Narrative Theology: At the Heart of the Matter for Don Gillies

Emmanuel College is blessed with many graduates whose accomplishments distinguish them in their communities. Each year since 2008, the ECAA Executive has honoured one individual’s “extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy, or society at large.” Donald Gillies’s Emm 5T9 ministry has had a tremendous influence on all three: church, academy and society, and affected social and political paradigms locally, nationally and even internationally. So while Gillies seemed somewhat surprised when he was named this year’s winner—“I’m not sure that ‘distinguished’ would leap immediately to mind!”—his story confirms that he is all too deserving.

Gillies’s first foray into higher learning was at McMaster University, Hamilton, where he received his general arts degree. As a student he attended St. James Baptist Church, but gradually made a denominational transition to the United Church. He is quick to point out that the move was not due to “theological frustration,” but rather musical connections with a minister and his son. Upon entering the MDiv program at Emmanuel, he played the piano for the college choir and carried a student parish, the Honeywood Pastoral Charge in Dufferin-Peel Presbytery.

Music has played a tremendous role in his life and ministry, and it has led him to a position as organist and choir leader, at various times, at Cheyne Presbyterian (Stoney Creek), St. John’s Anglican (Winona), St. Paul’s Anglican (Hamilton), St. David’s (Hamilton), and Bloor Street United (Toronto). He also helped to prepare The Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada in the 1970s. He has remained active as an accompanist and choral conductor, both in the church and for various public concerts in his community. While music is generally described as an art form, those who study it know the complexity of the theories behind it. It is at once creative and methodical. It can be creative and subjective while simultaneously mathematical and rational.

It is not surprising, then, that Gillies combined his love of art with his academic fascinations. He graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1961, having majored in systematic theology and philosophy of religion. A few years after graduating, he became a founding vice-president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, worked as the executive director at the Toronto Institute of Human Relations (1970-1982), and served as a “minister to ministers” with the Toronto Conference (United Church of Canada) from 1982-1987. His beliefs in human rights and social equality affected his life personally and professionally and led him to the 1988 General Council in Victoria: “For me, it was not simply a question of ‘gay rights,’ though that was important, too. It was also, and perhaps more, a question of how we live out, in the church, the radical inclusiveness of the gospel we profess. I went into that struggle as if my life depended on it. And in a way, it did! I’m not quite sure what I would have done if the church had gone the other way on that issue.” He went on to play a vital role in the legal struggle to establish same-sex marriage in Ontario. In fact, his

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summation on the issue became part of the proceedings.

Richard Choe Emm 8T9, past president of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association says: “Don is deserving of the award, most of all, for living out his sense of justice and compassion in and through his various forms of ministries and life.” Both during and since then, Gillies has served as a member on numerous committees—too many to count—and published scholarly articles related to the church, Victoria University and the arts. He also served three separate terms at Bloor Street United Church: first, as an assistant minister in the 1960s; next, as the minister of music from 1966 to 1977; and finally, part of the ministry team in the 1980s.

Shortly thereafter, he returned to academia and received his DMin in 1991 from the Boston University School of Theology while serving as chaplaincy coordinator for the Toronto Conference, on a part-time basis. For five years he held the position of field education director at Emmanuel College and was awarded the Victoria University Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998, and awarded a University of Toronto Arbor Award for volunteer service to Emmanuel in 2009.

And while he feels pride for the pivotal roles he has played within various schools, churches and committees, he seems to place more emphasis on the relationships he cultivated as a result. He’s quick to point out that during this time he got married, and had four children. Almost every “proud moment” mentioned is accompanied—if not overshadowed—by his family or the friends he met along the way. He even credits friendship for his decision to choose Emmanuel College.

As an Emmanuel student, he counts Robert Dobbie—“a Scot with a huge mind, and an even bigger heart”—as one of his main influences, but also includes professors Doug Jay Vic 4T6, Emm 5T0 and Greer Boyce.

It is a testament to Gillies’s character that some of his closest friends differed from him in their theology and beliefs. He can be fervently opposed to an issue, and yet he can remain in good humour (and in good standing) with those with whom he disagrees. Richard Choe remarks about Gillies: “You know and feel that you are being heard and cared for when you talk to him; that knowing and feeling ‘increases’ when you know that he is not in agreement with your ideas. He has an amazing way of getting to the heart of the matter with such succinct words and often accompanied with humour.”

