

# Olivet New Church

# CHATTERBOX

Volume 77

January 2011

Number 1

## We Don't Have to Be Pigs

Many of us are familiar with the story of the demon-possessed man who was living naked in the tombs when Jesus met him. Jesus cast out these demons and they begged to enter a nearby herd of swine. When granted permission they caused two thousand pigs to run violently downhill and drown in the sea.

Like all healing stories, this one shows us how the Lord can heal our minds and hearts from evil loves and interests. This story in particular teaches about identity and identification.

Let's start by considering the pig-like demons who infested the man. These evil spirits, like pigs, are obsessed with their own sensual pleasure and try to get us to wrap our thinking and lives up in sensual pleasure. We read that "in so far as anyone indulges in the lusts of the flesh, he is a beast and a wild animal" (TCR 328). This wild, beast-like quality is something we are all born into, unfortunately. It is a preoccupation with sensual pleasure, which if indulged, can captivate our thinking and close off the higher levels of our minds.

People heavily addicted to a substance or physical pleasure are not that different from this demon possessed man.

Fortunately the nature of the problem also points to the solution. The problem is that we have built our identity around a disorderly lust for sensual pleasure. The solution is to de-identify with this negative love and re-identify with a positive alternative.

The Lord's power and presence in our lives allows this to happen. In the story Jesus challenges the demons, "What is your name?" He forces them to show their identity so that the man can see that he is actual; separate from these demons. For the first time, perhaps in years, this man has the chance to think about the fact that he can choose to be something different than the hellish influence which had been controlling his mind.

We can enjoy this same freedom by examining ourselves through the means of the Lord's Word. This process allows us to see clearly the influence of hell for what it is and choose instead to cultivate heavenly loves and a heavenly identity.

This is the amazing thing about the Lord's careful healing in our lives. We can start from a place where we think, act and believe that our very identity involves a hellish love but have it gradually replaced with heavenly loves. Let's use the example of gluttony.

Many of us are inclined to be too invested in the pleasure of eating. At times, we are entirely captivated by it. The Lord gave us pleasure in the sense of taste but our identity should not be wrapped up in eating. So the Lord needs to free us from this self-centered idea about who we are and what we love. We're taught that, "when a person sees [evil] and knows what sin is, he is able, if he implores the Lord's help, to cease willing it, to shun it, and afterwards to act against it" (DP 278; cf. 281.3).

In other words a person can be taken from having an inordinate lust for eating to gradually separate from that idea of self and eventually come to oppose gluttony to the point of acting against it and feeling an aversion to the disorder. Whether the issue is around drinking, sex, drugs, thrill, laziness or any number of other hedonistic loves, the Lord can offer us this miraculous change of heart. He can take a person driven crazy by demons, living naked in a tomb; and bring him back to his right mind, able to contribute to society and enjoy the real, heavenly pleasures of serving other people.

*Further Reading:* Mark 5.1-20; AC 1740 [2,3]

Rev. Brian Smith

## **From the Pastor**

Allow me to remind you that the Council of the Clergy is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the process leading to the selection of a new Executive Bishop to take office in 2014 when Bishop Kline intends to retire. According to the plan approved by the Clergy at the 2010 meetings, each pastor of a society, group, or circle is to actively seek counsel from their congregation about the qualities you would like to see in the next Executive Bishop so that we enter the next stage of the process in June 2011 with your counsel in mind. Accordingly, I invite you to speak to me, to Coleman, or to Brian and give us your honest thoughts about what kind of qualities you would like our next Bishop to have.

I meet with Coleman and Brian every week for mutual support, to make sure that no one's falling down on the job, and to brainstorm about ways of better meeting the needs of the membership. We've noticed that the children really enjoy being able to light the candles at the beginning of the Contemporary service. We've also noticed that in a few of the other churches we visit, there is a table between the front pew and the chancel with an assortment of unlit candles. This is so that parents can bring their children to the front before the service begins and light a candle or two before going back to their seats. We'd like to offer this as a feature of every service, starting with the regular service on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know how this works for you.

