

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Being Right

When I was at Bryn Athyn College, a religion professor goaded his students by challenging them to determine whether good or truth is “most important” in the church. He read conflicting passages to us to muddy the waters, refused to give us straight answers, and made us grind our minds from one side of the dilemma and back again. I remember being so frustrated with him—because I knew that good is more important. This, of course, was the professor’s goal. He wanted to challenge our assumptions and force us to come up with real arguments for what we saw—saw almost intuitively, because it’s so obvious. Of course good is what really matters! Truth may be “first in time,” but good is “first in end” (AC §3325, TCR §336, et al.). When we go to the other world, the angels will not ask us what we believe; they will ask us how we lived (DP §101.3). This is New Church 101 (it was Religion 110, in my case). We pick this up very quickly if we’re paying any attention to what this religion teaches. But boy, do we sometimes act like being right is really all that matters. In fact—and quite ironically—it’s often when we’re not being charitable at all that we’re most certain that what we say is right.

There’s a story in the Word of King David dancing before the ark of the Lord as it’s brought into Jerusalem. We’re told that Michal, David’s wife, “looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart” (2 Samuel 6:16). Later she reveals the reason for her contempt; David was not wearing much clothing, and apparently in the course of his energetic dancing he made himself somewhat indecent. So Michal says, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” (v. 20). David’s response is quite cold:

It was before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the Lord. And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honour. (vv. 21-22)

He tells his wife that he believes that his joy in dancing before the Lord is what matters, not his dignity, and he’s not having any of her contempt. The thing is, Michal is right! Wearing insufficient clothing wasn’t a necessary part of David’s performance. Maybe a great many people had been secretly laughing at the king. She was right...but if only she had said, “Did you know...” or “Maybe next time wear something else,” instead of stinging her husband with sarcasm.

It’s an obvious point, but one worth visiting and revisiting because so many of us are so bad at remembering it. How often does our conviction in the worthiness or justifiability of the words we utter blind

us to the fact that we're not expressing ourselves in a constructive way? Let's say a certain husband is annoyed with his wife for consistently leaving whatever she's been working on all over the place instead of putting it away. He comes home and finds the table covered with art materials. Is he right that he asked her not to do that? Of course. Is he justified in snapping at her? Of course not—but doesn't snapping feel so right?

Or let's say that you're having a doctrinal discussion with someone, and they start to apply a truth in a way that you know is not compassionate, in a way that you know goes against what the Lord really taught. Isn't it tempting, in that situation, to pounce on that person you're talking to and shut them down? Isn't there a temptation to tell that person, with vicious authority, just how senseless and judgmental they're being? And isn't that ironic!

This doesn't mean that it's never okay to speak sternly, or stridently, or even harshly. The Lord Himself demonstrates this in the Gospels; His words are sometimes surprisingly harsh. When Peter contradicts the Lord, telling Him that He won't die as He has just foretold, the Lord says, "Get behind Me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23). Ouch.

Now, because it's the Lord who speaks these words, we can trust that He spoke so harshly because He saw something good that needed to be protected, and He saw—correctly—that He needed to "make an impression" in order to be heard and thereby protect that good thing. We may find ourselves in this very situation. But oh, how tempting it is to tell ourselves that we need to strike out and strike down the foe, when in reality the truth we see is so often so much better served by a humble manner and a gentle tone.

I'll finish off these thoughts with a passage from the Writings; the point of this passage is that it is love received from the Lord that opens up the truth to us and lets us really understand it. If all we have is the truth, we don't see nearly so much:

Because love to the Lord and mutual love resides with angels, so also does all truth and thus all wisdom and intelligence, not only in heavenly and spiritual things but also in rational and natural. For by virtue of love, it being from the Lord, they are in touch with the very beginnings or sources of things, that is, with ends in view and causes. Seeing from beginnings, that is, from ends and causes, is seeing from heaven all things that are below, even those on earth. To use a comparison, this is like someone in a watch-tower set on a high mountain. He is able to look around for many miles on the objects that are below, while those who are below, especially those down in a valley or in a forest, can hardly see the same number of paces away. So it is with those governed by the good of doctrine in comparison with those governed by the truth of doctrine separated from good. Although the latter imagine that they can see further than the former, they do not in fact see any good at all, nor any truth except very slightly and superficially, and even that is defiled by falsities. (AC §2572.3)

That last line rings true in a way that is both painful and delightful: "the latter imagine that they can see further than the former," but "they do not see any good at all," and the truth they see is "slight and superficial."

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

Gwenda and I have recently traveled to Bryn Athyn for a delightful celebration of the 40th reunion of Gwenda's Academy of the New Church Class of 1977. I was honoured to be asked to deliver the Charter Day Cathedral Address, choosing the quotation on the Class of 1977's banner, "Behold I have set before thee an open door," as the theme for my talk.

The weather was perfect for all three days of our stay as well as the drive down. There were many special moments. One highlight was being able to partake in the 5km "Bob Eidse Fun Run," which contributes to a scholarship fund for Canadian students attending the Academy.

