

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

Volume 85

January 2019

Number 1

Wisdom

The magi who came to give gifts to the baby Lord are commonly called “the wise men.” This is the term that’s used for them in the translations of the Word that most of us are most familiar with. In some ways, though, “wise men” is not a very good translation of the term that appears in the original Greek—which is *magi*. Magi were scholars; they were people who knew secret and mystical things that nearly everybody else had forgotten. The magi in the Christmas story recognized the star that appeared in the east, and they knew that it answered to the ancient prophecies of the Messiah. Apparently, they were the only ones who understood this—no one else followed the star to Bethlehem. Perhaps the magi were the only ones paying enough attention to the heavens to even notice the star.

Technically speaking, what made the magi the magi was the fact that they knew stuff that other people didn’t know. Wisdom, however, has to do with far more than scholarship and erudition. According to the teachings of the New Church, wisdom is almost measurelessly deeper than mere knowledge—and wisdom cannot but come from the heart. So being a *magos* (the singular form of *magi*) doesn’t entitle one to be called wise; the term *magi* would be better translated as “learned men.”

Yet the magi who feature in the Christmas story were, unquestionably, wise. Their wisdom, however, is not indicated by the name that is used for them, nor by the fact that they understood the star in the east as no one else did. We see a sign of their wisdom in their opening line in the Gospel of Matthew: “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (2:2). We see a sign of their wisdom in the fact that they were not content merely to observe the star—they went looking for the King. Those familiar with the teachings of the New Church see signs of the wisdom of the magi in the gifts they gave to the Lord—gifts that correspond to all of the blessings that we receive from Him (AC §§9293.3, 10252.5-6; AE §324.10). But perhaps the greatest testament to the wisdom of the magi is this statement: “... and behold, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” (Matt. 2:9-10).

A learned person could have observed the star in the east clearly and carefully enough to follow it. An intelligent and well-studied person could have recognized its significance. But what the magi of the Christmas story beheld touched their hearts. To know that they had found the Lord gave them joy—they rejoiced with “exceedingly great joy.” That phrase appears nowhere else in the whole of the Word. The joy they knew in that moment was joy such as rarely comes to us—a brush with something piercing and holy. They rejoiced simply to know that they had found their King; that is wisdom.

A tremendous amount is said about wisdom in the teachings of the New Church—too much to summarize easily. But here is a brief collection of statements that can perhaps serve as definitions of wisdom:

- *Intelligence is not wisdom, but it leads to wisdom, for having an understanding of what truth and good are is not the same as being a true and good person; but being wise is. Wisdom can be used only in reference to a person’s life, to what kind of person he is. (AC §1555.2)*
- *Wisdom is ... to will well from love. (AC §10331.4)*
- *True wisdom is to see what is conducive to anyone’s life to eternity, and to orient oneself according to that. (AE §338)*

- *It is known that such as a person's wisdom is, such is the person. But the life of wisdom is love; and love is the essence, and wisdom is the form of love. (Charity §92)*
- *Wisdom is nothing but an image of love, for in wisdom love presents itself to be seen and recognized. (DLW §358)*

Intelligence is, of course, useful and worth cultivating; but intelligence is meant to be nothing more than a tool. When it serves to make love shine forth and be recognized, then intelligence has become wisdom. The joy of the magi testifies to their wisdom because it testifies to the love that had infilled their diligence and their search all along.

The other great testament to the wisdom of the magi is the description of what they did when they found the Christ. Yes, they came to bring Him gifts, but when they came into His presence, the first thing they did was fall down and worship Him (Matt. 2:11). The image of these venerable, dignified men bowing their faces to the earth before a little Child is wonderful. They knew that they were less than Him. We're told that the angels "know and acknowledge that all their knowledge, intelligence, and wisdom is as nothing in comparison with the infinite knowledge, intelligence, and wisdom of the Lord; thus that it is ignorance" (AC §1557). Perhaps the magi—those learned men—likewise acknowledged, as they worshiped, that in the presence of that Holy Child, all their wisdom was no more than ignorance. In that acknowledgment, holiness dwells: the holiness of wisdom.

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

Congratulations to Revs. Brad Heinrichs and David Lindrooth on their nomination and confirmation to be elevated to the third degree of the priesthood. As the pastor at the Carmel Church, Brad has asked that his ordination take place there. We are welcomed to attend on January 13 at 11 am. Regional clergy meetings will be taking place in Caryndale from January 16 to 18. Jared, Jim, and I will join with the other ministers from Canada and nearby societies for doctrinal presentations, discussions of matters affecting the church, and new changes in pastoral staffing, among other subjects.

