

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

Volume 85

June 2019

Number 6

The Light of the World

Lately I've been thinking a lot about outreach, or about sharing the Lord's truth with those who may not yet have heard it. The simple fact is that the Lord told us—*commanded* us—to share His truth with everyone. Virtually every Christian knows the Great Commission, the Lord's last words in the Gospel of Matthew: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* (28:19-20)

The Lord's commission to His disciples at the end of the Gospel of Mark is even shorter and more direct:

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (16:15)

The word "gospel" has come to be almost synonymous with "the Christian message," but the word itself simply means "good news." And what is this good news? That Christ rose from His tomb on the third day? That's part of it. But of course, it's so much more than that—the good news is that God is on our side, that hell is powerless against Him, that heaven is real, that salvation is possible...The good news runs on and on. It wells up like a fountain of living waters. The Christian message is alive with hope and with illuminating light, and at no point is the good news "over." The whole of the Lord's Word is His gospel, and His Word is infinitely profound.

What we're commanded to share with "all the world," then, isn't something we can fit on a brochure or a postcard. It's not enough for us to make our "pitch"—to trot out our carefully worded thirty-second speech—and then dust off our hands and go home and have no more to do with the gospel. This may seem quite disheartening, because talking to a relative stranger about one's own religion for even just thirty seconds takes a substantial amount of courage. If that's not enough, then the bar is really high. What *are* we supposed to share with the world, then?

In the Gospel of John, the Lord gives His disciples a command that says a lot about what the Great Commission really means. He says:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (13:34-35)

This commandment is perhaps as well known as the Great Commission, but I don't know how often they're treated—as I believe they should be—as simply two different phrasings of the very same commandment. The Lord sends His disciples out before all the world, bearing His teachings, bearing His good news, bearing His love, bearing...Him. The gospel has life unto itself because it is *His* truth. It is from Him and it is Him—He is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). We make ourselves know to the world as His disciples when we let ourselves be made images and likenesses of Him, loving as He loves. In a word, then, what we are to share with all the world is...the Lord. He said to us:

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:14-16)

We can be thrown by the commandment to let “our” light shine. Surely the light the Lord wants us to share is not the light of our own brilliance or our own accomplishments. However much we might like to share that sort of light with the world, it’s pretty obvious that promoting ourselves doesn’t serve His purposes. To my mind, the quality of the light that we are to share is captured best in this statement from the Lord’s own Word:

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

The glory of the Lord—the power of the Lord, the light of the Lord, the love of the Lord—wells up like living water in those who give their lives to Him. And He says let it shine! Take away the veils! It is not ourselves who are glorified when we set that light on a lampstand: the glory belongs to our Father in heaven. It’s not for our sake that we shine, but for His—for the sake of the great and beautiful work that He has commanded us to do, the work of sharing the warmth of *His* presence with the world. “I am the light of the world,” He says (John 8:12, 9:5). And He says, “I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you” (John 14:20). The glory of the Lord has risen upon us, and He exhorts us: *share it*.

Letting that light shine is more complicated than finding the right words to put on a postcard, and it takes considerably more courage. The good news isn’t something we can put out there and then walk away from. More than anything else, letting the glory of the Lord shine in us has to do with living a life of charity, a life in which He can be present. He commanded us, “Let your light so shine before men, *that they may see your good works...*” (Matt. 5:16). He also said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). We can share the gospel without words—and in fact, none of our words will ever be able to hold the fullness of the good news.

And, all that being said, the Lord also commanded us to go to all nations, teaching them to observe all things that He has commanded us (Matt. 28:20). Words have a place in the sharing of the good news. More important than exactly what we say is the courage to speak in the first place. Our God will guide us, if we’re willing to put ourselves and our voices into His hands (Matt. 10:19). His goal is to make Himself known to every human heart that is willing to receive Him, for the sake of giving us joy in His heavenly home. If we make ourselves willing vessels, He will do good. He will find a way to do good—in us, and through us.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (John 13:20)

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

So many wonderful and significant activities take place in June at Olivet! First, please note that Holy Supper will be offered at the close of our Sunday worship on June 9. Please join in with our Olivet School Closing ceremonies on the June 14 at 11:30 am. And then, on the Sunday of the following weekend, we have our New Church Day celebrations with a pageant, picnic and ice cream.

Following below is a letter I sent to the four bishops about Jared being called as assistant pastor, and included are their congratulations to Jared, Justine and Olivet.

