

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Untouchable Innocence

The sphere of innocence around little children is a palpable thing. We can't measure it or study it scientifically, but we know it's there because we feel it as surely as we feel sunshine on our bodies. These days I'm blessed to have a baby girl in my house, and it occurred to me recently how simply unthinkable it is that I should do or say anything to violate her innocence. I occasionally babble nonsense at my daughter (maybe I'm not alone in this...), and as I was spouting something at her I observed that it had some lewd connotations. And in my little girl's presence that was just intolerable—not that there's ever a time when being lewd is particularly warranted, but I don't normally feel that zealous about it. The effect of my daughter's sphere on my nonsense was real and immediate and unquestionable.

And the thing is, that powerful innocence surrounding her isn't really hers. The innocence of childhood, as palpable as it is, is a borrowed state. What we feel around little children is the presence and the innocence of angels. We're told in a number of places that angels of the highest heaven—the heaven of innocence—are watching over children during the first years of their lives. In fact, as far as their spirits are concerned, tiny babies are among those angels—surrounded by them (see *Arcana Coelestia* §§2303, 5342.2; *Heaven and Hell* §277.4). Because of this little children act in a way that echoes angelic innocence, and their presence carries innocence with it.

But we all know that as children grow up they leave the innocence of their first years behind. It didn't truly belong to them, so they don't keep it. But the angels do keep it. That innocence is theirs, and anyone who comes into their presence will feel it in that palpable and unquestionable way, and this will be true of them forever. Once we grow up we never get to grow back down again—childhood once gone is gone. So we tend to think that it's the same way with the sphere of innocence in which we begin our lives—once it's gone it's gone. But innocence is not behind us: it's ahead. The innocence of babies is borrowed, but the innocence of angels is real. And we can become angels.

The almost unbelievable implication of this teaching is that we can become people whose presence has the same effect as the presence of a little baby. We can become people in whose presence anything lewd or ugly simply cannot stand. And that doesn't mean we have to become prudish or self-righteous; there's nothing prudish about a baby's innocence. There's simply a sphere in which evil does not belong. In the book *Married Love*, an angel from the heaven of innocence describes what marriage is like in his heaven, and he says:

It is impossible for us here to regard any of our companions' wives with lust—as impossible as it would be to look at the light of our heaven from a state of infernal darkness. We have no mental concept among us, therefore, and not even any word in our speech for the temptations of lust. (§75.6)

We're told that this angel "could not say 'licentiousness,' because the chastity of their heaven resisted it" (ibid.). So lewd or evil things can't even come near these angels. They simply do not belong in their sphere. Probably a lot of us hear descriptions like this and think, "What's the use of that? I have no concept of what it's like to be that good. This isn't talking about me or my life." It's true that pretty much all of us are a long way from being that good. It takes a lifetime of effort and the profound guidance of the Lord to make us that innocent. But we can have a concept of what that innocence feels like: we can feel it around little children. And maybe in that presence we can begin to understand how we could choose to love and defend goodness that completely. We are capable of knowing what it feels like to say, with zeal that has power, "evil is simply and utterly unwelcome here." We do that for our children. Incredible as it seems, with the Lord's help we can do more than feel that: we can become it.

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

Holy Supper: You are invited to partake of the sacrament of the Holy Supper on Sunday, June 12th as a part of our regular service. The Lord invites us to celebrate the Holy Supper as a way to strengthen our resolve to follow Him, to shun evils as sins against Him, and to refresh our spiritual lives. This is a special way to help celebrate the Lord's Second Coming at this time of year. It is a sacrament provided by the Lord to help us shun evils through strengthening our resolve to resist them, for those who have begun the life of self-examination and repentance. When the Lord sent out His twelve disciples, He first had called them together. So we too are called together, to this sacrament, that we may go forth in the light and love of the New Church established and announced in the New Evangel of the Second Coming.

New Church Day Celebrations: Sadly, we will be having our first and last New Church Day celebration with Jared and Justine (and Rosalie) Buss. But happily, Justine will be helping us in these celebrations. We were so blessed to have had her talents lead in the presentation of the Tableaux at Christmas. See elsewhere in the *Chatterbox* what we will have in store, and how you can take part in our New Church Day pageant. Following the service please join us for a picnic out on the field or in the hall if it's raining.

From the Assistant to the Pastor

A lot has happened between now and the last time I wrote to you all in the Chatterbox. This spring Justine and I have been feeling that we're finally really settled into our lives and rhythms here in Toronto, and gearing up to make the most of that. And then—what do you know—it turns out we're moving to Michigan.

Obviously this feels a little dizzying. The reasons for the move are themselves quite dizzying, and sad. For those who don't know, our plan to move was precipitated by the news that Anne Glenn, the wife of Coleman Glenn who is currently a pastor in South Africa, has cancer and has to move to the US for treatment. This creates a domino effect with a number of ministers moving around, but the short version is that the Glens will eventually come here and Coleman will join (rejoin, actually) the pastoral team at Olivet. And Justine and I will go to Oak Arbor in Michigan. I can only imagine how dizzy Coleman and Anne and their family feel, as I write this. But in spite of all the dizziness it's very clear to both me and Justine that moving to Oak Arbor is the right thing to do. We feel that we're answering a call from the church in a time of need, and that we're part of a community that is working to bring as much good as possible to a bad situation. And that is inspiring and comforting.