We were sorry to hear of the untimely death of our friend Jim Pafford. Jim taught here at Olivet for several years, developing deep friendships with many of us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judi and the children as they head into the Christmas season and new year with aching hearts.

Journey program save-the-date: We will be starting our Journey beginning January 13, 2019. The program 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. Books will be available to purchase after the holiday break and digital downloads can be purchased at http://www.newchristianresources.org/Love-Over-Ego-eBook-Digital-Download_p_242.html

Let me remind you that the church office will be lightly staffed during the Christmas break. Please call ahead to make sure that there will be someone there to let you into the building if you need access, or call the pastor's cell phone. As of the *Chatterbox* deadline, we've only just begun our Christmas programs. It would be kind of odd to thank people for things that haven't even happened yet, so I'll hold off until next month.

With the start of the new year, it might be a good time to consider joining the Arcana class. We are just beginning a new chapter in Volume 3. We supply the readings for those who don't have an Elliott translation, and we print several large-text copies to help those who enjoy larger print. The class meets every other week on a Thursday morning in the lobby. We go at an easy pace and there are lots of questions and great discussion. It may sound really intellectual, but it's not. We talk about whatever the reading inspires. The next meeting is on January 10 at 10 am in the lobby, and we'd be glad to have you join

Are there things that you think ought to be discussed at Pastor's Council? Please contact a member of the Council before the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, January 14.

Happy New Year,
Michael

From the Assistant to the Pastor

As I write, I've not yet taken my vacation in Bryn Athyn (my family and I will be leaving immediately after Christmas). But, I fully expect to have a great time, and to return to Toronto (on January 4) jazzed up and ready to do all of the things I'd put on the back burner during the busy Christmas season. That sounds a bit like a new year's resolution... let's see how well it holds up.

I've already got a fair bit of travelling scheduled for the first few months of 2019. I've noticed that whenever I've been away a number of weekends in a row, it's particularly delightful to come back to Olivet and see you all at church or at some other event, and reconnect. That, I guess, is one of the hidden perks of my job.

I wish all of you a warm and cheerful new year.

Jared Buss

From the Principal

Erratum: The following was intended to be published in the December 2018 Chatterbox. Apologies are extended by the editor.



On October 21, Olivet School was represented at the Toronto Private School Expo. Parents looking for a private school for their child go from booth to booth gathering information. Our booth was well prepared!

The now annual pumpkin carving event was held on October 26. The weather was great and everyone had fun!

The Olivet School Open House was on November 14. The children enjoyed the BarryO show, and everyone loved seeing the children's work and meeting the teachers.



The Olivet library is open on Sundays so parents can take their children to read or to check out books. We ask that all children be accompanied by an adult, that food and drink be enjoyed elsewhere, and that books are replaced in the white basket. Please sign out books in the notebook on the table.



Playground Update

The playground is almost done. At this time of writing, we only need the woodchips to be delivered and then the inspector to give us a pass. Have a look at the photos—it was quite a process!



Livestreaming Update

We have been slowly building on our new capabilities to mix text, pictures, and live video at the same time into our livestream. We are still in a learning process, but hopefully this is adding to the quality of our livestream for those watching.

As far as numbers go, since we started streaming live on YouTube and Facebook, we see from 8 to 12 people joining us every Sunday. After the livestream a typical Sunday service will generate, between both platforms, anywhere from 80 to 140 views.

We have had some special livestreams and videos that you should check out if you haven't yet had the time. The first one was Jim Cooper's address to the Forward Sons, given on November 9, on the topic of creation. In addition to being available on YouTube and Facebook, this talk has been uploaded as an MP3 (audio only) to the New Church Audio website. The second is the Remembrance Day service, which was a special event as it took place 100 years to the day since the First World War ended. We did some special graphics for the first time with this Remembrance Day service. The last special video to mention is the one that combines the audio of the church dedication service of November 12, 1958, from the New Church Audio website with pictures of people and the building.

Special thanks go to New Church Audio for having preserved audio from so long ago. Without those who created maintain this site, the recording of our building's dedication may have been lost. As well, we should all thank them for preserving the wisdom of so many ministers who have moved on to the spiritual world. It is a wonderful resource. Please check it out at the link below.

