

# Olivet New Church

## Chatterbox

Volume 90 -- June 2021 -- Number 6

### Life in Everything

The ways that little children play are wonderful—and some of the most wonderful moments to witness are the ones in which a child is in “their own world,” playing not with parents or classmates, but within their imagination. In these moments the child is playing “by themselves,” yet they are so clearly not alone. The life they give to their toys and to their imaginary companions is so real to them that it truly is as though they’re playing in their own world, a world full of secret friends.

To little children, the world teems with life—secret life, magical life, life that adults somehow cannot see. This is something that untold hundreds of children’s stories or stories about children have explored, and it’s something that the Heavenly Doctrines attest to as well. In *Heaven and Hell*, we read:

*It was shown me ... what the ideas of little children are when they see objects of any kind. Each and every object seemed to them to be alive; and thus in every least idea of their thought there is life. And it was perceived that little children on the earth have nearly the same ideas when they are at play, for as yet they have no such reflection as adults have about what is inanimate. (§338)*

It’s not that children can’t tell the difference between a doll and a human being; obviously that’s not so. Even very young children know that their dolls are not actually alive. It’s simply that, as it says above, there is life “in every least idea of their thought.” So when they think about their dolls or their trucks or the sticks in the woods that they play with, they impart a kind of life to these things. They can’t help it—that’s just how they see their world. To a little child, the distinction between animate and inanimate that’s so matter-of-fact to us adults is academic and remote.

Children all grow up, and clearly they’re supposed to. As magical as the imagination of a four-year-old can be, we don’t want to see anyone throwing four-year-old tantrums for all of eternity. It’s often been observed, however, that most adults give up too much in the initial process of growing up. The worlds in which they dwell become, to them, too inanimate, too practical. As adults we see a great many mundane things, and we know that there’s nothing special about them. But—as has often been observed—part of our task as adults is to rediscover the life we once perceived, blindly, within those mundane things. After all, there is a reality much deeper than the one we see. There is a world beyond this world, and the veil between it and us, in truth, is thin.

As little children, we were onto something. So the Lord Himself says, “Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). It was His life within all things that we perceived when we were very small—we simply had no words for it, no names to give to it. Part of what’s asked of us now is to let ourselves be shown the same truth all over again—to let ourselves be shown the life within all things—and, this time, to call it by His name.

In the *Psalms* we read, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness” (24:1). Every created thing is His; it exists because He makes it exist, moment by moment. So He is present in all things. The world is alive because He is alive—and all of creation testifies to this, if we’re willing to listen.

*The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, and the valleys cover themselves with grain;  
They shout, yea, they sing. (Psalm 65:13)*

*For you will go out with gladness and you will be led with peace;  
The mountains and the hills will break out before you in a cry of joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)*

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the fullness of all the earth is His glory (Isaiah 6:3).*

Rev. Jared Buss

## From the Pastor

Dear friends,

Summer weather is finally here, and this brings some relief as far as outside visiting with people outside your “bubble.” However, we are still under restrictions as far as opening up the church for indoor services. We wish we could see an end to the lockdowns and have reliable information to allow us to make solid plans. Maybe next month—fingers crossed.

*Goodbye Busses:* We say goodbye to the Buss family this month. Again, COVID has thrown a wrench into the works. At this point, we will have to say our goodbyes with a drive-through type event, planned for 3:30 to 5:30 Sunday afternoon on June 13. If anything changes and we can meet in person outside, we will send out a “One Call” announcing the changes.

No matter how we manage the logistics, this will be a sad parting for the members and friends of Olivet who have grown to know and love Jared, Justine, Rosalie, Gideon, and Dale. For the past six years we have benefited from Jared's most excellent sermons, teaching, classes, and pastoral services. We’ve become spoiled having the multi-talented Justine here, gifting us with tableaux and pageants, as well as her all-around positive personality. All of us have loved each of their children. We can only say our loss is Pittsburgh’s gain. You go with our blessings and we hope we can see you back here for a visit in the future.

*New Church Day "Banquet"*: Last year, a Canada-wide Zoom "Banquet" was held online, with good reviews. We will repeat this event on Saturday June 19th from 8 to 9:30 pm. The later time allows our western friends to join in at a reasonable hour.

*Candidate Steven Gunther*: We are happy to announce that candidate Steven Gunther and his family (Aaliya and three children) will do his fall theological school candidacy here at Olivet. We hope he will be able to arrive the last week of August. We will be trying something new with Steven in hopefully having him continue beyond the fall term and complete his final year of theological training from Toronto. This arrangement is especially exciting for Aaliya, who grew up in Toronto, for her to come here and be that much closer to her grandparents John and Ersa Parker.

