

The Lighthouse



June/July 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
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		@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

June/July 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.



Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24: 29, 30)

In the spiritual meaning, the sun that will be darkened means love for the Lord. The moon that will not give its light means faith in him. The stars that will fall from heaven mean concepts of goodness and truth. The sign of the Son of Humankind in heaven means the divine truth from him in the Word that will become apparent. The tribes of the earth that will wail mean the loss of all true belief and all good love. The Son of Humankind coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory means the Lord's presence in the Word and his ability to give revelations through it. The clouds of heaven mean the Word's literal meaning; the glory means the Word's spiritual meaning.
(Swedenborg: True Christianity paragraph 198)

How does our church's governance compare with what is written in the Heavenly Doctrines?

~ a letter from **Rev. David Moffat**, President of The New Church in Australia, who will be visiting in June

Swedenborg writes that it is inappropriate for the clergy to claim any power over people's spiritual lives (The New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine (NJHD) 316). The role of the priest is, *to teach the people, and through truths ... to lead them to the good of life ...* (NJHD 318). The same paragraph continues, *... still they ought not to compel anyone; since no-one can be compelled to believe what is opposed to that which in his heart he has thought to be true.* This accords with the teaching on freedom: every person has control (and therefore responsibility) over their own spiritual destiny, and there is nothing I can or should do to alter that.

So, the church within is very much the individual's business, but what of the church of the collective - and with it, the organisation? Taking certain passages on face value, the situation appears very different:

He who believes differently from the priest, and does not make any disturbances, ought to be left in peace: but he who makes disturbances, ought to be separated; for this also belongs to the order for the sake of which the priesthood is. (NJHD 318)

I really struggle with “removing” anyone! And I observe that I'm not the only person who has trouble with this one. Our congregational model of governance places control in the hands of the collective rather than any individual. Ministerial, financial and other interests are frequently at odds, not to mention the wide range of personal opinions which inevitably exist when any group comes together. What makes me, as minister, the final authority? On the other hand, I've been trained in the particular skills of ministry (at considerable expense to the church) and nothing is so frustrating as being prevented from doing the job I've been hired for. Navigating all this is no simple matter.

My resolution came several years ago, with the application of a simple principle: that in dealing with spiritual matters, it is helpful to remove ideas of space, time, matter ... and person.

... in the spiritual world nothing is regarded as determined to person ... because directing the attention in speech to person narrows and limits the idea, instead of extending it and making it unlimited.

(Secrets of Heaven [Arcana Caelestia] 5253)

So, when considering the governance of the church, one has to deal with the principle of ministry rather than any individual minister. What is ministry about? As we read before, it is to teach the truth and lead to the good of life.

Putting all this together, we find that the one unassailable governing principle of any church, is the salvation of souls: teaching the truth and leading to the good of life. Whatever we do, the extent to which this reigns in our actions is the extent to which we are an expression of the church.

This removes the dichotomy between the minister and the congregation. We all ought to work together to that single end. This responsibility cannot fall on only one set of shoulders. It is something we must all take a part in, each in our own way.

I find the principle guides my thinking in relation to what business the church ought to be involved in. It helps me measure my intentions. It provides focus and thrust to my action. Any activity must have this drive at its heart, and if some other action or event can better serve that end, then it becomes much clearer which one I will pursue. It helps me put aside personal preferences, my own comfort within our well-worn traditions, in favour of getting the job done.

My hope is that it will guide the thoughts and actions of all church members too. Church membership is a commitment and a responsibility, not a right. We are not here to satisfy ourselves, and while we may derive comfort and inspiration from the church's teaching, that can never be an end in itself. Self-service, even if it is spiritual, renders the church impotent in the lives of others outside our own ranks; it is disastrous in our own spiritual lives too!

