

Olivet New Church

CHATTERBOX

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Please note that where you see *** personal information has been removed from online version

Thine is the Kingdom

*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein. — Psalm 24:1*

In November, the members of the Olivet church will be making some significant decisions about the course that the church will be taking and the uses it will be serving. I don't want to talk about the specifics of those decisions here in this article, but I do want to talk about how we make decisions as a church.

Olivet has bylaws and regulations that spell out the process whereby the church, as a corporation or a collective body, decides anything. Many decisions are made by voting. Some votes are brought before the Board of Directors; others are brought before the entire membership of the corporation. And so on. These laws and regulations are necessary, and it is good that we have them. But they should not be the sum and substance of Olivet's decision-making process. When we think about what the bylaws say and what we will or will not vote for, we're easily drawn toward a feeling that we are the ones who make the church's decisions. Yet, the church is not ours: the church is the Lord's.

In the Heavenly Doctrines we're told: "It is the Lord's Divine which constitutes the Church with people. For the Church does not hearken to anything except that which is the Lord's own" (Arcana Coelestia §2966.2). It's not Olivet's building or its history or even its people that make it what it is. Olivet is a church, and a church is a place where the Lord's Divine is present. The things that truly make us the church we claim to be are holy things—love and truth from the Lord—and these things are not ours. We can lay claim to them, but if we do, we're taking the church away from the Lord; and when we do that, it's no longer a church. The true church exists wherever people humbly receive what He has to offer, and nowhere else. This is why we're told that "the church does not hearken to anything except that which is the Lord's own"—that is, the church does not listen to and is not guided by anything except that which comes from the Lord.

This church is the Lord's: our job is to ask Him what it should be. Our job is to ask Him where He wants to lead us. What does He teach us to be? What uses does He call us to serve? What does He want within His house?

So how do we know what He says to us? How do we know when we're listening to Him and when we're not? It would be nice if it were obvious—if we could be certain that people who say X are listening to the Lord, and people who say Y are not. But that isn't how it works. Learning to hear the Lord is a lifetime's work, and we can't assume we've got it all figured out, nor can we judge who is and who isn't engaged in that work. The Lord tells us to look for the good in our neighbour (Arcana Coelestia §1079). He urges us to hope that our brothers and sisters are trying to hear His voice—even when they come to a different conclusion than our own. We need to make peace with the fact that we may disagree with each other even when we try to be led by the Lord.

With that said, it should also be said that the Lord does make some things very clear. He will not appear to us and tell us in an audible voice what we must and must not do, but He's given us His Word, and the teachings of His Word are clear. We're taught to live not for ourselves alone, but for our neighbor and for the Kingdom of God. We're taught that He values what is eternal, not what is temporary. We're taught that the joy of heaven is the joy of useful service. These, and so many other teachings, have been given to us to guide our decisions.

He will not abandon us to figure things out on our own. His voice can be hard to hear—still He is speaking to us. We need to approach Him in His Word, or we'll never hear His guidance, but often the final thing that is needed before we can hear Him is the humility to hush the voices in our heads, and hold still. "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him" (Habakkuk 2:20). Anxiety fills us with noise and pride distorts everything. But a humble heart is not preoccupied with itself; a humble heart listens.

The Lord is speaking to His church. He is the Good Shepherd who leads us beside still waters, who leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake (Psalm 23:2, 3). Those who want His guidance will find it. The prayers of a humble heart are heard. He will show us what to do, as long as we remember whose it is to lead, and whose it is to follow. His truths are what define us; His cause is the one worth fighting for; the uses He loves are the ones worth serving. This is something we assert again and again, every time we pray together: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done....For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:10, 13).

Rev. Jared Buss

From the Pastor

Visit of Bishop Brad Heinrichs September 22 and 23: It was a delight to have Bishop Heinrichs visit Olivet over the weekend of September 22. Brad is the Assistant Bishop overseeing the General Church Office of Education. He [preached a delightful sermon](#) on the vessels that we are asked to fill through instruction. New Church Education is not only instruction filling the vessels of children, but all instruction from the Word that leads to a life of use, or charity.

Brad's visit to Olivet is one of the many he is making as he gets to know the societies under his care. He will focus on getting to know the congregations that have schools such as ours in the coming year. He noted the strengths we have here at Olivet with increasing student enrollment and a strong, well trained staff of teachers and administrators. He is unabashedly pro-New Church Education as a society use, and in noting the decision we have before us as a congregation, he was sensitive to leaving us in freedom as we approach our November 6 society meeting on this topic. On the Monday, Brad gave chapel to the school followed by visiting all the classrooms and meeting with teachers and staff.

