

Olivet New Church CHATTERBOX

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The Triumph of the New Church

~The introduction to the New Church Day pageant performed at Olivet Church on June 17, 2018~

The New Church that the Lord is building on this earth is hard to see. It's hard to see because His promise of a second coming and a new church is not widely understood—what He's doing is not what was expected. The New Church is hard to see because the people who know its teachings are relatively few. And it's hard to see because the real New Church is a thing of the spirit; the Lord's real work is done in the hearts and minds of people around the world, and we can't see these things.

So how established is the New Church? Is it strong or is it weak? We might wish we knew, or imagine we do know, but we don't. It's not for us to see. The church is the Lord's, and He *is* building it. He is coming now to every human being; now He stands at the door and knocks. Wherever He is answered and a door is opened the light of the Holy City New Jerusalem shines through. The light that warms us when we answer Him ourselves gives us our only real glimpse of what He's doing.

As for what He's establishing in the world around us, all we know are His promises. His Word—especially the book of Revelation—is filled with promises of the New Church. These promises are often dizzyingly detailed, but in essence they're simple: the New Church will rise, and that means two things. There are two things that, more than anything else, bear witness to the presence of the Lord's New Church. The first is a belief in one God, who is the Lord Jesus Christ. The second is a life lived in accordance with His ten commandments. These two witnesses are the essence of the New Church; these clear and simple truths are the soul of what He is establishing. A whole host of lies and subtleties and whispered excuses for living as we please rises against these truths; these lies are represented by a dragon. The angels you'll see fighting the dragon represent those who champion the essential truths of the New Church. And the woman clothed with the sun represents the church itself—the church that arises when the Lord's children have gone to Him, and obeyed Him, and sought to love Him, until He has made a home within their spirits, burning like the sun.

The Lord is coming to establish these things: He promised us this. He's renewing His kingdom from the inside out, and so much of what He's already done we don't see. Sometimes we're afraid the church is weak; sometimes we're afraid we're alone. The Lord foretold that too: the woman clothed with the sun was in the wilderness for a time. But a new day is breaking, and nothing can turn it back. His church, His truth—what is clear, what is simple, what is right, what is good—will rise.

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

June 19th celebrations: We had another wonderful New Church Day celebration! Once again, Mr. & Mrs. Buss have presented the society with a powerful worship service with a pageant of scenes from the Book of Revelation.

It is amazing that after only a few hours of rehearsal on a Saturday, Mrs. Buss can pull together such a professional presentation. Along with our thanks to her, we would like to express our appreciation to ***name removed from online version*** for running sound, ***namesremoved from online version*** for helping everything run smoothly with costumes, and to ***name removed from online version*** for her accompaniment with music on the organ.

The morning worship service was followed by a lovely picnic. Again, our thanks go to the Forward Sons for supplying dessert and to the many volunteers who set up tables, volleyball and badminton, and the bouncy castle for the little ones. The volleyball and badminton nets were supplied by Norma Fisher in honour of her daughter Amanda. Many thanks for this gift. It was obvious from the games played in the afternoon that this equipment will get plenty of use in the years to come.

Summer doctrinal study: “I miss the Arcana class over the summer.” This was a comment heard at the last Arcana class a few weeks ago. Various people have also made comments having to do with being able to drop in on the Pastor or having a regular time when people can meet and visit every week.

This summer we will try something new. Summer is a time when many people are relieved to be able to take a break from church programming, but many others would enjoy a summer book study. We will offer a regular informal discussion and reflection time on Thursdays through July and August. Beginning on July 12 on every Thursday from noon until 2:00 pm, we are inviting society friends and members to the lobby and engage in a study of the book *Divine Providence*. We have divided the book into six sections to read ahead and then discuss over lunch. Please bring a bagged lunch and a copy of the Bruce Rogers translation. The following is the schedule of passage numbers to read ahead for the following dates:

- #1-70 July 12
- #71 - 153 July 19
- #154- 220 July 26
- #221 - 274 Aug. 2
- #275 - 307 Aug. 9
- #308 - 338 Aug. 16

Michael Cowley

From the Assistant to the Pastor

This year my summer starts with a bang—immediately after I come back from the clergy meetings in Bryn Athyn, I’ll be joining the staff at Maple Leaf Academy, and then partway through the week I’ll be switching gears and taking my family to Living Waters family camp. Fortunately, things will calm down a bit after that. I’ll be preaching outside of Toronto only once this summer—in Dawson Creek in the middle of July. I’ll also be taking two weeks of vacation time: from July 21 to 28 my family and I will be away with Justine’s parents, and from August 5 to 12 we’ll be away with my extended family.

