

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Online Chatterbox Note - *** indicates personal information has been removed

Charity Doesn't Always Look "Nice"

Recently, a close friend confided in me about having to put her son into a treatment facility. His addiction had reached a point such that she could not allow him to live at home any longer. She had given him warnings: if he came home drunk one more time, it was the end.

She was torn up, extremely disappointed in herself that she just felt so angry at her son and also at herself. She doesn't want to be the person she thinks she has now become: a bitter mother feeling little love for her child.

She confided that she wished she could just not love her child any longer. "It would be much better if I didn't feel any love for him. Then, maybe I wouldn't feel so much pain and be so angry."

Of course, that is not the solution and is hardly possible. Although people can sorely disappoint us, and family members especially can break our hearts when they act out, it is our love and zeal that make us want them to come back into order, to get better and amend their brokenness. It usually is a good love, and powerful zeal can arise as a productive flame from genuine charity. That zeal feels just like anger, but the two are very distinct.

"Charity in its origin is good will...when it punishes or chastises it is from a zeal for what is good, and that zeal may appear outwardly like anger and a flaming fire... as when a parent chastises a child who has done what is wrong. The parent who does not discipline them loves their evils, and this cannot be called charity." (True Christian Religion 407, 408)

Charity doesn't always mean "being nice," at least not according to appearances from the outside. It doesn't feel nice to those who are made uncomfortable by such "acts of charity" which "exhort, discipline, chasten, punish or [bring] amendment" (ibid) into disorderly lives. It's hard to be a really good friend or parent when we have to establish boundaries and set limits.

We may be accused of being judgemental. But, we are told in the Word to practice "discriminate charity." We must make assessments, and when we see good in a child or friend threatened by themselves or others, we are commanded to act to protect the good in them. It looks "judgemental," as that word is often used in a negative way, but it is a positive use of our rational discrimination and our living intentionally.

The above referenced chapter in *True Christian Religion* explains a lot more regarding genuine versus indiscriminate charity. The (zeal that feels like) anger will abate. The love will return with its blessings. Hopefully, this son will be able to amend, change, and heal, and a restored relationship with his mother will grow stronger and deeper because of the "tough love" she chose to show him.

Genuine charity involving these kinds of hard choices doesn't always look "nice," but like all things of true spiritual value, it is worth the struggle. In the end it is the only really "nice" thing to do.

From the Pastor

Welcome back to a new church and school year. We hope your summer was relaxing and refreshing.

This year we welcome Britteny Wilson into her new role as Olivet School Principal, and Laura Braam returns from maternity leave to take up new responsibilities as Kindergarten teacher. Also new on board is Val Younan who is taking a lead in administrative duties.

We again hope all, both young and old, will join us for our Olivet Alumni/Welcome BBQ on September 13, again to be held at West Deane Park. See elsewhere in this issue for more details.

Kitchen renovations this summer came and went successfully. Thanks to our board chair and volunteers for overseeing the project.

September 8 we will celebrate vespers Holy Supper at 7pm.

Please save the dates for the Olivet Annual General Meeting on October 9. And, November 6, we will hold a Special Society Meeting related to the future of the Olivet School. More information and details to follow.

Michael K. Cowley

From the Assistant Pastor

Happy new school year, to all of you for whom the coming of September heralds a big change of pace! This September brings a big-feeling change for my family: my daughter will be starting Junior Kindergarten at Olivet School. She is thrilled; if only her enthusiasm could be bottled and taken remedially.

Something I have been interested in for a while is organizing work parties or service groups, in order to get us as a church more involved in community outreach. I'm aware, though, that many of you already volunteer an awful lot of your time in service to the church—and I'm also aware that not everyone is up for raking lawns or packing food crates. There are lots of organizations in our area that are already doing good work, and we don't need to try to duplicate them. In other words, we have the freedom to serve the neighbour in whatever way seems most useful to us—and I find myself wondering what that is. The primary use we serve for the community is, of course, that of being a body devoted to the life of faith and willing to receive and support new members. That use often feels fairly intangible, however, and it would be good to serve and express goodwill toward our neighbours in ways that feel more active and are more visible. If this is something that interests you, I'd love to know: a) whether or not you're interested in being part of a work party or service project and b) what sorts of community outreach & service work appeal to you or "feel right" for Olivet.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, requests, suggestions—or topics you'd like to hear explored in sermons!

Warm regards,
Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal

It's a new year with many exciting new beginnings at Olivet School! Firstly, we welcome our new music teacher, Sharon Burlacoff, who has many years of experience teaching in her music conservatory. We also have the pleasure of welcoming an intern into our kindergarten room with Laura Braam for several weeks in the fall term. She is joining us from Germany, and we are looking forward to working with her! I am very much looking forward to my new role as principal, as well as my role in the primary room working alongside Sara Gatti.

We have been busy these past few months, giving tours and meeting with prospective parents. We have several new registrations for our school, and our kindergarten room has many new faces! We hope to have more new students in September, as well.

