

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

Volume 82

April 2016

Number 4

Desiring to See the Lord

There are two times during the year when we pay particular attention to the life that the Lord lived here on earth—the life that began with His birth in Bethlehem and ended with His death on the cross, only to begin again on Easter morning. These two times are, of course, the Christmas and Easter holidays. These are the times when we make a point of talking about who the Lord is and what He did, even if it isn't immediately obvious how these things are affecting our daily lives, right now. It wouldn't really be too hard to make the argument that the life of Jesus Christ is one of the less "relevant" aspects of religion. The argument would probably go, "Of course that life says something about who God is now, but all that stuff happened a long time ago. The Lord is the Lord—I get it. But the things that are on my mind are the problems I'm dealing with right now."

It's easy to miss the connection between what the Lord did in His life on earth—what He did by dying and rising again—and our experience of life's struggles and victories in the present moment. We might never connect the dots, if the Lord in His Word wasn't so clear that who He is and what He's done create the context within which we think and live. We're told: "The whole body of theology hangs on a right idea of God, like a chain on its first link; and if you will believe it, everyone is allotted his place in the heavens in accordance with his idea of God" (TCR §163). This teaching doesn't necessarily make sense to us intuitively. We don't usually see how our thoughts are organized—at least not with the clarity of a bird's-eye perspective. And if we did see this way, we'd probably be surprised to find everything stemming from and supported by our basic understanding of who God is.

But a look at two different interpretations of the Easter story can help us see how much our idea of the Lord matters. In the Christian world at large we hear, over and over again, the idea that Christ died for us. He took on our sins, and so He took on the punishment for our sins, which was death on the cross. Because He loved us, He bore that punishment so that we don't have to—He died so that we don't have to. And then He rose again, because death has no power over God.

There are some really appealing things about this interpretation. The Lord loves us fiercely and passionately, enough that He would die for us—that idea resonates as true. He humbled Himself and suffered for our sake—that idea resonates as true. And then there's the idea that He endured the cross so that we don't have to; He died so that we don't have to. That sounds like something a loving God would do—but is it really true that we don't have to die? Does that resonate with our experience of life? Have any of us lived our whole lives untouched by spiritual death, untouched by evil or by pain? Don't we know that changing and growing sometimes feels like dying? If we interpret the Lord's life a certain way we can live out our lives believing on a fundamental level that we get a free ride—God gave one to us because He loves us. But life sure doesn't always feel like a free ride.

The New Church version of the Easter story points us in a different direction. This version of the story says that hell—a self-inflicted hell—was holding the entire human race in the valley of the shadow of death, and the Lord came to earth as a human being to fight that hell, because He loves us. He was willing to humble Himself, and willing to suffer for our sake. And His death on the cross was His last battle, His final victory, in which He proved forever that even this feeble human flesh can overcome all of hell if our Heavenly Father is with us. And then He rose again, because death has no power over God. So He didn't come to give us a free ride: He came to lead us down the path, but we have to walk it ourselves. He came to show us that we, weak as we are, can make it through—because He did, and He promises He will never leave us. So His message to us is not that we will not die. We will be confronted by that enemy that is within us, the enemy that is Death itself. But the Lord died, and rose again. And because He is with us we, though we die, will live again. This interpretation leads us to live our lives in a spiritual context that is perhaps grittier, but is also so much more honest, and that honesty gives us freedom. Freedom to see our life for what it is, freedom to live that life like it's really our own; freedom to climb up out of the valley of the shadow of death, because the Lord has shown us what that resurrection really means. He says:

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25).

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (John 11:25)

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

April will have a very full set of weekends here at Olivet. Along with our usual school and church programs we have something special going on just about every weekend.

April 9 the Cowleys will host a Marriage Dinner and Social. This is for couples, young and old. It will be a social gathering at the manse. Please come with your beloved for dinner and an evening of fun. RSVP to Michael or Gwenda for more details. Fun begins at 5:32pm, dinner at 6:09pm. (Times are approximate.)

April 16 Olivet will host the GCIC Annual Meeting at 7:30 pm. All are invited to gather at the manse for an open house from 5:00pm to 6:15pm followed by a social supper in the hall at 6:30pm.

Olivet's Clean-Up Day is April 23, beginning at 9:30am. That evening, there is a youth and young adults' social.

