

Olivet New Church Chatterbox

Volume 91 -- May 2022 -- Number 5

Real Beauty

Every person has a different standard as regards what is beautiful. Yet, we share and talk about beautiful things based on the commonly held sense or something universal. Although we make a subjective judgment on aesthetic objects, we agree that nature is beautiful from our sensory experiences, and the Lord's heaven must be beautiful from the teachings of the Word. The genuine beauty is not in external form and shape, but in the inner qualities.

In ancient times, nature worship was prevalent. The Heavenly Doctrines for the New Church explain that nature worship resulted from people losing the inner meanings of correspondences. Before their fall, the Most Ancients and Ancients could envision the Divine and His attributes from the sun, the moon, and many things in nature, and they could be reminded of their spiritual meanings – the representations and significations in the objects. Later, when their posterity lost such knowledge of correspondence, they ended up vainly worshiping only external objects in nature (cf. AC 2441:7). This practice became an idol worship.

Sun worship, or the veneration of the sun as a deity, was practiced in Egypt in the 14th century BC (Britannica.com). The moon was often personified in different ways and worshiped with religious customs; nevertheless, the moon is less frequently viewed as a powerful deity (Ibid.). Nature worship seemed to be widespread in many nations, as well as in Palestine. According to the Writings, sun and moon worship spread to many nations (AC 2441:7). The Lord warned the children of Israel, "And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them" (Deuteronomy 4:19).

The prevalent idol worship manifested their fallen spiritual states. "To worship the world's sun is also to accept nature as the creator of all things and one's own prudence as the effector of all things, which entails a denial of God and a denial of Divine providence" (AR 11:7). In ancient China, nature was considered as the ultimate and perfect being. Nature was considered to be the origin of all creatures and the ideal archetype of all due to self. It is said that the highest principle, Way (Dao 道), imitates nature/what-it-is (Dao De Jing 25).

As you imagine, the Lord's heaven is full of beautiful views and fragrant odors. There are beautiful gardens where fragrant trees and flowers are planted. We read, "For in heaven newly ploughed fields, open ones, gardens of flowers, fields

ready to be harvested, land planted with trees, and similar things such as exist on earth are seen; and it is well known to those who are there that the realities composing heaven, thus those composing the church, are what appear before their eyes in this kind of way" (AC 10669:3).

The heavenly qualities of angels and good spirits are represented as sensible and perceptible things in the other world. Swedenborg said, "Often when I have been in gardens and have been looking at the trees, fruits, flowers, and plants there, I have recognized their correspondences in heaven, and have spoken with those with whom these were, and have been taught whence and what they were" (HH 109). This mechanism of representations can help us understand what kind of visual and perceptible things are shared in hell. The opposite of the things in heaven, such as monstrous creatures and stench, fill areas there.

Genuine beauty lies in our hearts and minds where we store our heavenly treasures. In the other world, the Lord allows these inner beauties and heavenly treasures to turn into an angel's unique sphere, so that the inner beauty is perceived and shared; this wide and open sharing of heavenly qualities makes the inexpressible joy in heaven. In this world, despite limited perception of spheres and auras because we do not possess exquisite angelic sensations, we still sense others' spheres to some degree; we instantaneously form a general impression about a person whom we have just met. The full beauty of spring in colours, forms, and fragrances overwhelm us. While we enjoy them, let us remember that they are supposed to be the projections and representation of heavenly qualities in the Lord's correspondence. Aren't they urging us to resemble them, first from our hearts and minds?

Rev. Jon Lee

From the Pastor

We rejoice with the coming of spring. It provides us with a good "refresher course" on the realities of Heaven. "For all who reach Heaven return to the spring time of their youth, recovering the strength and beauty of that age, and keeping this forever" (Conjugal Love 44). Spring is certainly heavenly.

With the nicer weather we are enjoying seeing each other more and seeing more of each other. Refreshments in the hall and visiting in the parking lot after church continue to reach higher numbers, and the happy voices and laughter make a social and spiritual elixir!

We will hold two more vaccinated-only services, one May 8 (Mother's Day) and the last one on June 12. Please read the weekly announcements and listen for "One Call" phone announcements to keep current. One thing is for sure; things can change "on a dime", as the saying goes, and we will revise our plans accordingly.

We hope to continue to provide our worship services and classes livestreamed and on Zoom even as in-person activities come back.

As with most churches in the GTA, we have invited our AA members to resume their evening meetings.

We look forward to seeing you at church.

