

Olivet New Church CHATTERBOX

Volume 85

January 2020

Number 1

Uplifting of the Lowly and the Humbling of the Proud: Hopeful Themes of the New Year

As we begin a new year, we look with hope to the future. The Christmas season we just celebrated is full of such hope. We reflect upon numerous prophecies that tell of the coming birth of the Lord as we prepare and then celebrate His coming. In the New Testament, with the birth of the Lord, we continue, as into a new year, with these words of prophetic hope.

There is a common theme before and after the Lord's coming—before both His comings, historically and personally. There was the historic event 2000 years ago, but the prophecies of Anna, Simeon, Elizabeth, and Mary around the time of His birth speak to the personal, spiritual uplifting of the lowly and the lowering of the proud. There is a victory for that which has been barren now having found favor. There is a smoothing of the rough way for the coming of the Lord.

Anna's name is the Greek version of Hanna, Samuel's mother, who is said to be a prophetess (AC 66, 1756). She waited at the temple and then proclaimed or spread the good news: "She gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem." (Luke 2:38) Imagine the sight of an 84-year-old woman spending day and night at the temple answering her spiritual call, fulfilling her destiny as a prophetess of the Most High—waiting, hoping, fasting, and praying, year after year, until the day of His arrival. We can imagine she too "enlarged her mouth," as was said of Hanna, and spoke from her heart and mind, powerfully and with great spirit, because of the event she had spent a lifetime preparing herself and others for.

These words remind us of the prophetic songs of Elizabeth and of Mary. Elizabeth, who "was filled with the Holy spirit and spoke with a loud voice," said:

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.

And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior... For he has regarded the lowly state of his maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His name..." (Luke 1:42-48)

These words, known as the Magnificat, are obviously words of prophecy in the line with the general theme of all the prophetesses. Though Mary is nowhere called a prophetess, it may be rightly questioned of her, as it was of Saul after he prophesied: "'Is Mary also among the Prophetesses?' For her Magnificat is so labeled in the Writings: the prophecy to Elizabeth" (AE 236). Her words that the "mighty have been put down from their thrones and lowly are exalted, the hungry are filled and the rich are sent away empty" is again a prophecy of the Lord's glorification, as well as the change in the state of the church and thus of us individually. This is a victory

song from heaven about the Lord freeing us from our evils in line with the earlier prophecies from Deborah and Hannah. Those Old Testament women and Anna, Elizabeth, and Mary remind us of the most famous prophetess and her victory song. She is the Prophetess Miriam, Aaron's sister, who:

“took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam responded to them, 'Sing to Jehovah, for He has highly exalted [Himself]; the horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea.'” (Exodus 15:19, 21)

Again, this is the theme of hope and victory; a brand new state is begun with the crossing of the Red Sea, the removal of lowly slavery, and having the Promised Land within reach.

So, we are taught about new states in the words and New Testament prophecies of Anna, Elizabeth, and Mary. These women called by the Lord to praise Him, to follow Him in worship, and to glorify His name. These women who speak powerfully for the Lord to encourage others in their battles against evil, to nurture from a feminine perspective representative of the affection for good and truth.

As we begin the new year, we long for the Lord with hope to be lifted from lowly places, to place ego and pride aside as we work individually and collectively for His Kingdom to come and be built in our hearts.

Rev. Michael Cowley

From the Pastor

Tableaux: Many thanks again go to Jared and Justine Buss and their staff of helpers for putting on the Tableaux this year. Sharon Burlacoff-Coutts did a wonderful job with the voices of the many children who contributed to the musical delight of the service. Thanks go as well to the vocalists, costumers, and sound and light crew who also livestreamed the service for the benefit of those unable to attend in person. The morning kept getting better as we gathered in the hall for the very nourishing potluck coordinated by Karen Cooper and Kim Parker. Of course, many others contributed to the spiritual and natural blessings of that Sunday, such as the school parents in organizing the fundraiser with festive treats for sale. Thanks to all those named and unnamed for your service in His name.

We will offer the Holy Supper on January 12: Do you understand the contents of the tray passed during the Holy Supper? The bread is obvious. It is broken during the beginning of the service into larger and smaller pieces. Some people seem to take the very smallest crumb they can find or break off a small piece from what is on the tray. I would encourage you to take a substantial piece of the bread, enough so you can actually taste it quite well and also feel it as you swallow. The Holy Supper is meant to be a sensory experience, a living reminder of the Lord's love for our salvation and His desire to feed us and lift us up to heaven.

When the Holy Supper is offered, you have several choices in partaking of the wine. In an effort to enable the avoidance of germs for those who wish it, the wine is available in individual glasses. Also, as there are individuals who are either allergic to alcohol or cannot drink it for other medical reasons, there is fermented wine with the alcohol removed as well as water offered in the small glasses. The de-alcoholized wine is placed in a blue coloured section on the tray and the water is obvious. The pastors will also offer the placing of hands upon celebrants' heads for individual blessings. If you have any questions about this information, please contact either of the pastors.

Upcoming activities: Mark your calendar for January 29, 2020, when we will hold an Olivet Town Hall meeting. We will delve into more ways we can serve the Lord in the many services and outreach potentials of the church. We'll review the Soni Werner process and outcomes and consider ways to bring alive the uses suggested therein.

Michael

From the Assistant Pastor

Now that the Christmas craziness is over, it's time for me to get productive! I've already started working on the long-awaited refresh of Olivet's website, and hopefully it will be launching sometime early this year. The idea is that the new Olivet site will be modelled after the General Church's main website (newchurch.org), for the sake of "brand" identity and consistency. I've been having weekly conferences with a web design company called DigitalWave (which designed newchurch.org), along with Rob Andrews from the General Church Office of Outreach.

