

The Lighthouse



August/September 2015

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Church Office: 9888 2850

**While generally unattended, messages can be left
which are regularly checked and responded to.**

Joint Worship	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116
Service Organisers:	Karl Robinson	9725 1891

Secretary:	Kim Bentley	9885 6932
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Treasurer:	Karl Robinson	9725 1891
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Ballarat and District Circle Leaders:	Len and Judy Robinson	5331 5638
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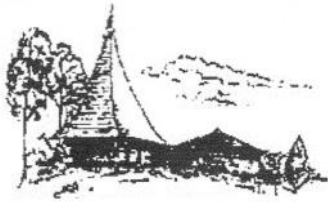
**Books by Emanuel Swedenborg and about the
spiritual teachings he wrote, together with associated CDs
& DVDs, are available for purchase and free borrowing at
the Church at Mt. Waverley and in Ballarat.
Please contact Neville Jarvis or Judy Robinson for details.**

**If you are in need of pastoral assistance or hear of anyone who is,
please contact Marika Sivak by phone on (03) 9806 0059**

Website: www.newchurch.net.au

THE NEW CHURCH IN VICTORIA

426 - 434 High Street Road, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149



Newsletter

August/September 2015

The New Church is a Christian-based approach to spiritual growth, personal responsibility and choice, focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ as God, on the spiritual understanding of the Bible, on human immortality and free will, and on the life of true religion being one of mutual love and useful living.



He calms the storm so that its waves are still refers to temptations and liberation from them; the storm and the raising of the waves sea signify temptations, because spiritual temptations are caused by falsities rushing into the thoughts, from which arise pains of conscience and grief of mind and soul (Apocalypse

Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107: 28 - 31

The Storm Stilled

While watching a series on television showing Scottish fishing boats and what the fishermen have to go through to bring in the fish for our tables, I wondered why anyone would choose such a way of making a living. I'd never really thought before about what a physically demanding and uncomfortable job it is at the best of times – and really dangerous in storm conditions. My own experience of sailing has been pretty limited – sometimes exhilarating and sometimes making me feel very ill indeed – but I've never experienced a big storm at sea.



Having watched those television programmes, it was easier for me, when reading the passage in Matthew, to imagine how frightened the disciples must have felt. How puzzled and upset that the Lord could be asleep while they were desperately battling the elements, and how amazed and awed when He calmed the storm.

But on the mental/spiritual plane, isn't this what we all experience at some time in our lives? We've made the decision that we want to follow the Lord and confidently get into the boat after Him – ready to sail through life putting into practice the truths we have learned from his Word. We believe that the knowledge of these spiritual and natural truths in the sea of our memory will keep us calmly afloat. Then the old habits, attitudes, and falsities rise up from the depths of our unconscious and start battering us. We begin to doubt, question – even deny – the truths we have learnt from the Lord. Our old ideas begin to wash over us in waves, and feelings of doubt, despair, envy, anger or some other negative emotion threaten to drown us. The teachings we've learnt seem empty and useless and unable to withstand the winds which threaten our little boat. We feel overwhelmed and even the Lord seems inaccessible and unaware of the tempest we're enduring – He's asleep.

But then we wake Him up, that is, turn away from our selfish and worldly concerns and put our trust in Him to enlighten and lead us, and He asks what we are afraid of and why we lost faith in His truths. He rises up, confirms in us those goods and truths we have accepted, rebukes the wind and waves, and calm is restored; we emerge from the storms of temptation into calm waters and can sail on with renewed joy and confidence in the Lord and his teachings.

I see this parable as describing a process that we all must go through, perhaps many times in our lives, in order to make the truths we have learned a part of us – not just memory knowledge and intellectual cleverness – but at the centre of our being, affecting how we relate to others and live our lives. It isn't until they've been put to the test in the maelstrom of daily living that they really begin to have meaning for us. As long as we are in the boat with the Lord and turn to Him when we get into difficulties, we will survive the tests and emerge more amazed than ever at the truth and beauty of His teachings and their relevance to our lives.

**Adapted from a British New Church Home Worship service
prepared by Marian Kidd**

Reflections on the Word

**“And His disciples came to Jesus, and awoke Him, saying,
Lord, save us; we perish.”**

Matthew 8:26

We perish! It is a cry of despair. It is a picture of experience we all suffer at one time or another. We can hardly pass through the struggle of regeneration without doing so. Our self-will must be softened.

But blessed are the uses of adversity: they drive us to Jesus. We go to Him and awake Him. Actually this is an appearance. The Lord neither slumbers nor sleeps in his care of us: it is we who were asleep. But the storm of trouble brings us to our senses. In our desperate need we cry out, “Save us: we perish.

