

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Care for Tomorrow and Trust in the Lord

There is a general concern—and with some at Olivet, a level of anxiety—concerning the state of the church. On the international level, members wonder how we can serve our congregations given the short supply of active pastors. This same issue concerns the Canadian church as well. Added to this is our local uncertainty about the future of the school and the overall all health of the society in general.

One of the first things to mention in addressing this is the ongoing work Jared and I are doing as we draw conclusions and look into the immediate future of this coming year. We are looking at the uses mentioned during the most recent meetings when we focused on our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Some of the individual comments were hard to understand, but the general groupings of concern carried no big news. We have uses to address and difficulties needing attention. Overall, we find ourselves with the challenges facing most of the other congregations of the General Church. We will meet together as a congregation to affirm Jared more fully entering into governmental uses of Olivet as the Assistant Pastor and assuming with me some of the challenges related to outreach and marketing, families and young people, church attendance, and pastoral services.

While reflecting on this, it is good to look to the Lord when we have such “care for the morrow.” Those who are in the stream of providence, we are reminded, are at all times carried along to what is happy, whatever the appearance of outward circumstances, and those are in the stream of providence who put their trust in the Lord and attribute all things to Him.

In application to our daily lives, this teaching means that as long as we acknowledge the Lord as the source of everything good and true, and trust in Him by following the truth that He has revealed, then we need have no anxiety or fear for the future; for the Lord will order everything that befalls us, individually and as a congregation, so that it contributes to our happiness and usefulness, both now and hereafter.

Unfortunately, we often fail to recognize the truth that everything good comes from the Lord and we can do no good on our own. We think that we can do good from ourselves. When this is the case, when we attempt to do good from ourselves, we are doomed to be disappointed and frustrated.

There is a reason for this. When we realize that all good is from the Lord, we seek to be led by Him in all that we do. We try to guide our activities according to the principles of truth that the Lord has revealed. Our interiors can then become open to the influx of good from heaven, the influx which produces states of happiness and peace, the influx which produces states of genuine usefulness on a congregational level.

If, however, we try to do good from ourselves, then our interiors are not open to that influx. Because we trust in ourselves, we are unconsciously pitting ourselves against the future—a future with so many unknowns and imponderables in it that we cannot but be anxious and solicitous. The “good” that a person or a group of people does, from themselves and not from the Lord, has evil inmosty within it, even though this does not appear. Consequently, when we trust in ourselves and act from ourselves, we continually draw evil upon ourselves, for our interiors are open to the influx of evil from hell. Therefore, even if good seems to be the result, the result will nevertheless be an unhappy one in the end, because there is evil inmosty within it.

We are informed that there are evil spirits from a certain hell who, when given an opportunity, inject troublesome and disquieting thoughts. Not only do they inject them, but they try to keep our thoughts centred on them to the point of obsession. Examples are given of the type of thoughts which invite the presence of such spirits, and we should take careful note of these examples, for we will find among them the causes of our own states of discontent and anxiety about the future.

These spirits are attracted to us when our thoughts become engrossed in money matters and debts; when we concentrate our thoughts on the things we possess, or would like to possess; when we think about the state of mind and character of other people with a view of finding fault with them; when we brood over imagined injuries and slights; when we think that our efforts are not appreciated, or that we are misunderstood in the things that we undertake; and when we reflect on misfortunes that have happened in the past. In short, these evil spirits are attracted by all morbid reflection on self, and the more we indulge in that type of thinking, the more do we come under the influence of these spirits and the stronger does their grip become. This is not to say that reflection on ourselves and on our past is useless. The processes which Soni Werner has led us through can be most useful. But it is good to not give evil spirits a foothold based on the challenges and mistakes of the past.

We are told that these spirits can, if permitted, gain such a hold over us that they can induce phantasies, melancholy, delirium, and even insanity. They gain such influence with some people that as soon as they begin thinking about those things just mentioned, they become so completely absorbed that these thoughts cannot be dispelled even by a change of circumstances. So even as things start to get better that positive change is overridden by all the negativity. The hells love to hold us in a mindset that predicts things can only get worse from here. Such thinking becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

If we become consumed by anxiety and care for the morrow, we acquire a melancholy disposition from excessive introspection. The question is: How can we be freed from their tenacious grip? The cure consists chiefly in devoting ourselves with energy and enthusiasm to an active life of use; in mixing with others and serving them in a sphere of mutual charity; and, above all, in trusting in the overruling providence of the Lord. On the congregational level, this is not just to be the work of the pastors, or the board members, or the staff, but of everyone.

