

The Lighthouse



April / May 2016

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Registered Office: PO Box 2224, Mt. Waverley 3149

Telephone: 03 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:	Sophy Athan	9756 6117
		sophy_euroforcemusic
		@bigpond.com

Treasurer:	Karl Robinson	9725 1891
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Ballarat and District	Len and Judy	5331 5638
Circle Leaders:	Robinson	

**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**

***You are welcome to submit items for this Newsletter.
They should be sent to Neville & Alexis Jarvis, 15A Parkside St.,
Beaumaris, 3193 or emailed to anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au
by the 15th of the month prior to the next bi-monthly issue.***

**Websites: www.newchurch.net.au/locations/melbourne
 www.newchurch.net.au/locations/ballarat**

THE NEW CHURCH IN VICTORIA

Activity Locations

426 - 434 High Street Road, Mount Waverley, 3149

and

318 Fussell Street, Ballarat, 3350

Newsletter

April/May 2016

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.



The Lord shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and

no one shall make them afraid.

(Micah 3: 3 & 4)

Swords and spears signify falsities from evil fighting against truths from good, and truths from good against falsities from evil; ploughshares signify the goods of the spiritual person cultivated by means of truths. For a field that is tilled by the ploughshare denotes the spiritual person as to the good of life, and pruning-hooks denote truths of doctrine, because trees in gardens signify perceptions and deeper knowledges of truth.

(Swedenborg: Revelation Explained 734)

'Jay' ~ a letter from Rev. Trevor Moffat
who will be visiting us in April (see page 6)

Dear friends,

Sitting down to write for a Newsletter is always a challenge for me, the question is, "What are the readers interested in, and what might appeal to them?" Well, I guess you could argue it doesn't really matter, it is up to the person writing the article to stimulate and appeal to the readers interests in such a manner as to catch hold of their imagination. Hence the writer's role is to communicate from what might be regarded as his interest in the belief that there is a common link between the two, the writer and the reader.

Of course, the two extremes are generated by the concept of individual identity, what we might call the "I", the "self", or as the Heavenly Doctrines define as the "Proprium," that which is proper to oneself!

Now this has often led me to look at the Lord's "I am" statements recorded in John's Gospel. There are seven specific statements. So, the indication is that these represent that which is holy and complete. The importance of which we shall return to shortly.

"I am..." "the Bread of Life" (6:35,48),
"..the Light of the world" (8:12), "... the door" (10:7,9), "... the good shepherd" (10:11,14), "... the resurrection and the life" (11:25), "... the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6), "... the true vine" (15:1).



A series almost certainly suggests continuation, something leading to a conclusion. The author of John's Gospel, whoever he was, takes the reader through the highs and lows of Jesus ministry, while along the way introducing Jesus the man, Jesus the teacher, Jesus the healer, and ultimately to Jesus the visible form of the previously invisible God (Jehovah).

As John records a heated debate between Jesus and a group of Pharisees. Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly I say to you before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58). This statement can be directly linked to God identifying Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:6, 14) "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you."

It may be the case that we could ask, "What has this got to do with me (us), reading about an event which happened some 2000 or more years ago?"

This is a good question because unless we see the Scriptures as relevant to us then they may so easily be regarded as simply words of apparent history.

The Scriptures, or the Word of God, as recorded are meaningful because they relate to the Journey of Life. Here is a set of writings which inwardly reflect the outer expression of everyday life in all ages, for all peoples. This is more than a matter of faith and trust; it is a well-defined belief system which reflects an understanding based on the individual relationship with the Divine, the Lord God Jesus Christ. He is the Living God who came into this earthly plane to experience Life at its most extreme, placing Him in a position where He can relate to all people especially those who trust in Him and accept His Providence.

In getting back to the “I am “ statements and their relevance to each of us, we should see the challenge as simply learning to put the Lord first in our thinking and actions. Learning that our personal selfhood, the “I” in each of us ought to serve and not rule.

Remember the old chorus, J,O,Y; J,O,Y; J,O,Y; Jesus first, Yourself last, and Others in between.

I look forward to catching up with you all soon, *Trevor* .

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

(Psalm 37: 23-24)

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so. - Hamlet Act II

The beginning is half of every action. - Plato

Not in the clamour of the crowded street, not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng, but in ourselves are triumph and defeat. - Henry W Longfellow

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. - Eleanor Roosevelt

Even the common articles made for daily use become endowed with beauty when they are loved. - Soetsu Yanagi

Man does not live by bread alone, but by beauty and harmony, truth and goodness, work and play, affection and friendship, aspiration and worship.
- Kirby Page

Reflections on the Word

From *Daily Reading from The Word* by Reg Lang

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace but a sword. (Matthew 10:34)

Peace and the sword are two opposites. Yet how often it is said one prepares the way for the other.

