



## an UPDATE for friends of TAYLOR

July 2016

Dear friend of Taylor,

Summertime is such a gift -- we hope you are enjoying yours, and thanks for taking a few minutes for some quick updates on what's new and upcoming at Taylor Seminary.

### The Bridge focuses on Special Needs

Taylor produces a magazine twice per year, each time focusing on a topic of interest and concern to the local church (and to believers generally). We mail copies to almost 3,500 people, and other copies are distributed in other ways. The Spring 2016 issue dealt with 'Special Needs and the Church' and featured a cover article by Dr. Heidi Janz of Edmonton, one of the most remarkable people you could meet.

Dr. Janz wrote about her own experience growing up with numerous disabilities -- about how her church sometimes got it wrong, and how it also got things right. She also writes about her mission to serve as an advocate for those with disabilities -- and you can be sure that she is a feisty, tenacious advocate for the marginalized!

We also had an article about autism from educator Karen Sudom, and alumni David Haitel ('13, '16) discussed the implications for serving people with age-related disabilities. Another featured article from church consultant Jodi Graff described some key ways that churches can become more engaged with this issue.

One reader from Red Deer (whose brother had some disabilities) wrote to thank us for helping churches be more mindful of those with special needs: *"Unfortunately, this is still an area that is being neglected in most of our churches, who of all places, should be the places of safety and*



value. I respect Heidi Janz for what she is trying to accomplish, even though I have never met her. My brother found a real fellowship in a L'Arche Community in Calgary, and I can say that I learned so much from learning to know and love the others in that community as well."

You can read [The Bridge online by clicking here](#), and you can [request a copy by clicking here](#) -- be sure to include your address.

## Special Needs & the Church A WORKSHOP

### **SPECIAL NEEDS AND THE CHURCH**

You may be interested to know that Taylor will follow up our special report on *Special Needs and the Church* with a workshop this fall. Church leaders and ministry teams who want to develop this important area of ministry should plan to join us for a time of interactive discussion and engagement, featuring educator and church consultant Jodi Graff.

Learn about some of the common reasons churches are hesitant to serve those with disabilities, learn what changes are sometimes needed, and discover encouraging and inspiring examples from other churches. Don't miss [Special Needs and the Church](#), coming this fall from the E P Wahl Centre at Taylor!

Taylor will also be hosting a significant conversation about "assisted dying" -- a very timely issue, given the substantial changes coming into effect in Canada through Supreme Court directives and new national legislation. Dr. David Williams will be leading this important discussion, drawing on his background as a theologian, ethicist and philosopher. [Send us an email](#) if you would like to know more about this event once details are finalized.

### **2016 THRiVE Retreat (Healthy Pastors Initiative)**

Attendance grew again this year at *THRiVE!*, the annual retreat that is designed to help pastors develop resilience in ministry. This year, we also saw a significant increase in the number of pastors who attended with their spouse.



Delegates came from Alberta and Saskatchewan, taking in some important teaching on such topics as personal health and fitness, marriage and family issues, emotional intelligence, the importance of rest and renewal, and more. *THRiVE! 2017* is planned for the end of May -- if you are in ministry, we hope you'll consider joining us and if not, consider sending your pastor!

## **Building Healthy Church Staffs**

Another recent event at Taylor was our new *Building Healthy Church Staffs* event -- a sellout! Thanks to everyone who attended, and thanks to our presenters, whose passion for flourishing ministry in the local church was evident. We pray that the churches that invested in this workshop will experience a greater sense of teamwork and will know the joy of collaborative service in the months and years ahead.

## **Admissions BBQ**

We had a full house on June 17th for our annual Admissions BBQ. The Taylor Seminary Admissions Department hosts this event each year for students considering taking course(s) or enrolling in a program program, and we are always impressed when we meet the people God is calling to a season of ministry preparation!



Taylor has experience a significant surge in interest this year -- inquiries for Fall 2016 are up significantly, and a number of our courses are already full. If you are interested in joining us to begin your program, or if there is a specific course you'd like to take, be sure to be in touch right away. The deadline to apply for the Fall Semester is August 5th.

## **onWORD 2016**

One of the most exciting events in Edmonton this fall will be the 7th annual onWORD Conference. Hosted by McKernan Baptist Church, and presented in cooperation with the E P Wahl Centre, this year's conference theme is 'Keeping Company with God.'

Our featured speaker is Rob Loane of VantagePointe3, an author and speaker whose ministry has been significantly influential in the lives of young adults, in particular. Over four sessions, he will explore what it means to be in God's Word, to be changed by it, and to live it.

Other speakers include:

- Dr. Preston Pouteaux (pastor/artist/beekeeper), Chestermere, AB
- Dr. Vern Peters (biology professor), Edmonton, AB
- Dr. Karen Wilk (pastor, author), Edmonton, AB
- Graeme Watt (social activist/storyteller), Edmonton, AB

We've also added onWORD Late Night, a worship experience centered on scripture.

You may be expecting a Bible conference that is rather Bible conference-ish. Well, this is different. onWORD aims to explore and enjoy scripture, using artful and thoughtful approaches that help us experience it in new ways. Our breakout sessions on Saturday will be aimed at different learning styles, too, offering four streams:

- contemplative/spiritual formation,
- social justice/good works,
- artistic expression, and
- nature (enjoying God through His creation)

Registration costs only \$49.99, and is even less for students. [We encourage you to register today!](http://www.Taylor-Edu.ca/Events/onWORD16)



## CAPS 2016

One more event to mention -- our Church Administrative Professionals Symposium, coming October 19th. For a number of years, this event has been drawing together those who serve in the offices of the local church, offering a day of equipping and refreshment.

A great lineup of trainers and speakers is coming this year, including Canadian comedian Leland Klassen -- it will be one of the best days of the year, and we can't wait to have the CAPS group together again!



[Click here to find out more about CAPS 2016.](#)

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God bless, and thanks for your continued interest in the educational ministry of Taylor College and Seminary!

Your friends at Taylor College and Seminary

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