The Office of Education not only serves the day schools in the General Church but also provides support for the Sunday School programs. Rachel Glenn, Janet Lockhart, Sarah Odhner, and Gretchen Keith all work on Sunday School curricula, such as Jacob's Ladder and New Church Vineyard, providing multi-grade material to teach the stories from the threefold Word to various levels of students.

It is good to make this direct connection with the central offices and the new episcopal leadership moving into their new positions. It is a hope that in future months we will also be able to have a visit from Bishop David Lindrooth, who oversees General Church Outreach. We have exciting new developments taking place with our Olivet Church website and marketing, which we will share more about as we work with Dave Lindrooth, Rob Andrews, and other members of the General Church Outreach staff.

Society Meetings October 9 and November 6: Remember to save the date and attend the Olivet Annual General Meeting on Wednesday October 9. Reports have been distributed and extras are available at the church office and on the table in the lobby. Along with going through the usual reports, we will take some time to report on the new administrative team leading the Olivet School and consider some material in preparation for the Special Society Meeting on November 6.

Michael K. Cowley

From the Assistant Pastor

Starting on October 25, I'm going to be hosting a Scripture Study class in the Olivet Church lobby every Friday evening, from 8:00-9:30 pm. All are welcome. This will be a fairly informal, discussion-based class; the plan is to go through the Lord's Word, one chapter at a time, and to talk about it, attempt to understand it, and listen for what the Lord is teaching us. We'll start out by studying the Gospel of Matthew.

This format is quite similar to the format of the Arcana class, which meets twice a month on Thursdays to work through the book Arcana Coelestia. My rationale behind offering this new class is twofold: first, it seems useful to offer an evening class, for the sake of those who work during the day; second, the Scriptures (and the gospels in particular) are not quite as intimidating as Arcana Coelestia, so this class might appeal to those who feel they're "not ready" for Arcana class (though I'm sure Michael, who hosts that class, would wish for me to emphasize that the Arcana class is open to anyone and everyone who wishes to participate).

If you are interested in participating in this class, it would be very helpful to know that! If you would like to participate, but can't make it on Friday evenings, or if you feel that you could come, but not every week, that would also be useful to know.

Once again, I'd like to invite you to reach out to me if you have any thoughts about church outreach (get it?). I'm particularly interested in learning what sorts of community service projects people feel inspired to get involved with. You can call or email me anytime!

Olivet School's new year is off to a great start. As I think I've said before, summer is nice, but it gets too quiet around here. Right now the building is abuzz with good things, and it's a pleasure to be here.

Jared Buss

From the Principal

Among the uses of Olivet School is to instill a sense of wonder for the Lord's world and an affection for learning. The school year has begun with such joy and enthusiasm! Our classroom breakdown this fall is as follows:

Tots' Time	Playschool	Jr Kg	Sr Kg	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5
5	15	5	2	4	1	3	3	2

Total grade school = 20 Total Pre-K = 20 Total students = 40

We are still receiving enquiries regarding admission, even though it is nearing the end of September and the numbers from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Five have increased from last year.

The threat of rain put a damper on our barbeque, so our alumni barbeque and picnic was rebooked for September 27 at Olivet. The children are also already looking forward to our first choir performance on Sunday, October 27.

We will be raising money for the school with a Tasty Treats fundraiser, starting on September 30! In addition to cookie dough, there are all sorts of delicious items, such as soup mixes, jalapeno poppers, and more! Order forms will be in the main office.

Beginning October 28, we are also working to collect items for Operation Christmas Child, a hands-on project that brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Please drop off toys, hygiene items, and school supplies (all of a size that can be packed into a shoebox) in the main office.

The upper grade teachers, administrators, and pastors will be attending a professional development workshop in Kitchener on October 11. We are looking forward to hearing an engaging talk from Rebekah Russell and mingling with teachers from other New Church schools.

The first Open House is on November 13! The classrooms will be open for touring, and there will be special entertainment for the young and young at heart.

Brittney Wilson

Olivet Bible Camp

Did you hear the news that the Olivet Church hosted its first Bible Camp this past summer? At the time of this writing, the camp actually took place about two months ago, from June 18 to July 5, 2019. If you would like to see a few pictures of various activities, there is a display in the Olivet gym that features the children and staff involved, depicting crafts, badminton, outside games, and other fun activities. But these photos do not paint the entire picture, and the activities alone would not distinguish this camp from any other children's summer camp. From my perspective and observation, the one thing that made the camp work so well was that we started every morning by focusing on the Lord with a worship service led by an Olivet minister. Rev. Jared Buss covered the majority of worship services and Rev. Jim Cooper also helped out when Jared was busy with Maple camp.

