

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Open or Closed Mindedness – Unconditional Positive Regard

In pastoral counselling, one must be present for a counselee with what is called “unconditional positive regard” for what is presented by that person or family as they sit in one’s office. This is a good thing. Often, it can be mistaken for being open to whatever that person or family system is doing and thinking. Another aspect of counseling is being a “mandated reporter.” While the person is regarded with an unconditionally positive pastoral approach, not everything they think or do is therefore “ok.” This same principle applies to overall pastoral work and the overall mindset of the members of the church. The work of the pastor and the church is to keep heaven open, and we are also mandated to directly address what is harmful to a heavenly life.

What opens, keeps open, and directs our minds and spirits to heaven? Of course it is our life, our behaviours. But these take form according to our beliefs and thoughts. Perhaps one of the most important uses of the Church in a person’s life is to provide a structure of teachings and beliefs, especially applicable to the state of the members of the Church. Our teachings are to give boundaries to the limitations of our thoughts, like a fence around a pasture, or the walls around a fortified city. There are gates or doors in and out of the pasture or city that represent our thoughts in and from the world outside the church, and those which are in and from heaven and the Church. A gateway or door serves as a “filter” to let in what is good and keep what is bad or false out.

Jesus says “I am the Door.” He is the also the gatekeeper. In the teachings of the Second Coming, the very walls and gates of the New Jerusalem are the teachings of the Divine Human that makes heaven and give form and structure to our thinking. Our beliefs about heaven, marriage, life after death, and every other idea we develop in our minds is to be founded upon the teachings from the Lord’s Word. This is what comes in from the Lord.

Alternatively, what enters into our thinking about ourselves and the Church from the world is very important. We are educated and influenced within and by the world and worldly thinking. One of the most important functions of the Church is to give us a filter, that is, to teach us what thoughts and ideas actually belong within the walls of the New Jerusalem. What will we let live in our minds?

These filters and boundaries to our thinking allow heaven to flow into us and keep us open to heavenly influx. On the other hand, thinking based on mere science and the commonly accepted social or political thought patterns of the world can very effectively close heaven to us without our knowing it. In fact, we may believe we are more intelligent and advanced spiritually when we mix the general thinking patterns and doctrinal ideas of the Church with prevailing social, medical, and healing practices or new age philosophies. “Best practices” in one arena, such as politics or business, may be directly opposed to New Church teachings. Recently I found myself in discussion about the “vibrations” of the soul, and the

attunement of one's spirit with the frequency of the earth and its energies. It was all very innocent, but when I offered the New Church idea that our soul or spirit is a discrete degree beyond the natural vibrations on the earth, I was met with skepticism and something close to ridicule. Read the following from Arcana Coelestia 10492:

"Most of the intelligent think of the soul from some hypothesis that prevails in the learned world, from which they conceive no other idea of the soul than as of breath or of wind in which perchance there is a living principle...with those who think this way the internal is closed. Whether you say that the internal is opened or closed, or whether you say that heaven is so, is the same."

What "prevails in the learned world," or in some circles of modern spiritual thinking, concerning the soul could also be applied to our thinking about marriage, eternal life, recreation, the origin of humanity, gender, work, divorce, money, human rights, the sacred scriptures ... the list goes on and on. Really, "the learned world" has an opinion about everything, which is why at the beginning of the Academy movement, which led to the formation of our Church, the phrase "the Writings find us everywhere" was adopted as a motto along with the foundational principle that "the Writings are the Word."

While many prevailing ideas in the world are not evil, and in fact advances in human and civil rights have made life better over the years in many parts of the world, still every new or prevailing opinion must be open to scrutiny according to the teachings of the Word. Or else, unbeknownst to us, we may close heaven to ourselves while believing just the opposite, that we are very open and intelligent, even spiritually advanced thinkers.