If you're free on the Tuesday after Labour Day, please join us in the chapel at 11:30 am for our opening worship and, weather permitting, a BYO welcome picnic lunch in the field. It's always nice to see more friendly faces!

Britteny Wilson

Terry Fox School Run

We are getting excited about the opportunity to contribute as a community to this event. Please join us on **Thursday, September 26!** We begin stretching and limbering up right after lunch. We will aim to begin running/walking at 12:40 pm. All families are welcome! It's not a race; we all go at our own pace, running, jogging, or strolling.

Please remember to come with appropriate athletic wear (e.g., proper running/walking shoes) and to bring in all pledge forms with donations. Forms are in the office.

Olivet School Alumni Barbeque

On Friday, September 13, please join us for the Olivet School Welcome/Alumni BBQ to be held at West Deane Park from 4:30 – 8:30 pm. If you're a musician, bring along an instrument and be part of a jam session with Rev. Cowley, or if you have table tennis paddles and a ball, you can make use of the park's stone tennis tables. Please contact the office to order hamburgers, hot dogs, or corn on the cob. Salads, sides and desserts will be potluck. Also, please contact the office if you are able to help out with this annual event! Thanks!

Baptism

Congratulations to the H*** family on the baptism of E*** on Sunday, August 25!

Condolences

G*** P***'s father, ***, passed away peacefully Friday evening July 12 in the presence of family members. He would have turned 94 in August. He had been in failing health but living at home with professional caretakers. A memorial lunch was held following his cremation.

Reciprocal Love

A few years ago, some people from another religion were chatting with me at my front door. We were sharing the truths we each understood from our respective religions. It was approaching Easter time, and one of these people was explaining to me that in her religion they didn't celebrate Easter Sunday because for them the most important day was Good Friday. According to her, the idea that the Lord died for our sins was of paramount importance, and for that reason they placed the emphasis on celebrating that day above all. I remember thinking "Yes, the Lord did indeed die for our sins; however, you're missing the best part! This story ends in resurrection to eternal life! Why stay in the sorrowful part?" I tried to convey my thoughts but I'm not sure I succeeded.

This story parallels the discussion we are currently having regarding the format of our Sunday worship services. For several years now, we have truncated the service immediately after the section where we confess our sins before the Lord. "Amen. Praise the Lord." By omitting the Sanctus and the Gloria, are we not effectively falling short of the best part? What good is the death of the Lord without His resurrection? What good is the acknowledgement of our sins without praise for the good Lord who rescues us? Conjugal Love 61 says that "...there is no conjunction unless it is reciprocal, for conjunction on the part of one and not in turn on the part of the other is of itself dissolved."

Shouldn't the format of our worship services echo the glory of Easter morning every time we gather? The Lord has done His part. Shouldn't it be our part to reciprocate by rising up, alive with joy and singing? Amen, Praise the good Lord!

~ September 2019 ~
~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Worship (JJB)	2 Labour Day	3 School Opening 11:30a School opening chapel service 1p Early Dismissal @ 1 pm 7p Closed AA Mtg	4	5 7:30p Open AA Mtg	6	7 10a GCIC Board Meeting in Kitchener
8 Sunday School Begins 10:30a Worship (JJB) 7p Holy Supper Vespers (JJB)	9 7p Scout Leaders Meeting	10 7p Closed AA Mtg	11	12 10a Arcana Class in Lobby 6p AA Business meeting 7:30p Open AA Mtg	13 4:30p Welcome/Alumni BBQ	14
15 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p Potluck	16 7p Pastor's Council	17 7p Closed AA Mtg	18 6:30p Social Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class (MKC)	19 7:30p Open AA Mtg	20 Chatterbox Deadline 7p Forward Sons'	21
22 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School and Middle School Class	23 7p Olivet Board Meeting	24 7p Closed AA Mtg	25	26 Terry Fox Run Day for Olivet School 10a Arcana Class in Lobby 12:40p Terry Fox Olivet School Run 7:30p Open AA Mtg	27 Fall Teen Weekend in Pittsburgh	28 Fall Teen Weekend in Pittsburgh
29 Fall Teen Weekend in Pittsburgh 10:30a Worship (MKC)	30					

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	SundaySchool 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refresh- ments	Flowers
Sep 1 Labour Day Weekend	***	***	***	Supervised Play Parents			***	***	***
Sep 3 School Opening	***	***	***				***		***
Sep 8	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***	***	***		***	***	***
Sep 8 Vespers Evening Holy Supper	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***				NEED VOLUNTEER		***
Sep 15 Potluck	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***
Sep 22 HS & MS Class	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Sep 29 Teen Wknd in Pittsburgh	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***	***	***	***	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***
Oct 6	NEED VOLUNTEER	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

September Anniversaries

Love cannot do otherwise than love, and unite itself, in order that it may be loved in return, this being the very essence of life and love. — CL 160

Social Meal Duty Roster

Date	Cooks/Organizers	Dishwashers
September 15 – Potluck	***	Volunteers
September 18 – Social Supper	***	***

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