

The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

The Precursor

Volume 27, Number 1

July-August 2006

Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshipping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

Announcements

Missing: Since the Swedenborg Banquet last January, we have not been able to find a small tablecloth used as the centerpiece on the serving table. It was decorated with figures dressed in native costumes of the different regions in Sweden. I would really like to have it back since it was given me by Eddo Weiss Posthuma and has happy memories for me. Also still missing is the church's large, ivory, polyester tablecloth. It would be nice to have it returned also.

Gabrielle

Don't Miss: Our delayed New Church Day Banquet on July 30th! Details on page 3.

News from Academy: Transcriptions of speeches given at the 2006 commencements of the Academy Secondary Schools, Bryn Athyn College and Academy Theological School are posted on the Alumni Website: www.ancalumni.org. Links on the site's front page will carry you to each speech.

From The Word —

“The reason one’s country is more the neighbor than one’s community is that it is composed of a number of communities, so that love directed towards it is wider and higher. Moreover, loving one’s country is loving the well-being of the people. One’s country is the neighbor because it is a kind of parent; it is where one was born; it has fed and feeds one; it has protected and protects one from injury. One should do good to the country one loves according to its needs, some of which are natural, some spiritual. Natural needs are concerned with its secular life and order, spiritual ones with its spiritual life and order.

“There is a law engraved on the hearts of men that one’s country should be loved, not as a person loves himself, but more than oneself. This law commands, and this is what every righteous man declares, that if an enemy, or any other danger threatens one’s country with destruction, it is a noble act to die in its defense, and a soldier should take pride in shedding his blood for it. People say this because one’s country ought to be loved that dearly. It needs to be known that those who love their country and do good to it as the result of their good will, after death love the Lord’s kingdom, since this is then their country; and those who love the Lord’s kingdom love the Lord, because the Lord is all in all to His kingdom.”

True Christian Religion n.414

FROM OUR PASTOR —

Are you familiar with the last stanza of the “Star Spangled Banner”? Here it is:

Oh! thus be it e’er, when free men shall stand / Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation! / Blest with vict’ry and peace, may the heav’n-rescued land / Praise the Power that hath made / and preserved us a nation. / Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just, / And this be our motto: “In God is our trust.” / And the star-spangled banner forever shall wave / O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

What makes this powerful is that it calls to mind the basic premises of a good, and even spiritually based, civil life: freedom, home, peace, praise of God, trust in God, and bravery in the face of attack upon these principles. Our deepest desires as humans are all brought to the foreground. And they echo what we have learned from the Word about loving our country as our neighbor, and the sure hope in the perfection of the Lord’s kingdom, to which we all aspire.

I have as many complaints about the various governments in our country, from Township to Federal, as anyone. Despite this, perhaps just like you, I know that high regard for the

institution and respect for its officials is necessary for the general good. And yet I too find myself disappointed, frustrated and even angry at government institutions at times. I want to pay attention to the source of my feelings, and the results of my expression of them. I want to seek to rise above the circumstances, and live by spiritual principles, such that all that I say and do will have a positive effect in my life.

I know from the Word that discovering and implementing a deep regard for the Lord’s kingdom will lead me to a new state of being, in which I can actually make a positive contribution to the spiritual and natural health of my country. I look forward to learning more and more of those principles, and the skills that go with them.

Perhaps I’ll start with the jokes I make and that I laugh at. Perhaps it will be eliminating the complaining I do that is mere whining. Perhaps I will become politically active for a person or an issue. Perhaps I will stop arguing. In any case, the point is to live from a higher, spiritual principle, and seek to teach others by my words and actions how to love my country in preparation for loving the Lord’s kingdom.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Coming to the Glendale New Church September 2006

We're looking forward to our first Spiritual Growth Campaign. The theme of our spiritual growth campaign is Rise Above It—Spiritual Growth through the Ten Commandments. We'll be kicking off our campaign on September 17th and will continue with our focus on the Ten Commandments through November 19th.

The campaign is an opportunity to come together as a congregation and reach out to our community. A campaign has three core elements: 1) Sunday worship centered on a theme; 2) small group participation and 3) daily reading.

People who have participated in other spiritual growth campaigns say the following:

"During the campaign I gained an increased awareness of who I am, what I do, and that I am here for."

"I have more focus and more intention to involve God in my day to day relations and actions. I have renewed my feeling that the New Church is the right place for me."

"I've thought a lot more on how to be good and how to best live my life."

"I'm bringing God into my life more frequently—actually on a daily basis. I've downloaded a reading guide and am reading the Word on a daily basis."

"I feel more love for those around me, especially the ones I got to know better in my small group. Each person is so special and unique and learning more about their experiences/thoughts, etc... I could relate, understand and love them more."

"My Small Group deepened my relationship with the church; I felt tremendously supported; I really felt the Lord's presence with how freely we shared and understood."

"I met a great group of people in my small group. I realized that there was a reason in my life for each one of us to come together. This group alone was the most valuable part

of the campaign for me."

"During the campaign I became more comfortable with my relationship with God. My anxiety about sharing my spiritual side in a group reduced. I feel more alive/present—less burdened. I have affirmed my commitment to New Church teachings."

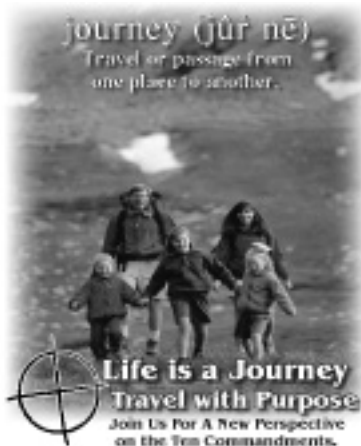
This campaign utilizes the book Rise Above It: Spiritual Development Through the Ten Commandments by Ray and Star Silverman. The book takes the Ten Commandments and relates them to daily life. The book is strongly grounded in New Church teachings while also bringing in complementary teachings from different major world religions. It is a book filled with heart, depth and personal application.

