

# Olivet New Church

# CHATTERBOX

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Number 11

## A Star Shall Arise out of Jacob

The wise men followed a new star. Their journey is a model for our own. We each must see new things about ourselves and new things about our Lord. But we, like them, must be on the lookout. It is ever our spiritual responsibility to be seekers. We must leave old things behind.

Our lives are a journey to come to the Lord. Through such a journey, we come more and more to see the Lord as the bright and morning star, the star that leads us forth from the life of our native, natural will into the dawn of a new day—a new will of spiritual rebirth. In our renewed dedication to be His child, we perceive and receive the life of His Divine Humanity. This is the spirit of Christmas fulfilled within us. It brings us peace.

Jesus came to bring peace on Earth, but He also said, “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword,” saying His life in us would divide us from the life of our family and relatives and set them against us. His celestial birth in us brings a mindset that sets us against the natural way we were raised, against our natural inclinations, represented by our family of origin. So He said: “I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household.” (Matthew 10:34-36)

To follow the star means to struggle against staying in our native land, our natural “comfort zone.” This is a struggle to step out of what “comes naturally” in the way we think and react to life, and to step up—actually to be lifted up, spiritually, by the Lord Himself, into a spiritual and celestial way of thinking and acting.

May you find the peace of our Savior, a peace that comes by means of the work and journey of spiritual growth. May the Lord bring you into a new spiritual land of hope and celestial joy this Christmas season.

## From the Pastor

The quarterly administration of the Holy Supper will take place on Sunday, January 6 as part of the morning service. In preparation, please consider the following teaching:

The Divine Truth of the Lord and of the Word is meant by His blood, because the Divine Good of Love is spiritually meant by His flesh; and these two are united in Him. It is well known that the Lord is the Word; and there are two things to which all the contents of the Word relate, namely, Divine Good and Divine Truth. Therefore, if the Word is taken to mean the Lord, it is evident that Divine Good and Truth are meant by His flesh and blood....

It is plainly evident that the Divine Truth of the Word is here meant by blood; for it is said that he that drinks has life in himself, and dwells in the Lord, and

the Lord in him. It may be known in the Church that the Divine Truth and a life according to it bring this about, and that the Holy Supper confirms it.

[3] As blood signified the Divine Truth of the Lord, which is also the Divine Truth of the Word, and as this is the covenant itself and testament, both old and new, therefore, blood was the most holy representative in the Israelitish Church, in which all things, in general and in particular, were correspondences of natural with spiritual things....

The blood of the Lamb in the Revelation has a similar signification: "There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon ... and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." (Rev. 12)

[4] It cannot be supposed that Michael and his angels overcame the dragon by any other means than the Divine Truth of the Lord in the Word; for the angels in heaven cannot think of any blood, nor do they think of the Lord's passion, but of Divine Truth, and of His resurrection. Therefore, when a man thinks of the Lord's blood, the angels perceive the Divine Truth of His Word; and when he thinks of the Lord's passion, they have a perception of His glorification, and then only of His resurrection.

*True Christian Religion 706*

*Christmas readings:* A booklet of Christmas readings has again been prepared for this season. See Jared's comments in his writeup immediately below.

*Christmas season at Olivet:* If you have access to the internet, the most current information can be found at <http://olivetnewchurch.org/news/calendar/>

Dec. 1		Join in the Etobicoke Santa Claus Parade. Call office for details.
Dec. 2	10:30 am	Worship and Sunday School Christmas Party
Dec. 8	6:30 pm	Women's Christmas Party at the church
Dec. 9	10:30 am	Worship
Dec. 12	6:00 pm	Olivet School Christmas Concert and bake sale
Dec. 14	7:00 pm	Forward Sons Christmas Party in the hall
Dec. 16	10:30 am	Christmas Tableaux with Olivet School Choir and potluck
Dec. 19	7:00 pm	Refreshments and Christmas doctrinal class
Dec. 23	10:30 am	Worship
Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Service
Jan. 6	10:30 am	Worship and Holy Supper

Looking further into the new year, please save the date for the Journey program. Beginning Sunday, January 13, 2019, we will host another Journey program, including a series of sermons and small groups. It is entitled "Love Over Ego" and draws upon the biblical story of Daniel. In each chapter, we witness the clash between the forces of ego and the power of true, humble confidence. Through watching Daniel's responses to the vain Babylonian rulers, we see a powerful example of strength without pompousness and love without fear. We encourage your participation and we are looking for more individuals to provide leadership. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to attend, as it provides a friendly introduction to our spiritual community here at Olivet. If interested, please speak to one of the pastors.