Here are the web links to the platforms where our content can be found:

Olivet Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/olivet.newchurch>

"Olivet NewChurch Video" YouTube Channel

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

New Church Audio

<http://newchurchaudio.org/index.php>

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Jutras

Update on the Soni Werner Mediation Process

Hello Toronto friends! I will be returning to Toronto January 22 through 24.

During those days I will be available to conduct mediated sessions with pairs of people. I will serve as the neutral mediator in each session, facilitating the conversation so that each of you is respected and heard. I will also assist you in finding areas of agreement. It is up to you whom you would be paired with, but I suggest you select a person who differs from you in some way, so that, for example, a staff member is paired with a board member, a parent of an enrolled child is paired with an elderly member of Olivet, a newcomer is paired with a person who has been at Olivet for decades, etc.

Mediated sessions will be held at Montgomery's Inn, at the southeast corner of Dundas and Islington, in the Briarly room, and last up to one hour. Thus far, this space is booked for 6 to 8 pm on January 22 and 10 am to 5 pm on January 23 and 24. I suggest you tell Val Younan with whom you want to be paired and sign up at a time that works for you both. If you need Val to invite the person with whom you would like to be paired, let her know, but you may approach the person yourself. Val can be reached at val.younan@olivetnewchurch.org or 416-937-9395. At my behest, Val may also contact people to participate in some suggested pairings.

I will not be available for individual phone calls in December because I am moving to my new home, but as noted, I will be in Toronto January 22 to 24. In preparation, please look over the handout in the lobby called "My Favorite Conflict Resolution Skills" with particular attention to #3. Let's all strive to communicate at the "excellent" or "good" levels during the mediated sessions, and in the future when discussing the future of Olivet in a charitable way (and let's strive to avoid the "subpar" and "destructive" ways of communicating).

I will include #3 here:

Basic Confronting Skill 3
Discovering other viewpoints

EXCELLENT:

- Actively solicits the other person's perceptions and explanations.
- Asks follow-up questions to try to understand actions and rationales.
- Tries to explore the value of different perspectives; collects data.

GOOD:

- Asks person "What happened?" and "Why did it go this way?"
- Listens very respectfully to the other person's view of the facts.
- Shares airtime evenly and allows for "point-counterpoint."

SUBPAR: (too passive to be effective)

- Disinterested in the other person's views, responses, or reasons.
- Fails to investigate or question the other person's explanations.
- Preoccupied with own thoughts so much as to not listen enough.

DESTRUCTIVE: (too aggressive to be effective)

- Dominates the conversation and does not permit any explanations.
- Quickly draws conclusions before listening to the other side.
- Constantly interrupts and cuts people off, keeping others off-balance.

Let's be our best selves.

Soni Werner, mediator

Maple Alumni and Teens: Save the Dates!

The dates for **Maple Leaf Academy Camp 2019** and the **50th 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.



If you have any questions, you can also contact the Chief Leaf, Steph Kuhl, at stephkuhl@live.ca, or your friendly *Chatterbox* editor and camp staff member Claire Hurd at wordsmithclaire@gmail.com.

Baby Shower *Personal information removed from online version*****

There will be a baby shower for ***Personal information removed from online version*** first Canadian-born baby following the potluck lunch on Sunday January 13. The shower will be in the lobby and should start around 1 pm. For gift suggestions and other details, please contact ***Personal information removed from online version***

Thank You!

Dear Olivet friends,

Since we came to Toronto in July, my kids and I have received many kind gifts and welcoming support (including from a few Secret Santas recently!). It means so much to us to be welcomed here so warmly!

With much love and gratitude,
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A Tale of Two Families

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness..."

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Why would I start an article with part of a sentence from the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens? The families who choose to send their children to Olivet School could easily feel this way. Let me tell you the stories of two families who love this school and would be devastated if it were to close. Both of these families have given permission for their stories to be told so others can know how important it is to them to be able to send their children to Olivet School.

*** (originally from Brazil) and her husband *** (originally from Portugal) moved to Etobicoke a few years ago for economic reasons and also because they wanted a better life and future for their young sons, *** (in Grade 3) and *** (2.5 years). When they arrived in Toronto, they did what many immigrants do and set about getting themselves settled in a home, starting work, and finding a school for their children. They sent their oldest son *** to a local public school, while Daniele stayed home to look after ***. It did not take long for the parents to observe that their son was crying every day before school and was falling behind the other students with his schoolwork. He had also developed persistent painful headaches. The parents were advised by the school to have their son tested at The Hospital for Sick Children. While trying to figure out how to handle these problems and realizing that *** was not happy at his school, the parents thought that there might also be a serious physical problem that was causing his persistent headaches. They spent two days at the hospital, and fortunately the tests he underwent showed no physical concerns. The hospital recommended that *** have a psychological assessment to find out the source of the problem. The psychologist determined that the problem was that *** did not want to go to school because he was getting bullied by other children.