Over the last few years, several different Pastor's Councils have suggested that we should move the offertory up earlier in the service so that the children can see their offerings being taken up to the Lord. I have even promised to do that more often, but sadly the weight of habit has kept me from making the change. Since both Coleman and Brian think we ought to do things that way too, don't be surprised to see it happening more often.

With the start of the new year it might be a good time to consider joining the Arcana class. It meets every other week on a Thursday morning in the Lobby. We go at an easy pace and there are lots of questions and discussion. It sounds really intellectual, but it's not. We talk about whatever the reading inspires. The next meeting is on January 6th at 10:00 AM in the Lobby, and we'd be glad to have you join us.

If a morning class doesn't suit your needs, there are groups that meet in the evening, and I would be happy to help you set up a new group if there's interest. Please speak to me about your needs.

Are there things that you think ought to be discussed at Pastor's Council? Please contact a member of the Council before the next meeting. It's scheduled for Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

As this is being written we are still in the midst of the Christmas season. I'll speak more to this next month, but for now let me say thanks to the many people who worked on the Tableaux (especially Jerry Jutras for the lights, Brian Smith for being the clergy representative, and Fran Raymond for the vision and direction), or made snacks, or who sang in a choir, or decorated the church – or any of the many things that go into making the Christmas season so pleasant.

Don't forget the annual "Soup and Bread" open house at the manse, Saturday, January 1, from noon to 4:00 PM. Homemade soup! Homemade bread! Friends and conversation! Looking ahead, also don't forget the Swedenborg's Birthday Banquet on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. I have invited Nathan Cole to be the speaker, and he accepted! On the Sunday following, we will have a Swedenborg's Birthday Program for the children, starting at noon.

## **Development Announcements**

In order to support and harmonize with efforts underway across the Church and Academy to meet economic challenges head on, particularly in the areas of administrative overheads, the Development office is reorganizing and streamlining operations to improve efficiencies and reduce costs. Where position eliminations occur, it is important to note that these are not reflections on the amazing quality of work and job performances of the individuals or their value to the organization; they are the result of efforts to have the investment in administrative staff properly reflect current revenue and expense challenges.

As of January 28th, 2010 the Ambassador Program will be discontinued. From its inception, the Ambassador Program's primary purpose was to create channels of open two-way communication across the Church and Academy. Good communication is a loop involving output, reception and return. While we have made good strides in some areas, in many others we are still critically challenged. The Ambassador program has been intensely engaged in the output side of this communication. Try as we might, we have been unable to consistently inspire the return side of the loop. This has left the program misunderstood and under valued by many. At a time when spending needs to be curbed, discontinuing a program that is not wholeheartedly embraced and repurposing the funds back into both organizations is prudent.

Kaye Lermite has served this program as Director of Relations and Support with passion, commitment and dignity. She worked tirelessly to champion the cause of open, healthy two way communication, frequently citing our faith teachings on marriage as the model to be followed to achieve this end. She will be remembered for her passion, her love of the Church and Academy, and her unwavering conviction to the Core Purpose in all we do. I am deeply indebted to Kaye for her loving support and faithful service.

Effective December 31, 2010, Communications will be undergoing a significant reorganization. The number of publications will be reduced and the nature of each will be undergoing major changes to best utilize technology and media options to eliminate redundancies and cost. To reflect these changes, the position of Director of Communications will be eliminated. The important work of the communications function must go forward, but will do so in different ways in the future. Details of how this will proceed will be forthcoming as other related process changes within the development structure become clear in an integrated plan.

Bruce Henderson has served faithfully and tirelessly both as Director of Communications and Development at various times over the past 12 years. He is well known and respected for his deep and abiding love of the Church and Academy. For many, as the founding editor of Lion's Pride and Around the New Church, Bruce is the voice of these institutions, and, particularly in these times of change and challenge, his charitable, optimistic and beautifully written articles have inspired many. Bruce is our senior statesman. There can be no finer role model of gentle strength, compassion, and dignified purpose than Bruce. He has been a mentor to me and I

will always be grateful for his leadership and engagement in the work of this department. Our loss will soon be the Church's gain. Watch for Bishop Kline's announcement of Bruce's transfer to part time work in the service of the General Church.