It is dichotomies of this sort that characterize Don Gillies, and it is these which, perhaps, make him distinguished. He is at once artistic and scientific in his pursuit of knowledge, he can be serious and sincere, but has terrific sense of humour. “I tend to divide the world into those who are able to see the funny side of life and of themselves, and those who do not!” remarks Gillies. He has had a remarkable and rewarding career and yet is humble to the point of self-deprecation. He pursued post-graduate education, but also married and made time for his “pride and joy,” his family. He remains devoted to his wife Mimi, and calls her “the best thing I have going for me.” With Mimi at his side, he thoroughly enjoys spending family holidays at the cottage, travel, opera and theatre.

Gillies actively demonstrates the importance of balance in life and in theology. If he had to label his theology, it would be narrative: “I love the richness and the complexity of human stories, in all their quiriness. And in them, I find hints of the divine.” His life, his narrative, has certainly been enriched by his academic pursuits and his family and friends, but there have been “lots of less than stellar moments as well,” he says. Then, in his distinct style, he adds: “but why worry about them at a time like this!” It is this desire to offset opposition that is at the heart of the matter. It is his narrative that makes him a distinguished alumnus of Emmanuel College.

“...and in them, I find hints of the divine.”

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Donald Gillies Emm 5T9 receives the Distinguished Alumni award from Emmanuel College: He was thrilled to have his “dear wife” and his “wonderful children” in attendance with him. Pictured from left to right, daughter Maureen, Don, wife Mimi, son John, son Stephen and daughter Donna.
Imagination Unbound

BY MARK G. TOULOUSE

The new campaign to build resources for the future of Victoria University and Emmanuel College has now been officially launched under the name “Imagination Unbound.” Two of our graduates, Jane Brushey-Martin Emm 0T2 and Robert McGavin Emm 0T7, are serving as president’s advisors for the campaign. The components making up Emmanuel’s portion of this new campaign include efforts to fund (1) entering scholarships (to continue our efforts to pay entirely for at least the first full year of student tuition in the Master of Divinity program); (2) a global experience for each of our master’s students; (3) the creation of faculty chairs; (4) new work in contextual education; and (5) the emerging Muslim Studies program.

For the University, the name of the campaign emerges naturally from something Northrop Frye Vic 3T3, Emm 3T6 wrote in his book The Educated Imagination: “The fundamental job of the imagination in ordinary life, then, is to produce, out of the society we have to live in, a vision of the society we want to live in.” I like to think that Frye’s superb insight in such matters emerged from his theological education at Emmanuel College!

The use of the imagination to create a vision of the kind of society within which we should live is essentially a theological task. The problem we have today, in the vast chaos that is contemporary theological thought, is that, for many, theology has lost its imagination. Too many Christians today commit themselves to one specific truth, or perhaps one kind of methodology, and then attack all those who don’t share their view or approach. Sometimes I imagine a God who tearfully laments the decline of the creative use of theological imagination among human beings who seem to have nothing better to do than sit around and criticize one another. We Christians (and the church) really do need to find a way to unbind our imaginations!

With this newsletter, we are pleased to announce that Lilly Endowment Incorporated has affirmed part of Emmanuel’s active imagination by providing $500,000 (USD) in funding for our new Teaching for Ministry program. You can read more about this exciting development on page 5.

Our most recently hired professor, Dr. Swee Hong Lim, has arrived and begun his activities as the new Deer Park Assistant Professor of Sacred Music. We welcome Swee Hong and his family to Toronto. A profile of his appointment is found on page 4.

Should you drop by our office in the near future, you will meet our newest staff member, Shawn Kazubowski-Houston (pronounced “houseton”), who joins Kate Sedore in the main office. His appointment will support Wanda’s office, the new work associated with the Lilly grant (which is funding half of this appointment), and will work with Leanne O’Neil supporting some aspects of the work of recruitment and admissions. Shawn comes to us from his current position providing administrative support to the registrar’s office at St. Jerome’s University/University of Waterloo.