It might appear that this should be an easy problem to remedy, if only the principal would just tell the bullies to stop. After all, it is well-known that Toronto has a “zero-tolerance” policy when it comes to bullying and violent behavior among students. However, parents who have gone through this situation with their children may have also found that sometimes it is not as easy to fix as it should be. Because *** and *** could see that the school authorities were either not able or willing to stop the bullying problem, they knew they needed to find a better and safer school situation for their son. Shortly after their decision, they happened to be driving on Burnhamthorpe Road and saw a sign for an open house at Olivet School. They attended the open house and they really liked what they saw.

It was an easy decision for them to move *** from public school to Olivet because they realized that their concerns over bullying were not being effectively dealt with by school authorities. After an interview with Gabe Pulpan, principal of Olivet School, *** asked his parents if he could attend. Since that time, almost a year ago, *** has been attending Olivet School, and his mom says there is no more need for doctors because he has no more persistent headaches. He doesn't cry anymore before school because he is no longer being bullied by other children. He has made friends at Olivet and really likes this school. Finally, he is a happy boy! Both children can be seen playing with the other children who like to stay as long as possible after school has ended for the day. Even little *** doesn't want to stop playing when his mom tells him it's time to go home.

Unfortunately, when *** heard that there was a possibility that Olivet School may close, she told me she was really worried for her son *** and she has lost lots of sleep over it. She and her husband are Christian and know that this Christian school is the best place for ***. They also plan to send their younger son to the playschool and eventually to Olivet School as soon as he is old enough to attend. They are so grateful that Olivet School was here when they needed it, but they are aware of the concerns around its future, making it feel like “the best of times and the worst of times.”

Another family that had immigrated to Toronto was also at one point looking for a school for a child who was just four years old at the time. As they drove past Olivet School, *** looked out of the car window and saw children playing outside at recess. He told his parents that he wanted to go to that school because it looked like the children were having fun there. They must have thought so too, because they enrolled him for Kindergarten and he has attended Olivet since that time. He is now in Grade 4 and loves Olivet School.

When his mother *** heard that there is concern around the future of Olivet School, they visited a couple of local schools and she asked *** if he wanted to go to another bigger school with more children. He responded immediately by telling her that “Olivet is and always will be my school.” When she asked him why he felt that way, he told her it was “because of the care, love, environment, and people.” He told her that he loves Olivet and he wants to attend as long as he can. There was also a time when *** was involved in a car accident and it was physically hard for her to get him to school because it involved using buses and walking (which was difficult for her at the time), but she was still willing to do what it took to get him to Olivet School every day, which he told her felt like his “second home.”

This is the same child about whom I wrote a few years ago in a previous *Chatterbox* article, noting he had loved Kindergarten so much that on the last day of school (after everyone else had been picked up at the end of the day) that I asked him if he wanted to look at his classroom one last time before he left school for the summer. As we stood together looking through the window into the classroom, he hugged the door as he gently closed the chapter on the wonderful time that he had experienced in his Kindergarten classroom that had meant so much to him. It was so sweet that I had to fight back tears when he shared this precious moment with me. It is this same child who told me about “his church” and I assumed that he must be talking about a local church that was closer to his home, and he said with a bit of indignation that Olivet was his church!

I have told *** about Bryn Athyn College (where two of my children attend) and she has told me that she hopes *** will eventually become a minister someday. It wouldn't surprise me if he did eventually choose this path, as he often asks me questions about heaven and other religious topics as I am driving him to school in the mornings. These questions are easy for me to answer because our church has the answers to his questions. How many other parents and children have come here because they actually appreciate the unique spiritual perspective that this church offers?