Please join me in expressing deep gratitude to Kaye and Bruce for their exemplary service and wishing them well in the future.

Wayne M Parker

## **News Notes**

### **Sunday School News**

We had a great wrap-up party for our Journey Program. The adults had a potluck lunch and all the kids had pizza and cupcakes. Unfortunately it rained so we could not play outside, but we still had lots of fun making a banner to go downstairs in the hall and watching a Veggie Tales movie.

Starting Nov. 28th we began our Christmas activities. Some of our preschool friends joined us to help with the decorations. Sunday School made angels and pictures for the hall, JOY did a great job putting up the window lights for the lobby, and everyone helped set up the manger scene outside the chapel. The angels flying overhead were made two years ago by the children. Dec. 5th we started working on our new Christmas banner, it will hopefully be on display in the stairwell by Dec. 19th.

Jan. 30th will be our children's Swedenborg banquet. It will begin at 12:00 and end at 1:30. It is very important that the cooks know exact numbers so they can buy food for everyone, so RSVP as soon as possible to me.

Katherine Jutras

Sunday School Director

## **Nativity Scene**

This is the last year we will use the big box to hold the nativity scene. If anyone would like to claim it, please let me know by January the 7<sup>th</sup> or I will throw it out.

Katherine Jutras 647-346-6644 or [Katherine.Jutras@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:Katherine.Jutras@olivetnewchurch.org)

**[www.newchurchperspective.com](http://www.newchurchperspective.com)**

Subscribe to receive weekly articles emailed to you about a wide range of topics around spirituality and religion. You are also warmly encouraged to submit an article. If you have something on your mind, NewChurchPerspective.com may be the place to share it.

## **New Year's Day Open House**

Please come and welcome in the new year by joining us at the manse for soup, bread and good cheer on January 1, 2010, noon until about 4 pm. All ages welcome!

## **New Church Life Magazine**

After consultation with Consistory, I am happy to announce a new team of editors for the official organ of the General Church, New Church Life magazine. The Rev. Walter Orthwein has agreed to become the spiritual editor and Mr. Bruce Henderson has agreed to be the managing editor. Both Walter and Bruce have backgrounds in journalism as well as a keen understanding and love of the doctrines. I look forward to a bright continued future for this important part of our church.

I wish to thank the Rev. Erik E. Sandstorm for all of his hard work and dedication as editor over the past three years. He has kept the fire going and served this use with a passion for the Heavenly Doctrines and their application to the life of the church.

Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline.



## **Pre-Register for next year!**

Reserve your child's place at Olivet New Church School for next year! Pick up your pre-registration form from the office today. For inquiries please visit or call the school at 416-239-3054.

We have brochures available around the school you can pick up if you know anyone who might be interested or you can direct them to the website [www.olivetnewchurch.org/school](http://www.olivetnewchurch.org/school).

## **News from Charter Day 2010**

This year's Charter Day weekend included three exceptional presentations – by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Rose at the Friday morning Cathedral service, (Founded on the Rock); by Dr. Kristin King, Interim President of Bryn Athyn College at the Theta Alpha luncheon (Bryn Athyn College Education), and Theological School student Calvin Odhner at the Saturday banquet, (The Art of Letting Go).

Each was a gem. Each was memorable and will not be forgotten. All of these outstanding addresses have been posted at [www.ourownacademy.org](http://www.ourownacademy.org) and can be heard at [www.newchurchaudio.org](http://www.newchurchaudio.org).

Distinguished Alumni: Each year the Girls and Boys Schools honour Distinguished Alumni who speak to the seniors about the influence of their Academy education on their life success. These are always inspiring and touching presentations. This year's Distinguished Alumni, honored at the banquet, were:

- Karin A. Childs, Oak Arbor (GS '80, BAC '81)
- Cindy T. Edmonds, Glenview (GS '70, BAC BS '75)
- Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Bryn Athyn (BS '50, BAC BS '54)

- W. Bergen Jungé, Southern California (BS '70, BAC AA '73)

Also honoured at the banquet as the Outstanding Volunteer for 2010 was Hayley S. Gunther – who honoured those who taught her to volunteer and give back, her parents Barb and Ralph Synnestvedt of Glenview.