Rev. Michael Cowley

## From the Assistant to the Pastor

Booklets of daily Christmas readings have been prepared and are free for the taking! The theme this year is “The Prince of Peace.” An electronic version of the booklet has been emailed out with the December Chatterbox, and there are also printed copies available in the church lobby. The font size in the standard booklets is fairly big, but I’ve done up a few booklets with especially big font—these ones have “Extra Large Font” printed on the front cover.

The Christmas pageant is coming up soon. If you’d like to be involved in any way, we’d love your help! Please see Justine’s ad immediately below.

I will be away on a preaching trip over the weekend of December 9, and then after Christmas my family and I will be taking some vacation time in Bryn Athyn. I will be gone from the December 26 to January 4.

I wish all of you a happy holiday season and a joyful Christmas! May the Lord bless your homes and your hearts with peace.

Rev. Jared Buss



## You are invited to the Christmas Tableaux & Olivet School Children’s Choir Performance

**Date: Sunday, December 16, 2018**

**Location: Olivet Church**

**Tableaux Worship Service: 10:30 am**

**Potluck lunch: 12:00**

**(Please bring a dish to share)**

## From the Tableaux Director

**An invitation:** Please join us at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 16 for the Olivet New Church Christmas Tableaux service. There will be special music, including performances by the Olivet School children’s choir, and the Christmas story will be depicted in living pictures.

**Call for volunteers:** What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than by participating in Tableaux? If you’d like to be involved in Tableaux either as a performer (acting or singing) or behind the scenes (props, costumes, etc.), please contact director **\*\*\*Personal information removed from online version\*\*\***.

**Tentative rehearsal schedule overview:** Tableaux practices will take place at the Olivet New Church in the evening on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11 and a mandatory dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 15 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. A tasty lunch will be provided.

Not all performers will be needed for every rehearsal period. Cast members will receive a more detailed rehearsal schedule in December. It’s not a huge time commitment and it is such a gift to the community. Please note that we would like some older children to be involved. We will only give them parts that won’t conflict with the school choir performance.

Thank you for contributing your time and talents to this special service!

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**You are invited to the  
Ladies Christmas Party  
and potluck dinner  
in the Olivet Church hall**

**Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018  
Time: 6:30 pm**

**Please bring a dish to share  
and a gift\* to donate to the  
Women's Habitat (shelter  
for women and children)**

**\*Gifts that are useful to this shelter are:  
toiletries, winter gear (hats, gloves, and  
scarves) and nonperishable food items.**

**Contact person: Gwenda Cowley 647-882-1620**



**Children (up to Grade 8)  
are invited to the  
Children's Christmas Party  
at the Olivet Church**

**Date. Sunday, December 2, 2018  
Time: 10:50 am (after the Children's Talk)  
Activities: Crafts, cookie decorating,  
and snacks**

**Please R.S.V.P to the office or  
Katherine Jutras at  
[katherine.jutras@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:katherine.jutras@olivetnewchurch.org)**

## Oak Arbor Youth Weekend—October 26–28, 2018

There were 42 teens and many adults who attended the GCIC-sponsored youth weekend held at the Oak Arbor New Church in Michigan from October 26 through 28, 2018. Rev. Elmo Acton and members of the Oak Arbor society hosted this weekend event. Ministers took turns leading worship, vespers services, and doctrinal classes throughout the weekend. The adults who attended helped by driving teens, chaperoning, preparing meals, leading craft activities, and hosting. There were four teens from Olivet as well as 14 from Kempton, PA; 10 from Oak Arbor, MI; seven from Kitchener, ON; 4 from Glenview, IL; and three from Pittsburgh, PA who attended the event.

Ministers, chaperones and drivers from Kempton included Rev. Brett Buick, Kempton school principal Dale Smith, teacher Bracken Brown, and Caelwen Cole. Rev. Elmo Acton and volunteers from the Oak Arbor society helped prepare meals (including Bryn and Nathaniel Brock, who also facilitated a beautiful “stained glass” craft). Also present were Rev. Nathan Cole from the Carmel New Church, Rev. Jared Buss and Naomi Reid from Olivet, Keith and Cindy Parker from Glenview, and Gabby Uber and Cyndi Glenn from Pittsburgh. Thank you to the many adults who were willing to help in so many ways to make this weekend successful, interesting, and fun!

If you ever get the opportunity to see the Oak Arbor church, you will notice that this building is truly an awe-inspiring modern interpretation of a cathedral. The chapel has three sides that are primarily composed of tall oak-trimmed windows that look out to a beautiful forested area. Since this event happened in the fall, we could see a forest of lovely yellow autumn leaves through these windows. An Oak Arbor resident mentioned that sometimes deer can be seen eating and wandering through the forest while people are sitting in church. A large stone that was found in the area during the building’s construction is used as an altar for the Lord’s Word. This stone altar is surrounded by seven tall, elegant oil lamps. My initial impression was that this is such a lovely church that I would expect to see something like it in heaven someday. It really is that beautiful! It is worth seeing if you ever get the chance to visit, especially during a Sunday morning church service.

