

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

Volume 85

February 2019

Number 2

Purity of Heart

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

(Matthew 5:7-9)

This short set of verses is from the Lord's Sermon on the Mount. This powerful discourse is considered by many as the centrepiece of Christian theology and ethics. This sermon takes place relatively early in the Lord's ministry, and yet by this point in time enough people had been hearing Him teach, preach, and heal that He had begun to have a steady crowd of followers. The Lord begins by looking out at the crowds, mostly of poor, uneducated, common folks who are gathered to be close to Him.

His discourse was about the blessings or happiness that these people would receive. He told them about their place in His Kingdom. One statement is that those who are pure in heart will be blessed to see God. This would have been a shocking pronouncement. His listeners would likely have known that no one sees God and lives, even Moses, who when he asked to see God in His Glory was granted only to see His back, after being placed in the cleft of a rock for protection (Ex. 33:18-23).

The pure in heart can be blessed to see God, but it is the sight, not of the eyes, but of the purified heart that can behold the Divine. The Lord dwells not in the eyes, but, spiritually speaking, in our hearts. As we follow the Lord, and come to know Him and His teachings, our hearts are more and more opened.

Many people heard Jesus talk and saw His miracles, yet even His disciples didn't fully "see" Him as God. When Thomas asked Him to show them the Father, the Lord's reply was "he who has seen me has seen the Father." Those disciples could not yet see God even when He was standing right in front of them!

We each have the spiritual work to do that allows the Lord to purify our hearts and give clarity to our vision. Little by little, we come into states that allow us to be closer to God, and see Him, both within ourselves and in others.

One of the signature quotes about the New Church is that we are to worship a visible God in a Divine Human form (TCR 787). The ability to see the Lord is given to our minds easily, as we can use our imagination to envision a man walking among people, eating with them, holding their children, teaching, preaching, and healing them. As we become more pure in heart, that is, as the Lord purifies us, we are able more and more to see the essential qualities of the Lord. We are asked to think of the Lord from His essence to His person, but must all begin on a natural level and so start off thinking from person to essence (AE 611).

To move from a natural to a spiritual vision of the Lord takes time as He reforms and regenerates us. But the promise is there: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

May you be blessed in doing the work of shunning evils and impurities, allowing the Divine Light shine in and around you.

Rev. Michael Cowley

From the Pastor

The past month or so has been very busy. My last entry in the December *Chatterbox* was written before the Christmas Tableaux and other Advent services. So, now let me take the opportunity to say THANK YOU to all the many volunteers who provided such a wonderful Tableaux worship service! Jared and Justine again led the way in directing the splendid service, which was a beautiful and spiritually fulfilling way to come to see the Lord and worship Him. Thanks also go to Lynn Starkey for the decorations that graced the chapel throughout the Advent celebrations.

Gwenda and I would also again like to thank the congregation for the monetary gift you blessed us with. This was a special Christmas time this year for the Cowleys, as we enjoyed hosting all of our six children, as well as their spouses and children, for the celebration of Gwenda's 60th birthday. Believe me, the blessing of some extra cash was very well received!

Pastor's Council notes: Here are some notes and comments that the Pastor's Council would like to share. Related to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, it came to our attention that some were expecting more for the children on Christmas. We'd love to hear more from you about how you found both services as we plan for next year. We also discussed the Baden-Powel Service which we will again hold on February 24. Many people were very pleased to have the opportunity to again serve Scouting and the greater community through this service.

One of the regular agenda items for Pastor's Council is a review of upcoming pastoral trips and visits. I currently have two Dawson Creek/Grande Prairie trips scheduled. One is at the end of January and the other at the end of June. The June visit is a delightful meeting with both congregations at a provincial park for worship, fellowship, and food in celebration of New Church Day. Last year, I invited members to join me for a short backpacking trip to view the Kinuseo Falls and Murray River Cascades, a hidden jewel of British Columbia. This year I will extend the invitation to hike with me in Tumbler Ridge to Windfall Lake with a climb up Tunnel Mountain and a viewing of Caribou Caves. This video shows the areas for this hike: <https://youtu.be/hSKM2vvE2CE>

We discussed the kitchen stoves and the general frustration users have had with the burners not working. Sadly these advanced stoves have proved too much for the "common cook" and we will join with the board in finding new stoves to replace the "new stoves." If you would like to give any feedback on the next selection, please speak to me.

Finally, I will end with a brief report on the regional clergy meeting January 15-18 at Carmel Church. Fifteen pastors attended from Ontario, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan. We each presented for an hour on a topic of our choice, broadly ranging from Divine Providence, the Lord's glorification, governance, order, marriage, freedom, heaven, church programs, and New Church education, to mention a few. It was good to share and have discussions with Rt. Rev. Peter Buss about his vision and sense of direction as he takes over as the Executive Bishop.

Michael

From the Assistant to the Pastor

January has been a surprisingly full month. Between clergy meetings and preaching trips, I've been left wondering where my time's gone. February looks to hold more of the same!

At the regional clergy meetings, a few pastors shared with the group that they had collected from their congregations a list of topics that people wanted to hear addressed in sermons. Michael and I were both a little intrigued by this idea. We may put out something more formal at some point, but for now, if there's something you've wanted for a while to hear a sermon on, I'd be really interested to know. Obviously I won't be able to turn every suggestion I receive into a sermon. If, for example, you want to hear a sermon all about the limbo, I suspect you're out of luck (though Jim Cooper has put together a presentation you may be interested in). On the whole, though, I'm excited to hear what you come up with!

Justine and I would also like to express to the entire congregation our gratitude for the generous Christmas gift that we received—and for the overall sphere of support that we've been met with, very consistently, for as long as we've been serving here. Thank you!

I wish you all an interiorly warm February, even if the world outside continues to be arctic.