Concerning those who place their trust in the Lord's Divine Providence we read: "These, notwithstanding they have care for the morrow, yet have it not, because they do not think of the morrow with solicitude, still less with anxiety. Unruffled is their spirit whether they obtain the objects of their desire or not; and they do not grieve over the loss of them, being content with their lot. If they become rich, they do not set their hearts on riches; if they are raised to honours, they do not regard themselves as more worthy than others; if they become poor, they are not made sad; if their circumstances are mean, they are not dejected. They know that for those who trust in the Divine all things advance toward a happy state to eternity, and that whatever befalls them in time is still conducive thereto" (AC 8478.3).

Let us continue to trust in the Lord as we move forward, finding ways each of us can contribute to the usefulness and growth of the church in our hearts and among our friends and neighbours.

From the Pastor

By the time this issue reaches you, we will most likely have had our hosting of the teens, as it is scheduled for the first weekend of the month. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who organize and carry out this important use for the sake of our high school age youth.

You will note that I will be doing more traveling to cover the pastoral service in Western Canada in the next few months.

Perhaps the most important calendar event to mention for this month is the Special Society Meeting we will hold on May 15. Bishop Keith has nominated Jared Buss in response to the affirmative request of the Joint Council. Please plan to attend—see further information later in this issue.

A number of people have asked me, “What’s the difference between an ‘Assistant to the Pastor’ and an ‘Assistant Pastor’?” It’s a very good question! Let me offer the following quote from *The Order and Organization of the General Church* to help explain:

“The ministry of pastoral uses is provided for by priests in the second degree. By ordination into the second degree, the minister is recognized as a pastor. In addition to the duties prescribed in the first degree, he is authorized to solemnize betrothals, to consecrate marriages, and to dedicate homes. He may also serve as the governor of a local society or church when nominated by the Bishop and called by that congregation. The sign of this degree is a blue stole.

“A priest of the first or second degree may be nominated by the Bishop and called as an Assistant Pastor of a society.

“A priest in the first or second degrees of the priesthood may be appointed by the Executive Bishop as Assistant to the Pastor of a society. In this role he has no part in the government of the society, because the society has not called him. This is in recognition of the principle that all government should be with the consent of the governed...

“The difference between an assistant to the pastor and an assistant pastor is that the latter is called by the society and has a role in its government—subject to that of the head pastor and subordinate to him.”

Jared and I are preparing general job descriptions of our uses, especially concerning his potential assumption of a new governmental role in society uses. This document will go to members a week or two before the meeting, discussed later in this issue, for consideration and discussion. This will take into consideration the uses we have been performing and the discussions that have arisen over the past several months concerning the uses of the society looking toward the future.

Michael K. Cowley

From the Assistant to the Pastor

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter season! This year I had a wonderful time teaching the stories of the Lord’s resurrection to the children in church and at Olivet School. Attempting to convey the wonder and the power of these stories to a child’s mind is a delightful challenge. It’s interesting, too, to see how eagerly children latch onto the drama in these stories. The Lord knew what He was doing when He wrote the Word!

Speaking of children, there is, as I write, a small baby-shaped cloud looming over me. There is a good chance that by the time you read this, Justine and I will have welcomed our third child into the world. We are quite excited.

I wish all of you a bright and cheerful month of May!

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal

We had a fun evening of entertainment and refreshments on Friday, April 12. The children performed wonderfully in the French play, showing their growing French language skills. Refreshments were enjoyed by all—many thanks to Steve Moffat, one of our school parents, who provided enough fruit that we were able to share with Sunday School that weekend! Following the French play, professional storyteller and children’s author Rukhsana Khan held the children spellbound for almost another full hour. It was great to see some Olivet Society members who came out to enjoy the evening with us—attendance at events like this builds community!



Although we should be looking after our Earth every day of the year, there are certain designated days in which we pay special attention. This year Earth Day fell on Easter Monday, April 22, so at Olivet we took some time before the holiday to clean up the environment around the school. Cars were honking and drivers waved their approval as we stooped and picked up the accumulation of garbage on the boulevard, in the hydro field, and of course on our own property. This is something we do every year to give back to our community (we even found an old toaster oven!).



Special Society Meeting Notice

Dear Olivet Society Members,

The Pastor, after consultation with and unanimous affirmation from the Pastor's Council and the Board, is calling a Special Society Meeting of the members on May 15, 2019 at 7:30 pm to affirm the nomination by Rt. Rev. Brian Keith, Executive Bishop of the General Church, of Jared Buss as Olivet's Assistant Pastor. (See the Pastor's message above about the difference between Assistant Pastor and Assistant to the Pastor.)

Please plan to attend so your voice can be heard and to meet the quorum requirements. If you are unable to attend, proxy votes will be available either online upon request from Sandy Bradfield at sandy.bradfield@olivetnewchurch.org or in the church office. Please ensure your proxy is aware of the request and is available, as there is a maximum of three proxies per member.