But what is spoken of here is spiritual peace, and a spiritual sword. Spiritual peace cannot be on the earth, till the sword of the Lord's truth has prepared the way: till His truth has removed the falsities of self domination, and driven away peace-destroying pursuits. How can peace dwell with feverish passions and self importance? Truth must first provide a vessel in which peace can dwell.

Prayer: Hear my cry, O God; from the end of the earth will I cry to you, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

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Visit of Rev. Trevor Moffat from Perth

We very much look forward to having Rev. Trevor Moffat with us from Perth over the fourth weekend of April. Trevor, together with his wife Joy, served the Society for five years from 1986.

Specific activities over the weekend are listed in the Diary on page 11.

The **Spiritually focussed talk & discussion** commencing at 3.30pm on Saturday 23rd will be followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to mingle.

Members and friends are welcome to join Rev. Trevor Moffat for dinner at a local restaurant (own cost). Please advise Neville Jarvis (page 2) by 17th April if you wish to be included.

"Continue to love me. Aye, let us love, as God would have us love one another, and let us realise, on earth, in spirit, what Swedenborg said when he saw in his vision in heaven, that man and wife there were melted into one angel."

General William Booth

(founder of The Salvation Army in a published letter to his wife)

Harvest, Palm Sunday, a new Member and the Annual General Meeting ~ March 20th

The morning service was a real celebration for us. We were delighted to welcome Judy & Len Robinson from Ballarat, Judy warmly leading worship focussing on promises the Lord has given to us in connection with harvest and Palm Sunday. These promises can be fulfilled if we regularly read the Word and study our Church teachings, putting truths learned into practice in daily life. Fruit and food brought



along on the Sunday by members and friends made a beautiful display (the items being subsequently donated to The Salvation Army in Glen Waverley for their food distribution programme to needy families).

Towards the end of the Service, it was a joy to hear Helmut Lopaczuk declare his faith in the Sacred Scriptures and the teachings of the New Church as part of his commitment on becoming a member of The New Church in Victoria.

Following refreshments, members and friends convened in the hall for the AGM. Minutes of the 2015 AGM and the Special General Meeting on 15th November 2015 were read and, following discussion, approved. The Board's Review of Operations and the Financial Statements for 2015 were considered and adopted. Nominations received for Board appointment in accordance with the Constitution were read out. Sophy Athan, Marika Sivak, Kim Bentley, Klaus Drevermann and Karl Robinson were duly elected for the next two years.

A proposal from the Board that Services of Worship at Mt. Waverley from May 2016 be held only on the first and third Sundays of each month was discussed. This would be on a trial basis with an alternate activity taking place on any fifth Sunday and should a major Christian festival fall on a second or fourth Sunday, a special service would be held. The strain on our current two lay worship leaders was recognised as the main reason. This was agreed to by all present.

The matter of freewill offerings was then considered. After discussion, it was decided the method of taking offertories at Mt. Waverley should remain with the offertory bag on the stand in the Church near the entrance. A reminder of the collection method should appear in the Newsletter from time to time. The Board will formulate a procedure whereby anyone may donate to the work of the Church via regular direct deposit.

***And the Lord brought about a great victory* (2 Samuel 23:12)**

Based on an article written by Rev. Robert Gill of the New Church in Great Britain (with ANZAC Day in mind for us)

Spiritual-minded people realise that the Lord is governing wars in this world by his divine providence, but materialists do not, except when a holiday is declared because of a victory. Then they may get down on their knees and thank God for giving them victory; and they may have said a few prayerful words before the battle began. When they come to their own senses, though, they credit the victory either to their leader's skill or to some decision or event in the middle of the battle, something that they did not think about at the time, but that led to the victory. (Divine Providence 252⁵)

How true that is! In war remembrance services, we give thanks to God for leading us in time of war; but at other times we give the credit entirely to the courage of the servicemen, the skills of the generals, and the self-sacrifices of the civilian population.

The brave exploits of David's mighty men recorded in the Word (2 Samuel 23) sets the record straight. Courageous soldiers won personal victories over Israel's enemies, the Philistines. Yet their victories are ascribed to the Lord, for the simple reason that without the Lord, the men could not have gained them.

In any war there are great acts of courage, self-sacrifice, and skill, but behind them all it is the Lord who plays the most vital part. Many wars are fought because people realise they must stand up for the basic principles of humanity ~ freedom, justice, equality, tolerance and peace. These are the Lord's own principles; our knowledge and belief in them come from him. Without the Lord's teaching we would not know that these are things worth standing up for.

The Lord wins countless victories in people's lives during war. For example, many who suffer terribly in prison camps remain faithful to the Lord's teaching; they care for their fellow prisoners and do not give in to vengeance. Also many soldiers on entering a captured town refuse to commit atrocities against prisoners and civilians; they respect the Lord's commandments. These people are only able to gain such personal victories over evil because the Lord is with them and sustains them in the truth.

The Lord wins many such victories during times of war. When added together they make a great victory for good over evil. In any such victory the Lord has the central role. Without him no true victory is possible.

