William Blaikie Emm 7T7 is an ordained United Church minister and for the past 29 years he has been the NDP member of Parliament for the Winnipeg federal riding of Elmwood – Transcona. He has always insisted that he did not “leave the ministry” to “go into politics.” As he explained in a 2005 address to the Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada, he “always felt double booked, committed both to engaging the life and work and self-understanding of the church, and to engagement as a citizen in the political process.”

When Blaikie receives his honorary doctor of divinity degree from Victoria University this May it will be a celebration of both his successful career as a politician and his public faith as a dedicated church member and ordained minister. After receiving a bachelor of arts from the University of Winnipeg, he went on to the master of divinity program at Emmanuel. He was ordained in 1978, and served Winnipeg’s North End Community Ministry at the historic Stella Mission until 1979, when he was elected to the House of Commons. By 2007, when he announced that he would not run again, he was the longest serving member in the House. During his last two years as an MP, he served as the deputy speaker of the House of Commons, and he was elected by his peers as Parliamentarian of the Year.

In Blaikie’s double role as public theologian and politician, he has creatively grappled with a crucial question facing all members and affiliates of a formerly dominant religious tradition such as the United Church. How can the faith that informs our political judgments in the public realm be articulated without giving the appearance of trying to recover the once dominant role played by mainstream Protestantism in Canadian society?

In Blaikie’s addresses on occasions that invited religious language, and in his speeches to multi-faith audiences and in the challenging context of the House of Commons, Blaikie has encouraged respect for differences and confidence in...
“Christians with a post-Christendom consciousness and Canadians of other faiths have a joint project in finding a new footing for Christian and other religious voices in the public realm.”

During his time at Emmanuel College, Blaikie recalls meeting peace activist Philip Berrigan and listening to his pessimistic arguments about the futility of electoral politics. He remained unconvinced, however, and within a few years had made his own decision to seek election as a member of Parliament. He has remained convinced that it is possible to have clearly articulated and passionately promoted convictions that are rooted in one’s religious tradition and political beliefs and to remain respectful of the positions of others.

The importance of taking the time and effort to listen to one another, and to cultivate commitments to shared core values, became even clearer to him when he was serving as deputy speaker of the House of Commons. As he pointed out in his article, “Reflections on the Office of Deputy Speaker” in the Canadian Parliamentary Review, his experience as deputy speaker strengthened his conviction that a more collaborative approach would enhance both the integrity of particular parties and the effectiveness of the role of the House in the governance of the country.

Blaikie’s decision not to run again in the 2008 election was related both to a desire to spend more time at home and to take advantage of an opportunity to continue his two-fold interest in public faith and politics in a new setting. He had accepted an offer to teach theology and politics at the University of Winnipeg when a different opportunity presented itself. Manitoba premier Gary Doer talked him into contesting the nomination to run as the NDP candidate in a forthcoming byelection required to replace the member of the legislative assembly who had resigned to contest Blaikie’s former federal seat. On December 14, 2008, he became the NDP candidate in the provincial riding of Elmwood – his home riding.

If he is elected when the byelection is called, he will have the opportunity to apply his lengthy experience in electoral politics to the challenges of being a member of the governing party. He will continue being double booked as an articulate and concerned public theologian and a passionate, thoughtful and collaborative politician.

Roger Hutchinson Emm 7T5 is a professor emeritus and former principal of Emmanuel College.
Since my arrival in Toronto, I have been privileged to be the recipient of warmth and hospitality from most every corner (the only exception being the weather, of course). What a great way to begin work in a new place, a place where faithful people work together to serve God and one another.

For Emmanuel’s opening service on January 7, the chapel was filled to capacity. The Rev. David Giuliano, moderator of The United Church of Canada, provided a sermon reflecting for us on ideas related to vocation and our identity before God. We gathered before Christ’s table, and remembered our connections through Christ to God’s church in all times and all places. As we moved through our covenanting commitments to one another, all of us knew we stood in the midst of a “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1), past and present, who have been caretakers of Emmanuel’s mission through the years.

Speaking of caretakers of the past, I want to invite all of you to a upcoming lecture at the college honouring Alfred Gandier, the first principal of Emmanuel. The lecture will be held on March 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the Victoria College Chapel. It will celebrate the leadership that led to the founding of Emmanuel and also more contemporary examples of leadership, such as that provided by Jane Brushey-Martin Emm 0T2 and Geoffrey Martin, whose gift last year allowed for the endowment of a permanent chair in congregational leadership. We will also be honouring Anthony Robinson for the contribution he has made as our visiting professor in this area. Prof. Robinson will provide the address, “The Intersection of Preaching and Leadership.” The lecture will be followed by a reception in Emmanuel College. I hope you will mark March 18 on your calendars (see page 8 for event registration details).