During the campaign we have the opportunity to commit to strengthening our spiritual life. To commit to coming to church for the 10 weeks of the campaign, to commit to being involved in a weekly small group and to commit to daily readings from the Rise Above It book and from the Word.

It is an exciting opportunity to experience the power of our whole community coming together to work on really following Ten Commandments, on all levels, in our lives. Each of us

will find new dimensions of each commandment that we can work on and that will help us to be healthier, happier people. As the Lord tells us, "If you want to enter life, keep My commandments." Congregations in Tucson, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Sarver, Ivyland and Bryn Athyn are also implementing this spiritual growth effort. Each of these communities (together with ours!) will be advertising this program to the community and personally inviting friends to join us in this effort.

Please join us starting September 17th and spend the next ten weeks working on our spiritual lives together.



Young Adult Connection Retreats

A few weeks ago, 15 young adults came together for another weekend, the 5th one, sponsored by the Young Adult Connection. We met at the beautiful home of Drs. Neil and Soni Werner in the Pocono Mountains of northern Pennsylvania. The theme of the weekend was Leading an Inspired Life. We found inspiration in play, sharing personal stories, worship, teamwork and conversation. We cooked our meals together, played in the water (swimming, sailing and canoeing), put together a talent show and even saw one of the neighborhood bears. Check out our website for pictures and updates from this inspiring weekend.

Our next retreat is planned for February 16-19, 2007 in the spectacular mountains of Estes Park, Colorado (half hour from Boulder). The theme for this upcoming retreat is The Still Small Voice. Call or email us for a brochure with more details.

These events are fully self-supporting through the registration fee.

Joanne Kiel

www.newchurchyoungadults.org

Joanne.Kiel@newchurch.org

267-502-4931

A Day For Men: Saturday, August 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Acquire tools for living powerfully and responsibly, with honor and integrity.

Come to communicate your passions and goals; to be blessed and challenged; to listen to the wisdom that others bring.

Anatomically, if you fit the description, you are invited!

Expand your experience of masculinity, deepen your knowledge of your masculinity, and advance the development of your own masculinity.

We will meet at the Stone Steps Pavilion in Mount Airy Forest (go to the Mt Airy Park entrance at 5083 Colerain Ave, then follow the signs)

This event is about creating a sense of community and having men share wisdom about what it takes to live lives of joy, integrity, and balance. We will spend seven hours teaching, learning, drumming, laughing, dancing, sharing, and eating heartily.



Our experience of the first Day For Men last year, we discovered that this is not a "wounded man," personal growth work shop. Men don't come because there is anything "wrong" with them. It is a day to be with men and talk about men, what we struggle with, what we're good at, where we're challenged, what our gold is and what our shadows are. And it is accomplished because we put aside any attitude of judgment of men and their beliefs, social status, wealth, sexual orientation, etc. It will be a life-affirming and glorious day!

Testimony from the first Day For Men: "Being with all of you men brings up father hunger in me."

"It couldn't have been anything other than a great day. I got to spend the whole day with my dad."

This will be the second event organized by The Cincinnati Men's Gathering. If you would like to support such efforts, please check out the web site and join!
www.cincinnatiemensgathering.org

New Church Day Family Pot-Luck Sunday, July 30

You are invited to a Red and White theme pot-luck immediately after church, in the meeting room, on Sunday, July 30. Red and white are the colors of the New Church, representing good and truth. Wear red and white, and bring red and white foods to share. (If the weather is good, we'll carry the feast outdoors.)

The Glendale New Church will give our children their New Church Day gifts, (postponed from June Nineteenth) as well as honor them for their Sunday School work throughout the year.

The meal will feature your creative contributions: what red or white foods can you think of? When we did this before we were amazed at how many delicious and interesting meats, fruits, vegetables, and desserts are red or white.

If you are bringing any visitors with children that day, please let us know in advance, so that gifts can be provided.
 contact: Jane 937-859-4466 or 937-321-7242 or janemclair@earthlink.net

Congratulations to Our Students!

We would like to extend belated congratulations to the students of all ages in our community. Christian received the one math award for his grade (6th) and also received top marks in the President's Achievement Tests. John received an academic award for his work during his junior year of high school. Geneva made the Academy of the New Church Girls' School Achievement List for her work during the fourth quarter of her junior year of high school. Nilson made the Academy of the New Church Boys' School Achievement List for his work during the fourth quarter of his senior year of high school.

Worship Every Sunday at 11:00 AM

Everyone is cordially invited to join our Worship Service every Sunday at 11:00 AM. Babysitting and a children's program are available.

Please call the church for directions, as well as details on other services, classes, and events.

Some Summer Entertainment:

If you can't tie good knots, tie plenty of them. -Yachtsman's Credo

My sources are unreliable, but their information is fascinating. -Ashleigh Brilliant

The best defense against logic is ignorance. -Unknown

Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes.

-Antisthenes

Pound for pound, the amoeba is the most vicious animal on earth. -Unknown

When people tell you how young you look, they are also telling you how old you are.

-Cary Grant

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. -Abraham Lincoln

The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Avenue
Glendale, OH 45246

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Echols

Office: (513) 772-1478

Home: (513) 523-0005

Cell: (513) 284-1236

email: jcechols@newchurch-cincy.org

Editor:

Abigail R. Echols

email: echolsar@muohio.edu

*We're on the
web!*

www.newchurch-cincy.org