



The Glendale New Church
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The Precursor

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From The Word —

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.” (Revelation 21:22, 23)

“A person who has faith in the Lord and charity towards the neighbor is a church on a small scale. The church on the large scale is composed of people like this. It is a remarkable fact that every angel, no matter how he turns his body and face, sees the Lord in front of him. For the Lord is the sun of the heaven of angels, and appears before their eyes, when they meditate on spiritual matters. It is much the same with a person in the world who has the church in him as regards his spiritual sight. But because his spiritual sight is obscured by his natural sight, and the remaining senses endorse this, being directed towards bodily and worldly matters, he remains in ignorance of this condition of his spirit. This way of looking at the Lord, however one turns, is due to the fact that every truth, from which wisdom and faith arise, and every kind of good, which leads to love and charity, come from the Lord, and they are the Lord's with him. As a result every single truth of wisdom is as it were a mirror in which the Lord is seen, and every kind of good which is part of love is an image of the Lord. That is the origin of this remarkable fact. (True Christian Religion n.767)

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 Church Tablecloth:

One of the of blue tablecloths used for church banquets has gone missing. Perhaps someone took it home to wash it? Or maybe put it away somewhere at the church? If anyone knows its whereabouts please talk to Gabrielle. Thank you!

Don't forget the New Church Day Barbeque on June 17th!

The evening will start with dinner at the church and end with a trip to hear a barber shop concert. Call Pastor Clark for details.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the seven angel windows. See page 3 for details.

Upcoming Senate Decision about a U.S. Constitutional Marriage Amendment—see page 3 for details.

Rise Above It Campaign

Gillian and Clark will be traveling to Colorado on the 26th and 27th to receive training that will kick off our campaign.

FROM OUR PASTOR —

The second coming of the Lord, which is the central event we celebrate as the birthday of the church, brings blessing to multiple levels of our life. On the surface the second coming of the Lord brings the peace and security of the presence of His love and truth. Fear of failure, condemnation or even death no longer runs our life, determining our action and speech. We talk of our future with a confidence born of our internalized knowing that we live forever. We are secure in the assurance that no matter what happens in the circumstances of our life, our eternal welfare is being cared for by the One who loves us. Instead of winning arguments, enforcing our will, or complaining about circumstances, we are able to see the Lord's love in others, assured that He is leading them to heaven according to a perfect plan. Thus our regulation of our behavior is strengthened by means given to us through His second coming.

On a deeper level, when we think about the

Lord, a gentle and bright light spreads to the edges of our mind. When we think about ourselves, we recognize our strengths and weaknesses and are hopeful for clearer vision of spiritual realities. When we think about someone else, we consider their unique talents, the blessing their gifts are to the world, and the use the Lord is giving them to serve. Thus our thinking is a response to the presence of the light of the Lord's truth shining into our minds, opened by the Lord at His second coming and filled with a knowledge of the spiritual meaning of His Word.

On this same level of our life, the second coming has given us a new access to our feelings. Anger, joy, grief, anxiety, gladness, compassion, worry and bliss are some of the feelings in a full constellation of emotions. The spiritual freedom we enjoy allows us to examine, experience, and choose to relish or avoid feelings. We give less and less weight to feelings of ill will and more to

From Our Pastor continued...

commiseration. We feel more like our fellow human beings, and less alienated. The warmth of the Lord's love is flowing in a free and powerful force for good. Thus our old will can be let go in favor of the new desire for good available because of the second coming.

Seem impossible? Perhaps you can alter your thinking to match the repeated teachings such as those of TCR 767. Turn your face to the Lord, the sun of heaven, which is rising into view. Feel the warmth of His love and inspect your life in the light of His truth. This is extremely difficult to do in many of life's circumstances. And yet it is clearly the task of our life. With the Lord, this coming *is* possible. We each must make the effort and give the attention necessary

to discover how to participate

We can each, and all of us together, bring this light and warmth to the world. We each need the support of each other, and we each have support to give. Our support consists of what we do, think, feel and how we respond to inflowing love from the Lord. Yes, it is the task of our life, it is hard work and it is long term. Yes, we are being asked to change, to give up the old and familiar ways of being. Yes, this is risky. Let us remain encouraged by the sure knowledge that this work is the way the Lord brings the New Jerusalem to the earth, with its light, living waters and healing leaves. Let us pray for the necessary strength, courage and wisdom to successfully cooperate with the Lord.

Teaching Old Dogma with a New Church Attitude

By Max

Heaven is for everyone. Heaven is a concept that can be applied to anything, any perspective, any any, etc. Heaven is wherever connections extend without bounds. The process of extending our heavenly perception is somewhat simple. When we expose and tame our self-centeredness, the Lord quietly regenerates our soul and our conscious connections are revealed.

For instance, when I read the Writings, I sometimes walk away with an interesting theory that might lead me to think that I finally understand Heaven. I might proceed to box all my thoughtful connections into this theory. This could be a self-centered perspective that I might preach with some hope of controlling my spiritual space. This self-centered perspective will eventually block me from my heavenly community. This self-centered dogma can be renewed by the Lord through a process of self-examination. Self examination may ask, "Am I seeking to control or to



connect?" Old Dogma is about control. A New Church attitude is about seeking renewed connections. Our process toward Heaven involves discovering and taming dysfunctional dogma with a New Church attitude so that the Lord can reveal an even greater heavenly community of connections.