**Prayer: *Turn us again, O God, and cause Your face to shine;
and we shall be saved.***

*We could never learn to be brave and patient if there were only
joy in the world ~ Helen Keller*

Usefulness

Emanuel Swedenborg makes the following statement in *Arcana Caelestia* or *Secrets of Heaven*: “Real worship of God consists in performing uses” Our first reaction to this quotation might be one of puzzlement – what are uses? And then we might begin to realise that what Swedenborg is talking about is the ‘things we do for others’ or our ‘usefulness’. And yet don’t we often dream of just lazing about and doing nothing? We may even feel that life in heaven might be just like that.

And yet most of us do find that there are things which we really enjoy doing and which could absorb a great deal of our time. What talents do we have? Are we good at cooking, drawing, writing, housework, repairing the car, DIY, talking, listening ... etc. But do we use these abilities just for own pleasure and satisfaction or do we use them for the benefit of others? Obviously we have to do a great deal for ourselves in order to live day by day, but do we balance that with activities that meet other people’s needs? I find that it is only possible to find the strength to be of use to others if I take sensible care of myself first. But it is important to feel that we are of use to someone else.

For a large part of our lives most of us are mainly involved in earning a living and caring for our families and through these activities we probably gain the satisfaction of a job well done and the joy of providing for others needs.

And yet at other times we may be unable to find employment or we may be unwell or on our own or retired, or we may feel useless and a burden to others.

I believe that a deep sense of peace, contentment and fulfilment comes from making others happy. It stems from loving and caring for those around us, even if, at first we do not particularly like them or enjoy what we are doing.



But it is hard for those people who are ill or disabled or lonely to feel useful. And at times they often feel a burden on those who care for them. It is often easier to give than receive, and I am full of admiration for those who can always receive love and care with a smile and words of gratitude.

Jesus summed up how we should love by saying that we should love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. And as Swedenborg advises, we should seek a deeper happiness by showing our love and worship of God in looking for ways in which we can live a life that is of use to others.

From the Spiritual Living page on the Spiritual Wisdom website:
www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk



Choose your most liked Hymns/Songs for singing at Mt. Waverley on Sunday September 20th

Please pick up a Form on the table in the Church Foyer which gives you the opportunity to list your three favourite hymn/songs in order of preference. Complete it (noting the tune name if you know it) and place in the box provided **by 6th September**. We cannot guarantee that everyone's selections will be included but it should make an enjoyable service. It will be of particular interest to see which ones appear the most!

Saturday Half-day Seminar - 26th September

The Rev. David Millar from Adelaide will be visiting Melbourne over the last weekend of September ~ please see the *Diary of Events* on page 11 for main details. David is Director of the Australian New Church College and a half-day seminar has been set down for the Saturday in the Church Hall should there be sufficient numbers interested in attending.

The provisional program is as follows:

- 11.00am Assemble with light refreshments
- 11.15am Bible Study
- 12.30pm BYO lunch. Tea & coffee provided
- 1.15pm *Cultivating an Intentionally Spiritual Practice* ~ talk and discussion
- 3.00pm Completion of Seminar



Cost will be \$20.00. If you would like to attend, please contact Neville Jarvis on 03 85559116 or email: anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au by 15th September.

Swedenborg Books, CDs/DVDs/Tapes for Buying & Free Borrowing Mt. Waverley

Items to buy and freely borrow are to be found in the Church Foyer - those for buying in the glass cabinet and those for borrowing on the open shelves. Details for buying and borrowing are provided adjacent to the items; it is an honour system.

If you would like to receive a listing of the titles available, contact Neville Jarvis (see page 2). Overtime, short summaries of the items will be added to the list and some more recent publications/editions added.

Ballarat

These are held by Judy Robinson. See page 2 for contact details.

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

Don't be afraid to cry. It will free your mind of sorrowful thoughts.
- American Indian proverb

In the hour of adversity be not without hope. For crystal rain falls from black clouds.
- Persian saying

We wander for distraction but we travel for fulfilment. - Hilaire Belloc

On this day

Search out a forgotten friend. Give a soft answer. Find the time. Laugh a little more.
- Author unknown

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.
- Helen Keller

Our chief troubles come from not being content with what we have.
- Buddha



Birthdays and Anniversaries

To all members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during August and September, we wish you a very happy and memorable celebration.

In particular, several milestone occasions will take place:

- * 23rd August when Len & Judy Robinson (Ballarat) reach 40 years of marriage;
- * 1st September when Rev. John & Mary Teed achieve 60 years of marriage with family in Jersey (UK); and
- * 10th September when Dennis Lennon hits 60 in Longwarry.

Due to a misreading of a schedule, regrettably special birthdays in June for Suzanne Cottren (40th on 2nd); Judy Robinson (60th on 4th); and Beryl Houghton (80th on 11th) were not mentioned in the last issue. We trust these important occasions were really enjoyable.