The religious focus that we choose this year was "The Ten Commandments." The ministers did an excellent job of sharing down-to-earth and practical ideas from a New Church perspective to help the children learn in detail about the Ten Commandments, the two Great Commandments—which are to love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself—as well as the Golden Rule, which is to treat others the way you wish to be treated. These important foundational ideas provided stable groundwork for the camp to be built on. Also included in the worship portion was singing worship songs, which were led by *** Reid on the keyboard or ukulele. The worship piece was very important to the camp as it set the tone for the day, and because of it the camp went incredibly well!

After the worship service was complete, one of my assistant's taught the children to sing a few more religious songs, and then the children would do the worship project, which often involved colouring a page that was relevant to the lesson of that day. As the children colored their pages, they could often be heard singing some of the worship songs. Sometimes we played religious songs on CD as they were completing their worship projects, and if the children knew the songs, they would enjoy singing along. After this, it was time for a snack and then outdoor play. While outside, the kids had fun learning badminton, playing tag or other running games, or just playing in the playground with each other. After playing outside, it was time for a craft and then lunch. Some children went home at lunchtime, while others stayed for the afternoon. One assistant would also leave at lunchtime, and another would arrive to help out with the afternoon shift for any children who needed full-day care. In the afternoon, we helped the children with math or reading skills from the grade they had just completed in school. Sometimes we did a second craft or group games and other activities to help fill the afternoon with fun.

The camp started at 8:30 am and went to 5:30/6:00 pm. Nine children registered for the camp, but we had a cancellation, so a total of eight children attended the camp. This number fell neatly within the Board approved range of 5-12 children. The Sunday School teacher and I ran the camp, with the help of two assistants. After conducting the worship service, Rev. Jared Buss typically remained in the building for most of the day, and Jerry and Amy Jutras were also on call as backup if necessary. The staff were vigilant about safety issues or concerns, and fortunately the camp ran smoothly and there were no injuries or mishaps.

The parents who enrolled their children were very appreciative of this camp and are hoping that it will continue next year. From my perspective, it was a positive experience for both the children and the staff. The children learned many important spiritual and natural ideas as well as having fun. They were engaged and happy to be there and played nicely with each other. When the camp finished, I felt that something very important had happened over the past three weeks and could feel the Lord working in all aspects of the camp to help make it a positive experience for everyone.

I am grateful to the Olivet Board and staff for their support to make this bible camp possible for 2019. Fortunately, the Olivet Bible camp will continue next year and will start when school finishes in June. We will keep the camp affordable for families and work hard to provide a wonderful experience for the children next year. We are hoping that some new people ages 18+ might be interested in staffing next year's camp. If you are interested, please contact Val Younan (Olivet's human resources representative). A vulnerable sector check has to be completed before being allowed to work with children at the camp, so it is good to get this done early, as this takes quite a number of weeks to complete.

I asked my assistant if she could think of something to add to what I had written, and she said, "I think the Bible Camp was a good way to expose children to an extension of the Lord's love through easily digestible worship services, cheerful music and caring staff. The camp was really good because it gave kids exposure to Christian music and New Church ideas." Perhaps this comment sums up this special experience nicely and I don't need to add anything else. If you haven't already done so, please check out the pictures that are posted in the gym so you can get a feeling for Olivet's first summer bible camp.

The Swedenborg Scientific Association cordially invites you to
BREAKING THE SHELL October 12, 2019:
Connecting the Spiritual Cascade to the Physical with New Church Science

A *Theistic Science Symposium* hosted by the *Swedenborg Scientific Association* and the *Theistic Science Group*. Saturday, October 12, 2019, 9am–5pm, Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn College, Bryn Athyn, PA. **Free; registration required: swedenborg-philosophy.org/theistic-science-symposium/**

The *Swedenborg Scientific Association* would like to introduce the *Theistic Science Group*, a collaboration of New Church scientists and theologians working on a model of scientific principles based on the axiom of spiritual-natural causation. If natural things and processes are derived from spiritual causes, how can these be described in scientific terms? Using doctrines from Swedenborg's scientific and theological works, the Theistic Science Group asks, "How does spirit descend into nature, creating as it comes?" Questions of the origin of matter, divine order in nature, and the emergence of organic forms are being addressed by the group. Their process will be reported at this first *Theistic Science Symposium*.

Please go online at <http://swedenborg-philosophy.org> for agenda, updates, and **registration**. Housing is available for a charge at the Bryn Athyn College. Talks will be livestreamed and later available on YouTube. Contact: SwedenborgScientific@gmail.com for questions

NEW SSA BOOKS for 2019: *Intelligent Default: Swedenborg's Theistic Science and the Problem of Organic Form*, Reuben P. Bell ISBN: 978-0-915221-54-7, *Daedalus Hyperboreus*, Emanuel Swedenborg ISBN: 978-0-915221-55-4, and *On Common Salt*, Emanuel Swedenborg ISBN: 978-0-915221-72-1 All available early fall 2019 at on Amazon and swedenborg-philosophy.org.