In order to illustrate how this might work in the long term, I have been thinking about evolutionary theory. But I am less interested in evolutionary explanations of our ancestral past. I am more interested in how my future heaven will evolve. But, in some correspondential fashion, natural evolutionary theories might shed light on spiritual evolution. My spiritual evolution may be modeled

by natural evolutionary processes. My eternal spiritual discoveries may evolve with the creation of new spiritual sensors that I cannot even imagine. In a symbolic sense, my color-blind spirit will evolve with new color sensors that will guide me to even more elaborate sensations. Simply put, its about "old dogs *discovering* new tricks."

While natural eyes evolved in accordance to natural light, I find it interesting to contemplate the notion of spiritual light and the corresponding spiritual eyes that I hope to discover.

[End of Part I. This theme will also evolve by seeking connections between natural and spiritual light.]

A PBS television series on evolution contained a segment on the evolution of vision: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/01/1/1_011_01.html

[Graphic Reference: <http://www.spiritualityhealth.com/shimages/connections.jpg>]

The Importance of Energy: by Margie

I have been thinking a lot about energy expenditure. With a low balance in my "energy bank," I was looking for some doctrinal guidance about how to expend what resources I have. First of all, I acknowledge that "I" don't "have" any; what is in my bank is a gift from the Lord. Searching for words to guide my choices, I have been fed by these words: "To be efficient is a matter of religion, for it is a part of useful life; it is the desire of the one who truly loves his neighbor, and who wishes to contribute his largest measure to the welfare of the community. ...True efficiency demands, in addition to ability and energy, both wise judgment and patient determination." (From "Efficiency" in Words of Life by Rev. Paul Sperry).

SAGA OF SEVEN TIFFANY CHURCH WINDOWS BEGAN IN CINCINNATI

Come hear the story of the discovery and restoration of seven Tiffany “Angel” windows, removed from their local church home in 1964, when they were crated and moved to Pennsylvania, and were recently rediscovered and restored.

When I-71 was punched through Cincinnati in the early 1960’s one local casualty was the Church of the New Jerusalem on the corner of Oak Avenue and Winslow Street in Cincinnati. This Swedenborgian church boasted a rare treasure in the form of seven “Angels”—Church windows designed by famed Louis Comfort Tiffany in the late 1890’s at the zenith of his unique career in stained glass artistry. The windows faded from view when the church was demolished for construction of the highway.

Forty years later, Rev. Susannah Currie, serving the Swedenborgian Church at the Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester, PA, was removing items from an old barn on the Center’s rural property when she came across seven crates more than eight feet tall. The contents dazzled her—she had re-discovered the long-forgotten Tiffany windows.



Reverend Currie will visit Cincinnati on June 23rd and 24th to retell the story of her discovery, and of Temenos’ efforts to restore the windows, and their plan for a multi-media project, *In Company with Angels*, through which many will experience the miracle of Tiffany’s artistry, and which will be exhibited in museums starting in 2007. An interactive website (www.incompanywithangels.org) and a contemplative short film are also being developed.

Readers of the Precursor are invited to two events. The first is Friday, June 23rd at the New Church of Montgomery, from 7 to 9 PM. Please call John Billings for information and directions (513 489 9572). The second event is on Saturday, June 24th, at the Glendale New Church, from noon to 2PM. Both will have the same program, including a video about Tiffany, a powerpoint presentation by Rev. Currie, a recounting of a bit of the history of the New Church in Cincinnati and a short talk about the internal sense of the message to the seven angels in Revelation.

If you would like to help host either event, please call Pastor Clark (772 1478).

Marriage Amendment to go before U.S. Senate — Contributed by Margie

As it is scheduled now, on June 7th the U.S. Senate will vote on the Marriage Protection Amendment to the Constitution. It takes 67 votes in the Senate to send the amendment to the State legislatures. If passed, this will change the actual Constitution of the United States, and is not to be confused with the STATE marriage protection amendment Ohioans already passed; this one is at the FEDERAL level. The Marriage Protection Amendment states that “Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution nor the constitution of any state shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.” For more information, including the name of your own U.S. Senator, go to citizenlink.org, then click on Marriage Protection Amendment Action Center.

Changes in the Academy Board of Trustees

The Academy of the New Church expresses gratitude and deep appreciation to B. Reade Genzlinger, member of the Academy Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2006. Reade has served on the Academy Budget, Audit, and Fees committees now rolled into the Finance Committee which he chairs.

We thank him for the love and faithful dedication that he has shown to the Academy through his conscientious work on the Board. We are grateful that he will continue giving us his services on the Finance Committee as a member.

The Academy welcomes new members, T. Dudley Davis and John C. King, to the Board of Trustees, elected on May 6, 2006. Carl Asplundh, Jill Brickman, Wayne Parker and Phillip Zuber were re-elected to the Board. Fred Fiedler was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Board and Ronald McQueen was re-elected as Secretary of the Academy Corporation and Board.

Prescott A. Rogers, President
www.academyofthenewchurch.org
www.ancalumni.org

Church Renovation Update

Church renovations are progressing smoothly. In July, the roof of the church will be repainted. On top of this, FAST Contractors is receiving bids for the work we will have done on the electrical and the foundation of the church. The process continues, hopefully all quickly and easily.

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.

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark...

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

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*We're on the
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