Dear Brian,

The Olivet Society held a Special Society Meeting last night to consider the nomination of Rev. Jared Buss as assistant pastor. After brief introductory comments by the pastor, Jared presented a job outline to the members, offering a mandate for Society consideration. He gave a special focus to the recent SWOT process the society undertook and outlined ways in which his new role as outreach coordinator will address over a dozen of the areas of concern mentioned in that process.

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the unanimous affirmative vote of the Society to call Jared as their assistant pastor.

A second motion immediately followed with a call to affirm Justine in her supportive role. Special mention was made concerning her leadership and direction of Tableaux and the New Church Day Pageants. Rosalie Buss got an honourable mention as Olivet’s most positive greeter!

Michael K. Cowley
CC: Peter Buss Jr., David Lindrooth, Brad Heinrichs.

Dear Michael,
Thank you so much for that information, and congratulations to Toronto and the collective Busses on their work and acceptance there.

As always, one never knows what the future will hold. But this is a great step forward.

All the best,
Brian Keith

Great to hear, Michael. I'm happy for the process and for the outcome. Congrats to Jared and Justine, and to Olivet.

Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr.

Thank you Michael:

I am very happy to see this! Congratulations to Jared and I would be happy to support his outreach efforts.

Dave

Thanks Michael - that is fantastic news! I am happy for Olivet, happy for Canada, and happy for Jared, Justine and family!!

That's a whole lot of happiness!

Brad

From the Assistant Pastor

On May 15 I had the honor of being formally called by the Olivet society to serve as its assistant pastor (instead of the assistant to the pastor). Many of you have shared warmth and excitement with me as I've entered into this new role and have left me feeling very grateful—grateful for being received as I have been, and grateful for being able to serve this society.

My job as assistant pastor will be somewhat different from my job as assistant to the pastor, though my core duties will remain the same. At the meeting in May at which my calling as assistant pastor was affirmed I proposed that, as part of my new position, I take on the role of outreach coordinator. as outreach coordinator, I will be responsible for offering leadership and facilitating conversation among those who want to be involved in Olivet's outreach efforts; organizing outreach-oriented events, like classes or service projects; and working with tech-savvy people to bring our online presence up to speed. This proposal was well received at the affirmation meeting.

A number of people have already spoken to me about their desire to get involved with one kind of outreach project or another, or have simply said that they have some ideas they'd like to share. I am very happy to have help from anyone who wants to help, and I'm very happy to hear ideas from anyone who wants to share them. Please feel free to write to me or call me, or to arrange a meeting with me, if there's something you're excited to share. Obviously, I will not be able to put everyone's ideas into practice, at least not right away. In addition to outreach work, I will continue to preach and do pastoral work at Olivet and travel for the GCIC. So, I will probably only be working on one or two outreach projects at a time. But please don't let that be a damper on your excitement to share your ideas! They will inform the outreach work that gets done, even if we can't act on them directly.

I also believe strongly that outreach is truly the work of a congregation, rather than the work of a pastor flying solo. It is, after all, our church that we will be inviting people to, not my church. I talked at the meeting in May about the need for each of us to be the church, in order to have a church that's worth inviting people to. That's the deep and spiritual side of congregational outreach—and that's what the cover article in this issue of the Chatterbox is about. A less profound, but still important, level of congregational outreach is simply getting people involved. At some point I'd love to hold some brainstorming meetings to collect input from lots of

people on specific topics—once I’ve figured out what those specific topics will be. There are a lot of different things that need to be done or could be done, and figuring out where to start is a little dizzying—but in a good way. I’m excited to be doing this work.

Thank you all for your affirmation and support.

Jared

From the Principal

At the time of writing, Olivet School’s annual May Music Night is still in rehearsal, but I can share some photos of the dress rehearsal with you—I’m sure it will be an excellent show and a fun-filled evening!



Many thanks to Rebecca Enkin, our music teacher, for going above and beyond and to Fran Raymond, who so enthusiastically volunteered her time and musical expertise. The show would not be possible without support, and the list of people who assisted is a long one—thanks to all!!



New Church Day Celebration and Family Picnic and BBQ

You’re invited! It’s free!

Date: Sunday, June 16, 2019

Activities: 10:25 am - New Church Day flag procession (meet in downstairs hall)

10:30 am – Church (with pageant)

11:30 am - Gifts for the children

12:00 pm - Lunch: No need to pack a lunch this year, as a variety of tasty grilled food including vegetarian options, yummy side dishes, dessert, and drinks will be provided.

12:30 pm - Bouncy castle, volleyball, and badminton will be available throughout the afternoon.



