitive science and the implications they have on the question of “what it means to be human.” Get Tickets:

www.wycliffecollege.ca/religionandsociety

Toronto Christian Scholar Symposium — Jan 25 An annual gathering of interdisciplinary scholars of the Christian faith to explore ways to integrate faith and the academy. The keynote speaker will be Michael Murray, Senior Vice President at the John Templeton Foundation. Buy tickets: www.wycliffecollege.ca/tcss

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — Jan 20-27 There will be a TST-wide ecumenical service on **Wednesday, January 23** from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at [St. Augustine's Seminary](#). The event will feature Fr. Galadza of The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies. A bus will be available to transport attendees from the St. George Campus to the Seminary for the service. The bus will leave from St. Joseph Street at 1:00 pm and will return to the same location around 5:00 pm. Refreshments to follow. Please RSVP to sudipta@sastoronto.org

Wednesday Event with George Sumner — Jan 30 Don't miss this! The former Principal of Wycliffe will give a talk “If I Could Tell a Young Seminarian/Priest 10 Things” at 3 p.m. in the Reading Room.

At Home Dinner & Dance 2019 — Feb 1 Join us for an evening of Texas BBQ and music! Wycliffe's annual At Home is a chance to relax and feel “at home” with each other. Tickets are \$15, which includes BBQ and sides + 2 drinks. Register by Jan 27: athome-2019.eventbrite.com

Preaching Day — Feb 19 Preaching is an incredible privilege and a daunting responsibility. Dr Joseph Mangina and the Rev. Dr. Annette Brownlee will be looking at the gospel of the beloved disciple, the book of John. Early bird tickets available by Jan 15: wycliffecollege.ca/preachingday

News & Announcements

New Faculty Sermon Series on Ezekiel — Wycliffe faculty will be preaching on the book of Ezekiel this winter term in the Chapel from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. every Thursday. Audio recordings will also be available online.

Paperless Morning Star — Did you know? You can sign up to receive the Morning Star electronically! Simply visit <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/newsletter> and check the “Morning Star Student Newsletter” box when you sign up.

From the Registrar — Do you expect to graduate this May? Be sure to sign up for a photo sitting for January 30 or 31. Your robe and hood will be provided for you at the session. These photos will be used for the graduating class composite which will be hung in the ambulatory, so be sure that you are included! You also have the option of purchasing copies for yourself. Please choose a time slot on the signup sheet which will be posted at the front desk the week before the photo shoot. Cannot make either day? Please contact Jeffrey Hocking (jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca)

Christians Against Poverty Course will run three weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan 24–Feb 7 at West Lecture Room. Sign up at the front desk or email Sonya at sonya.lawley@mail.utoronto.ca Learn more: www.capcanada.org.

More News & Announcements

This Wednesday

Join us this Wednesday for Eucharist at 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel! Our guest homilist will be Mary Conliffe from the Diocese of Toronto.

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!

New Publication

Poverty and the Poor in the World's Religious Traditions: Religious Responses to the Problem of Poverty by William H. Brackney and Rupen Das (Editors) is a resource for students, practitioners, and leaders interested in how the major world religions have understood poverty and responded to the poor. The book includes an essay "Poverty and the Poor in the African Religious Traditions," contributed by Wycliffe Professor David Kupp and Program Director Steve Hewko.

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Chapel Service Schedule

	Service	Sacristan	Officiant / Homilist	Readers, Servers, etc.	Greeters
Morning Prayer Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.	MP	B. Poole	E. Radner	K. Baker, S. Kim	S. Kim
	Taize	M. Garner	A. Brownlee	M. Lyons	M. Lyons
Wine Before Breakfast Tue, 7:22 a.m.	MP	L. Hurst	P. Robinson / A. Fung	M. Ytsma, R. Sykes	M. Ytsma
	Evensong	S. Kawket	E. Teel	K. Moolman, J. Mangina	K. Moolman
Taize Evening Prayer Mon, 5:30 a.m.	MP	M. Garner	+SGWA	S. Kim, R. Henderson	S. Kim
	Eucharist	B. Poole	Guest Homilist Mary Conliffe; D. Butorac, J. Lee, S. Lawley	K. Moolman	K. Moolman
Sung Evensong Tue, 5:30 p.m.	MP	S. Lawley	+SGWA	K. Moolman	K. Moolman
	P&P	Z. Bartkus	R. Bartlett	R. Sykes	R. Sykes
Community Eucharist Wed, 4:45 p.m.	MP	L. Hurst	A. Brownlee	M. Taylor	M. Lyons
	Inform. EP	Z. Bartkus	Student Officiant	S. Kim	S. Kim
Prayer & Praise Thu, 5:00 p.m.	MP	L. Hurst	A. Brownlee	M. Taylor	M. Lyons
	Inform. EP	Z. Bartkus	Student Officiant	S. Kim	S. Kim
Informal Evening Prayer Fri, 5:30 p.m.	MP	L. Hurst	A. Brownlee	M. Taylor	M. Lyons
	Inform. EP	Z. Bartkus	Student Officiant	S. Kim	S. Kim