Finally, the last weekend of April is a double header, with an episcopal visit with Rt. Rev. Brian Keith along with Sons' Ladies Night. Brian and Gretchen will arrive Friday afternoon. The Cowleys will host an open house "meet and greet" Friday evening, right after the French Show, for all Olivet Society members, friends, school parents and students. For this first episcopal visit of my pastorate, Bishop Keith and I will meet with the Joint Committee, which includes the Pastor's Council and Olivet Board, at 10am Saturday morning. During this meeting, we will discuss the pre-circulated pastoral development material. In the afternoon, I will meet with the bishop to for further discussion and planning. That evening is Sons' Ladies Night and on the Sunday Bishop Keith will preach.

From the Assistant to the Pastor

Happy spring everyone! May this be a time of renewal and growth in your lives, inwardly as well as outwardly. It continues to be a delight to work and serve this congregation, and to hear Rosalie share her squeaks and squawks with you on Sunday mornings. Some people have suggested that her noises mean things like “Amen!” and “Hallelujah!” I’m perfectly happy to entertain that suggestion.

Wishing you all the blessings of the Lord’s life,
Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal

There seems to be a question in some minds as to how Olivet School’s admittance process works. I have been asked “Do you accept all applicants?” “How do you know which students to accept?” I hope this following will help to clarify these and other questions.

From Inquiry to Acceptance—or Not

When people hear about us by word of mouth, in print, or online, they contact us for more information. We send it out either by mail or as an email attachment. They are requested to read this information over once they receive it, and then contact us for a tour and interview.

During the tour and interview, I listen carefully to what the parents are looking for in educating their child. We have a conversation about that. I explain the main points of New Church (NC) education, concentrating on what might be different from their own religious background. (It helps that I have done some reading on the various religions and their main points of belief.) Many people are open minded and are more spiritual seekers than members of a particular church, and if they are in agreement with our NC teachings, the next step is to have the child visit and to have the parents meet with Rev. Cowley if he wasn't present at the first visit. Meeting with the pastor is not as important at the Playschool level and not at all for Tot's Time. It is more important in the school grades as more NC content is delivered then.

If, during the interview, it is found that the parents are actively practicing a religion that differs from the NC, it is explained to them that it is our goal that we seek to have harmony between home and school. I explain that we have no desire to confuse a child by teaching something with which the parents cannot agree. At this point, the parents generally choose not to pursue the application if they feel that Olivet would not be a good fit with what they are teaching at home. I emphasize that our church believes that all those who practice a religion from their hearts to the best of their understanding have a place in heaven and that our church does not discriminate, then I encourage them to find a school that is in harmony with their home.

If it is decided that the family might be a good fit, the child visits and he/she will spend a few hours in the classroom on a regular day. I make a point of spending some time in the class doing some observation, and we also take a report from the teacher on recess duty. At the end of the day we sit down and compare notes. Children come with a variety of special needs - we all have them; but what we are looking for is a child who can fit into the classroom and allow the teacher to deliver the curriculum so that all children can participate and learn.

Not everyone who makes inquiries will succeed in the application process to acceptance. Could we increase our numbers by being less selective? Yes, I think we could. Do we want to increase numbers possibly at the expense of “watering down” our NC educational teachings and methods? I think not, but I look to the pastors and to the board for support and direction. I hope this gives some clarity on how we handle inquires and how the application process proceeds. Your thoughts and input are welcome.

Gabriele Pulpan

Sunday Schol News

Sunday School has been traveling with the children of Israel through the desert to the promised land. We have learned the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments in our hearts and minds throughout our lives. Just like the children of Israel, we are confronted with many challenges in our lives as we work our way toward heaven.

We have had a several special events in the new year. Our Swedenborg Banquet was a lot of fun; we ate delicious food, played some fun games (thanks go to Ari and Adam for running relay races) and heard a great talk about Swedenborg. The school choir sang two beautiful songs on choir day, and then we all had a pizza lunch then headed Skyzone for an hour of jumping! For Palm Sunday, we had an egg hunt that was fun and delicious. The children found (most) of the hidden eggs, and everyone went home with treats and stickers after completing their challenge of putting together the events of the Easter story.

Wedding Announcement

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

Invitation to a Wedding Shower

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

Work Party

Please join us for an indoor/outdoor work party on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:30am–noon. Sara Gatti and I will lead crews of volunteers cleaning up inside and outside the church. Please let us know if you are coming so we can have enough supplies.

Families are encouraged to join us (parents will supervise their own children). This is a great opportunity to show children how easy and fun it can be to volunteer for a good cause. It's also a wonderful way to get to know the people in our church and school community.

If you have noticed an area in the church that could use some sprucing up, please let me know so I can add it to the job list, or if you would like to provide some snacks that would be welcome too! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sandy Bradfield



A NEW CHURCH CAMP for TEENAGERS

CELEBRATE A CAMP THAT'S BEEN GOING FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS!
July 7th to July 13th

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 gic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com or call **519-895-1891**.