But we will miss the congregation and the community here. I've discovered what a strange thing pastoral work is: to do it right you have to give your heart to people, but then to do it right you have to be willing to part from those people and go where the church needs you. So it goes. I am completely

confident that the Lord is with His church right now, guiding us all to better things. And I catch glimpses of His presence in the decisions and the efforts of all the people who have done what they need to do to make room for the Glens. We're doing the right thing, and that feels good. But it's sad that we'll need to say goodbye so soon. We'll have to make the best of it while we're still with you all.

Living Waters Family Camp

Thursday, July 7–Sunday, July 10, 2016

This Year's Theme: Forgiveness

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

Now is a great time to start a family tradition where grandparents, parents, and children can all go to a summer camp and worship, learn, pray, and play together. These family camps provide a fantastic opportunity for the Lord to store up some cross-generational New Church "remains." I hope you will take time to fill out the registration forms and plan on attending this annual event! It runs Thursday through Sunday, so you only have to take two precious vacation days to make it happen.

The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario on the Saugeen River and the location is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp—you can explore it on the web at www.hvccamp.ca. It is only 194 kilometres from Olivet and just 154 kilometres from Carmel. It is also only 183 miles from Oak Arbor, Michigan, so we are warmly welcoming any of our southern neighbours from the United States to attend as well! Canoeing and fishing are available and the camp is just 20 kilometres from the beach on Lake Huron. The General Church in Canada has been wonderfully supportive of this venture and there are scholarships available to ensure that the camp is affordable enough for most everyone to attend! For more information Living Waters Family Camp or if you would like to attend, please email Brad Heinrichs at pastor@carmelnewchurch.org or call 519-748-5802. This year in particular we would love to have some musicians attend to enhance the camp experience!

Rev. Brad Heinrichs

Ladies' Night Out: Jewelry-Making Social Event and Tea

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm–9:30 pm

Location: 279 Burnhamthorpe Road (Olivet Church)

Highlights of the evening: Learn how to make your own "Pinch N Twist™" necklace and optional matching earrings. A selection of homemade desserts and teas will be served.

If you are interested in taking this jewelry making craft class, R.S.V.P. by June 5th or earlier to Naomi Reid at 416-503-4945 or naomi_er001@yahoo.ca. (She will need some time to assemble the bead kits.)

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Please pay when you confirm your interest in attending. Any profits from the event will be donated to Olivet New Church and School.

Please let Naomi know two bead colors that you would like to work with. Examples: Turquoise blue and copper, light pink and dark blue, gold and purple, etc.

*"Pinch N Twist™" used with written permission from Caroline@SunLineMetalz.com

Youth Weekend—April 8–10, 2016—Kitchener, Ontario

A total of 34 teens (from grades seven through twelve) attended the youth weekend which was held at the Carmel New Church in Kitchener, Ontario. The teens came from Kempton, Sarver and Pittsburgh (all in Pennsylvania), Toronto, Brampton, and Kitchener. From Olivet, Caelan and Alisha Reid and Aryan Constantine and their friends David Islam and Olivia Matthews attended. Rev. Jared Buss and I (Naomi Reid) drove the teens to this event. I will share a few positive highlights from the weekend.



- The spiritual topic for this weekend focused on our relationship with the Lord. The ministers provided a relatable message to the teens about spiritual life. One of the ideas that was shared was that loving the Lord means obeying His Ten Commandments and that it is not enough to just say a person loves the Lord or calls themselves a Christian if they are not also obeying the Ten Commandments. This idea was based on the quote from John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my Commandments”.
- All of the ministers who were present at the weekend (Rev. Nathan Cole, Rev. Jared Buss, Rev. Brett Buick and Rev. Ronnie Schnarr) participated by giving worship, a discussion class or a vespers service throughout the weekend. Sharing the services gave a chance for the teens to get to know something about each minister through the messages that they gave during each session.
- The weekend was very well attended with a large group of positive and well-behaved teens who enjoyed each other’s company.
- Some teens arrived early by Friday afternoon and enjoyed a Niagara Falls outing complete with a boat ride on the *Hornblower* and a hike on Sunday afternoon before returning home.
- All of the teens had fun doing a variety of activities including paintball (or crafts and karaoke), another craft session for everyone in which they made survival bracelets (with Rev. Nathan Cole) and decorated candle holders (with Naomi Reid), indoor activities and games (dodgeball, cards, foosball, line-dancing) and outdoor games (manhunt and capture the flag). There was lots of socializing throughout the weekend, meeting new friends and reconnecting with old friends.
- Two community service work opportunities involved outside clean up on the Carmel church



property and a Carmel church community pancake breakfast. It was another very successful weekend! Thank you to Rev. Nathan Cole for

organizing it and to all of the ministers, chaperones and drivers who helped make the weekend a positive experience for the teens.