Speaking of caretakers of the present, I want to express my profound appreciation for the work done by Phyllis Airhart as Emmanuel’s acting principal. Those of you who know Prof. Airhart are already acquainted with her passionate love for Emmanuel College. Her considerable gifts are well known and freely shared with all around her. As acting principal, she did all she could to make my transition into the job a smooth and uncomplicated one. She tackled every loose end she could find, and wrapped everything that, by necessity, had to be left dangling, into neat file folder packages with well-written notes to orient me and quickly get me up to speed. I am so fortunate, indeed we all are, that Phyllis was willing to serve during these months of transition. I also wish to take just a moment to express my appreciation for the work done by Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3 during his tenure as principal. He has led the college with grace, humility, vision, and faithfulness.

I deeply appreciate the friendship that is growing between us. It is a pleasure to occupy an office with such a distinguished history, both in recent years and in those represented by the decades extending back to the founding of the college.

The wise preacher of Ecclesiastes tells us that “for everything there is a season” (3:1). A couple of chapters later, he reminds the reader to “Guard your steps when you go to the house of God; to draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools . . . for God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let your words be few” (5:1-2). Over the course of these next five to six months, I plan to follow the advice of the preacher. This term will be a season of listening for me. I hope to learn from all of you, to hear of your dreams and hopes for Emmanuel.

Throughout this season, I will be meeting with representatives of the various stakeholders in Emmanuel College: the students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, church leaders, and members of the Board of Regents at Victoria University. As the newcomer on the block, I need to hear your thoughts about the mission of Emmanuel. Please share your ideas with me so that together we can serve the College’s mission with a vision and faithfulness that will both honour our past and enliven our future. I’m looking forward with considerable anticipation to our work together in these coming days.
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating Emmanuel’s History
For Joanne Hedge, Emmanuel’s student convener of worship, the return of longtime friends and alumni of the College for the 80th-anniversary worship service series has been a welcome sight. “It’s wonderful to see so many folks coming back and to hear the wealth of knowledge and experience they have to share.”

The anniversary activities began on Sept. 10, 2008, with a morning lecture by Emmanuel professor of theology Thomas Reynolds, followed by the annual Emmanuel Alumni/ae BBQ and a sermon delivered by Anthony Robinson, Emmanuel’s visiting professor in congregational leadership (see page 7). The next chapter in the series took place Oct. 29 with a worship service sermon given by Susanne VanderLugt Emm 8T7, minister for Humbercrest United Church in Toronto (see photo page 6). The last instalment in the series for 2008 took place Nov. 26, with a lecture by Emmanuel professor of homiletics Paul Wilson Vic 7T2, Emm 7T9 and a sermon by former Emmanuel principal Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3. The 80th-anniversary series resumed on Jan. 28, with a lecture by professor emeritus and former Emmanuel principal Roger Hutchinson Emm 7T5 and a sermon delivered by Frederick Monteith Emm 8T9, executive secretary of the Hamilton Conference of The United Church of Canada.

The final two sessions of Emmanuel College’s 80th-anniversary worship service series take place on March 18 and April 1. See page 8 for registration details.

Portrait of a Principal
On Nov. 26, 2008, alumni, faculty and students gathered for the unveiling of the portrait of former Emmanuel principal Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3. The artist was Wyatt’s son, Matthew. “I am delighted that Matthew was invited to paint the portrait,” says Wyatt. “It has been a great satisfaction to view his finished work and I am pleased to think of hanging with my predecessors in the College’s entry hall.

What’s New in Theology?

On May 13 and 14, members of Emmanuel’s faculty will lead sessions that examine new developments in their respective areas of theological study: Profs. Fred Graham (church music); Marilyn Legge Vic 7T4, Emm 8T1 (social justice); Thomas Reynolds (theology of religions); Paul Wilson Vic 7T2, Emm 7T9 (homiletics); Michael Bourgeois (theological traditions); and Judith Newman (Old Testament). Emmanuel College principal Mark Toulouse will lead the worship service on the last day of Alumni/ae Days 2009. See page 8 for registration details.

Nominations Accepted for Inaugural Distinguished Alumni/ae Award
The Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association has created the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award to recognize graduates whose vision and leadership have distinguished them through extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy or society at large with a local, national or international scope.

Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award are currently being accepted. Applications must be received by March 20, 2009. Visit www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel/ECAA to nominate an Emmanuel alumna/us.