... a person must be concerned about his soul not for its own sake but for the services it must perform in both worlds ... (Secrets of Heaven 5949²)

(continued page 6)

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

Most men pursue pleasure with such breathless haste that they hurry past it. - Soren Kierkegaard

Seek not to change the world, but choose to change your mind about the world. - from A Course in Miracles

Make the most of the best and the least of the worst.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice. - Benedict Spinoza

Whatever the question, love is the answer. - Dr Wayne Dyer

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and may our meal by You be blest.
- Grace attributed to Martin Luther

from page 5

We are not born for our own sake; we are born for the sake of others. (True Christian Religion 406)

The happiest life is from love to the Lord and to the neighbour, because the Divine Itself flows into it ... The most unhappy life is from the love of self and of the world because hell flows into it. (Secrets of Heaven 3539⁴)

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Reflections on the Word

From *Daily Readings from The Word* by Reg Lang

“Therefore with joy you will draw from the wells of salvation.”
(Isaiah 12:3)

Joy means delight; water corresponds to truth; Wells signify depths of truth; and salvation is security from evil and its consequences.

To draw water out of the wells of salvation is to draw truth out of the Lord's Word. Every little passage of the Word is a well of truth much deeper than appears from the surface. And every little drop of truth, when applied to life, saves. But the wells are deep, and only joy can draw it out. Joy comes from love; so love the Bible and its teachings, and you will soon be drawing water out of the wells of salvation.

Prayer: O Lord, unless your law had been my delights, I should have perished in my affliction. I am yours, save me.

Ministerial Visits

We very much look forward to welcoming **Rev. David Moffat**, the recently inaugurated President of The New Church in Australia, from Canberra in our midst over the weekend of 19th June, when we will be celebrating New Church Day. David lived in the Church Manse with his parents Rev Trevor and Joy Moffat and siblings between 1986 and 1991 when Rev. Trevor Moffat was the Minister for Victoria. During those years, David played our organ for services, completed his Bachelor's degree in Music and met his wife to be, Pam. Please see the Diary on page 11 for some of the details of the visit.

While much more local, we will equally look forward to having Rev. John and Mary Teed with us once again at Mt. Waverley on Sunday 17th July when **Rev. John Teed** will be conducting our Sunday morning worship. The service subject will be *What happens to the sins of the past?* and the administration of the sacrament of the Holy Supper will be included.

PEARLS

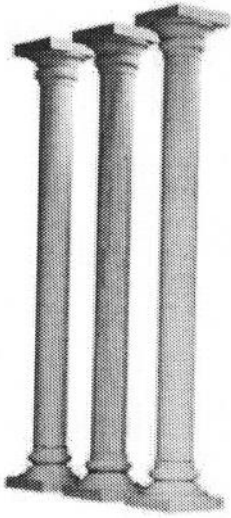
All of us no doubt have something we value above all else. It is treasure to us, no matter its value in monetary terms. We set a value upon it. It may be memories, something that conjures up happy times, incidents in our life. As time goes by the treasure becomes greater for us – it does not tarnish or fade; it is just as fresh and as new to us as the day we received it. This is like some great treasure to us, just like the perfect pearl in the parable in Matthew's Gospel chapter 13. It was a priceless pearl and the merchant who collected pearls desired it. And he sold all that he had to acquire it.



In Victorian times a mother would often put a locket of her child's hair in a box; it was like a treasure to her, like a priceless object. There are many treasures that we can possess which are not objects in themselves. Think of the qualities of life that we see in close friends ~ kindness, love, understanding, happiness. These are things you cannot buy yet they are created for us. These qualities of life are important for they are the treasures we hope to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

The more we think about treasures of quality, and move away from objects, the more do we find ourselves recognising what is of true worth. We speak of 'a gem of truth', 'a pearl of wisdom'. We are talking about something very valuable and useful to us; but it is not an object we can trade with the antique dealers. It is not something we can sell in a monetary sense; yet it holds great value for us.

We have spoken of things treasured which are not objects but qualities in our mind, thought, life. And this is what the parable is talking about. We are like the merchantman. We live in the world and have a job to do. We trade ~ we trade our present job for something better when we are promoted; we give up old districts and its friendships when we move house. Throughout our life we are ever trading, surrendering something in order to acquire something else in its place. It is so in our mind with our ideas and thoughts; we are continually cashing them in for something deeper, greater and more satisfying; this we do whenever we progress in education, learning and spiritual life.