An insight that another parent shared with me recently about Olivet School is that when children attend this school and learn the unique ideas of religion that it teaches, we don't know what a positive and far-reaching impact they could eventually have on the world. The same may be said for all the children who have attended Olivet School at some point in their lives. Truly it may be said, “This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” Psalm 118:23

Written by *** (with permission and support by *** and ***)

~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School~
~January 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Christmas & New Year Break 7p Closed AA Mtg	2 New Year Break	3 Christmas & New Year Break 12:30p No Drop In on the Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	4 New Year Break 7p H4H Bus. Mtg 8p Hunger for Healing NA	5
6 10:30a Worship and Holy Supper (MKC & JJB)	7 Classes Resume 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Scout Leaders Meeting	8 7p Closed AA Mtg	9 9a NitWits	10 10a Arcana Class in lobby 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 6:15p AA Bus. mtg 7:30p Open AA Mtg	11 7p Sons 8p Hunger for Healing NA	12
13 Journey Program Begins 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p Potluck 1p Baby shower for Meryl Machado in lobby	14 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Pastors council	15 7p Closed AA Mtg	16 Regional Clergy Meetings in Kitchener	17 Regional Clergy Meetings in Kitchener 12:15p Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	18 Chatterbox Deadline Regional Clergy Meetings in Kitchener Silly Sweater & Fun Lunch Day 4p Invstmnt Comm Meeting 8p H4H NA	19
20 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	21 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Olivet Board Meeting	22 6-8p Soni Werner at Montgomery's Inn 7p Closed AA Mtg	23 10a-5p Soni Werner at Montgomery's Inn 7:30p Doctrinal Class (JJB)	24 10a Arcana class in Lobby 10a-5p S. Werner at Montgomery Inn 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	25 9:45a Field Trip (JK-5) 8p Hunger for Healing NA	26 7p Young Adults' Social
27 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p Swedenborg Children's Lunch	28 6:30p Beaver Scouts	29 7p Closed AA Mtg	30	31 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	Notes:	



Coach for Washington New Church High School

Job Description: High School Education Coach

Washington New Church School (WNCS) is seeking applications for an education coach for our innovative high school program. We are launching a 4-year, New Church high school program, using an alternative model (based around guided internships and internet programs). We would love to talk with anyone with a passion for building the future of New Church high school education through a direct coaching model. The successful applicant will be an energetic, creative person who loves working with young adults and is excited to join a team offering a distinctly New Church high school program which is built around experiential and student directed learning.

Responsibilities: The applicant's duties will include: 1) Implementation of the new program. 2) Oversight and coaching students on life-skills and in working through individualized learning plans. 3) Direct, skills-based, teaching.

Personal and Professional Requirements:

- Love of teenage students
- knowledge of New Church Educational principles
- Baptized in the New Church
- Active Participant in the Organized New Church
- Ability to work collaboratively with other teachers, parents and community groups
- Commitment to marriage as defined in the Word and Heavenly Doctrines
- Bachelor's degree.

Helpful Experience and Skills

- Conventional classroom teaching
- Strong written, oral communication skills
- Strong interpersonal/networking skills
- Firm and friendly boundary setting with teens
- Flexibility with a developing school model
- Well organized with strong follow through
- Experience with social marketing
- Intellectual curiosity and dexterity
- Familiarity with homeschooling and/or online schooling programs
- Experience with various technology applications

Please submit resumes and/or questions by January 31st, 2019 to:

Brian Smith, Principal

brian.smith@washnewchurch.org

[301-850-3029](tel:301-850-3029) (cell)

[301-464-5602](tel:301-464-5602) (office)

11914 Chantilly Ln, Mitchellville, MD. 20721

A Time to be Thankful

When I was growing up, my home was filled with classical music. My father, Ernest, was a classical buff, and my husband, Dennis, was also. To this day, I still enjoy and appreciate classical music from dawn to dusk. My favourite radio station is 96.3.

Now it is time to give thanks to our lovely organist, ***, for her love of music and talent; she continues to instill in me my love of classical music. When it comes to her postludes, my head and feet are always moving. Thank you, ***, for making our Sunday services complete.

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	Refreshments	Flowers
Jan 6 Holy Supper									
Jan 13 Journey wk 1 & Potluck									
Jan 20 Journey wk 2									
Jan 27 Journey wk 3 Swedenborg Kids Lunch									
Feb 3 Journey wk 4									

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Every individual possesses potential qualities that they are privileged to share with their neighbours. To be human, understood spiritually, means to perform uses (Divine Love and Wisdom). 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.

Meal Volunteer Schedule

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
Jan 13 Potluck		
Jan 23 Wednesday Supper		

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Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Toronto, ON, M9B 1Z6416-239-3054
 Olivet Church email address: contact@olivetnewchurch.orgFAX 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
 Accommodations for visitors to Olivet, NEED VOLUNTEER.....
 Rides to church, Karen Cooper.....416-236-0841