Another highlight was connected with a family event for both Gwenda and myself. While there we got to say goodbye to Gwenda's uncle (and Ersa's brother-in-law) Fred Odhner who passed away. He is also a cousin of mine. We were fortunate to be there for his memorial service, which was well attended by Odhners and Aldens from across the globe. A very special part was seeing the stage of Heileman Hall filled with his descendants all singing the well known wedding song that he wrote and sang with his wife Greta at countless family weddings.

This month, we will again hold a Remembrance Day Service in the Chapel on November 11th beginning at 10:45 am, with the traditional observation of two minutes of silence at 11 am. The Olivet School will have a chapel service on Friday Nov. 10th at 2:30 p.m. Society members are invited to attend both services.

Rev. Michael Cowley

From the Assistant to the Pastor

It's only November, but already my mind is drifting towards the holiday season. I'm pleased to say that my wife, Justine, has agreed to direct the Christmas Tableaux once again; expect to see a bulletin about that in next month's Chatterbox. Also, if you'd really like to be involved in the Tableaux, please feel free to contact me or Justine directly.

As ever, if you would like a call or a visit, please do let me know. I often have in my head a shortlist of people I'd like to see, but sometimes I sit at my desk and wonder whom I should pay my next call to. You can resolve that wonderment for me!

Wishing you a peaceful month,
Rev. Jared Buss



Following the consideration of a number of competing factors, the dates for Maple Leaf Academy Camp 2018 have been set! If you're in Grade 8 or high school right now, please mark your calendars and join us from **Sunday, July 1 to Saturday, July 7** at the Ecology Retreat Centre for a week full of joy, laughter, friendship, and spiritual growth. Watch this space for more information in the months to come!

From the Principal

Dear friends, thank you so much for your ongoing support for one of our school families. Below please find the note the mom, Karen, wrote to me, expressing her thanks. She has also expressed her deep appreciation to me whenever she sees me in the halls or in the parking lot. Just to keep you in the loop, I will let you know that the dad was suddenly stricken with Guillain–Barré syndrome over the summer. He has been hospitalized ever since. He has recently been moved to a rehab hospital to support him in his long journey of recovery. In the meantime, the mom is continuing to attend college in order to gain the skills she will need to keep supporting the family. Both of their sons are here at Olivet and are thriving in all this stress, due in part to the support of meals and groceries from the Olivet community. Many thanks to Linda Holmes for her organization of the helping team!

Hi Ms. Pulpan,

I just wanted to extend my thank you to everyone for all the meals that were prepared or are going to be prepared. Job well done! The children are loving and enjoying eating the variety of things sent home. The portions are more than enough. This helps us a great deal and make things much easier for us. We appreciate everyone for helping out.

*Thank you very much,
Karen/Ron*

On Saturday October 21, four of us spent the day at the Private School Expo put on by “Our Kids.” We had an excellent colour-coordinated booth set up—including a new table banner with our new logo, two new standing banners, and an attractive display of photos and print material. Many thanks to Sandy Bradfield, Jared Buss, and Britteny Wilson. for their time and effort!



Exciting events coming up:

Wednesday, November 15 is Olivet’s Fall Open House!

Doors open at 5 pm, and at 6 pm Nathalie Vachon will entertain young and old with some amazing storytelling. All are welcome!

News Flash! Artist Sonja Sekulic will be here on November 15 to take your commissions for watercolour paintings! She does portraits of adults, children, and even pets. She will have some of her work with her for display and sale. 20% of proceeds will go toward a fund to support those in Puerto Rico who lost so much in Hurricane Maria.

Gabriele Pulpan

You are invited to a Ladies' Night Out!
Jewelry Making Social Event with Refreshments

Date: Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: 279 Burnhamthorpe Road (Olivet Church)

Highlights of the evening:

This is a class to learn basic jewelry making techniques where you will make a matching necklace and earrings with an optional bracelet. A selection of homemade desserts and mulled apple cider will be served.

If you are interested in taking this jewelry making craft class, please R.S.V.P by Nov. 11th or earlier to Naomi Reid at 416-503-4945 or naomi_er001@yahoo.ca (as I 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.

**The “Olivet NewChurch Video” YouTube Channel
Volunteers Needed to Record Services**

We have 21 subscribers and a good number of views. From the feedback I have received, the channel is fulfilling a need for people. With that in mind, I would like to make a request for volunteers to help with the recording so that we can record every service. No special technical skill is required, just enthusiasm for the use. Please contact Jerry or Amy Jutras.

Since the last update, I have started to upload the sermons on the Olivet Facebook page for those who prefer Facebook. From the number of likes and loves I see on Facebook, this was a good move.

For the Journey Program “Practicing Forgiveness,” I have created a special sermon playlist. If you want to watch a sermon you missed or watch the sermon again, please go to the channel.