Margaret Imrie (left) served Victoria University from 1962 to 1984 as secretary to the principal of Emmanuel College and later to the director of the Victoria Alumni Office. Imrie attended the September 2008 worship service to present a personally-made porcelain tile to the College, in honour of its 80th anniversary. Acting principal Phyllis Airhart (right) accepted Imrie’s original work, which now hangs in the Emmanuel Prayer Room. The tile’s pattern reflects the Celtic belief that there is harmony between humankind and the sacred cosmos.
John Webster Grant, revered professor of church history for Emmanuel College from 1963 to 1984, passed away in December 2006. The College recently learned that Grant bequeathed over $300,000 to establish the John Webster Grant Scholarship in support of doctoral students at Emmanuel.

Widely considered the dean of Canadian church historians, Grant is fondly remembered by his colleagues and a generation of church leaders who studied with him. Emmanuel professor Phyllis Airhart presented a resolution in Grant’s memory at the April 2007 meeting of the Senate of Victoria University, where she observed, “John Webster Grant was one of the most generous and gracious scholars I have known,” remarking on the enduring influence of his interpretations on religion and Canadian culture, as well as how he always listened “attentively to established and young scholars alike.”

His legacy of fostering deeper theological reflection endures with this generous gift.

Where There’s A Will

A willed gift, or bequest, can often be much larger than any gift a person can give during his or her lifetime. For Emmanuel College, these gifts have the potential to change lives through the creation of scholarships and bursaries that help attract an incredible array of bright minds pursuing a theological education.

By designating Emmanuel College in your will, you are eligible to become a member of the Victoria University Heritage Donor Society, which now includes over 150 alumni and friends. There are no dues, and benefits include membership in the Victoria University Chancellor’s Council, which meets annually on Victoria’s Charter Day in October for a luncheon and panel discussion, as well as membership in the University of Toronto’s King’s College Heritage Circle.

Here’s an example of a suggested wording to designate Emmanuel College as a beneficiary in your will:

I give and bequeath to the Board of Regents of Victoria University, Toronto, Ontario, the sum of $___________ or __________% of my estate for the purposes of Emmanuel College.

Please contact Larry Davies at 416-585-4501, toll free 1-888-262-9775 or larry.davies@utoronto.ca for more information.
ACHIEVEMENTS

Carol Dilworth Emm 0T7 was elected president of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Guelph Club. CFUW is an advocacy group for women and girls.

Karen Hamilton Emm 8T6, 9T7, 0T1 recently published The Acceptable Year of the Lord: Preaching the Old Testament with Faith, Finesse and Fervour. Proceeds realized from book sales will go towards HIV/AIDS relief in Africa.

Coral Martin Emm 0T2, past president of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association, was recognized in September for her volunteerism in service of Emmanuel with a 2008 University of Toronto Arbor Award.

Graham A.D. Scott Emm 6T7 was ordained a priest as Father David, on June 1, 2008, by His Grace, the Rt. Rev. Alexander, Antiochian Orthodox Bishop of Ottawa, and appointed pastor of the St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Mission Church in St. Catharines, Ont.

MILESTONES

Alumni are invited to send information for inclusion in Milestones. For marriages, please indicate, if applicable, whether you prefer to be known by your married or birth name. An obituary must accompany death notices.

Grad Year: Vic Emm
Name
(Please add title and/or maiden name if applicable)
Mailing Address
Postal Code
Telephone
E-mail
☐ Please include my e-mail address in my Milestones notice.

Lynda Hayes Vic 7T2, library assistant for the Emmanuel College Library, retired from Victoria University in June 2008. Hayes, a familiar face for many, said goodbye to Emmanuel after 35 years of service, having joined the library staff in 1973.

MARRIAGES

Jessica (Motherwell) Cottrell Emm 0T4 and Micol Cottrell Emm 0T7 married June 9, 2007, in Sarnia, Ont.

BIRTHS

To Bob Mercer Emm 0T3 and Colleen Coady, a son, Robert John Frederick, on Sept. 9, 2008, in Saint John, N.B.

DEATHS

Paul G. Fairley Vic 9T2, Emm 0T2 in Toronto, Dec. 6, 2008.

Norman A. McNairn Emm 4T5 in Ancaster, Ont., Oct. 6, 2008.

Donald E. Tansley Vic 4T2, Emm 4T4, in Peterborough, Ont., Oct. 21, 2008.

Greer W. Boyce 1921 – 2008

Greer W. Boyce, Emmanuel’s former professor of pastoral theology and homiletics, passed away on Sept. 21, 2008, in Bracebridge, Ont. Boyce was profiled recently in the winter 2007 issue of the Emmanuel College Newsletter, in which former student Harold Wells Emm 6T6 remarked, “His great contribution was to impress upon us the complexities and ambiguities of the human condition.”
Can Leadership Be Taught?