News of People

Following a broken hip in late April, Mary Teed is now able to get around without any walking aids and progressing well with continuing physio. On 25th August Rev. John and Mary head for Jersey and UK for a family wedding and holiday. Our best wishes go with them.

Alexis Jarvis has had successful cataract surgery; the process will be repeated later in the year on the other eye.

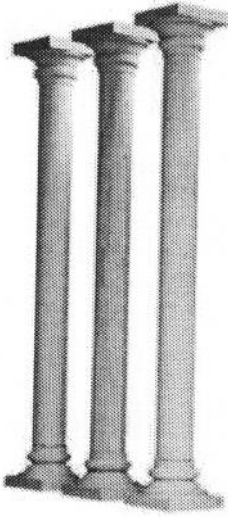
Congratulations to parents Jess and Jon Wallace on the birth of Liam Donald, and to the proud great grandparents, Rose & Karl Robinson. Also to Joy and Ted Wilkins, who yet again became great grandparents in June. Likewise to Linda & Michael Francis on the birth of Charles Michael (Charlie), brother for Harry and another grandson for Alexis & Neville Jarvis.

The visit of The New Church in Australia President, Rev. Julian Duckworth, to lead services at Mt. Waverley and Ballarat on 28th June was much appreciated as were the several home visits made and the talk to the Swedenborg Group on the Friday evening of that weekend.

It was a delight to have Clifford Phanjoo conduct our morning service at Mt. Waverley on July 12th; the heavy rain at times did not detract in any way from Clifford's gentle but strong presentation. Sadly though, over refreshments at the conclusion of the service, we had to say our fond farewells to Linda & Clifford who were to shortly return to Mauritius after two months in Melbourne. We look forward to their return soon. However, on the same Sunday, we were able to welcome Mrs Dorothy Talbot (Margaret Parker's sister) from Sydney and son John (Canberra) while on a short visit to Melbourne.

Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

	Flowers	Greeters
August		
2nd	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
9th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
16th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
23rd	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr K Bentley
30th	Mr G Scoble	Mr G Fox
September		
6th	Mrs M. Skinner	Mr J Cook
13th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
20th	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis
27th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann



THE PILLARS OF NEW CHURCH BELIEFS

Continuing a series on our beliefs in plain English by Rev. Julian Duckworth (Sydney).

This time we'll think about living a MORAL LIFE.

Let's start off with the main teaching of the New Church about this – that living morally actually begins to open us up towards living spiritually. The one helps the other.

If we are living morally – doing our best, thinking before we act, holding back on making bad choices and so on, we set the scene for us to be able to see the spiritual things about life – such as love being essential, that we will live for ever and that there is God who loves us and leads us.

It's like a child learning to read, recognising the sound of each letter to begin with. He struggles, forgets, wants to play on his computer instead yet he can get to the point where reading takes him over. He loves it! That wouldn't happen without the first part.

This teaching also brings things the other way round. When we are spiritual, with our belief in God there, we live a moral life (like we did before) but now we do it because we understand it's what God wants us to do. It becomes our intention, our evidence, as we carry out what we believe in.

This teaching is the reason why we aren't a church which advocates particular kinds of prohibitions. We're not against smoking or drinking; you don't have to give up eating meat, nor will we frown at you if you buy a scratchie. But we're not exactly in favour of some of them either! It's really up to you, with what you believe, to set your personal standards.

The Ten Commandments make a good start, especially in their expanded version where stealing is not only about embezzling but can happen when we shatter someone else's belief that helps them to live. So a moral life is also a way of living that thinks about other people.

Diary of Events for the Months of July (remainder), August and September 2015

Mt. Waverley (*All services commence at 10.30am unless advised*)

July

31st **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm

Speaker: **Paul Kiritis** (transpersonal psychologist)

Topic: *Cognitive Dreams and the Collective Unconscious*

August

2nd **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

6th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

9th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

16th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

20th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

23rd **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson

28th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm

Speaker: **Alexandra Browne-Hill** (Holistic Counsellor, Melbourne)

Topic: *Loving Intuition on the Ground Floor* (life beyond this life)

30th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

September

3rd **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

6th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

13th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

17th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

20th **Favourite Hymns Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis
(see notice on **Page 7**)

25th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm

Speaker: **Rev. David Millar** (Adelaide)

Topic: to be advised

25th **Saturday Half-day Seminar** (see notice on **Page 7**)

27th **Service of Worship** led by Rev. David Millar including the
administration of the Holy Supper.

Ballarat and District Circle

A Worship Service/Discussion Group is held on the last Sunday in the month commencing 3.30pm at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Len & Judy Robinson, 318 Fussell Street, Ballarat. Telephone 0353315638 for more information.