Once everyone arrived in Oak Arbor and got the chance to unload their belongings into the two host homes, we all had time to reconnect with old friends and meet new people back at the large church hall. Our Oak Arbor church hosts provided pizza for dinner, and afterward Rev. Elmo Acton led an icebreaker activity. Eventually the teens needed a chance to run around and burn off some energy, so Rev. Nathan Cole took them outside to play a few rounds of manhunt (a fun group tag game). Later, Rev. Brett Buick led an evening vespers service and introduced the spiritual theme of the weekend, which was Divine Providence. He helped everyone understand that these words refer to the Lord’s peaceful presence with us. Jared Riepert, a musically talented teen from Kitchener, enriched our experience by playing inspiring music on the piano to help everyone get into the sphere of worship. After more socializing and games, it was time to go back to our hosts’ homes to sleep. Thank you so much to \*\*\* and \*\*\* for being willing to share their homes with this large group of teens and chaperones.

Saturday morning always comes too soon when you happen to stay up late the night before. Fortunately, there was coffee and a wonderful hot breakfast waiting for the group when we came back to the church hall that morning. After breakfast, Rev. Acton got everyone organized into four groups to do a variety of jobs for the charitable work portion of the weekend. Some teens went to the Mill Store where Todd and Sue Elder help raise funds for the church. Since the store closes down for the winter, the teens helped put saleable goods away in plastic storage containers. Other teens went to help the Pafford family clear leaves from the lawn, as Mr. Jim Pafford is currently dealing with chemo treatments. I know we all wish him and his family the best and will keep them in our prayers. Some other teens helped with outside work near the mill and others helped clean up the church hall and prepare lunch for everyone when they arrived back after their charitable work. After visiting, playing board games, and lunch, the group went to test everyone’s logic skills to try to get out of four “escape” rooms. Every group of teens and their chaperone had fun using the clues and made it out of the locked rooms before the time was up.

After the fun activity and showers, the group arrived back at the church hall and gathered for a doctrinal class and discussion led by Rev. Nathan Cole on the topic of Divine Providence. Rev. Cole covered many aspects of the Lord's leading and talked about situations that can make it seem as if evil dominates in this world instead of the Lord. He also gave practical suggestions (including emphasizing the importance of obeying the Ten Commandments) that will help people keep their lives in order so the Lord can bring as much good into their lives as possible. Afterward, everyone ate dinner, socialized during free time, and then made crafts ("stained glass" lamps with Bryn and Nathaniel Brock and wire and stone "trees of life" with Naomi Reid). Finally, everyone attended a vespers service with Rev. Jared Buss, in which he talked about the story of Joseph and how he saw Divine Providence in his life. Then, there was some time for socializing and games, and eventually everyone went back to their sleeping quarters for the night.

On Sunday, we packed up, ate breakfast in the church hall and attended church with Rev. Derrick Elphick preaching. Rev. Elphick talked about how people who genuinely love divine truths from the Word are surrounded by beautiful scenery in heaven. He taught us that truths from the Lord's Word can help us by uplifting, healing, and providing comfort. After his talk, we were all invited up to the chancel (which was turned into a lovely garden with trees and flowers) to choose a printed quotation of a truth from the Lord's Word to take home with us. One of the quotes that I chose was from Isaiah 40:30-31, which reads: "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

After lunch and cleanup, everyone gathered for a group picture, said their goodbyes, and then started on their journeys home. Thank you to Rev. Elmo Acton and his team for hosting this wonderful event. I believe everyone had a great time and one teen made a point of letting me know that he really enjoyed this weekend and is looking forward to the next youth weekend—to be held in Toronto in May 2019.



**You are invited to the**

**Men's Christmas Turkey Dinner and Carol Sing**  
**it the Olivet Church hall**

**Date: Friday, December 14-2018**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$20.00**  
**Please R.S.V.P. to Patrick Horigan**  
**at [phorigan@cogeco.net](mailto:phorigan@cogeco.net)**  
**or 905-873-0873**

## Maple Alumni and Teens: Save the Dates!

The dates for **Maple Leaf Academy Camp 2019** and the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Maple Reunion Celebration** have been set! If you're in **Grade 8 or high school** right now, please mark your calendars and join us from Thursday, June 27 to Wednesday, July 3 at the Ecology Retreat Centre near Orangeville for a week full of joy, laughter, friendship, and spiritual growth. If you've **ever been to Maple**, please join us from July 3 to 6 to reunite with old friends and celebrate what the camp has done over the years. This year's campers are welcome to stay for the reunion. Watch this space for **more information on both events** in the months to come.