One neat thing about this project is that the work DigitalWave is doing now (which Olivet and the GCIC are funding) is able to benefit the entire General Church. We're building a customizable template based on newchurch.org, and the idea is to make that template available to the entire church. So Olivet is simultaneously getting a totally new-feeling, completely personalized website and supporting something that will be of use to the church at large. It feels like a win-win.

If web design or web management is something you feel passionate about, and would love to be involved with, please do let me know! I'm always happy to have help or receive suggestions.

I hope you have a wonderful, peaceful month.

—Rev. Jared Buss

From the Principal's Office

The school has had a busy month! In addition to the daily busy-ness of learning and growing on every level, we had so much fun participating in the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade and getting our name out there! The following week saw the annual Christmas Concert bookended by the Christmas Market/Bake Sale, which was a great success. Four days

later, the school children gave a lovely choir performance in church, before and after the amazing Tableaux presentation, adding so much innocence and enjoyment to the sphere. Special thanks go to Sharon Burlacoff-Coutts, our amazing music teacher.

Much of our focus in these last few weeks, of course, has been related to teaching and talking about the Lord's advent. Everyone is excited about Christmas and ready for the break that comes with it.



Brittney Wilson, Laura Braam, Val Younan



Teens: Save the Dates!



The dates for **Maple Leaf Academy Camp 2020** are set! If you're in **Grade 8 or high school** right now, please mark your calendars and join us from Thursday, June 25 to Wednesday, July 1 at the Ecology Retreat Centre near Orangeville, Ontario for a week full of joy, laughter, friendship, and spiritual growth. "**Light**" is our theme this year.

Registration forms will be available by March 2020. Watch this space for more information in the months to come. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Chief Leaf, Steph Kuhl, at stephkuhl@live.ca, or your friendly *Chatterbox* editor and camp staff member Claire Hurd at wordsmithclaire@gmail.com.

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! Registrations received by February 20, 2020 will receive a \$200 discount per child!

New House for Rent in Caryndale

Chalon Estates is currently building houses on the land behind the Carmel Church and our next unit is expected to be available February 1, 2020. This is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom, bright, lower-level unit (of a duplexed bungalow) with a walkout and its own single garage. Rent for this unit is \$1150.00. Our priority is to provide an opportunity for church members hoping to move into Caryndale with a smaller and more affordable option than many of the properties in our area.

If moving to Caryndale is something you are considering in the future, we will be building many more houses over the next few years. Please let me know if you are interested! This will help us to decide on the type and number of units to be built.

Please email Stephanie Kuhl (Chalon Board member) at stephkuhl@live.ca if you have any questions or would like an application.

~ January 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Christmas/New Year Holidays	2 Christmas/New Year Holidays	3 Christmas/New Year Holidays	4
				7:30p Open AA Mtg	8p Scripture Study Class	
5 10:30a Worship (JJB)	6 Classes Resume 6:30p Beaver Scouts	7 7p Closed AA Mtg	8	9 10a Arcana Class in Manse 6p AA Business meeting 7:30p Open AA Mtg	10 7p Forward Sons'	11
12 10:30a Worship & Holy Supper (MKC) 12p Potluck	13 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Pastor's Council 7p Scout Leader's Meeting	14 7p Closed AA Mtg	15 6:30p Social Supper 7:30p Doctrinal Class (MKC)	16 7:30p Open AA Mtg	17 Chatterbox Deadline 4p Investment Committee Meeting 8p Scripture Study Class	18
19 10:30a Worship (MKC) 12p High School and Middle School Classes	20 6:30p Beaver Scouts 7p Board Meeting	21 7p Closed AA Mtg	22	23 7:30p Open AA Mtg	24 Jump Rope f. Heart Campaign Kickoff Pajama Day	25 7p Board Game Night
26 10:30a Worship (JJB) 12p Children's Swedenborg Luncheon	27 6:30p Beaver Scouts	28 7p Closed AA Mtg	29 7:30p Olivet Church Town Hall Meeting	30 7:30p Open AA Mtg	31 8:15a Family Pancake Breakfast 8p Scripture Study Class	

Volunteer Positions Available

Please reach out to Janet Parker (najpark@hotmail.com) if you are interested in polishing the Holy Supper silverware approximately four to five times per year.

Please reach out to Sara Gatti (sara.gatti@olivetnewchurch.org) or Janet Parker if you are interested in making and building wood Bible/Word Stands for the Children's June 19th Gift Program. The stand comes with an edge, which allows the child to display the Bible/Word either open or closed on a flat surface in the home.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
Jan 5	C Reid	C Horigan	A Nater	K Jutras	N Reid		L Holmes	A Schnarr	B Horigan
Jan 12 Holy Supper Potluck	E Parker	J Parker	A Nater	G Cowley	K Okubo		J Parker	M L La C Kumar	B Horigan
Jan 19	P Bailey	K Cooper	F Raymond	K Jutras	K Cooper	R Hasen	J Jorgenson	J Jorgenson	B Horigan
Jan 26 Swedenborg Kids Lunch	P Bailey	J Parker	A Nater	K Jutras	K Okubo		M Broderick	M Broderick	B Horigan
Feb 2	S Cho	S Bradfield	A Nater	K Jutras	B Horigan		L Holmes	A Schnarr	R Schnarr

Social Meal Duty Roster

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
January 12 Potluck	K Parker or ML La	Volunteers
January 15 Wednesday Supper	A Jutras	A Okubo

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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