Prior to the meeting, there is a supper at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to the office if you plan to attend.

Janet Parker, Board Secretary

Olivet Church and School Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 5, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am in the Olivet Church hall

Please come out with your family and enjoy a free Olivet community pancake breakfast hosted by teens and adults from the multi-congregational New Church Youth Weekend.



New Church Day Children's Gift Program

Every June, Olivet Church celebrates the church's birthday. This year, at the end of the church service on June 16, any child from infancy through Grade 8 will receive a special gift to recognize this significant event. Please contact Jan(et) Parker (najpark@hotmail.com or 647-504-3137) or Sara Gatti (sara.gatti@olivetnewchurch.org or 416-236-0190) if you plan to attend or if you are aware of any visiting children (infancy through Grade 8), so that no child is missed. We look forward to seeing you there.

ANC Summer Camp 2019

We invite all current 8th and 9th grade students to join us for a week of good old-fashioned fun! We offer a taste of dorm life, many interesting classes to choose from, daily worship to learn more about the New Church, different social activities each evening, our world famous color Olympics, and so much more.

Registration is open NOW! The all-inclusive cost for the week is US\$450. Registration closes June 21. All class information and registration forms are available at www.ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp

For more information, please contact Emily Adams, Director, at emily.adams@ancss.org or 267.625.7009.

Condolences

Our condolences go to the Crampton and Jutras families on the passing of Ivan Crampton into the spiritual world on March 28th, and to Naomi Reid and family on the passing of Naomi's mother, Lavina Scott, on April 23rd.

Olivet 2.0 Livestream Update

It has been a busy month for livestreaming being the Easter season. Check out the following events we have posted on YouTube and Facebook.

- Sunday Service April 7 with Bishop Buss.
- Palm Sunday Service with special music from the Olivet School
- Good Friday and Easter Services
- A Forward Sons talk, "Where the Lord Is," given by Rev Jared Buss.
- A doctrinal class, "A Look at the Lord's Glorification," given by Rev Michael Cowley.

I would like to thank those who have given feedback, via comments and chat on YouTube and Facebook, on our streaming. This feedback helps us improve the quality of the streaming experience. One example is someone suggested we include the words to the hymns, and now we are doing that as best we can. So, now you can follow along or join in the singing at home, even if you don't have an up-to-date liturgy. Please keep the feedback coming.

Here are the 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-fhLIEYA>

New Church Audio

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

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/olivet_new_church/

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/NewOlivet>

Olivet New Church Webpage

<http://olivetnewchurch.org/>

Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award

Nominations are open for the Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award! This monetary award is 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.

Do you know someone in grade 5, 8, or 12 who demonstrates a strong standing in academics, committed involvement in extra-curricular activities, as well as enthusiastic participation in events at Olivet Church and/or School? A personal reference from a principal (or similar authority) is also required. (Note: Nominees do not have to be currently/previously enrolled in Olivet School.)

Please email kmf.nominations@olivetnewchurch.org before **May 17, 2019**, to nominate a student or to ask any questions.

General Church Media Outreach

The Media Outreach division of the General Church is producing some new online content, and they want to know what you think!

1. The Spiritable Podcast: Hosted by Luke David and Richard Glenn, including a variety of interesting guests, this video podcast explores everyday life issues with a grounded, spiritual perspective, and does not shy away from a bit of comedy and laughter. This podcast is especially good for young adults, the spiritually curious, or perhaps the spiritually bored. Look up “Spiritable” on YouTube or anywhere you find podcasts (Spotify, iTunes, Tune-in, etc.)!
2. The Grand Human Project: This is outreach’s Facebook page that produces lots of videos and inspirational messages with a fresh new voice. It should show up first in a Facebook search!
3. phoneitforward.org, a relationship building tool using New Church philosophy as its backbone to promote ongoing friendships!
4. Hidden Things in Heaven Podcast: hosted by Judah Synnestvedt, this podcast goes on a detailed, verse-by-verse exploration of Genesis alongside highlights from *Arcana Coelestia*. It's for anyone who wants to apply the Word to their life through a deeper biblical and scriptural study! Find it on iTunes.

Check it all out, have fun, tell your friends, and let us know what you think! Send us your feedback or questions at grandhumanproject@gmail.com

7th Annual Living Waters Family Camp

Thursday, July 11 – Sunday, July 14, 2019

This Year’s Theme: “War and Peace”

Now is a great time to start a family tradition in which grandparents, parents, and children can all go to a summer camp and worship, learn, pray, and play together.