### **From the Assistant Pastor**

This is the last article I get to write for the *Chatterbox*—so the time has come for me to say goodbye. As I write, I'm still nearly a month away from leaving, but even so, trying to say goodbye is hard. As so often seems to be the case, I'm managing to be both genuinely excited about the new position that awaits me in Pittsburgh and truly sad to leave Olivet. Six years isn't that long in the grand scheme of life, but it's long enough; my family and I have made this community our home. We will miss it.

We will miss you—all of you dear people who make Olivet what it is. It has been an honor and a delight to serve you and to come to know you over the last six years. It has been a delight to partake of your fellowship and your friendship. I owe many of you a deep debt of gratitude for the ways that you have reached out to and supported me and my family. Thank you.

May the Lord bless you all, and may His peace be with you.

Jared

### **From Justine Buss**

Dear Olivet Friends,

I am really going to miss this beautiful church community. My heart aches just thinking of saying goodbye, especially since COVID prevents us from doing so in person. I really wish we could have had one last big Olivet New Church Day pageant and picnic on the lawn. I have loved being a part of this community. It has been a delight directing Tableaux and pageants and switching up decor in the lobby. So many of you have supported us like family—and I hope you know how deeply we appreciate your kindness. We have never felt alone here. We have always felt encouragement and love. Thank you all so much for being such a huge part of these formative years for us. We wish you boundless blessings and hope to visit soon.

Justine

## From the Principal

It is amazing, school year after school year, how quickly they fly by. and this one is no exception.

This year has certainly been full of challenges. The difficulties seemed to be never ending, but the faculty and Board and all support staff have been so determined and diligent that we have persevered. In fact, we all have found blessings and gifts and kindness in times of disillusionment. Olivet School will take a well deserved break, and you can be sure will be ready and willing to face all the challenges and joys that await us next school year.

*"It should be recognized that Divine providence is overall, that is, it is present within the smallest details of all, and that people in the stream of providence are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present." (Arcana Coelestia §8478)*

Laura Braam

## Virtual New Church Day Banquet

The Canadian ministers would like to celebrate New Church Day with you on Saturday, June 19, at 8:00 PM EDT (Toronto time). The late start is to accommodate people in western Canada. This invitation is going out to members and friends throughout Canada.

Instead of having a traditional banquet, once again we are going to use Zoom. From 8:00 to 8:30 pm, we'll use a feature of Zoom called "rooms" to divide the group into smaller, conversational groups, sort of like finding a seat at a table. We will be using Zoom breakout rooms for the meal, so you would only be with a few other people at the same time, having a nice chat. The social portion will start at 8:00 pm EDT, before the more formal portion of the evening, so you might prefer to just share a cup of coffee or glass of wine with your friends.

At about 8:30 pm, the Zoom rooms will be closed and there will be a toast to the Church and a brief program about New Church Day, presented by the Rev. Michael Cowley.

If you would like to be involved, you can find the Zoom link to the online banquet at [www.newchurch.ca](http://www.newchurch.ca), and the Facebook pages for the Dawson Creek Society, Carmel Church, and Olivet Church, as well as below:

Topic: New Church Day Online Banquet

Time: Jun 19, 2021 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94181859711?pwd=enA2YWV3dDdMQlkwVzY5YU1xUWdudz09>

Meeting ID: 941 8185 9711 Passcode: 784876

## June 19 Children's Gift Program

Every June, the Olivet Church celebrates the New Church's birthday. This year, at the end of the June 13 church service, any child from infancy through Grade 8 will receive a special gift to recognize this significant event.

Please contact Jan(et) Parker ([naipark@hotmail.com](mailto:naipark@hotmail.com)) and Sara Gatti ([smgatti60@gmail.com](mailto:smgatti60@gmail.com)), copying us both on the email, if you wish a gift for your child. Due to the current situation, it is unlikely there will be any families visiting each other, though normally we ask you to let us know if any visiting children will be coming with you to the service so we can also give them a gift. We will arrange drive-by pick-ups so that gifts may be collected after the service.

## Notice of General Church Annual Corporation Meeting

**Saturday, June 26, 2021 @ 3:00 pm**

**In-person at Pendleton Hall Auditorium, 2965 College Drive, Bryn Athyn, PA**

**Virtual attendance information will be sent to all Corporation members prior to this meeting**

General Church Corporation members are invited to attend this meeting to hear about the state of the worldwide General Church and related matters and participate in the election of directors. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Anita Halterman ([anita.halterman@newchurch.org](mailto:anita.halterman@newchurch.org)) or Kelly Treacy ([kelly.treacy@newchurch.org](mailto:kelly.treacy@newchurch.org)).