We have also welcomed our entering class to the College this fall. We have 23 new basic degree students, 14 of them enrolled in the Master of Divinity program, and 12 new advanced degree students. Two new lay certificate students and eight new special students have also become members of our community. We graduated 31 students in May, so the size of our community in the coming year will remain relatively comparable to last year’s.

The next time you visit the College, please drop in downstairs to have a look at our new ablution facilities in the basement. Over the summer, we converted room 004, near the dedicated Muslim prayer room in 006, to provide facilities for both men and women for ritual purification (wudu) prior to Muslim prayers. The basement of Emmanuel College is the only location providing hospitality for Muslim prayers on the eastern portion of the University of Toronto campus. There are several thousand Muslim students enrolled in the University of Toronto. Five Muslim students are enrolled in Emmanuel’s degree programs (four students in the Master of Pastoral Studies and one student in the Doctor of Theology program), bringing new occasions to practise vibrant interfaith discussion within our classrooms.

We look forward to seeing you over the new academic year and hope you will continue to take advantage of all the Emmanuel community has to offer. •
Happy Birthday, Lois!

On April 18, 2012 The Hon. Lois Wilson Emm 7T8 celebrated her 85th birthday with Emmanuel College students, faculty, scholars, friends and family. To mark the occasion, she and her friends offered a conference at Emmanuel College. “Religion and Public Policy: An Ecumenical Conversation” has been described as an “amazing day of dialogue, encounter and debate” in both the Canadian and global ecumenical context. The conference was moderated by Lynda Katsuno Emm 9T7, while individual panels were moderated by Mary Jo Leddy, Will Ingham, A.J. Finlay and Alexa Gilmour Emm 0T1. Topics included Jan Love’s “Civil discourse in the public square,” Ofelia Ortega’s “How to read the actual signs of the times,” and Barbel von Wartenberg Potter’s “There can be no peace, unless we have peace with the earth.” The day opened and closed with singing, worship and fellowship. Following the conference, a reception was held in Alumni Hall, Old Vic, and the A.B.B. Moore Foyer was filled with well-wishers. A heartfelt thank you to Lois for including the Emmanuel community in her celebration and to Lynda Katsuno and countless others who helped organize the event.

The agenda, list of panelists and audio recordings from the conference can be found at uoft.me/loiswilson.

Delegation Brings Message of Peace

Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda (holding a petition with one million Congolese signatures) joined by Mme. Emma Zanao Selenani (left) and Professor Raymond Mande Mutombo (centre) are part of a team of 32 interfaith delegates travelling the world to bring awareness to the re-emerging war on the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The petition calls for the world’s help in securing peace in the area. It has been presented to the UN, the U.S. Senate, White House staff and officials in Ottawa. The three spoke to an audience at Emmanuel on September 13.

Swee Hong Lim Brings Music to Emmanuel

Emmanuel College is pleased to welcome Swee Hong Lim to the faculty. On July 1, 2012, he began his appointment as Deer Park Assistant Professor of Sacred Music. The move brought him and his family to Toronto, from the School of Music at Baylor University, Texas, where he was assistant professor of church music. He looks forward to recruiting students to the Master of Sacred Music program and expanding the program to include more contemporary expressions and world cultures. He also aims to strengthen the relationship between the Master of Sacred Music students and the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto.

Lim is a composer by training, but his academic research focuses on contextual worship and church music practices in Asia and Asian-Christian communities in diaspora, and the significance of ritual and music-making in the process of ‘meaning-making’ in forming Christian identity. Lim is an international guest lecturer and continues to contribute scholarly articles to various publications. Most recently, he has contributed to the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology, which will replace Julian’s Dictionary of Hymnology, and is expected to be published in 2013.
$500,000 to Support Imagination Unbound

Many generous donors have come forth since the April launch of Imagination Unbound, the $60-million fundraising campaign for Victoria University. Imagination Unbound supports both Emmanuel College and Victoria College and is part of the University of Toronto’s $2-billion Boundless campaign. It is a comprehensive campaign and includes gifts to the College’s Annual Fund.

