

The Montreal College Student Voice  
**W H E T S T O N E**

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# Montreat vs. Dunder-Mifflin

by the REVEREND Steve Woodworth

Tonight "The Office" will begin its long anticipated fourth season with an hour-long episode dedicated to the hilarious and often irreverent antics of the staff of Dunder-Mifflin, and I have a confession. In the three brief years it has been running, I have become a deeply obsessed fan.

For those of you who share my obsession for the funniest show in television history, this confession makes complete sense. For those of you who stand on the periphery and can only managed to be baffled or annoyed by the antics of Michael Scott and his gang, I only hope that this article may be a form of "Office Evangelism."

And I have a second confession. Most of the time I get my weekly dose of "The Office" by downloading each episode from iTunes, but there were occasions this summer when in desperation I watched it for free on some obscure website with Chinese subtitles. I did so without apology and often with my wife, because "The Office" is not only funny, it is therapeutic.



In fact, the bond I began to develop with each of the predominantly unknown actors caused me, at times this summer, to reflect on the similarities between a small paper company named Dunder-Mifflin and our own little place called Montreat College. So by

way of welcoming everyone back to campus this year, I thought I might pose this (to be asked in my best Dwight Schrute voice)—"Question: What are three similarities between Dunder-Mifflin and Montreat College?" Here are a handful of my conclusions.

Community: Whatever else Dunder-Mifflin (DM) and Montreat College (MC) are, they are communities. They are a little messy, a little dysfunctional, and almost always deal with drama—but they exist entirely as communities of people coming together to

share life in all its mystery. Like DM, the folks at MC have come here for many different reasons, but each of us is becoming part of the same big family.

Grace: Like most genuine communities that I have ever been a part of, DM (like MC) is full of people with issues. Every character on the show and every person on our campus tends to have a unique quirk that makes them simultaneously annoying and hilarious. The beauty of the show is that the people of DM, while pretending to be miffed by this point, actually demonstrate an incredible level of grace with one another. At the heart of the MC family are people learning to love each other despite our failings, despite our issues, despite our sin.

Belonging: With the exception of Ryan and possibly Stanley, everyone at DM wants to be at DM. The employees at DM keep coming to work because, I believe, no matter what they say with their mouths, deep down inside DM is home to each of them. I first came to MC over ten years ago. I met my wife here, I met my life-long friends here, I found my calling, and I fell deeply in love with Jesus Christ. In four short years MC became, quite simply, a place where I finally belonged. My prayer for our community this year is that each and every one of us—with all our quirks,

with all our mess, with all our issues, even with all the baggage you drove through the gate with—would find a place to finally belong; because at Montreat College I pray you'll come to find the one thing that I have never managed to find among my fictitious heroes at Dunder-Mifflin: the unconditional love of Jesus Christ and his disciples. So from your fellow brother on the journey—welcome for the first time, and welcome back. I love you guys.

**VERSE**  
*of the*  
**MONTH**

*"And he that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And he said unto me, 'Write: for these words are true and faithful.'"*

**Revelation 21:5 (KJV)**

**What's Inside**  
**WELCOME TO MONTREAT**