### Laws of Life Essay Contest

All high school sophomore (or 15- to 16-year-old) girls worldwide are eligible to enter this contest. This essay is an opportunity to write about what YOU think is important in life. This is your chance to be heard—to write from the heart about one, or more, of your personal laws of life. Essays are to be in English (Google Translate can be used for this purpose). No name or identification can be on the paper itself to allow impartial judging, but have your name and address in the envelope or email. You can see last year's winning essays printed in the *Theta Alpha Journal*. Winners receive a certificate and a cheque—1st place: \$100 USD, 2nd place: \$75 USD, 3rd place: \$50 USD. Essays are printed in the *Journal* with writers' permission and as room permits. The essay guidelines are:

"The Laws of Life" are a set of rules, ideals or principles by which one should live:

- What do you value most in life?
- What is important to you?
- What ideals do you hold deep in your heart?

Think about the people and experiences that have helped you form these laws...

Pick a topic to write about:

- a personal experience/lesson learned that affects how you live/view your life now
- an aphorism or quote that inspires or guides you.

You can use an analogy, a quotation or a story or parable (please do not write about personal romantic relationships).

Submissions are to be sent to Theta Alpha International, PO Box 154, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA, or emailed to [ANCdaughters@gmail.com](mailto:ANCdaughters@gmail.com). Essays must be received by March 8, 2019.

#### December Anniversaries

\*\*\*Personal information removed from online version\*\*\*

*But none come into [conjugal] love, and can be in it, but those who come to the Lord and love the truths and do the goods of the church. CL 70*

**Olivet New Church and Olivet School**  
~ December 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Santa Claus Parade, Etobicoke-Lakeshore 8a Private Function in Kitchen 4p Private Function in Hall
<b>2</b> 10:30a Worship (JJB) 11a Sunday School Christmas Party	<b>3</b> 1p Kim Pook JK- 2/Gr.4&5 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Joint Board and Pastor's Council Meeting 7p Scout Leaders Meeting	<b>4</b> 7p Closed AA Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10a Arcana Class (Lobby) 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	<b>7</b> 7p Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg 8p Hunger for Healing NA	<b>8</b> 6:30p Women's Christmas Party at the Church
<b>9</b> 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	<b>10</b> Report Cards (Fall Term) 6p Tableaux Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6p Tableaux Rehearsal 7p Closed AA Mtg	<b>12</b> 6p Christmas Concert	<b>13</b> 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 6:30p Open AA Mtg & Christmas Party	<b>14</b> Chatterbox Deadline 7p Sons' Christmas Party 8p Hunger for Healing NA	<b>15</b> 9a Tableaux Rehearsal
<b>16</b> 10:30a Children's Choir Performance 10:30a Tableaux Worship Service (JJB) 12p Potluck	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7p Closed AA Mtg	<b>19</b> 7p Refreshments 7:30p Doctrinal Class (MKC)	<b>20</b> 10a Arcana Class (Lobby) 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	<b>21</b> School Christmas Party 1p Early Dismissal 8p Hunger for Healing NA	<b>22</b> Tentative Private Event
<b>23</b> 10:30a Worship (MKC)	<b>24</b> Christmas & New Year Break 5p Worship (JJB)	<b>25</b> Christmas Christmas & New Year Break 10:30a Worship (MKC) 7p Closed AA Mtg	<b>26</b> Boxing Day Christmas & New Year Break	<b>27</b> Christmas & New Year Break 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor cancelled 7:30p Open AA Mtg	<b>28</b> Christmas & New Year Break 8p Hunger for Healing NA	<b>29</b> Christmas & New Year Break
<b>30</b> Christmas & New Year Break 10:30a Worship (MKC)	<b>31</b> Christmas & New Year Break					



## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

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

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refresh-ments	Flowers
Dec 2	***Personal information removed from online version***								
Dec 9									
Dec 16 Tableaux & Children's Choir Potluck									
Dec 23									
Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve									
Dec 25 Christmas Day									
Dec 30									
Jan 6 Holy Supper									

## Meal Volunteer Schedule

*Every individual possesses potential qualities that they are privileged to share with their neighbours. To be human, understood spiritually, means to perform uses. If you would like to get involved, you can find the contact list of committee volunteer heads on the second page of the society phone list.*

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
December 16 – Potluck after Tableaux service	***Personal information removed from online version***	Volunteers
December 19 – Refreshments	***Personal information removed from online version***	Volunteers

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Toronto, ON, M9B 1Z6 .....416-239-3054  
 Olivet Church email address: [contact@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:contact@olivetnewchurch.org) .....FAX 416-239-4935  
 Pastor, Michael Cowley.....647-883-3754  
 Assistant to the Pastor, Jared Buss.....647-677-2600  
 Chatterbox Editor,  
 Visitors to Olivet,...  
 Rides to church,