The antidote to this is, of course, to take all questions to the Lord, in prayer, and in reading His Word. To have a truly open, spiritual mind is not to be tolerant of all ideas, religions, lifestyles, and political or social philosophies. That kind of tolerance is, in fact exactly "what prevails in the learned world." But while such tolerance gives the appearance of open-mindedness, it can in fact do just the opposite spiritually; that is, it can close our minds to heaven.

Being a member in the New Church is a spiritually and mentally challenging lifestyle and mindset. The Lord, in His Word, calls on us to set aside our worldly thinking and worldly prejudice, and instead begin first from an "unconditional positive regard" to the living body which comprises His teachings. This takes mental training, as we often assume many beliefs simply by being exposed to the prevailing opinions of the world, and our own proprial nature draws us toward ideas that favour what we want for ourselves. We may want others to accept us, to like us, to admire us, to think we are smart, or find us attractive and witty and wise. The Hells use those feelings against us, leveraging them into us accepting ideas which seem advanced and open-minded, while closing off heaven. Thinking that our soul or spirit is vibrating at some frequency in time and space does nothing to advance our regeneration! Nor does thinking that if we put it out to "the universe" we will find a new job or our lost keys or do anything but advance a naturalistic mindset, which makes one with atheism. (see AE 1220:2,3 and TCR 12)

Unconditional positive regard for the teachings of the Lord is the first principle of the spiritually open mind. "This principle is to affirm the things which are of doctrine from the Word, or to think and believe within ourselves that they are true because the Lord has said them: this is the principle that leads to all intelligence and wisdom, and is to be called the affirmative principle." (AC 2568) On the other hand, the more people think by first consulting things of worldly opinion and philosophy, of science, and of what is considered politically and socially correct, "the more they cast and precipitate themselves into darkness, until at last they deny all genuinely spiritual things." (AC 10492)

Yes, let's keep an open mind, but a genuinely spiritual open mind. Let's take our questions to the Lord first and beg him to give us a genuine understanding from Him and not from our own prejudice, "advanced" insights or perceptions or prevailing worldly opinion. We must constantly be aware that what may pass for being open minded, tolerant and accepting may in fact be closing heaven and the church to us.

From the Pastor

These past few weeks have been very busy. At the time of this writing we still anticipate Rt. Rev. Brian Keith's visit and Sons' Ladies' Night.

It has been a very busy time through April and into May. We hosted the GCIC Board and Annual meeting. At that time I took the opportunity to share some of the work we have been involved in with both Maple Leaf Camp as well as the OFIS (Ontario Federation of Independent Schools) Spring Training day.

Maple Leaf sadly has had to be scheduled with an overlap with the Living Waters Family Camp. While the teens with their families are a very important part of any family camp, we hope that Maple, serving only teens, and with a specific focus on their age and state, will still be able, with its unique flavour, to stand out and attract campers who might not otherwise have such an opportunity to just be with their peers in a camp setting. We are certainly looking ahead now in our planning to be sure to avoid this scheduling overlap next year.

The OFIS meetings were eye opening for me, as these were my first set of such meetings. As I said at the GCIC AGM, as a small religious school, we are swimming upstream against a strong political, social, and economic current as we try to maintain the existence and integrity of Olivet New Church School.

Unfortunately, James Bellinger, who is quite expert in school-related matters, was unable to attend the training day, but we hope he can attend a follow-up meeting in the next few weeks. The bottom line is that the provincial regulations, which continue to increase in their number and complexity, mean that our school administration has to do more and more in order to keep in compliance. As time goes on, we will have more to report on this front.

Special prayers go to Liz Longstaff as she continues to gain strength after her stroke last month. We continue to hear positive news about her, and we join with the whole of the Carmel New Church and School community in wishing her a speedy and full recovery.

From the Assistant to the Pastor

Happy May to one and all! April was an exciting month for me, largely because of the New Church teens' event held at the church in Caryndale. It was so good to see a whole cohort of young people from a range of local and not-really-local congregations having fun together at a church event. There was all kinds of good comradeship going on, some good discussion & religious instruction, and then we all went and played paintball. Nothing like shooting each other (with paint, don't worry) for building lasting relationships. These teen weekends have been very well received so far, and we hope to have another one in the fall, and then another next spring. Sooner or later it will be Olivet's turn to host one again. I look forward to seeing us rally our resources to make that event a success.