Olivet's New Church Day Pageant

Sunday, June 16 at 10:30 am during the regularly scheduled church service

Call for pageant volunteers!

For special events like this to happen, we need volunteers! If you are interested in:

- Costuming
- Performing (acting or providing special music)
- Creating set or prop pieces
- Childcare (for the director's kiddos)

then please email or call Justine Buss at justinebuss@gmail.com or 647-745-2111. Please note that performers and costumers will need to be available from 9:00 am to 1:00 am on Saturday, June 15 for rehearsal, so check your schedules before volunteering. 😊

Thank you for helping us celebrate the New Church's birthday in such a fun and powerful way.

New Church Day Children's Gift Program

Every June, the 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.

New Baby!

Congratulations to Ed and Lindsay (Mueller) Hyatt on the birth of their little girl, Auri River Hyatt, on May 15.

Olivet New Church Directory

The new phone list has been created and copies are available in the main office or by contacting sandy.bradfield@olivetnewchurch.org or 416-239-3055.

If you are in the directory, please check your listing (and the front two pages, if applicable) to make sure I have the correct information. Let me know if there is anything you would like to add or change (for instance, I can add a cell number if it's not listed). If you would like to be removed from the list altogether, that's fine too.

Hard copies will be available in the office (not the lobby, due to privacy concerns) and, as there are always changes, I can email you an updated copy at any time.

If there is someone you think would like to be added, please have them contact me.

Sandy Bradfield

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 \$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.

GCIC-sponsored Spring youth weekend in Toronto—May 3–5, 2019

The Olivet New Church welcomed a total of 44 people (32 teens and 12 chaperones and drivers) to Toronto for the spring youth weekend that took place from May 3 to 5. Teens from six New Church congregations were present, including 11 teens from; seven teens from Kitchener with Rev. Nathan Cole; five teens from Glenview; five teens from Oak Arbor with Rev. Elmo Acton; three teens from Olivet with Rev. Michael Cowley, Rev. Jared Buss and chaperone Naomi Reid; and one teen from Pittsburgh.

On Friday evening after everyone enjoyed pizza for dinner, twelfth grade students ***personal info removed from online version*** hosted an interesting visual presentation on their service trip to Ghana. They told us that when they arrived in Ghana, they were warmly welcomed by their hosts and given the opportunity to teach the children of three elementary schools (including a New Church School) in the Tema area. The teens brought over two hundred pounds of books with them to donate to these schools. The group that went to Ghana really enjoyed the service project, and we heard many interesting anecdotes from their trip. In a thank you letter to the GCIC (one of their sponsors), they stated that, “while we were there, the Tema children sang the hymn, ‘Jesu, Jesu’ to welcome us to their school. It was such a heartwarming experience to see the bright smiling faces of those children singing about the Lord. All the wonderful friendships we formed and the memories we made are a great treasure. I can’t wait to see how the Lord will continue to build on these foundations in the future.” This presentation was one of the interesting highlights of the weekend which demonstrated that there are many good things that can be accomplished when we find useful ways to serve others.

After the service trip presentation, I led some warmup games for the teens. The goal with these games is for the teens to meet and interact with other teens whom they do not know as a way of building bridges between them and also helping them get the chance to learn the names as well as something interesting about each person in the group.

Rev. Cole led the vespers service and spoke about the spiritual theme for the weekend, which was “Uses: Putting religion to work.” After vespers and some more visiting/basketball time, the teens and their chaperones went to their respective areas of the church to sleep.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, Rev. Brett Buick led a class and discussion on uses. He shared the idea that usefulness is putting good into action by means of wisdom. The teens got a chance to practice what they had learned in this class when they split into three teams and did gardening work for Richview Residence for Seniors, Eatonville Care Centre, and the Olivet New Church. They also performed all jobs involved in hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday for the Olivet Church and School community, just before church.