I wish you a wonderful, warm, and peaceful summer!

Jared Buss



From the Principal

2018 graduates: Congratulations to this year's Olivet School Kathleen McClure Fountain Award winners. Since we have two graduation years this year (5 and 6), we had a winner in each grade. A big thank you to ***name removed from online version*** for coming to the ceremony and giving us a small talk about the origin of the award.

The Grade 6 award winner ***name removed from online version***. He has strong academic performance and he is also a well-rounded student. He has shown strength of character in extreme adversity both at home and at school. He is a superb role model to the younger children and is friendly to yet respectful of adults. He models helpful behaviour and solid good sportsmanship at games, whether in gym class or at recess. He has performed his given tasks of duty in the school with diligence and an excellent attitude. He was also our valedictorian at the school closing ceremony and he did an excellent job!

Our Grade 5 winner is ***name removed from online version***. Her academics are consistently excellent and she shows maturity in that she plans her time wisely, is able to work independently, and is diligent with both her classroom work and homework assignments. She is cheerful, kind and friendly to everyone—adults and children alike. At recess, she can frequently be found helping a younger child learn a new skill, and she actively includes younger children in games. She also can be depended upon to perform her assigned school duties without reminders and in a pleasant manner.

To add to the “well-rounded” aspect of the achievements of both of these students, I must note that they worked extremely hard to perform superbly in the spring musicals, most notably this year. They both had leading roles in *Oh Jonah!* and did an outstanding job!

New playground games: Many thanks to the Olivet Parent Council for its members' efforts in fundraising this year! The proceeds from the bake sale and the cookie sale paid for the beautiful new games painted on the asphalt in front of the school. We have been assured that most of the colours that were used are “highway quality” and can be driven on with no harm to them.



Anniversary Fun Fair: What a fun afternoon in our field on June 8! The dunk tank in particular was a hit (no pun intended), and we thank Mr. Cowley, ***names removed from online version*** for being willing to be dunked into cold water. The magician both amazed and amused the kids, and his bunnies were a popular attraction as well. The balloon twister and the face painter had kids lining up for their talents, and the food was delicious and plentiful!





Save



the

Date—Olivet School Alumni BBQ!

Olivet New Church invites all former Olivet Day School, Olivet New Church School, and Olivet School students, parents, and staff to a BBQ (the location to be confirmed) on Friday, September 21, starting at 4:30 p.m. Olivet has been running a school for 125 years, so we hope to see a lot of classes represented. Details will follow in the September *Chatterbox*, but for now, please plan to set this evening aside to gather together with some old friends.

We are looking for volunteers to help out with this event. Please contact the church office if you are able to lend a hand.

Youth Weekend in Sarver, PA, May 4–6, 2018 (sponsored by the General Church in Canada)

Have you ever been to the Sower's Chapel, a New Church house of worship located in Sarver, Pennsylvania, just a half hour north of Pittsburgh? Before the youth weekend this past spring, I had not had the opportunity to travel to this place. The Sower's Chapel is a pretty white building with a blue roof that sits amid the lovely rolling hills of the Sarver countryside. It's a steep walk up the hill to the manse where Rev. Derrick Lumsden, his wife, and their five young boys live. Rev. Lumsden and his wife planned the details of this fun weekend event and hosted the 18 teen girls and two female chaperones. The visiting ministers chaperoned 20 boys in an upstairs room at the church.

In total, 38 teens attended this event from six surrounding New Church groups. Twelve teens came from Kempton, Pennsylvania; one from Boston, Massachusetts; eight from Sarver, four from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; four from Glenview, Illinois; seven from Kitchener, Ontario; and two from Olivet.