Despite all the wars of the past, and the victories which were won then, each generation faces the threat of war again. This is because the causes of war lie within the fallen nature of human beings. In every generation the Lord needs to fight against the warlike feelings which lurk within us. Only he can expose and deal with these things, and we must work with him so that he can remove them from our lives. Let us recognise that all true victories are ultimately the Lord's, and that if we will only follow him he can put an end to war.

News of People and Events

Many congratulations to Sina & David Carter, and the proud grandparents, Elke & Klaus Drevermann, on the birth of Alyssa, a sister to Emily. Mum and daughter are doing very well.

It was delightful to have a nearly full Church on 28th February when Rev. Ian Arnold from Brisbane conducted the service, including the Sacrament of the Holy Supper. Charlie Francis, second son of Linda & Michael, behaved himself with distinction while being baptised. Following the service, members and friends joined the Francis family for a light lunch in the hall.

Graeme Scoble has stepped down as organist at Mt. Waverley after many years. A presentation was made to Graeme after the service on 14th February. A set of CDs plus music sourced in other ways, are being used for hymn singing most Sundays.

While now home and beginning some necessary rehabilitation, Barbara Robinson, Brian's wife, suffered a severe stroke earlier in March. She had to be rushed to hospital for blood thinning followed by a unique process which removes the clot and inserts a stent. Brian was overwhelmed at the expert treatment Barbara received.

Best wishes go to Rev. David Moffat who will be appointed President of the New Church in Australia at a National Conference in Canberra during May. David assumes the role from Rev. Julian Duckworth who steps down after a long and distinguished time. We very much look forward to a visit from the new President over the New Church Day weekend in June (17th to 20th). However, our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Julian Duckworth after a period in hospital having a whole series of tests to diagnose an auto-immune disease which has been causing considerable pain and loss of mobility for several months. He is currently home, cautiously taking a part in Church work and services in Sydney, while waiting for a treatment regime to be determined.

Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

Flowers

Greeters

April 2016

3rd	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
10th	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook
17th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
24th	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr N Jarvis

May 2016

1st	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
15th	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr G Fox

June 2016

3rd	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
17th	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook

New Church Camp 2016

Vision Valley Sydney

The setting was the most beautiful bushland ... a very spiritual place. For the first three days it rained, it poured, it sprinkled! Fortunately umbrellas were supplied by Vision Valley! The staff were very friendly and helpful. Stan and I were very grateful to be transported from the airport to camp and from camp to the airport.

For the first time I felt called to lead an evening devotional. The theme I chose was 'Open to God'. It fitted with being early in the camp program. I was pleased people responded very well. I was ably supported by David Moffat, Julian and Stan for which I was grateful. The Lord was good to us all.

I found the meditative session with creative visualisation was helpful in building Light and peace into my being. Pre-session information read 'If you would have a better world, start to create it for yourself, now ... at this very instant ... in your mind'. When we hold the positive thought continually, refuse to allow any other thought to banish it from our consciousness ... for me this works wonders.

Like many I found the camp morning sessions most helpful and informative. From David Millar's sessions I felt led to join logopraxis. I have contributed to and survived two sessions! For me it is a challenge but rewarding.

Stan was the MC for the concert which was contributed to by campers of all ages.

The camp experience brought me closer to the Lord. My grateful thanks to all who contributed, once again, to a successful, spiritual and fun camp. For me I formed new friendships and enriched existing ones. I look forward to the next camp. Praise the Lord! Shalom.

Elizabeth Deutscher (Ballarat)



Birthdays and Anniversaries

All members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during April and May 2016, are wished a very happy and memorable celebration. In particular, special congratulations to Karl Robinson who achieves octogenarian status on 9th April 2016, and to Elke & Klaus Drevermann.

Diary of Events for the Months of April and May 2016

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

Please Note: From May 2016, Services of Worship will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays only.

April

3rd Clocks go back by 1 hour at 3am

3rd **Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

10th **Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

17th **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson

22nd **Weekend Visit by Rev. Trevor Moffat from Perth** (see page 6)
Swedenborg Association Group at 8pm. Talk ~ *The Life and Role of Religion/Philosophy in a changing World*

23rd **Spiritually focussed talk & discussion** by **Rev. Trevor Moffat** commencing at 3.30pm.

24th **Service of Worship (ANZAC)** led by **Rev. Trevor Moffat** including the Adult Baptism of John Cook and the Sacrament of the Holy Supper

May (see page 7 re: change to regularity of services)

1st **Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

15th **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson

29th **Alternate Activity** at the Church. Details to be advised.

Advance Notice:

Rev. David Moffat from Canberra will be visiting **over the weekend of 17th - 19th June**. Included will be a **Talk** to the **Swedenborg Association Group** on 17th and leading **New Church Day Worship** on Sunday 19th, 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. Len & Mrs. Judy Robinson, 318 Fussell Street, Ballarat.

24th April - Meeting led by Rev. Trevor Moffat

Telephone 0353315638 for more information.