After the gardening service project, lunch was served, and then after lunch, everyone was given the opportunity to take a shower. Thanks to our hosts ***personal info removed from online version***! We then drove to Kelso Conservation Area and went hiking. After a steep walk up the ski hill, Rev. Michael Cowley led a hike along the trails in the woods. The kids found it fun to explore the interesting rock formations and caverns along the trail. When they returned from their two-hour hike, we had BBQ hamburgers, potato salad, and a variety of desserts waiting for everyone to enjoy for dinner. After dinner, Rev. Michael Cowley led a singalong while he accompanied us on his guitar. Eventually, it was time to head back to Olivet for the craft session. During this time, everyone got the chance to create their own version of a heavenly garden using objects like a gazebo, park bench, water fountain, and bridge designed and printed on a 3D printer by John Reid. A church member came over to the church to help with the craft session. It was fun to see how everyone designed vastly different, interesting, and beautiful creations with the supplies they were given. After the craft was done, everyone headed up to the chapel for the vespers service given by Rev. Acton. After the talk, one of the teens played lovely music on her guitar and many teens stayed to enjoy her playing. Following the vespers service, the tables and chairs were set up for the

Sunday morning pancake breakfast, and then the Kempton teens taught the other teens how to line dance to the song "Cotton-Eyed Joe." The teens enjoyed this part of the evening and even tried out more formal dancing led by the Kempton chaperones. Eventually it was time for bed, because everyone knew it would be an early morning to prepare for the pancake breakfast.

On Sunday morning, all the teens were in high gear as they welcomed guests, cooked and served pancakes and sausages, and cleaned up afterward. Soon it was time for church, where Rev. Michael Cowley talked about the birth and childhood of the sons of Abraham and Sarah (Ishmael and Isaac) and the rational states they represent in us. He also shared the idea that the Lord wants us to be happy and that "if we serve others with delight and joy and a desire to serve the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart and we will be happy."

After church everyone gathered for the group picture and then made sandwiches to take with them for their ride home. Before we knew it, another fun and successful youth weekend was over. It is a privilege to be able to help with these weekends. I enjoy seeing the connections that are formed among the teens and could see that they enjoyed themselves and the activities that they experienced throughout the weekend. I am sure everyone will be looking forward to the next youth weekend which is planned for September 2019, and will be hosted by the Pittsburgh New Church society. Looking forward to another successful youth weekend in the fall! Many thanks to everyone who attended, and to the ministers for leading the worship and discussions and helping to provide a sphere of order throughout the weekend. I also want to thank the chaperones for helping supervise the teens so that the weekend went smoothly and the drivers for taking everyone to and from the event. And finally, a special thank you to all the teens who participated with enthusiasm and a positive attitude to help make this event such a success!

Written by Naomi Reid

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 3, 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	-\$350
Regular camper fee	\$300
Junior staff**	\$200

Full payment is requested by June 10.

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

****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).

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.



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30a Worship (MKC)	3 Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) 8a Scout Leaders Meeting 6:30p Beaver Scouts	4 Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) 7p Closed AA Mtg	5 Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT)	6 Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) 11a Last Arcana Class 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	7 Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) 6:30p Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	8
9 10:30a Worship & Holy Supper (MKC) 11a Sunday School Pizza and Bowling Party	10 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Pastor's Council	11 7p Closed AA Mtg	12 6:30p Wednesday Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class (MKC)	13 School Field Trip (Elementary) 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	14 Spring Term Ends 10a Preschool's Teddy Bear Picnic 11:30a School Closing Service (K-5) 1p Early Dismissal 7p Sons 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	15 9a NCD Pageant Practice
16 Father's Day 10:30a New Church Day Pageant (JJB) 12p New Church Day Picnic	17 7p Olivet Board Meeting	18 7p Closed AA Mtg	19 New Church Day	20 12:30p Drop In On The Pastor 7:30p Open AA Mtg	21 Chatterbox Deadline 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	22
23 10:30a Worship (JJB)	24	25 5p MKC out of town 7p Closed AA Mtg	26 MKC out of town	27 MKC out of town 7:30p Open AA Mtg	28 Final Report Cards MKC out of town 7:30p Hunger for Healing NA	29 MKC out of town
30 MKC out of town 10:30a Worship (JJB)	Notes:					

June Anniversaries

personal info removed from online version

[T]he correspondence of this [conjugal] love is with the marriage of the Lord and the church, that is, as the Lord loves the Church and wills that the Church shall love Him, so husband and wife mutually love each other. — CL 62

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
June 2									
June 9									
Holy Supper									
Sunday School									
Pizza & Bowling									
June 14 End of School Service									
June 16									
New Church Day									
Festivities									
Father's Day									
June 23									
Jun 30 Long Weekend									
July 7									

Meal Volunteer Schedule

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
June 12 – Social Supper		
June 16 – New Church Day Picnic		

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Toronto, ON, M9B 1Z6	416-239-3054
Olivet Church email address: contact@olivetnewchurch.org	FAX 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
Rides to church, Karen Cooper.....	416-236-0841
Visiting Committee, Doris McDonald.....	416-622-5424