Emmanuel College was the recent recipient of a $500,000 grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. to fund its new Teaching for Ministry program (TFM). The program brings together a select, interdisciplinary group of doctoral students to teach them how to connect scholarly skills with their vocations as teachers of ministers. Working within Emmanuel College’s already vibrant Contextual Education program, TFM Fellows learn to nurture pedagogical connections between church and academy, theory and practice, and the intellectual, practical and spiritual dimensions of theological education. Through focused, reflective, teaching practices, TFM Fellows become equipped for excellence as the next generation of theological educators.

New ECAA Executive

A warm welcome to the new representatives of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association! The Emmanuel community also thanks Richard Choe for all his work as president of the ECAA.

**Honorary President:** Mark Toulouse, principal

**Past President:** Richard Choe Emm 8T9

**President:** Dale Skinner Emm 0T3

**Members at Large:** Bronwyn Corlett Vic 0T3, Emm 1T0

Kent Garrett Emm 9T9

John Glenney Vic 6T8, Emm 7T1

George Moore Emm 9T7

Debra Schneider Emm 9T6

**E.C.S.S. Representative:** Fraser Williamson

On May 9 and 10, almost 100 Emmanuel College alumni/ae and friends gathered on campus to celebrate Emmanuel Days. There were two keynote addresses by Thomas G. Long, professor of preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta. We live in a time when the world bristles with communication, he said: “...we may be overwhelmed by messages—Tweets, Facebook exchanges, political rhetoric, rival claims to wisdom and truth. We also live in a time when the reliable contexts of preaching—church, biblically aware hearers, stable culture—have eroded.” Long provided two presentations to the group, and he explored how preachers can “speak gospel” with confidence and clarity in the midst of this windstorm. Emily (Rodgers) Bisset, minister of Knox Presbyterian Church, Oshawa, and Anthony Bailey, senior minister at Parkdale United Church, Ottawa, also spoke and each led a workshop for the attendees.

Planning is underway for Emmanuel Days 2013. Mark your calendars for a month earlier next year. We will gather on April 15 and 16, 2013. Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca.

Preaching in a Windstorm: Emmanuel Days 2012

Thomas Long delivers *Preaching in a Windstorm: Speaking Gospel in a Fragmented, Spiritually Restless Age*. 
N
o matter how I try to construe an answer to the question of
how I became and who I am as a biblical scholar, it seems that
the Christian Bible always has been a part of myself—and this, in a
decidedly Lutheran manner, at least initially, even though obviously
there was a time—in infancy—when such a claim could not be
made. At the same time, however, I am aware—or, at least, now
wish to imagine—that the scriptural texture of this world, apart
from which I cannot claim to know myself, not even in an ancestral
key, is not the only landscape that has shaped me.

Specifically as a borderline exegete, I find it instructive to recall
the “deep geography” of such a work. This geography is obviously a
construction, or invention, after the fact. But it also remains rooted
in the different parts of the planet where the active, learning,
reflective body in question—otherwise as opaque to me as it is to
anyone else—has known, albeit often unknowingly, its greatest
measures of well-being. As it turns out—or, at least, as I now
identify them—all of these places are essentially marginal vis-à-
vis the dominant zones and cultures of the North Atlantic world,
even if their marginality has not been of the same kind in every
case; and even though I cannot say that I ever was an especially
marginalized figure in any of them.

The point is simply to underscore the likely link that exists
between the larger, latent social coordinates within which a given
scholar such as I would read a text like the Christian Bible, and
the studied practices of textual interpretation whereby that reading
becomes an exegesis. In my own case, the intentional practice of
a borderline exegesis would appear to belong to a mobile body,
for which the dominant cultural environment of post-World War
II North America and Europe—increasingly urban, commercially
determined, aggressively democratic—has not uniquely nor

especially represented the nature of reality, life writ large, as good
as it gets.

The biblical text as a nexus of discursive power still strikes
me as not an inaccurate perception of how the Christian Bible
generally means in the North Atlantic cultural context; even
though this nexus obviously no longer is as primary as once it was
and its professional manipulation, or authorized interpretation,
therefore no longer reverberates as directly (politically, ethically,
imaginatively) as previously. Moreover, the same perception of
the biblical text implies an understanding of such “scripture”
as, first, a means for construing the world in which we presently
live. Reading would be the mechanism whereby this construal
is achieved.