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal

We are hoping for more snow, and at time of writing there is some in the forecast, which would be lovely for the kids! Some of you have been asking about plans for the next school year; we have a team working on a viable solution and we will inform everyone as soon as we are able. In the meantime, we are chasing away the dreary winter greys by having fun! Check out these photos from Silly Sweater Day.



Carmel New Church School is looking to add to its team!

Teaching position available for 2019-20 School Year

The Carmel New Church School has an opening for a full-time teacher in the elementary grades, most likely with an emphasis in grades 5 and 6, beginning July 1, 2019 (school year begins in September). Applicants should have a bachelor's degree, preferably in education or otherwise related to it. Previous teaching experience in a New Church school, especially in a multi-grade classroom, is an asset.

We are looking for someone who is committed to the principals of New Church education, loves working with children, is highly motivated, has sound organizational skills, and is able to work with a team of dedicated educators in a vibrant New Church school.

To apply or inquire further, please send a letter of application by March 1, 2019, along with a resume to:

Stephanie Kuhl, Vice Principal, Carmel New Church School
40 Chapel Hill Drive, Kitchener, Ontario, N2R 1N2
Phone: 519-748-5802 • Fax: 519-748-5875 • Email: stephkuhl@live.ca

Thank You, Thank You!

Personal information removed from online version and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended and/or sent a gift to the baby shower on January 13. We were amazed by your generosity and touched by your thoughtfulness! We feel truly blessed and are now more excited than ever to welcome our newest little one! An extra big thanks goes to ***personal information removed from online version*** for organizing/hosting the event, and to ***personal information removed from online version*** for making it so special. Once again, thank you everyone!!!

Amen. Praise the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host PRAISING God, and saying, GLORY to God in the highest.... Luke 2:13-14

PRAISE the Lord with the sound of trumpet! PRAISE the Lord with harp and flute!

The above two sentences, one from scripture the other from a song, captures the spontaneous eruption of joy! And SUDDENLY - wow! When happiness can't be contained any more it just bursts out!

We, in the New Church have something to sing about! We have the incredible teachings from The Writings! NEW teachings! The Second Coming; the Doctrine of Correspondences; the Conjugal; the Internal/spiritual sense; the Doctrine of Regeneration; Doctrine of Remains; the Doctrine of Spiritual Body; the Divine Human/Human Divine; the Unity of the Trinity - the list goes on! FANTASTIC teachings! All NEW! We indeed have something to sing about! We indeed should give GLORY and PRAISE to the Good Lord!

Then why do we not sing the Holy, Holy or the Gloria in our worship service anymore? These represent the most joyful parts! Why does a silence fall upon us? Why do we truncate the sentence? "Amen. Praise the Lord". Have we lost some of our joy? Are we weary from trying to be strong in a world that seems to not want or need us? Are we just feeling old and tired? How can we rekindle the flame?

I have one small idea towards growing our little church and stirring the embers - from the inside. Logopraxis. In Logopraxis one reads the Word devoutly, with reverence. The emphasis is on feeling the Word as well as understanding it and then practicing what the Word teaches. Space doesn't permit me to explain too much here but please just google it. Is anyone interested in forming a Logopraxis Life Group? If yes, please email me at ***personal information removed from online version***.

My hope is that through such a group we can begin to build a joyful, spiritual community right here at home, at Olivet. And maybe, just maybe soon, our little society will spontaneously erupt with....joy! Amen. Praise the Lord!!!

Livestreaming Update

Check out the new playlist *Journey "Love over Ego"* on our YouTube channel. This playlist includes the videos mentioned in the book as well as sermons from various ministers.

Also on YouTube, we added a video of the talk from the Sons' January meeting by Jared Buss, titled "Guardian Angels". You can find it most easily in the *Sons Talks* playlist on the main page. This is available on Facebook as well.

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>

Jerry Jutras

Teens and Maple Alumni: 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.

~Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~
~ February 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:15a Family Pancake Breakfast	2 9:30a Journey Group at the church
					6:30p Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg	
					7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	
3 10:30a Worship (MKC)	4 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Pastor's Council 7p Scout Leaders Meeting	5 7p Closed AA Mtg	6 1p MKC at meetings in B. A. 3p Broader Horizons	7 MKC - meetings in B. A. 12:30p No Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	8 Jump Rope for Heart Event MKC - meetings in B. A. 7p Forward Sons 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	9 12a MKC at meetings in B. A. 9:30a Journey Group at the church
10 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p Potluck	11 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Olivet Board Meeting	12 7p Closed AA Mtg	13 6:30p Wednesday Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class MKC	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 10a Arcana class in Lobby 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	15 Chatterbox Deadline PA/PA Day (No Classes - Playschool & Elementary) 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	16 9:30a Journey Group at the church
17 Journey Program Ends 10:30a Worship (JJB)	18 <i>Family Day</i> Family Day Holiday	19 7p Closed AA Mtg	20	21 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	22 10:15a Field Trip Gr 1-5 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	23 10a GCIC Board Meeting in Toronto
24 10:30a Scout Baden Powell Service 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	25 6:30p Beaver Scouts	26 7p Closed AA Mtg	27	28 10a Arcana Class 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	Notes:	

February Anniversary

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The zeal for love truly conjugal is the zeal of zeals inasmuch as the love is the love of loves, and its delights, for which also it is zealous, the delights of delights; for...that love is the chief of all loves. CL 367

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
Feb 3 Journey Wk 4	***personal information removed from online version***								
Feb 10 Journey Wk 5 Potluck									
Feb 17 Journey End Family Day Weekend									
Feb 24 Baden-Powell Service									
Mar 3									

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
Feb 10 – Potluck	***personal information removed from online version***	
Feb 13 – Social Supper & Doctrinal Classw		

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