Warmly,
Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal

Let's get out of here!

What is a way that we can 1) encourage creative problem solving, 2) reduce restlessness in children, and 3) help alleviate stress? Hint: it is easy and right at our back door! Answer: Spending time hiking and playing outdoors in a natural setting!

A study conducted by psychologists Ruth Ann Atchley and David L. Strayer found that creative problem solving can be greatly improved by reconnecting with nature while disconnecting from technology. While the participants in this study went backpacking (sans cellphone) through nature for about four days, it

stands to reason that any amount of time spent in a natural setting will benefit our children. This is just one of the many reasons we encourage the children to play among the trees and bushes that are on and beside the property.

The teachers at Olivet understand the benefits of letting children play in a natural environment and will often give up other valuable school time to take the children on a hike to (and along) Mimico Creek. This time is compensated for with increased focus from the children when they return to school. A study conducted by Frances E Kup, PhD, and Andrea Faber Taylor, PhD, found that exposing children with attention difficulties to “green outdoor activities” reduced their symptoms significantly. The results of this study suggest that exposure to nature can benefit anyone who has a difficult time paying attention or needs to move more than other children.

In these busy times, we are seeing more and more stressed children who are exhibiting various signs of distress or anxiety. A recent study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that “spending time in nature decreases ... obsessive, negative thoughts by a significant margin.” We have found that when a child returns to the classroom from playing in nature, s/he is calmer and ready to learn.

When students at Olivet are enjoying extra recess time, or hiking out to the creek for phys. ed., science, or just plain fun, we, at Olivet, know that the benefits are far-reaching. Let’s get outside!

Further reading:

Atchley, R. A., Strayer, D. L., & Atchley, P. (2012). Creativity in the Wild: Improving Creative Reasoning through Immersion in Natural Settings. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Retrieved from <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0051474>

Kuo, F. E., & Faber Taylor, A. (2004). A potential natural treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: Evidence from a national study. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1448497/>

Khazan, O. (2015). How walking in nature prevents depression: A study finds that wild environments boost well-being by reducing obsessive, negative thoughts. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/06/how-walking-in-nature-prevents-depression/397172/>

Sunday School News

Happy spring everyone! I hope you all had a great Easter holiday. Sunday School has finished learning about the life of Moses and has moved on to the story of Joshua and the invasion of Canaan. Last week the children challenged themselves with games and talked about the importance of being strong and courageous.

Katherine Jutras

Olivet School Yard Sale

The yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 7. All proceeds go to a specific budget line item to help defray costs to the church.

Are you doing any spring cleaning? Please put aside any gently used items (no clothing please) that you are ready to part with! You may begin bringing your treasures on Monday May 2nd. Alternatively, if you would like to have your own table, you can also rent a table space for \$25.

If you wish to volunteer on Thursday, May 5 or Friday, May 6 to help sort and price items, or on the Saturday during the sale and cleanup, please let Angela Jones know at angelaanodea@gmail.com or 416-232-9438.

Charity Clothing Drive

All the excess good clothing you found in your spring cleaning cannot be sold at the yard sale, but you can still donate it! The drive will take place from May 1–4 and items will be picked up on May 5. The school will receive a donation per pound collected, PLUS all donations are monetized through a thrift store called Talize and a portion of the proceeds will go directly to the Children’s Wish Foundation! The Foundation grants wishes to children who are terminally ill. For a full picture of what the Children’s Wish Foundation is, visit the Children’s Wish website at www.childrenswish.ca.

Important: Bring your clothing to the school May 2 to 4. (or Sunday May 1) They will be picked up on the 5th.

Wedding Announcement

Details available in print and emailed versions of the Chatter box.