The desire to learn how to read “better,” say, at a theological
college like Emmanuel College—which is to say more adroitly,
more accountably, more arguably—would therefore typically
imply some hope to acquire through such training an increased
measure of discursive power. At least, the recurrent anxiety
among professional biblical scholars to maintain and develop
their field of study’s wider relevance seems to be a function of
this conviction.

Unconsidered in this preoccupation, however, is the possibility
that the biblical text, as such, has no power at all. Instead, it would
be merely a means—call it a means of grace, if you will, or a
means of oppression, if you don’t, but both affirmations logically
require that the biblical text essentially be just a means—whereby
a power resident elsewhere becomes disseminated, articulated,
reconfigured.

In fact, the biblical text is always and only weak—as such, it
is entirely powerless; although there have been often extremely
powerful readings of it—which, however, invariably are
incomplete, however insistent they might be. While ideologically
dominant, such strong readings do not undo the text, which
nonetheless remains itself thoroughly impotent in the face of
these re-writings of it. Thus the biblical text could be said to abide
(for the proper use of this verb, see “the Dude” in the movie The
Big Lebowski) as a lurking trace of an unfinished project; a kind
of subaltern “culturally unconscious” site, to which one always
may return in search of what went unconsidered, for the sake
of reinstating that which never was simply lost, or disappeared,
though certainly neglected, or side-lined, and hence un-realized,
to-date. *

Adapted from the forthcoming book Borderline Exegesis.

Leif E. Vaage is an associate professor of New Testament. His
scholarly interests revolve around the social practices of biblical
interpretation, social projects of early Christianity, the diverse modes
of social critique and alternative social construction, and the social
significance of the human body in and for these practices and projects.
Achievements

**HyeRan Kim-Cragg Emm 0T6** has published *Story and Song: A Postcolonial Interplay between Christian Education and Worship* (Peter Lang 2012). This book examines the roles of scripture and hymnody in a Christian community in the twenty first century, an era marked by a growing awareness of complex issues and migrating contexts. This work identifies the divisions that have existed between these two disciplines. The postcolonial approach employed here offers insights that uncover the colonial assumptions that led to division rather than integration of worship and Christian education.

Call for Nominations

Do you know an Emmanuel College graduate whose vision and leadership have distinguished her or him through extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy or society-at-large? Nominate her or him today for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. The Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recognizes recent or lifetime achievement of one’s contributions at the local, national or international level. Nominations for the award’s 2012 recipient are currently being accepted and must be received by Nov. 30, 2012.

Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni to make your nomination.

Luke Powery Emm 0T7 was installed dean of Duke Chapel, Duke University, on October 7, 2012 in Durham, NC.

**Births**

To Maya Landel Emm 0T7 and Adam Hanley Emm 1T0, a daughter, Norah Grace Hanley, on May 16, 2012.

**Deaths**

**John C. Hoffman Vic 5T4**, in Toronto, February 25, 2012. John was professor of religious studies at University of Windsor for 26 years and inaugural principal of Iona College for 21 years. John was considered both a scientist and a theologian. He was finishing his doctorate in chemistry in Montreal when he decided to start his doctorate in theology. He then went on to become an ordained United Church minister. Latterly, he served as principal of Emmanuel College from 1990 to 1996. If you would like to make a gift in memory of John, please call 416-585-4500 or visit uoft.me/givetovic online.

**Ruth Helen (Crooker) Jay Vic 4T5**, in Mississauga, Ont., August 16, 2012. After graduating from Vic, Ruth completed studies in early childhood education. She was profoundly committed to the importance of early childhood education for pre-school children. She also graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music programs in voice and piano. These lifelong commitments were reflected by her participation in church choirs and her volunteer work that combined her love of music and children. Donations in memory of Ruth can be designated to the C. Douglas and Ruth Jay Scholarship in Theology. Please call 416-585-4500 or visit uoft.me/givetovic online.

**John Munro Smith Emm 4T3**, in Cambridge, Ont., November 17, 2011.

**Harold Tilney Hill Steed Emm 4T7**, in Kitchener, Ont., September 8, 2012.

Celebrations Galore!