General Church Retreat 2020 Session Applications are now open!

Visit www.gcretreat2020.org to submit an application. The General Church Retreat will take place in Bryn Athyn from June 18-21, 2020. All are warmly invited to attend.

If you have any questions regarding the Session Application, please contact Kelly Treacy at (267) 502-4901 or email gcretreat2020@newchurch.org

Session Applications close November 1, 2019

Wednesday Suppers

The duty roster for this year's social suppers is a little thin. We currently have cooks for suppers up to February but if there are no other volunteers, classes will not have suppers preceding them. If you are able to help out, please contact the church office (contact@olivetnewchurch.org)

Give *New Church Life* for Christmas

Wouldn't you like to share the new *New Church Life* – which draws rave reviews throughout the Church – with friends and family?

Here are a few recent testimonials:

From a young couple: “*New Church Life* is a fantastic publication. We don't live in a big church society so NCL gives us the opportunity to hear from many different ministers. Thank you for providing us that access.”

From a new reader: “I stumbled onto an issue of *New Church Life*. I was so impressed with the content, variety, quality of the articles and information that I now want to subscribe to the publication.”

Thanks to a generous contribution, **you can give a subscription to a friend or family member for Christmas for just \$15 – half the regular price.** (This applies only for new subscriptions, not renewals.) A gift card will be sent in your name along with the November/December issue.

To make a gift of *New Church Life*, please contact: Susan Wright, PO Box 708, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009-0708, email susan.wright@anc-gc.org or telephone 267-502-4990.

Thank you, and best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Bruce Henderson
Editor

The Rev. Walter E. Orthwein
Spiritual Editor

Reminder to all Olivet Church parents of pre-kindergarten aged children

We have a Monday morning Tots' Time program for the youngest ones, aged 16 months to 3 years old (with accompanying caregiver). The running of this program is contingent on a minimum enrollment by September 1.

From Tuesday to Fridays, 9:00-11:30 am, we have a Playschool program for preschoolers aged 31 months to 4 years of age (a limited number of children younger than 31 months may be admitted— inquiries welcome).

Please avoid disappointment—these spots fill up! Call the office now to reserve your spot for September 2020!

Annual Meeting

The Olivet New Church Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7:30 pm, preceded by a dinner at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend, as quorum is needed. Contact the office to RSVP for dinner—the cost is \$10.

This meeting will feature society reports from the past year and elections of Board directors and officers. Copies of the Annual Report have been sent out to all members; if you haven't received your report, please reach out to the office. A proxy option for voting is attached to the reports for those members who may be unable to attend the meeting.

Additional nominations for Board directors are encouraged and welcomed and can be presented during the meeting. Please verify before the meeting if the nominee is willing to stand and is eligible to be nominated.

~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~
~ October 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Olivet School & Preschool Registration Opens 7p Closed AA Mtg	2 3p Broader Horizons (Sept. 11-Oct. 9)	3 7:30p Open AA Mtg	4	5
6 10:30a Worship (JJB)	7 7p Pastors council	8 7p Closed AA Mtg	9 3p Broader Horizons (Sept. 11-Oct. 9) 6:30p Social Supper 7:30p Olivet Corporation AGM	10 10a Arcana Class 7:30p Open AA Mtg	11 PD Day (No Classes for Playschool-Gr 5)	12
13 10:30a Thanksgiving Festival Service (MKC)	14 Thanksgiving Thanksgiving (No Classes)	15 7p Closed AA Mtg	16	17 7:30p Open AA Mtg	18 Chatterbox Deadline Report Cards (Mid Term) 4p Investment Committee Meeting	19
20 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	21 7p Board Meeting	22 7p Closed AA Mtg	23 3:30p Parent-Teacher Conferences 6:30p Social Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class (JJB)	24 10a Arcana Class 3:30p Parent-Teacher Conferences 7:30p Open AA Mtg	25 Olivet School Photo Day 8p Scripture Study Class	26
27 10:30a Children's Choir Performance @ Church 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p Potluck	28 Operation Christmas Child Fundraiser begins	29 7p Closed AA Mtg	30	31 Dress-Up Day 7:30p Open AA Mtg		

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
Oct 6	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***
Oct 13 Thanksgiving	***	***	***				NEED VOLUNTEER	N/A	***
Oct 20	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Oct 27 Children's Choir Potluck	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Nov 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***

Social Meal Duty Roster

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
October 9 Annual Meeting	***	***
October 23 Wednesday Supper	***	***
October 27 Potluck	***	Volunteers

October Anniversaries

[T]wo married partners in heaven are not two but one angel; wherefore by conjugal union they fill themselves with the human principle, which consists in desiring to grow wise, and in loving whatever relates to wisdom. CL 52

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