

Olivet New Church CHATTERBOX

Volume 85

Summer 2019

Number 7

The Open Door

~The introduction to the New Church Day pageant performed at Olivet Church on June 16, 2019~

Today, we're celebrating the birth of the Lord's New Church—the birth of a new spiritual communion that He has created. One of the many things we celebrate about this church is its teaching that the Lord wants every human being in heaven. His desire and His intention is to save every soul. Churches and religions sometimes seem better at closing doors than at opening them, but that's not what He wants. How could our Heavenly Father close doors against His children?

There *are* barriers that stand between us and heaven. There are barriers in our minds, when we don't see the truth, or when we don't understand. And there are barriers in our hearts, when we resist the Lord—when we say deep within ourselves that we want something other than heaven. But our God is working patiently, tenderly, and tirelessly to open a way for us. And that, among so many other things, is what we celebrate in today's pageant.

The scenes from the pageant are taken from the book of Revelation, which uses symbolism to describe the Lord's Second Coming and the establishment of the New Church. In the pageant you'll see the Lord reaching out to different churches, which represent different kinds of people. His words to them are different, because they are different, but what He wishes for them is the same. You'll see the Lord opening a scroll, which represents the opening of the Word and the restoration of our ability to see the truth. You'll see four horsemen, which represent progressively worse and worse understandings of the truth and the gradual encroachment of falsities that darken heaven in our minds. The Lord opens His Word to lead us out of this darkness. You'll see two great signs: a woman who represents the true church, a church that is radiant with love; and a dragon, which represents the hungers and the lies that undo everything the Lord is doing. And you'll see a holy city, which represents the church that the Lord is building.

It is to this holy city that He calls us. In that city—in His church and in His heaven—He, the Lord, is King and Saviour. The door He strives to open to us is a door that leads to Him. "Come unto Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden," He says (Matthew 11:28). There are things we cannot bring with us into His city. Things that cause hurt must be left behind. There are places in our hearts and minds that are closed against Him. No one can truthfully claim to follow Him perfectly. But He loves us all the same. Where the door is shut, He stands at the door and knocks. Where the door is open, He promises that no one will close it against us. He wills that we come to Him—every last one of us. "Yes," He says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with mercy I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3). "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

Again this year, I get to take great delight in thanking Justine and Jared Buss for the outstanding job they did in leading the New Church Day Pageant. I'm amazed at the level of professionalism these two muster in the brief hours of preparation and rehearsal on Saturday, which results in the reverent and powerful worship service on Sunday morning. This year the theme was the Lord setting before us "an open door" (see Jared's introductory talk above). Thank you Busses!

Also, thanks go to ***personal information removed from online version***, and the long list of volunteers for the wonderful gifts that were prepared and given to the children in celebration of New Church Day. This is truly a labour of love and a tradition worth preserving.

Congratulations to ***personal information removed from online version*** who received the Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award this year.

personal information removed from online version are retiring this year after decades of service in the Olivet (Day) School. The Olivet Society has received the great benefit over the years of their teaching and administrative skills. Thank you! ***personal information removed from online version***, on behalf of the society, presented retirement gifts to these wonderful women at the close of our New Church Day service.

The New Church Day picnic with the addition of a barbecue was a new version of an old traditional gathering. Thanks to ***personal information removed from online version***, who organized the event with an army of good helpers!

As you have seen in various notices and church announcements, we will be again entering another repair/renovation project around the kitchen. This will not affect our Sunday church services other than causing the slight inconvenience of having to use the lobby kitchenette. Thanks to ***personal information removed from online version*** leading the Board in these improvements. And, many thanks go to the numerous volunteers who helped prepare for the project by moving kitchen items to make way for the workers to get at the floor for inspection and repair.

This summer, with church gatherings, camps, and vacation, I will be gone for parts of early July and August. We do not anticipate any guest preachers, as either Jared or I will be in town for every Sunday. Whether you are home in and around T.O. or away in distant lands, may you enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer!

During July and August, the church office will be open most days during regular office hours, but individuals may be travelling to meetings or on vacation. If you just drop by the church, you may find the doors locked or that the person you are looking for is not there. Please call before coming to the church to avoid disappointment or inconvenience. If no one answers the phone, please go ahead and leave a message.

Michael K. Cowley
(c. 647-883-3754)

From the Assistant Pastor

This year—yet again—my wife Justine and I had the pleasure of organizing and directing Olivet's New Church Day pageant. June is always a very busy month in our household, and the pageant plays no small part in making it thus, but I don't think that either of us has ever doubted that spearheading the pageant is worth it. Once the scramble's over, and the time has come to let go and just watch it unfold, we get to experience something so deeply rewarding. Being involved in bringing the stories and promises of the Lord's Word to life is a joy.

Thank you, so very much, to everyone who participated in putting on the pageant. The actors, the costumers, and the sound and camera people all gave a huge chunk of their time to this production—and, virtually without exception, they did so cheerfully, creatively, and with a ton of energy. Thank you so much for that gift!

I wish you all a rejuvenating summer!