Class of 1T2 graduation lunch, May 8.

Class of 6T2 reunion, June 9.

Class of 9T2 reunion, July 12.

E-mail us your news!

emm.alumni@utoronto.ca

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NOVEMBER

Faith in Film with Paul Burford
A series offering four films whose dramatization of true stories will challenge and illuminate your faith. Film is a potent medium for expression and communication of life experiences, values and character evolution. This opportunity to experience and reflect on film narrative in the context of active faith will be a fun and stimulating occasion to explore and deepen your faith understanding.

November 6, 13, 20 and 27, 7 pm to 9:30 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $50 full series or $15 per night. Register by October 29.

Saturdays for Sermons: Preaching the Seasons with Paul Wilson Vic 7T2, Emm 7T9
This event will focus on preaching from Advent to Easter and will do so through ‘sermon preps, labs, and rehab’—it is an opportunity to renew one’s preaching! Morning will be devoted to biblical texts for the upcoming weeks in the eccumenical lectionary and to discussing important emphases for the liturgical season. Afternoons will be devoted to preaching and feedback. Prof. Paul Wilson of Emmanuel College is a past president of the Academy of Homiletics and preaches and lectures widely in North America and Europe.

November 24, January 12 and February 16, 10 am to 4 pm, St. David’s United Church, Woodstock, Ontario.
Workshop fee $150. Register by November 16.

Science for Theology with Erin Green Emm 0T7
The natural sciences open up wondrous ways to understand the world around us. From cosmology, to evolutionary biology, to genetics and particle physics, science offers us incredible insight about how everything in our world works. What we learn from science can both enrich and challenge our theological reflections. These three day-long workshops will equip participants to reflect theologically on science. We’ll learn a few basic concepts from science, see how these are connected to claims in theology, and discover together how science influences our theological reflections. These workshops are geared toward those with little or no background in science. You will leave feeling confident and excited to put your new skills to use in writing, thinking, and preaching! Registration in all three sessions is encouraged, but not necessary. Each workshop stands alone and features a mix of interactive and listening elements.

November 16, January 19, February 11, 10 am to 4 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $260 for the series, includes lunch, or $95 for individual session. Register by October 29.

Making the Most of Retirement
January 14 to 16, 2013 in Halifax, N.S.
Contact clergy.care@utoronto.ca for more information and to register.

From Citizenship to Culture: Seeing Muslims through a Different Lens with Raheel Raza
This four-part series uses film to take audiences on a journey from the early days of Islam, Muslim philosophers in history, the Sufi experience and on to current times where we have seen the sharia debate in Canada, radical Islam and gender issues. Author of Their Jihad … not my Jihad, Raheel Raza is a public speaker, consultant for interfaith and intercultural diversity, documentary film maker and freelance journalist. Raza brings a fresh new global perspective to her mandate “there is unity in diversity.”

January 22, 29, February 5 and 12, 2013, 7 pm to 9 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee is $50 for the series, $15 per night at the door.
Register by January 15, 2013.

Reading Religious Scriptures Together Across Religious Differences
with Susan Kennel Harrison Emm 0T4
Religious leaders need tools for engaging the pluralist context in which their congregations/temple/mosques are located. Scriptural reasoning is interfaith dialogue that involves studying the Qur’an, New Testament and Tanakh side by side as Christians, Muslims and Jews. By studying small portions of scripture together, we gain new insights into our own scripture as we invite Muslim, Christian or Jewish people to be guest interpreters in each others’ scripture. In this workshop you will be introduced to basic principles and guidelines of scriptural reasoning. We will then move into the practice of scriptural reasoning by way of the story of Sarah in the Bible, Tanakh, and Qur’an.

January 27, 2013, 1 pm to 9 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $85, includes supper. Register by January 18, 2013.

EMMANUEL DAYS 2013
Now in April!
Save the Date
April 15–16, 2013

For event details and registration, visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca or contact Betsy Anderson at ec.events@utoronto.ca or 416-813-4096. A congregational discount of 15% is available for groups of two or more participating members, and students pay half price. There is a 15% discount for an individual attending two or more events in the year.