Michael Cowley

From the Assistant to the Pastor

As the morning begins a day, spring actually opens a year. This is well reflected in the ancient Jewish calendar in which their first month, Abib, happens in springtime, around late March and early April. Morning and spring indicate new states after dark night and cold winter. The change of time and season appear to be affected by the heat and light from the sun. But the change is caused by spiritual heat and light. The sun of heaven, that is the Lord, is spiritual heat and light, and this spiritual heat and light cause all natural effects through the natural sun. Thus, a seasonal change might be a good time to reflect on our spiritual states and to consider a new lifestyle.

Jon Lee

From the Principal

April is always a wonderfully busy month. Here are a few pictures of students in the 3rd grade class practicing folding palm leaves into crosses for

Palm Sunday. The children enjoyed the challenge and had insightful conversations about the meaning and significance of this time in the Holy calendar.



As restrictions have been lifting, the school has been able to offer our families a more familiar school experience. We decided to keep our yearly French Performance on April 29 as a closed event held during the school day. However, we were able to invite parents to join us outside for our yearly school cleanup on April 22 in celebration of Earth Day.

Currently in the works are plans to invite families to our yearly May Music Night. This year we are planning on it being an in-person event. We are proceeding with cautious optimism that mandated restrictions will remain lifted. Should anything change, we will pivot to a virtual alternative.

The Kathleen McClure Fountain Memorial Award

Nominations are open! This monetary award is designed to remember Kathleen McClure Fountain's love of children, respect for education, and sense of service

freely given, as well as to inspire the best in every student.

Do you know a student in **grade 5, 8, or 12** who demonstrates a strong standing in both academics and extracurricular activities and who participates in events at Olivet Church and/or School? A personal reference from a principal (or similar authority) is required.

Please email kmf.nominations@olivetnewchurch.org to nominate a student or to ask any questions. And yes, parents can nominate their own child(ren)!

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

Note: Nominees do not have to be currently/previously enrolled in Olivet School.

Call for Volunteers

The position of **Assistant Treasurer** needs to be filled. This is a two-year position leading to the position of Treasurer. It takes about two years to learn about the whole Olivet financial cycle and processes, but it is not as onerous as in the past. Olivet now has a bookkeeper, payroll company, and a comptroller to assist the Treasurer. Ideally, the total commitment would be for seven years, two as Assistant Treasurer and five as Treasurer. Our current Treasurer would like to be able to retire in about two years' time. This role cannot be hired out. Without a Treasurer, it is very difficult to pay employees. Please contact Jerry Jutras for more information.

The position of **Property Manager** needs to be filled to monitor and alert the board about property issues and projects. This role cannot be hired out. The day-to-day process is handled by our property management company, Stonegate. See the 2020 annual report for more information or contact Lynn Starkey.

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat

July 24 – July 27, 2022

This year's theme: The Ten Commandments

Our retreat will be held at the Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA. We are capping attendance at 150 people, so don't wait to sign up.

Get your registration forms online at: <https://www.jacobs creek family retreat.org/>
Friend us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/JacobsCreekFamilyRetreat/>
Or you can contact Julie Uber at 412-782-2710 (h) or julie.uber@gmail.com to receive forms by mail or email.

Eighth Annual Living Waters Family Camp

Thursday, July 7 – Sunday, July 10, 2022

This Year's Theme: "Reading the Word"

Now is a great time to start a family tradition where grandparents, parents, and children can all go to a summer camp and worship, learn, pray, and play

together. These family camps provide a fantastic opportunity for the Lord to store up some cross-generational New Church “remains.” Every good church camp has the Lord at the center of it, with the opportunity to learn about Him from His Word and to worship Him with thankful praise!

The theme for our camp this summer is **"Reading the Word."** The Word is the Old Testament, New Testament, and Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church. It is the Lord's Divine will revealed to all of humanity. We are all called by the Lord to engage in His Word. So what are some of the factors that play into a meaningful reading of the Word? It's more than simply reading the words on the page; it's reading to understand. And it's still more than understanding it. The end in view is to live the Word! Our theme will involve these ideas and how they are related to one another. Please join us!

The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario on the Saugeen River and is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp, you can explore it on the web at hvccamp.ca. It is only 194 kilometres from the Olivet New Church and just 154 kilometres from the Carmel New Church. It is also only 189 miles from Oak Arbor, Michigan, so we are warmly welcoming any of our southern neighbors from the United States to attend as well! Canoeing and fishing are available and the camp is just 20 kilometres from the beach on Lake Huron.

The General Church in Canada has been wonderfully supportive of this venture and, there are scholarships available to ensure that the camp is affordable enough for most everyone to attend! For more information about **Living Waters Family Camp**, or if you would like to attend, please visit the website to register: [Living Waters Family Camp](http://LivingWatersFamilyCamp.com).