Note: Photo taken of the teens at the end of the weekend event. 4 teens were not present when picture was taken. Written by Naomi Reid

New Church Day Pageant 2016

Justine Buss here. I had so much fun directing Tableaux last year that I just had to try the New Church Day pageant too. June 19th is actually on a Sunday this year, which is pretty snazzy, and we have a few weeks to pull together something special to celebrate the Church's birthday. The New Church day stories are very different from the Christmas stories. They feature a lot of fantastical creatures and depicting them in a compelling way is tricky. To accomplish this, we're going to use masks.

Here's what we need to make this pageant happen:

1) Cereal boxes—Please hold onto your empty cereal boxes and drop them off at the office or in a labeled bin in the church lobby by June 1st. We will be recycling the cardboard to make masks. Don't eat cereal? Please donate any cardboard of a similar thickness to cereal boxes.

2) Mask making volunteers—No special skills required! I need volunteers to join me for some mask making parties at our house (Smithwood Manse) on Sunday, May 29th from 3–6pm AND/OR Wednesday, June 1 from 7–10pm AND/OR Saturday, June 4th from 1–4pm. We will be using ready-made templates to make the masks. There will be lots of cutting, folding, gluing, and Rosalie watching involved. Snacks will be provided! Please RSVP to any of these mask making extravaganzas by either calling or emailing me (*contact information available in office*).

3) Acting volunteers—Interested in performing in the pageant? We will do more or fewer scenes from Revelation depending on how many actors we get. We need mostly adults, but might have roles for some children (grade 4 and up) too. Please email or call me to let me know that you're on board (*contact information available in office*).

4) Rehearsals: Actors need to be available for rehearsals on Monday, June 13th from 7–9pm AND/OR Thursday, June 16th from 7–9pm AND Saturday, June 18th from 10am–12:30pm. Actors will need to arrive at the church on Sunday, June 19th for final tweaks at 9:15 AM. (NOTE: These rehearsal times might be cut down if we don't need them.)

With our powers combined, we can make a really magical pageant happen! Thank you in advance for your help.

Summary of Youth and Young Adults Social Event—April 23, 2016

A total of twelve people attended the social event for youth and young adults on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The topic for the evening was "The First Commandment," or putting the Lord first in your life. Rev. Michael Cowley led the discussion on this topic and he got us to consider that by placing things or activities above the Lord, they can become "gods" in our lives. He gave examples of things that can take on more importance in our lives than they should, such as seeking wealth, entertainment, substance addictions, education or worldly information or becoming a workaholic. He reminded us that some of these things can be useful, but when they become more important than doing what the Lord asks us to do (i.e., following the 10 Commandments), then we lose our spiritual balance. After the discussion was over, we drew for the door prize and ate authentic Jamaican food. After dinner, Justine Buss led us in some fun and interactive group games. After the games, some played basketball while others socialized, and finally the event was complete, but not before someone ate an entire hot pepper on a dare. I don't believe she will ever try this again.

Naomi Reid



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

A NEW CHURCH CAMP for TEENAGERS

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.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3p Broader Horizons	2 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA	3 3:30p Set up for Nater-Crawford Wedding	4 7:30p Janine Nater and Jeremy Crawford Wedding
5 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School Class 12p Middle School Class	6	7 7p Closed AA	8 3p Broader Horizons	9 10a Arcana Class (MKC) 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7:30p Women's Bible Study 8:30p Open AA	10 7p Mkc presenting. Forward Sons	11
12 10:30a Worship with Holy Supper (MKC) 12p Sunday School Pizza and Bowling	13	14 7p Closed AA	15 No Social Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class Mkc	16 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA	17 Chatterbox Deadline 10a Teddy Bear Picnic - Preschool 11:30a School Closing Service 1p Early dismissal (JK-6)	18 7p Youth And Young Adult Event
19 Father's Day 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p New Church Day Picnic	20 9a First Aid Course for Olivet Staff 7p Olivet Board Meeting	21 9a First Aid Course for Olivet Staff 7p Closed AA	22	23 10a Arcana Class (MKC) 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA	24	25 11:30a Private event in church hall 7p Ladies' Jewelry Making Night Out
26 10:30a Worship (MKC)	27	28 7p Closed AA	29	30 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA		

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
June 5	G. Cresswell	K. Cooper	F. Raymond	K. Jutras	K. Cooper	J. Jutras	J. Jorgenson	J. Jorgenson	B. Horigan
June 12 Morning Holy Supper	G. Moran	S. Bradfield	A. Nater	Party: K. Jutras & N. Reid			L. Holmes	A. Schnarr	B. Horigan
June 17 End of School Service	S. Bradfield	S. Bradfield	CD				S. Bradfield		S. Bradfield
June 19 New Church Day Festivities Father's Day	P. Horigan	S. Bradfield	A. Nater				New Church Day Picnic		B. Horigan
June 26	M. Braam	J. Parker	A. Nater	(parents)			Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	B. Horigan
Jul 3 Long Weekend	S. Cho	S. Gatti	A. Nater	(parents)			Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	S. Gatti

June Anniversaries

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

In its essence, marriage love is nothing else than the willing of two to be one, that is, their desire that the two lives shall become one life. CL 215

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