Jared

From the Principal

Our valedictorian this year was ***personal information removed from online version***. With some input from her classmates she wrote a most heartfelt summary of her year at Olivet and what it meant to her. We were moved by her words; I hope you are too when you read them.

2019 Olivet School Valedictorian Speech

Good afternoon Mrs. Pulpan, Mr. Cowley, teachers, family and friends. It's an honour to speak to all of you today.

I have only been at Olivet School for one school year, but I have learned a lot in that time.

First of all, I have learned that the teachers work very hard to teach us. They teach not only math and grammar, but also the teachings of the Lord and ways to live according to his commandments. Because of the teachers, the kids are all wonderful and pleasant to work and play with.

The time we spend outdoors is part of their teaching as well. On the playground, we learn to face problems that we may see in the real world. Our teachers coach us how to share, involve others in our games, and be good friends to everyone.

Secondly, I've learned that we learn a lot outside of the classroom. I loved all the activities we did here at Olivet. Field trips are so much fun. I loved the Mary Poppins show that we saw at Young People's Theatre. Shakespeare in Action was a good experience; we got to act out a Shakespearean play and see four others performed. It was amazing to watch how much four actors can do. I liked our May Music Night as well. It was exciting to be on stage and entertain the adult audience.

Finally, I have learned that we are all one family here. Olivet has a perfectly sized space, because if it was smaller, it would be cramped, and if it was bigger, it would lose its family-like coziness.

In closing, I would like to say I really love Olivet. I hope that Olivet will be able to teach children forever.

Thank you,

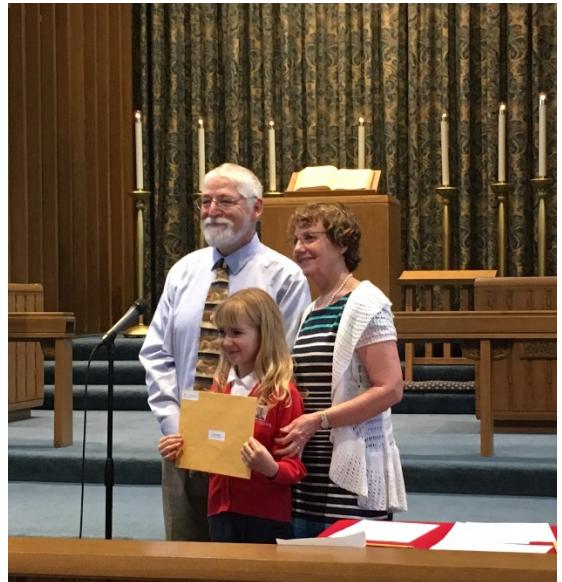
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Our parent speaker this year was ***personal information removed from online version***; she and her husband brought their son to us in January. His experience in the public school was so poor that they needed to move him midyear. Luckily, Olivet School accepts registrations year round, and Zein finished the year with us. If you read her address, you'll see it was written from the heart.

Today is a bittersweet day for some of us, as on the one hand, we reflect on the wonder of this very special place, and on the other, we face the reality of saying farewell to all the wonderful individuals whose collective contributions weave the fabric of this heavenly community, the Olivet School.

In a world where there is so much talk about kindness, it seems that it is falling by the wayside, and that is unfortunately foundational to some institutions. Yet, from the moment we entered the front doors of Olivet, a mere five months ago, we, as a family, felt like family, as we were welcomed with such warmth and immediately sensed the incredible values this place is built upon.

To the faculty members, pastors, and administrators alike, many thanks to each and every one of you for the positive impact you have made on our lives. Your dedication and sense of commitment to ensuring our children are just



as passionate about their academics and fine arts as they are about the importance of being good human beings is nothing short of exemplary! Thank you for teaching and caring for our children, and never underestimate the peace of mind you've given us and the faith we have in your professionalism.

To the all the students at Olivet, you are truly model citizens. You are so caring and kind to one another and when need be, you take responsibility, and that's amazing! Every day, I, and undoubtedly your parents and all the staff alike, are inspired by your wisdom and your acts of kindness towards one another. The photos of your smiling faces on the "good deed tree" are a great reminder of the way we need to relate to one another every day to make this world the best world it can be! I would also like to thank you for the sense of community that you've extended amongst us as parents, and I hope these friendships will be longlasting.

Thank you all for working together on the numerous musical productions throughout the year, for with the guidance of your teachers, you've all shone like the brightest stars with such wonderful talent, and most importantly, smiling faces that let us know that not only were you doing a great job, you were loving every minute of it, as were we, your forever adoring audience.

Finally, to the Grade 5 graduates, ***personal information removed from online version***, congratulations on all your hard work and accomplishments! We are all so very proud of you and wish you continued success wherever you go! Keep up the hard work and make your dreams a reality.

Please remember to be accountable, first and foremost to yourselves. Carry the Olivet torch of kindness and spread it to everyone you meet. It will be infectious I promise! The new halls you walk in may not have a "good deed tree" hanging, but yours will be in your hearts and you will use it as reminder to extend a helping hand to those who may be in need of your support.

And having said that, I would like to leave with one of my favourite quotes by Margaret Mead:
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."