Rev. Justin Schorran – Assistant to the Pastor at Carmel New Church
livingwatersfamilycamp@gmail.com
226-899-4746

"Living waters" are often mentioned in the Word, and by them are meant truths that come from the Lord and are received. These are living, because the Lord is Life itself, as He Himself teaches, and that which comes from Life itself is living."
(AE 483:1)



Belated Baptism Announcements

We are sorry for the delayed report on the baptism of **Henri James Locke** and **Vanessa James-Locke**. Henri and Vanessa were baptized in a private ceremony in their backyard on October 24, 2021, attended by family and friends. Henri is a student at Olivet School and Vanessa has become an active member of Olivet Church life. Congratulations to Henri and Vanessa!

Chloe Audrey Margaret Herterich and **Kyle John Gerard Herterich** were baptized Nov 27, 2021 by Rev. James Cooper, in a small private ceremony at the Olivet Church. The baptism was livestreamed and is now available on Olivet's YouTube

channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNlq8CzkKDM>

Rejoicing

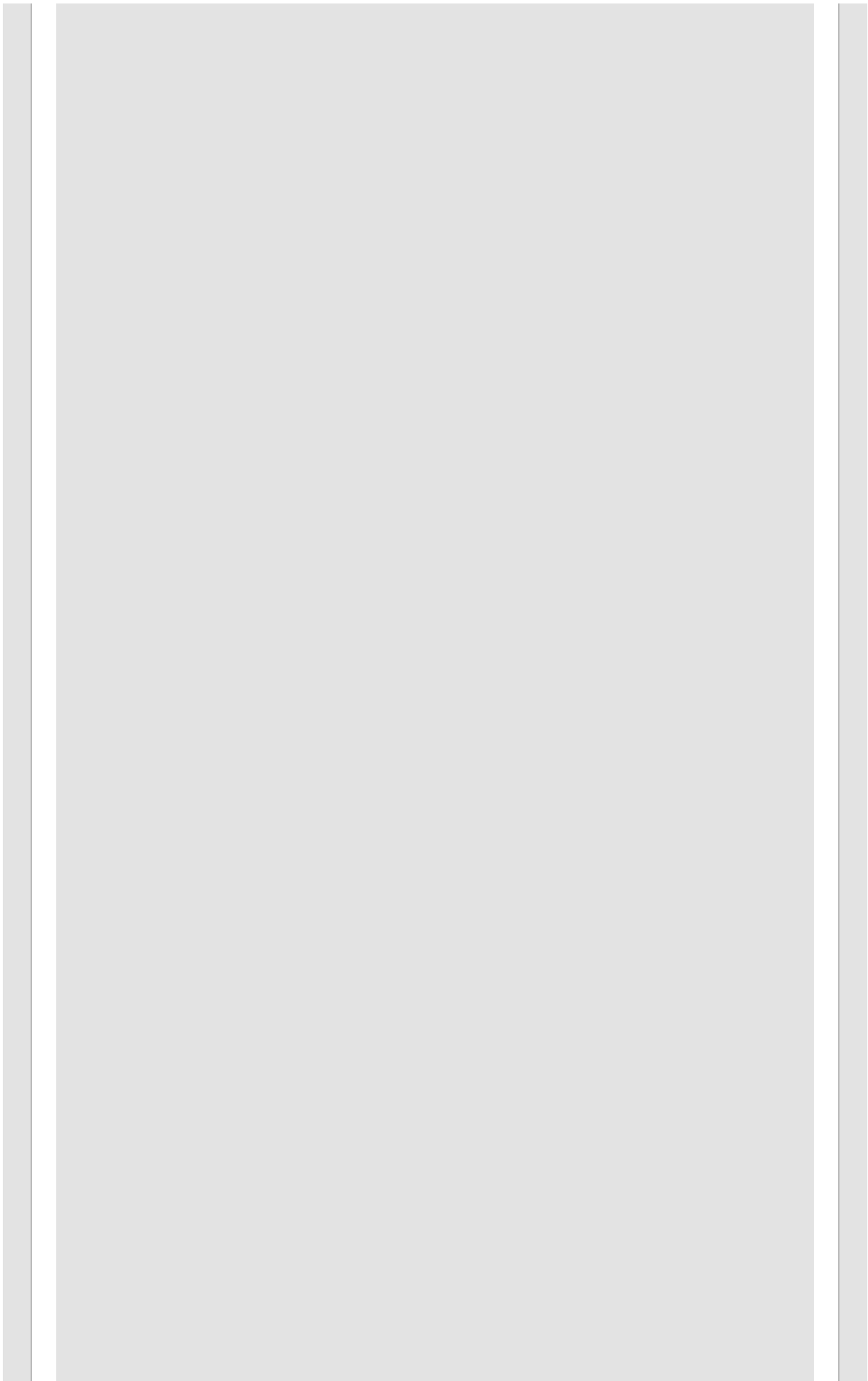
Sitting in church on Sunday, March 8, 2020, who could have imagined that within days, the countries of the world, their commerce, and their social life and institutions would all be closed down or severely changed in order to deal with the demands of the COVID-19 epidemic. Vaccinations, face masks, handwashing, and social distancing became the new order of the day as we all would learn how to survive the experience...and we have! What joy it was for us two years later on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022, to physically attend Olivet Church for worship, and to greet so many longtime friends. Praise the Lord!