By Anthony B. Robinson

Theological colleges and seminaries across North America are adding courses, programs and positions in leadership. Emmanuel College is in the forefront of this movement with the creation of a chair in congregational leadership.

What accounts for the new interest in leadership? Increasingly congregations, as well as church-related agencies and denominational offices, are demanding it. Facing huge cultural shifts and consequent challenge to their role in the culture, religious congregations need leaders who are capable of helping them chart a course in the stormy seas of cultural change. Many congregations are beginning to suspect that doing what they’ve always done won’t work today. Leaders help groups, communities and congregations to creatively and faithfully adapt in changing times.

But can leadership be taught? Or is leadership simply a gift that some have and others do not? While some people have more of an aptitude or instinct for leadership than others, it’s too simple to say, “You have it or you don’t.” Leadership capacity can be developed, enhanced and refined, but doing so will require more than simply adding a course or position. It will involve a more fundamental rethinking of theological education and the preparation of leaders for the church in the 21st century.

Leadership can be taught provided we make some key shifts in our thinking about both leadership and theological education. I would summarize these shifts in these three headlines: from information to formation, from person to partnership, from head to heart.

From information to formation. Teaching leadership is not solely or even primarily a matter of communicating a body of knowledge or information. It has more to do with the formation of a person. This means leadership education will not only include the study of relevant literature, it will also include engagement with role models and mentors, significant doses of reflection on practice, as well as developing a community of colleagues who collaborate as they engage the challenges of leadership. All of this adds up to an approach to leadership that is more formational in nature than informational.

In my own teaching and writing, I do draw on the developing canon of literature and research on leadership. It is important and there is much to be learned there. But I also engage students in reflection on leadership experience, their own and that of others. I try to model particular practices of leadership and connect students with other role models and mentors. And I encourage clergy and churches to break out of go-it-alone patterns in order to build networks of colleagues and congregations to engage the hard, good work of being vital congregations in our new time together. Leadership can be taught provided we understand that we are in the business of the formation of persons and not simply transmission of information.

From person to partnership. Typically when we think about leadership, we think of one person, the would-be leader. But leadership is really a relational thing. There is a leader or leadership team and there is the congregation or community a leader serves and seeks to lead. We can get the potential leader in the classroom or workshop, but what about the congregation? How are congregations to prepare to receive, utilize and support leadership? To put it a bit differently, how is the partnership between leader and congregation developed?

In my experience, congregations tend to be ambivalent about leadership. They want it and they don’t want it. They often want leaders who will fix things for them rather than engaging them in a deeper process of learning and change. If leadership is to be taught we will have to pay attention not only to the person who is called to lead but to their partners, that is, to congregations and their dynamics.

From head to heart. While intellectual knowledge and capacity are terribly important for leaders, there is more that is required. To put it in a nutshell, we as leaders need to be the change we are hoping to facilitate in the congregations we serve. In our new time, a transformed heart is a primary tool of congregational transformation. This means that the inner life, the passion and courage of a leader are crucial.

Can leadership be taught? If leadership education is seen as a quick fix and simple remedy, it will probably fail. But if the educational institutions and those who hold authority in them, as well as the students of leadership, are themselves willing to learn and change, then, yes, leadership can be taught.

Continuing Education and Coming Events

For details and registration, visit the Emmanuel College pages of www.vicu.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.

Holy Ground: Pastoral Care of the Dying and Bereaved with Anne Simmonds
March 20-21, 2009
Emmanuel College
Workshop fee: $150
Registration deadline: March 12

Transforming Congregational Culture with Anthony B. Robinson
March 28, 2009
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
College Avenue United Church
Workshop fee: $80 (includes lunch)
Registration deadline: March 20

Small Group Ministry with Karen Hillman Millson
April 28, 2009
Emmanuel College
Workshop fee: $80
Registration deadline: April 20

 Alumni Days 2009
Watering Our Roots: What’s New in Theology Today
May 13-14, 2009
Engage in a thought-provoking look at new developments in various areas of theology.
Registration fee: $60 for both days (includes lunch); $20 for Alumni/ae Days luncheon and Annual General Meeting on May 14
To register, contact the Alumni Office at emm.alumni@utoronto.ca, 1-888-262-9775 or 416-585-4500.

Call for Nominations
Nominations are now being accepted for the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee. Nominations accepted until March 31, 2009.
Contact Alumni Affairs Officer Linda Tung at emm.alumni@utoronto.ca or 416-585-4500.