Illumination Help Needed

The Hasens are looking to borrow strings of white LED Christmas lights to decorate for the upcoming wedding. Please contact Rachel Hasen at 416-233-7771 for more information. Thank you in advance!

Children’s Gift Program

Every June, the Olivet Church remembers the church’s birthday. Following the church service on June 19th, any child, from infancy through Grade 8, will receive a special gift from the Olivet Church to recognize this significant event. Please contact Jan Parker or Sara Gatti if you are aware of any visiting children (infants through Grade 8) who will be attending, so that no one is missed. Please plan to attend this special occasion.

Jacob's Creek Family Camp

Jacob's Creek Family camp will take place from July 24–27 this year. It will be located at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania. This year's theme is "The Heavenly Marriage."

Male and female were created to be the very image of the marriage between good and truth.
Conjugal Love 100

A deposit of \$50 is due by May 31, 2016 along with your registration forms. The balance of your total cost is due by June 30, 2016. Get your registration forms online at jacobscreekcamp.alotSPACE.com and friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JacobsCreekFamilyCamp. Or, you can contact James or Julie Uber to receive forms by mail:

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Pittsburgh, PA 15215
Phone: 412-782-2710
Email: julie.uber@gmail.com

Job Opportunity at Bryn Athyn College

Bryn Athyn College invites applicants for a full-time non-tenure track position as an assistant professor of education to begin July 1, 2016. This position will serve as lead for developing and implementing an innovative Masters program in special education with a literary focus. For details and application instructions, visit www.brynathyn.edu/about/hr/employment-opportunities.

Academy Journal 2014-2015

The Office of Advancement has recently published the Academy Journal. The Journal is a compilation of various reports for fiscal year 2015 from Academy organizations as well as the treasurer's report and financial audit. It is available online at <http://www.brynathyn.edu/alumni/news/publications/>. We also have a limited number of hard copies available. If you are interested in a hard copy contact us at the Office of Advancement at [267.502.4895](tel:267.502.4895) or email us at advancement@anc-gc.org

Tools4Life Camp

Picture a compass. Put the compass in your hand, and watch the needle rotate like the hand of a clock. If it's working correctly, the needle will point to "N," the magnetic north. An instrument of navigation, a compass offers direction when we're unsure where to go. Tools4Life camp, held on the ANCSS campus, is like a compass, a way to navigate and make decisions about life beyond high school. Rising high school juniors and seniors explore the value of networking, attention to personal growth, and service to others. This camp is a safe setting to practice moving beyond the familiar into investigation of what is to come, with the mentorship of seasoned college-age counselors. There is plenty of time spent off campus, including two college visits, a career day experience, and a fun team-building adventure.

If your student is currently in 10th or 11th grade, this summer camp is for him or her! The dates for this year's camp are July 17-23, 2015. Registration is \$450 (meals and lodging included). To pay by credit card, call Jennifer Allen at 267-502-4521. Visit www.ancss.org/tools to download and print the registration form, as well as the health forms. Questions? Call Ali Childs at (267)-502-4931 or email ali.childs@anc-gc.org.



A NEW CHURCH CAMP for TEENAGERS

CELEBRATE A CAMP THAT'S BEEN GOING FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS!

July 7th to July 13th

Maple Leaf Academy 



Over the past 40 years, hundreds of teenagers have come to Maple from across the United States and Canada to learn about themselves, form lifelong friendships, and experience worship in a whole new way. It is a chance to get away from civilization, enjoy sports and crafts, and meet teens from other societies. Some have even called it "a taste of heaven."

This year's theme is **"Choices"**

"Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." – Deuteronomy 30:19

"Maple has completely changed my life around and I can't/don't want to think how my life would be without it. It has taught me so much and has made me work on myself to become a better person."

"Maple was GREAT!! I have never really done any spiritual work with/on myself, and so I have definitely learned a lot. Family was amazing and I had a good connection with all the other people. All the worship services were very powerful and creative. The electives were always fun and hard to choose from!"