When you read through the Word you can’t help but be struck by the fact that it is just one battle after another with periods of peace in between. Why is this so? The sheer volume the Heavenly Doctrines for the New Church have to say about war and peace is absolutely amazing, and as we delve into the subject, I think you will find that the teachings are also quite profound and reassuring.

The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario, on the Saugeen River and is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp. You can explore it on the web at hvccamp.ca. The GCIC has been wonderfully supportive of this venture and there are scholarships available to ensure that the camp is affordable enough for most everyone to attend! For more information, or if you would like to attend, please email Brad Heinrichs at pastor@carmelnewchurch.org or call 519-748-5802.



Maple Reunion Celebrating 50 Years!

This year, after the regularly scheduled camp (advertised on the next page), from Wednesday July 3 in the late afternoon to the morning of Saturday July 6, there will be a reunion for **anyone who has ever been a camper or staff member at Maple**. It will share the theme of “renewal” with the teen camp, and we expect it to be both a nostalgic and rejuvenating experience for all!

Registration forms are now available! The cost is set at a mere \$200. Email Chief Leaf Steph Kuhl at stephkuhl@live.ca or longstanding camp staff member and *Chatterbox* editor Claire Hurd at wordsmithclaire@gmail.com to get forms or to have any questions answered.

You can also express your interest on the “Facebook event” for the reunion, found on the Maple Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/MapleLeafAcademy/> You can also post pictures of your years at camp if you have them. Please share news of this event with friends near and far! We look forward to seeing familiar faces and making new friends who have also had the transformative experience of attending Maple!



A New Church Camp for Teens

Please join us **Thursday, June 27 – Wednesday, July 3, 2019**

Held at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario.

(For teens who will have just completed at least grade 8 or any year of high school)

This year’s theme is: *Renewal*

He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul ~ Psalm 23:2-3 ~

Registration form now available – email stephkuhl@live.ca, or find it on the Maple Leaf Academy

Facebook page or at maplecamp.com

Have questions/need more information? Please contact Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director

Email: stephkuhl@live.ca or call 519-895-1891

MAPLE LEAF ACADEMY — SERVING THE YOUTH OF THE GENERAL CHURCH SINCE 1969, SPONSORED BY

THE GENERAL CHURCH IN CANADA

STAFFED BY EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS

CAMP FEES

Full cost of camp	\$650
GCIC Grant	<u>-\$350</u>
Regular camper fee	\$300
Early bird*	\$265
Junior staff**	\$200

Full payment is requested by June 10.

A deposit of at least \$50 is required with registration. (\$5.00 non-refundable)

***Early bird** fee is available to those who register and send in full payment by May 1, 2019.

****Junior Staff** must have completed grade 12 and attended Maple at least once before. Junior staff campers are expected to hold a leadership role and participate in specific camp activities

Financial assistance is available. Please apply early as funds are limited. Direct your requests to the Camp Director (Steph Kuhl).

May Anniversaries

Personal information removed from online version

Love truly conjugal is from the Lord alone. — AE 983:2

**~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~
~ May 2019 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3p Broader Horizons (Apr. 24 - May 29)	2 10a Arcana Class at the manse 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	3 5p Teen Weekend at Olivet 6:30p H for H Bus. Mtg 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA 8p Presentation on Ghana service trip	4 Teen Weekend at Olivet
5 12a Teen Weekend at Olivet 9-10a Olivet Church & School Pancake Breakfast 10:30a Worship (MKC)	6 1:30p Sunday School/Youth Planning Meeting for 2019-2020 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Pastor's Council 9p Scout Leaders Meeting	7 7p Closed AA Mtg	8 3p Broader Horizons (Apr. 24 - May 29)	9 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 6p AA Business meeting 7:30p Open AA Mtg	10 7p Forward Sons' 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p Potluck Lunch	13 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Olivet Board Meeting	14 7p Closed AA Mtg	15 3p Broader Horizons 6:30p Social Supper 7:30p Special Society Meeting	16 10a Arcana Class manse 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	17 Chatterbox Deadline 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	18
19 10:30a Worship (MKC)	20 Victoria Day Holiday	21 7p Closed AA Mtg	22 3p No Broader Horizons 6:15p Music Night Performance	23 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	24 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	25
26 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p High School & Middle School Classes	27 6:30p Beaver Scouts	28 7p Closed AA Mtg	29 3p Broader Horizons (Apr. 24 - May 29)	30 10a Arcana Class 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	31 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	Notes:

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
May 5	***Personal information removed from online version***								
May 12									
Potluck									
May 19 Long Weekend									
May 26									
June 2									

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
May 12 – Potluck Lunch	***Personal information removed from online version***	
May 15 – Social Supper & Special Society Meeting		

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, ***Personal Information removed from online version***
 Rides to church
 Visiting Committee