To find this channel, you can click on the URL below or type it into your browser as shown. Another way to find the channel is to go to youtube.com and type “Olivet NewChurch Video” in the search box and this channel should come up with a picture of the channel beside it.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC671dEQFjyTkM5-fhIIIEYA>

Jerry Jutras

Board of Directors

On behalf of the Olivet Board and Society, thank you to all who were able to attend the Annual General Meeting! Over 40 members were present—one of the highest turnouts in several years!

This year's 2017-18 Board of Directors includes: Claire Bradfield, Greg Cresswell, Caroline Horigan, Gerard Jutras (officer and director - Treasurer), Janet Parker (officer and director - Secretary), Gail Sheldon, Dave Simpson (Vice-Chair), Lynn Starkey (Chair), and Jim Swalm. Amy Jutras is an officer (Asst. Treasurer).

Please reach out to Board members anytime if you have questions, comments, concerns and feedback.

Janet Parker, Olivet Board Secretary

Notice Regarding the Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award

Designed to remember Kathleen McClure Fountain's love of children, respect for education, and sense of service freely given, and to inspire the best in every student, the Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award has long been available to students of the Olivet School who have met certain academic and service criteria. It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the award has been restructured so that it is now also available to non-Olivet School students in the highest grade offered at Olivet School and Grade 8 and Grade 12 students who are members or regular attendees at Olivet Church.

This cash award is to be issued in June of each year and is considered an individual achievement award.

We encourage all students to review the criteria, not only to determine their eligibility, but as a personal goal to work toward.

The criteria for the award are fourfold:

- a. Olivet Society tie – To honour Kathleen McClure Fountain's love of children and the church, the recipient is to be a tuition-paying student at the Olivet School and/or a member or friend (i.e., adherent) of the Olivet Church;
- b. Academics – To honour Kathleen McClure Fountain's respect for education, the recipient should be on the Honour Roll or Dean's List or demonstrate similarly strong academics, but weight should also be given to non-academic factors. As a result, the recipient is not necessarily the individual with the top grades in his or her class;
- c. Service – To honour Kathleen McClure Fountain's sense of service freely given, the recipient would be giving of his or her time to uses at Olivet Church or School;
- d. Personal reference – To honour Kathleen McClure Fountain's respect for a well-rounded person, the recipient would be able to provide a personal reference from the principal of their school or similar authority.

Nominations may be submitted to the Olivet office before April 15, 2018. A selection panel will be appointed to review the nominations received on that date and select the successful candidate(s) for each grade category. We wish every student a successful school year.

Lynn Starkey
Chair, Olivet Board of Directors

**~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~
~ November 2017 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3p Broader Horizons to Nov 15	2 10a Arcana Class 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA Mtg	3 Field Trip KG & Gr 5-6	4 10a GCIC Meeting in Toronto
5 Journey Program Week 5 10:30a Worship (MKC)	6	7 3p Hatch Computer Coding Class 7p Closed AA Mtg	8 3p Broader Horizons to Nov 15 7p Pastor's Council @ Manse	9 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p AA Business meeting 8:30p Open AA Mtg	10 2:30p School Remembrance Day Service 7p Forward Sons'	11 Remembrance Day 10:45a Remembrance Day Service (MKC) 4p Private event in hall
12 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p Potluck and Journey Celebration	13	14 End of Operation Christmas Child 3p Hatch Computer Coding Class 7p Closed AA Mtg	15 3p Broader Horizons to Nov 15 5p Olivet School Open House 5-7 pm	16 10a Arcana Class 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA Mtg	17 Chatterbox Deadline	18 7p Young Adults' Social (JJB)
19 10:30a Worship (JJB) 11a Christmas Set-Up with Children	20 7p Olivet Board Meeting	21 3p Hatch Computer Coding Class 7p Closed AA Mtg	22 Cookie Dough Campaign delivery 6:30p Social Supper & Doctrinal Class (MKC)	23 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA Mtg	24 Gr 3-6 Field Trip Last Day of Fall Term	25 7p Ladies' Craft Night
26 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	27	28 3p Hatch Computer Coding Class 7p Closed AA Mtg	29	30 10a Arcana Class 6:30p Beaver Scouts 8:30p Open AA Mtg	Notes:	

November Anniversaries

Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox

Conjugal love in its essence is nothing else but the wish of two to be one. CL 215

Supper Volunteer Schedule

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
Nov 4 GCIC Luncheon & Snacks	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>
Nov 12 Potluck	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>
November 22 Doctrinal Class	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>	<i>Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox</i>

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

If you are not able to come on your scheduled day, please find a sub.
Details available in printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox

Olivet Church email address: contact@olivetnewchurch.org	FAX 416-239-4935
Pastor, Michael Cowley.....	647-883-3754
Assistant to the Pastor, Jared Buss.....	647-677-2600
Chatterbox Editor, Claire Hurd.....	647-203-5875
Visitors to Olivet, Mieke Braam... ..	416-232-1476
Rides to church, Karen Cooper.....	416-236-0841