"This year (my 3rd) I have felt a wide range of emotions. Joy in singing hymns, love and peace in prayer. Overall, I have felt like I had a good balance of fun and meeting new people and working hard on myself. I feel like I have been given tools and opportunities to work through issues I have in relationships with the Lord, myself, and with others."

"Liked meeting new people, quiet time, coming out of my shell in a safe environment, family, worship services, counsellors, campers."

"I enjoy the times where we are able to share with each other our problems so that we can get the support we need."

"I really enjoyed all the counsellors this year. Each of them have a certain connection with campers, which makes Maple what it is. The electives and quiet time and free time are amazing."

"I've learned a lot about myself and about others, and it gives me an example of the attitude I want to have in my whole life."

Maple is located in the rolling farmlands of southern Ontario. Fee: **\$285**. Financial assistance is available.

Americans will need a passport. (Think what you can use it for after camp is over!)

For registration forms of more information, contact **Stephanie Kuhl** at gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com or call **519-895-1891**.

**~Olivet New Church & School ~
~ May 2016 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rt. Rev. Brian Keith visiting	Receiving items for 2ndhand Sale and clothing for clothing drive	Receiving items for 2ndhand Sale and clothing for clothing drive	Receiving items for 2ndhand Sale and clothing for clothing drive	Receiving items for 2ndhand Sale and clothing for clothing drive	1p Sorting for Secondhand Sale in lobby	9a Secondhand Sale Fundraiser for Olivet School
10:30a Worship (BWK)		7p Closed AA	3p Broader Horizons	6:30p Beaver Scouts		6p Private Event in Hall
12p Middle School Class				8:30p Open AA		
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30a Worship (JJB)	7p Pastor's Council	8a Home and School Breakfast	3p Broader Horizons	6:30p Beaver Scouts	7p Forward Sons	
12p High School Class		7p Closed AA	6:30p Social Supper	7p AA Business meeting		
			7:30p Doctrinal Class (JJB)	7:30p Women's Bible Study		
				8:30p Open AA		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30a Worship (JJB)	7p Olivet Board Meeting	7p Closed AA	3p Broader Horizons	10a Arcana Class (MKC)	Chatterbox Deadline	
				6:30p Beaver Scouts		
				8:30p Open AA		
22	23 <i>Victoria Day</i>	24	25	26 <i>i</i>	27	28
10:30a Worship (MKC)	Victoria Day (no school)	7p Closed AA		10a Arcana Class (MKC)	6:30p Music Night	
				6:30p Beaver Scouts		
				7:30p Women's Bible Study		
				8:30p Open AA		
29	30	31				
10:30a Worship (MKC)		7p Closed AA				
11:30a Potluck Lunch						

Supper Duty Roster

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
May 11	G. Cowley	C. Reid
May 29 – Potluck	K. Okubo & K. Cooper	Volunteers

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
May 1	J. Jutras	J. Parker	A. Nater	K. Jutras	K. Cooper	Okubo	M & D Starkey	A. Jutras	E. Kim
May 8 Mother's Day	L. Horigan	S. Bradfield	A. Nater	K. Jutras		N. Reid	L. Holmes	A. Schnarr	E. Kim
May 15	M. Hasen	J. Jorgenson	F. Raymond	K. Jutras		L. Braam	J. Jorgenson	J. Jorgenson	E. Kim
May 22 Long Weekend	C. Reid	C. Vincenzetti	A. Nater	K. Cooper			Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	E. Kim
May 29	D. Simpson	K. Jutras	A. Nater	K. Jutras		J. Buss	J. & N. Wyncoll	Need Volunteer	E. Kim
June 5	G. Cresswell	K. Cooper	A. Nater	K. Jutras	K. Cooper	J. Jutras	J. Jorgenson	J. Jorgenson	B. Horigan

May Anniversaries

Details available in the print and emailed versions of the Chatterbox.

Conjugal love is of infinite variety, not being the same with one person as with another. CL 57

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Rides to church, Karen Cooper.....	416-236-0841