Everyone arrived toward the end of the day on Friday. As cars and vans started to pull into the driveway of the church, some of the teens were already having fun playing volleyball while others socialized with each other. Because most of the teens had met before at previous youth weekends, they were obviously happy to see each other again. For dinner, we were treated to delicious pizza from a local family-owned business that made all the standard (and not so standard) kinds of pizza. After dinner, Brett Buick and Jared Buss led the group in a competitive icebreaker game that required all participants to know some details about their opponents in order to earn points for their side. After the game was finished, Rev. Buick led a vespers service that focused on discipleship (which was the spiritual theme for the weekend) and explained that a disciple is a person who follows the Lord and obeys what the Lord asks us to do. After this, the teens played card and board games and visited with each other until it was time for bed.

On Saturday, we were served a hot breakfast by members of the Sarver Church Society. Then, the group went to help the Audubon Nature Society plant 300 trees, which will help reforest a large field with a variety of shade and fruit trees and smaller bushes. We worked cooperatively and carefully together for two and a half hours to complete the job and gained a real sense of accomplishment. You might think that planting this many trees was an onerous and difficult task for the teens, but they all appeared to take on this work with positive spirits. Later when I asked one of the teens what his favourite part of this weekend was, I was surprised to learn that he considered the tree planting activity one of his favourite experiences. I suspect this was because the teens worked together in small teams to accomplish something that was ecologically important for the area and bonded with each other while doing so.

After the group finished this job we had a taco lunch, and then Rev. Derrick Lumsden led a doctrinal class and discussion on discipleship. After the class, we went to Bird's Foot, a golf course owned by a Sarver church family, to learn putting and driving skills from an expert golfer. After the golf outing and showers, we had a BBQ dinner served by a church family. Later, the teens participated in a craft activity in which they used a variety of colored and textured cloth to create an artistic impression of the rolling hills of the Sarver countryside. The evening concluded with a vespers service led by Rev. Judah Synnestvedt, and then the teens had a little time for more visiting and board games until it was time for bed.

On Sunday morning, after a nice breakfast served by members of the Sarver congregation, we packed the cars and got ready for church. Rev. Jared Buss gave a sermon on Mary and Martha, talking about our need to listen to the Lord as well as serve Him. After the children's talk, Rev. Buss followed the tradition of the Sarver group by asking the little children of the society to circle him to receive an individual blessing. This was a beautiful and inspired tradition that might just be unique to the Sarver congregation, but I feel all of us were fortunate to be there to witness it.



After church, we ate soup and sandwiches for lunch and gathered for a group picture. After everyone said their good byes, we were finally on our way back home. Once again, this weekend was considered "the best" and I heard from one teen's mom that he had a wonderful time and couldn't stop talking about it! Thanks to our wonderful Sower's Chapel hosts, the friendly and welcoming people of the Sarver congregation, and to all of the chaperones and drivers for helping to make this a great and memorable weekend for so many New Church teens.

Naomi Reid

Olivet Young Adults BBQ – May 26-2018

Meteorologists had predicted rain for Saturday, May 26, which was the day that we hosted the Young Adults BBQ in our back yard, but fortunately it didn't rain at all. Instead, it was a pleasantly warm day, perfect for hosting an outdoor event. Alisha Reid normally invites her high school friends to these social events, and this time many of them attended, which was partly why we had 36 people at this event—an unusually high attendance. The people who attended from the Olivet congregation were Rev. Jared Buss, who led the spiritual discussion, Caroline Horigan, Ari Okubo, Jasmine and Cassandra Thomas and the entire Reid family. Our older son had just made it back from Bryn Athyn College the day before. Even though he was tired from his long bus ride back home, he and our younger son spent all of Saturday helping John rebuild the back fence, which had been blown down by a strong wind in early May, so it could look nice in time for the event. Just an hour before the BBQ was to start, our backyard looked like a construction zone. But we worked hard to get it looking nice again for the many guests who attended. After everyone enjoyed dinner—which consisted of cheeseburgers, potato and green salads, punch and cookies—I led an icebreaker activity in which everyone was asked to interview three people they didn't know and then choose one of those people to introduce to the group. The person who gave the most entertaining introduction won a prize. I heard from several teens that they enjoyed this activity. I was aware that there were a number of people coming who would not know anyone else very well (or at all), and that this activity would help everyone meet someone new.