Much appreciated,  
Kelly Treacy, Executive Administrative Assistant  
General Church of the New Jerusalem  
267.502.4901

## New Three-Course Graduate Certificates in Religious Studies

Bryn Athyn College is pleased to announce two new graduate certificate programs in religious studies, beginning in the upcoming fall term of 2021:

- Our three-course (nine-credit) certificate in Spiritual Growth Studies provides students the opportunity to explore spiritual growth from multiple disciplinary perspectives, framed by principles of Swedenborgian thought.
- Our three-course (nine-credit) certificate in Biblical Interpretation provides students the opportunity to explore Biblical interpretation from multiple disciplinary perspectives, framed by principles of Swedenborgian thought.

These certificate programs are ideal for people interested in focused graduate study of the teachings for the New Church but who are not prepared to commit to a full Master of Arts in Religious Studies program. Programs can be taken remotely or in person. For more information, please see our website <https://brynathyn.edu/mars>) or contact program director Thane Glenn, [thane.glenn@brynathyn.edu](mailto:thane.glenn@brynathyn.edu), 267.502.4844

## Navigating the Rapids in the Stream of Providence

**Free Virtual Convention of the Swedenborgian Church**

**Friday June 25– Sunday June 27, 2021 (12:00 – 8:00 pm)**

Keynote Address by Gary Lachman (Blondie guitarist and writer)

Registration is required for this free online event, opening May 15.

The convention will include mini courses, worship services, ministry updates, socializing, and games!

[www.Swedenborg.org/Convention2021](http://www.Swedenborg.org/Convention2021)

[www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention](https://www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention)

### June Anniversaries

Jeremy and Janine Crawford: June 4, 5 years

(John and) Nancy Wyncoll: June 10, 60 years

Dean and Virginia Millar: June 12, 28 years

*The varieties and diversities in marriages...exceed all number. — CL 324*

| ~ Olivet New Church & School ~   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| ~ June 2021 ~  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|  |  | 1   | 2   | 3<br>10a Arcana<br>zoom  | 4<br>End of Spring<br>Term   | 5  |
| 6<br>10:30a Worship<br>(MKC)<br>11:45a After-<br>Church Gathering<br>(Zoom)  | 7<br>Canadian<br>Achievement<br>Tests (CAT) -<br>Gr. 2 to 5<br>7p Pastors<br>council | 8<br>Canadian<br>Achievement<br>Tests (CAT) - Gr.<br>2 to 5 | 9<br>Canadian<br>Achievement<br>Tests (CAT) -<br>Gr. 2 to 5 | 10<br>Canadian<br>Achievement<br>Tests (CAT) -<br>Gr. 2 to 5     | 11<br>Canadian<br>Achievement<br>Tests (CAT) -<br>Gr. 2 to 5   | 12   |
| 13<br>10:30a New<br>Church Day<br>Celebration (JJB)<br>11:45a After-<br>Church Gathering<br>(Zoom)<br>3:30p Busses<br>Goodbye Drive<br>Bye | 14   | 15  | 16  | 17<br>School Field<br>Trip<br>(Elementary)<br>10a Arcana<br>zoom | 18<br>Chatterbox<br>Deadline<br>11:30a School<br>Closing Service<br>(Elementary<br>Grades)<br>1p 1 pm<br>Dismissal (PD<br>1/2 Day) | 19<br>8p New Church<br>Day Online<br>Banquet |
| 20 <b>Father's Day</b><br>10:30a Worship<br>(MKC)<br>11:45a After-<br>Church Gathering<br>(Zoom)   | 21<br>7p Board<br>Meeting  | 22  | 23  | 24   | 25<br>Report Cards<br>(Spring Term)<br>Mail Out  | 26   |
| 27<br>10:30a Worship<br>(JPC)<br>11:45a After-<br>Church Gathering<br>(Zoom)   | 28   | 29  | 30  |  |  |  |

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd. Toronto, ON M9B 1Z6 ~ 416-239-3054  
Olivet Church email address ~ [contact@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:contact@olivetnewchurch.org) ~ FAX 416-239-4935  
Pastor, Michael Cowley ~ 647-883-3754  
Assistant pastor, Jared Buss ~ 647-677-2600  
Chatterbox editor, Claire Hurd ~ 647-203-5875  
Rides to church, Karen Cooper ~ 416-236-0841