Dear Olivet friends,

Please allow me a moment to express my most heartfelt thanks for the absolutely perfect retirement gift which was presented to me, from you, by **** at the New Church Day service on June 16. **** read carefully chosen words to commemorate my retirement and it could not have been more perfect; I was, and remain, much moved.

The gift itself is a gorgeous necklace: a circle with a stylized "Tree of Life" and a gem in the centre. I have a silver version while a new one, in white gold, is being crafted. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and I will wear it with pride.

Although I will be back in a very part-time capacity to support the ongoing endeavours at the school, I would like now to take the opportunity to thank you for the many years I have worked at Olivet. I think it was 1984 when I was looking for a kindergarten for one of our daughters; I was quickly given the task of babysitting on Tuesday mornings, and the rest is history. I have found fulfillment in a New Church teaching career and more importantly, I have found lifelong friends.

Blessing abound—thank you!

Love,
Gabriele Pulpan

Library Books—Free for the Taking

We have culled the Olivet School library books to reflect the fact that we only go to Grade 5 now. Older books and books that we have in duplicate also have been culled. Please help yourself to any of these books—they will be on display in the hall outside the library until September, at which time they will be taken to a secondhand bookstore. Enjoy!

Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award

On Sunday, June 16, in front of the Olivet community, ***personal information removed from online version*** was presented with the 2018–2019 Grade 5 Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award. One of the people who nominated ***** praised his cheerful, positive attitude and said that, “***** is a wonderful example of ... what it means to love and help others”. Congratulations again to *****; we look forward to seeing how you continue to set a great example for your peers in the years ahead.

We would also like to thank everyone who took the time to nominate a student this year. There were several excellent students to choose from, so thank you to all those who put forward a name.

Sincerely,
The Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award Committee
kmf.nominations@olivetnewchurch.org

Job Opening: After-School Care Provider, Part-Time

There is a part-time job opening at Olivet School for an on-site After-School Care Provider, two days per week from 3:00 – 6:00 pm, September 2019 to June 2020. Preferred qualifications include Early Childhood Educator designation and/or significant experience and education in effectively leading/teaching children and running youth activities. For the complete job posting and to apply, please email Val Younan at val.younan@olivetnewchurch.org.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Supervised Play	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
July 7							
July 14							
July 21							
July 28							
Aug 4 Long weekend							
Aug 11							
Aug 18							
Aug 25							
Sep 1 Long Weekend							

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~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~

~ July 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Canada Day MKC out of town	2 MKC out of town	3 MKC out of town	4 MKC out of town	5 MKC out of town	6 12a MKC out of town
7 10:30a Worship (JJB)	8	9 7p Closed AA Mtg	10	11 Living Waters Family Camp 6p AA Business meeting 7:30p Open AA Mtg	12 Living Waters Family Camp	13 Living Waters Family Camp
14 Living Waters Family Camp 10:30a Worship (MKC) 2p MKC @ Laurel family camp	15 MKC @ Laurel family camp	16 MKC @ Laurel family camp	17 MKC @ Laurel family camp	18 MKC @ Laurel family camp 7:30p Open AA Mtg 4p Investment Committee Meeting	19 MKC @ Laurel family camp	20 12a MKC @ Laurel family camp
21 10:30a Worship (MKC)	22	23 7p Closed AA Mtg	24	25 7:30p Open AA Mtg	26	27
28 10:30a Worship (MKC)	29	30 7p Closed AA Mtg	31	Notes:		

Summer in the Olivet Building

As noted elsewhere, during the summer the church office will be open most weekdays, but individuals may be away at meetings or on vacation. Please call before coming to the church to avoid any inconvenience.

~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~
~ August 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30p Open AA Mtg	2	3 11a Ivan Crampton memorial service
4 10:30a Worship (MKC)	5 Civic Holiday	6 7p Closed AA Mtg	7	8 7:30p Open AA Mtg	9	10
11 10:30a Worship (MKC)	12	13 7p Closed AA Mtg	14	15 7:30p Open AA Mtg	16 Chatterbox Deadline	17 7p Private Event in the hall and kitchen
18 MKC vacation 10:30a Worship (JJB)	19	20 MKC vacation 7p Closed AA Mtg	21 MKC vacation	22 7:30p Open AA Mtg	23 MKC vacation	24 MKC vacation
25 MKC vacation 10:30a Worship (JJB)	26	27 MKC vacation 7p Olivet Board Meeting	28 MKC vacation	29 7:30p Open AA Mtg	30 MKC vacation	31 MKC vacation

Save the Date – Olivet School Alumni Barbeque

Olivet New Church invites all former Olivet Day School, Olivet New Church School, and Olivet School students, parents, and staff to a barbecue in (tentatively) West Deane Park (Martin Grove Road north of Rathburn) on Friday, September 13, starting at 4:30 p.m. Olivet has been running a school for over 125 years, so we hope to see a lot of classes represented. Details will follow in the September *Chatterbox*, but for now, please plan to set this evening aside to gather together with some old friends.

We are looking for volunteers to help out with this event. Please contact the church office if you are able to lend a hand.

Summer Anniversaries

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The faculty of becoming wise increases with those who are in love truly conjugial because this love between married partners is from wisdom and according to it. — CL 211

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