Maple Leaf Academy



Hosts Needed



Yay! Janine Nater and Jeremy Crawford are getting married, and we are expecting a number of family members to travel here for the celebration. If you are willing to host out-of-town guests for a couple of nights, please contact Rachel Hasen at 416-233-7771.

Academy of the New Church Summer Camp

Registration opens on March 1st for the best week of the summer! ANC Summer Camp is open to all kids currently in grades 8 and 9. Come spend a week learning more about the New Church and the Academy of the New Church High School. Mixed in with that, we offer interesting classes and crazy games to keep things fun. Each evening we have a different social activity. Have a taste of dorm life, meet some of the faculty, and get to know potential future classmates.

The cost of the week is \$400.00 USD. Payment can be split into two installments, and can be paid by cheque or online through paypal. All information, including class descriptions, as well as registration and health forms will be available starting on March 1st at www.ancss.org. Please note that health forms must be mailed separately to the nurse due to regulations. Feel free to call the director, Keene Blair, with any questions at 267-229-5527.

Glencairn Museum's Medieval Summer Camp Returns this June!

Session I (June 20 – 24) Session II (June 27 – July 1) | Daily 8:45 am – 12:45 pm

Campers age 9 and 10 (not 11, as previously published) are invited to join us as we step back in time and spend a fun and adventurous week exploring Medieval life and times. Overseen by the King and Queen and their lords and ladies, each day is packed with activities such as archery, crafts, boar hunts, cooking, sword play and more! Registration brochures will be available at your church in March. To reserve a spot in the meantime please call 267-502-2990, or email info@glencairnmuseum.org. For more information, please contact Christine McDonald at 267-502-2995 or christine.mcdonald@glencairnmuseum.org



~ Olivet New Church & School ~
April 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p Middle School Class	4	5 7p Closed AA	6 7:30p Doctrinal Class (MKC)	7 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA	8 Young People's Weekend in Caryndale 1p Early dismissal (JK-6) 1p Parent-Teacher Conferences 7p Forward Sons	9 Young People's Weekend in Caryndale 5:30p Marriage Supper at the Manse
10 Young People's Weekend in Caryndale 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School Class	11	12 7p Closed AA	13	14 10a Arcana Class (MKC) 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7:30p Women's Bible Study 8:30p Open AA	15 Chatterbox Deadline 8:30a Ontario Dairy Education Day	16 3:30p GCIC Board meeting 5p Cowley Open House wine and cheese 6:30p Supper in Toronto 7:30p GCIC Annual meeting in Toronto
17 10:30a Worship (JJB) 7p Bridal Shower for Janine Nater	18 7p Olivet Board Meeting dinner	19 7p Closed AA	20	21 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA	22 Earth Day	23 9:30a Olivet Clean-up Day 7p Youth & Young Adults' Social
24 10:30a Worship (MKC) 11:30a Potluck Lunch	25	26 7p Closed AA	27	28 10a Arcana Class (MKC) 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7:30p Women's Bible Study 8:30p Open AA	29 Episcopal visit BWK 10:15a Gr.1-6 Fieldtrip 7p French Show 7:30p Open House Meet & Greet with the Bishop	30 Episcopal visit BWK Rt. Rev. Brian Keith visiting 10a Joint committee w BWK 7p Sons' Ladies' Night

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
Apr 3	M. Braam	J. Jorgenson	A. Nater	K. Jutras	K. Cooper	N Reid	J. Jorgenson	J. Jorgenson	S. Bradfield
Apr 10	S. Cho	K. Cooper	A. Nater	K. Jutras		G. Cowley	L. Holmes	A. Schnarr	S. Bradfield
Apr 17	P. Bailey	S. Bradfield	F. Raymond	J. Buss		M. Hasen	J & N Wyncoll	Need Volunteer	S. Bradfield
Apr 24	P. Horigan	V. Younan	A. Nater	K. Jutras		V. Younan	M. Broderick	M. Broderick	S. Bradfield
May 1	J. Jutras	J. Parker	A. Nater	K. Jutras		N. Reid	Need Volunteer	A. Jutras	E. Kim

Supper Duty Roster

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
April 16 – GCIC Annual Meeting	A. Jutras & E. Parker	C. Reid
April 24 – Pot Luck	K. Cooper & S. Gatti	Volunteers

April Anniversaries

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

There are marriages in heaven as there are on earth. True marriage is the bonding of two into one. HH 367

(2) Likewise conjugal love. CL 180

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