After the icebreaker was done, Rev. Jared Buss led a spiritual discussion on marriage and relationships from a New Church perspective. This was the second session out of a series of ten on this subject (with alternating sessions being led by Rev. Michael Cowley and Rev. Jared Buss). Rev. Buss shared the idea that when you are dating with the aim of finding someone to marry, you're not looking for your soul mate (an imaginary perfect person who does not exist) but instead you're looking for someone who can eventually become your soul mate—someone who is willing to go in the same direction as you are going, spiritually. He gave the example that it does not work well in a marriage relationship if you marry someone who does not believe in God if you do, since spiritually you are going in two completely different directions. Doing



so will eventually cause a spiritual separation (and probably a marriage breakdown in the future). Also, on your wedding day you are not spiritually married yet, as this process happens over a lifetime of working together and conjoining your lives. He talked about the difference between internal and external similarities and asked the group if they could think of examples of these. He said that we tend to base relationships on things that seem deep, but are actually external in the grand scheme of things, and that it is internal similarities that are important for marriages in the long term. He also shared the idea that marriages work well if your partner has qualities that you don't, which complement your own, and talked about the idea that men and women were designed to complement each other in a fundamental way. I have to acknowledge that it is a challenge to share New Church

After the talk was done, our son played two peaceful pieces of music on the guitar, and some of Alisha's friends played guitar and sang beautifully as well. The door prizes were given out and the social event was done. Our last guests left by about 10:30 pm, and I was tired but very grateful that another Olivet Young Adults social event had gone well. Our next event is being planned for September and will happen at Kelso Provincial Park. Rev. Cowley will be leading the discussion. Hope to see you then!

House Sitting or Spare Room Available?

I'm looking for places to stay where I could prepare my own meals. I could help with chores, gardening, and take care of pets. Whether for a month, one week, a few days... I greatly appreciate any offer.

Note Regarding the Memorial Service for Evelyn Barber Romero on June 2

Donald Barber

Names have been removed from online version. Please contact the office for more information

The delight of use springing from love by wisdom is the life and soul of all heavenly joys. — CL 5

If you are not able to come on your scheduled day, please find a sub

[illegible]

~ July 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Canada Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maple Camp for Teens	Maple Camp for Teens	Maple Camp for Teens	Maple Camp for Teens	Living Waters Family Camp	Living Waters Family Camp	Living Waters Family Camp
10:30a Worship (JJB)		7p Closed AA Mtg		Maple Camp for Teens	Maple Camp for Teens	Maple Camp for Teens
				8:30p Open AA Mtg	7p Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg	
					8p Hunger for Healing NA	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Living Waters Family Camp		7p Closed AA Mtg		12p Olivet lunch and DP Study #1-70	8p Hunger for Healing NA	
10:30a Worship (JJB)				7p AA Business meeting		
				8:30p Open AA Mtg		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30a Worship (MKC)		7p Closed AA Mtg		12p Olivet lunch and DP Study #71-153	Chatterbox Deadline	
				8:30p Open AA Mtg	8p Hunger for Healing NA	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30a Worship (MKC)		7p Closed AA Mtg		12p Olivet lunch and DP Study #154-220	8p Hunger for Healing NA	
				8:30p Open AA Mtg		
29	30	31	Notes:			
10:30a Worship (MKC)		7p Closed AA Mtg				

~ August 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			7p Olivet Board Mtg	12p Olivet lunch and DP Study #220-274	7p Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg	
				8:30p Open AA Mtg	8p Hunger for Healing NA	

~ August 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 10:30a Worship (MKC)	6 Civic Holiday	7 7p Closed AA Mtg	8	9 12p Olivet lunch and DP Study #275-307 8:30p Open AA Mtg	10 8p Hunger for Healing NA	11
12 10:30a Worship (MKC)	13	14 7p Closed AA Mtg	15	16 Olivet lunch and DP Study #308- 338 8:30p Open AA Mtg	17 Chatterbox Deadline 8p Hunger for Healing NA	18
19 10:30a Worship (JJB)	20	21 7p Closed AA Mtg	22	23 8:30p Open AA Mtg	24 8p Hunger for Healing NA	25
26 10:30a Worship (JJB)	27	28 7p Closed AA Mtg	29 4:30p Olivet School Uniform Sale 4:30-6:00 7p Olivet School Uniform Sale 7:00-8:00 pm	30 8:30p Open AA Mtg	31 8p Hunger for Healing NA	Notes:

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