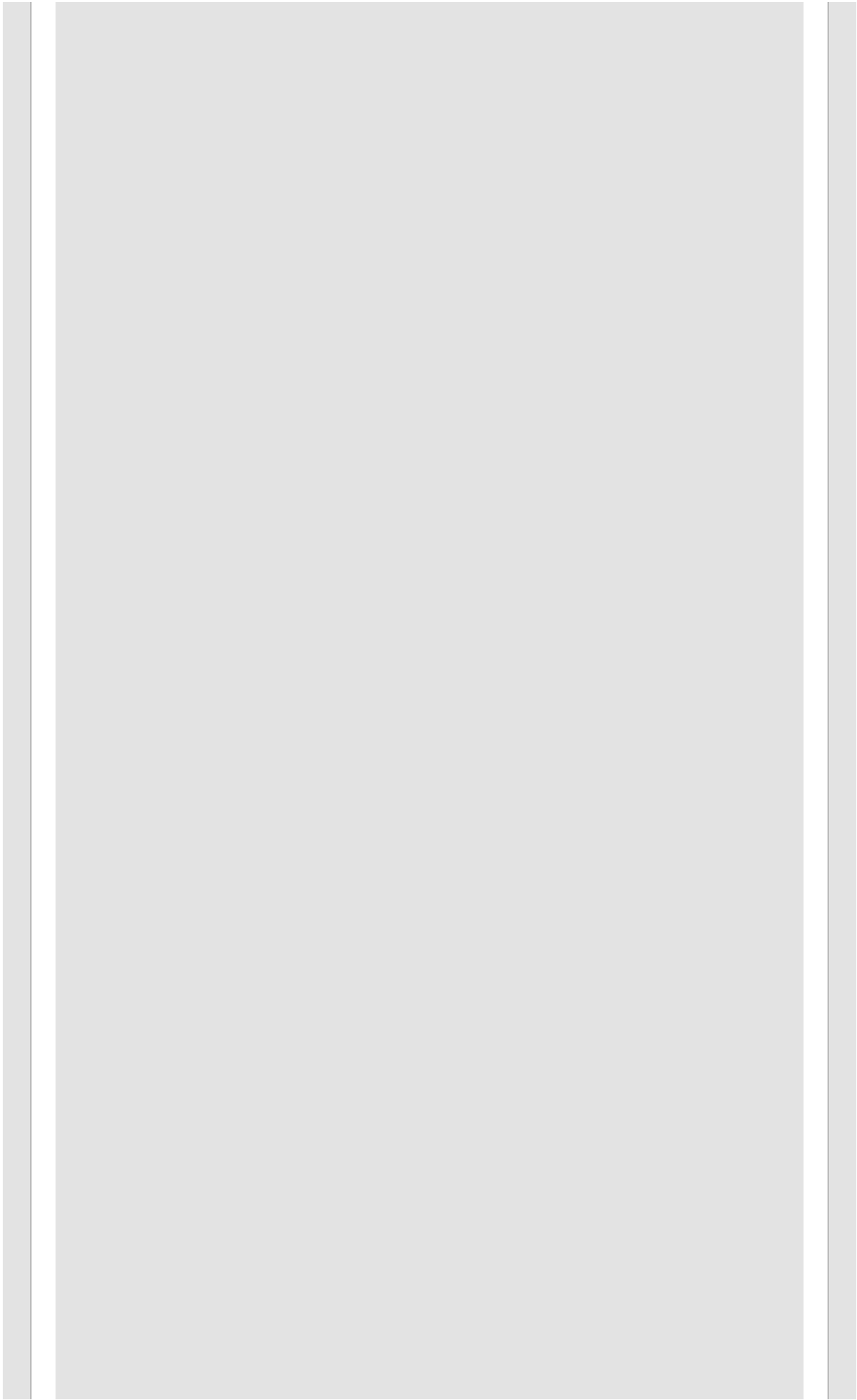
John and Erska Parker

Chancel Flowers – Request for Volunteers

I am looking for help with flowers or plants for the chancel for July and August. This is an important use and if you think you can help, even for a couple of weeks, please give me a call. I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Thanks,
Nancy Wyncoll





Olivet New Church | 279 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6 Canada