Corporation: At the annual meeting of the Academy Corporation on Friday morning, bylaws changes were unanimously approved which make the President of the College an ex officio member of the Academy Board and Corporation. This is a significant recognition of the role of the President, and is important for our continuing accreditation. The Corporation extended a standing ovation to Interim President Kristin King in appreciation for the work she is doing with the College.

The following Corporation members were re-elected to six-year terms: Amy Buick, Dirk Jungé, Susan McGrath, Clark Pitcairn, James Roscoe, Edward Simons, Stewart Smith and Mara Wrinkle.

Elected as new members of the Corporation were: Eileen Glenn, Lael Odhner, Peer Snoep and Huard Smith.

Declining renomination and thanked for their past service were: Glenn Heilman, Emily Jane Lemole, Blake Messman, Blake Synnestvedt and Dawn Wadsworth.

Bruce Henderson: Director of Communications

## **Address Change**

*Details are available in the printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox.*

# January 2011

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6 (416) 239-3054

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
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<i>2</i> BDS 10:30 AM. Informal Service  ONCS Christ...	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:00 PM Closed AA	<i>5</i> 5:00 PM High Schoolers	<i>6</i> 10:00 AM Arcana Reading Group 8:30 PM Open AA	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>																																																																																																			
<i>9</i> CSG 10:30 AM. Traditional Service	<i>10</i> 7:35 PM Board of Directors	<i>11</i> 7:00 PM Closed AA	<i>12</i> BDS 5:30 PM High Schoolers 6:30 PM Supper 7:30 PM Doctrinal Class	<i>13</i> 8:30 PM Open AA	<i>14</i> 7:00 PM. Forward Sons Dinner & Program	<i>15</i>																																																																																																			
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Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School	JOY	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
Jan 2	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	C. Sheldon	F. Raymond			R. & G. Parker		G. Pulpan
Jan 9	P. Bailey	I. Asplundh	Anika Nater	Barb H	K. Jutras	J & N Wyncoll		R. Schnarr
Jan 16	S. Cho	L. Braam	Anika Nater	K. Jutras	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	L. Holmes	J. Jorgenson	R. Schnarr
Jan 23	S. Horigan	A. Gatti	Anika Nater	K. Jutras	S. Gatti	Gatti's	A. Schnarr	R. Schnarr
Jan 30	J. Reid	J. Parker	Anika Nater	K. Jutras	Gabe Pulpan	D. & M. Starkey		R. Schnarr
Feb 6	P. Horigan	L. Braam	F. Raymond			Broderick-Horigan		G. Pulpan

## Duty Roster

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
Jan 12	Gillian Parker & Gabriele Pulpan	Caroline Horigan and Stuart Evans
Jan 16 Potluck Lunch	Janine Smith & Karen Cooper	Volunteers
Jan 29 Swedenborg Banquet	Linda Holmes, Gillian Parker, Barb Horigan and Annalisa Gatti	Annalisa Gatti, Jordan Reid and Caroline Horigan
Jan 30 Children's Swedenborg Luncheon	Naomi Reid, Kerstin Okubo, Katherine Jutras	Cooks

## December Anniversaries

*Details are available in the printed and electronically emailed Chatterbox.*

*"The conjugal union of one man with one wife is the precious jewel of human life and the repository of Christian Religion." CL 444*

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Etobicoke, ON, M9B 1Z6 .....	416-239-3054
Olivet Church e-mail address: <a href="mailto:contact@olivetnewchurch.org">contact@olivetnewchurch.org</a> .....	FAX 416-239-4935
Pastor, Rev. Jim Cooper, home.....	416-236-0841
Olivet New Church School Principal, Rev. Jim Cooper.....	416-239-3054
Chatterbox Editor, Claire Sheldon.....	647-203-5875
Chatterbox Mailings, Ann Barber.....	416-622-4138
Visiting Team for those sick or "shut in", Doris McDonald.....	416-622-5424
Visitors to Olivet, Mieke Braam.....	416-232-1476
Rides to Church, Karen Cooper.....	416-236-0841