THE PILLARS OF

NEW CHURCH BELIEFS

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

This time we're looking at **EQUILIBRIUM**

I'm sorry about the long word for the heading but it is an important spiritual teaching. Equilibrium is any condition in which all acting influences are cancelled by others resulting in a stable, balanced and unchanging state.

Think of a see-saw with a person at each end. If they're the same weight, the see-saw is level. If not, one person will have to move forward along the plank to keep the equilibrium. Or take a tug-of-war with terrific force in opposite directions, but no movement.

We are told that we are kept in such an equilibrium all the time by the Lord. It's best to talk about heaven and hell because both of these exert an influence on us for good and for evil. We need to be kept in a state of freedom so that we can make the choices that we make, ourselves. That is the main thing, that we are able to do that.

Now, suppose that for whatever reason, you make some personal choices but they are unfortunate ones. You become more critical, or more resentful, or you insist in having things your way. It looks – to you and to others – that your equilibrium has gone and now you're veering in a bad direction.

Not true, according to the Lord. You are allowing yourself to get caught up in these negative things, but behind the scenes, the Lord will unrelentingly keep that equilibrium as it must always be. And the reason is so that you will always have the opportunity to stop being critical, resentful or insistent. Take that away and we would be on a perilous course.

I hope this is clear because it is a key church teaching and a practical one for us personally. With God, all things are possible. With God, some things simply have to be kept in place and never change.

A Reminder - Sunday Services at Mt. Waverley

Services are currently held on the **1st** and **3rd** Sundays only.

An alternate activity will normally be held on each **5th** Sunday, although for **May 2016**, this will not occur.

News of People and Events

It was a delight to have Rev. Trevor Moffat with us during April. The talk to the Swedenborg Group on the Friday evening, the Sunday morning service at Mt. Waverley and the afternoon service at Ballarat were all well appreciated as was the afternoon discussion meeting on the Saturday afternoon by an intimate, all-male gathering. Trevor baptised John Cook into the Lord's New Church on the Sunday morning and as the Holy Supper was administered later, we had the two most holy acts of worship in the one service.

Rose Robinson required chiropractic treatment in early May due to a twisted hip which made walking difficult and driving uncomfortable for some time. Thankfully the treatments have managed to relieve the situation for her. Margaret Parker continues to make good progress after she fell and broke her ankle in April. Not being able to put any weight on the ankle even while wearing a surgical boot has prevented any walking. However, the boot is now off and gentle exercise has begun which is promising for Margaret. She sends her best wishes to her Church friends.

News has just come in that Klaus Drevermann is in Maroondah hospital after a three metre fall from a ladder at home, fracturing his left wrist and breaking the left ankle. The wrist will have to be set and surgery required for the ankle when the swelling goes down. Naturally he is very sore and a frustrating good number of weeks lie ahead for Klaus so we need to keep him and Elke in our thoughts and prayers. Sadly it happened 6 days before their 50th Wedding anniversary. It is going to be some time before we see them at Church.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



All members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during June and July 2016, are wished a very happy and memorable celebration. In particular, birthday greetings on 7th July to Chloe Robinson for her 21st and to Richard Teed who will reach 30.

And an apology to Elke & Klaus Drevermann for an incomplete reference in the last month's Newsletter to their Golden wedding anniversary on 27th May. Unfortunately, part of a sentence failed to appear. They enjoyed a large gathering of family and friends a few weeks previous to the day itself to celebrate.

Diary of Events for the Months of June and July 2016

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

June

- 5th Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis
12th No Service
17th Weekend Visit by Rev. David Moffat from Canberra (page 6)
Swedenborg Association Group at 8pm. Talk ~ *My Ten Commandments ~ the principles & values by which we each live.*
19th Service of Worship (New Church Day) conducted by **Rev. David Moffat** including the administration of the Sacrament of the Holy Supper.
26th No Service

July

- 3rd Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson
10th No Service
17th Service of Worship conducted by **Rev. John Teed** (Woodend) including the administration of the Sacrament of the Holy Supper.
24th No Service
31st Alternate Activity at the Church. Details to be advised.

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.

19th June - Meeting led by Rev. David Moffat at 3.30pm

Telephone 0353315638 for more information.

Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

	Flowers	Greeters
June 2016		
5th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
19th	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook
July 2016		
3rd	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr G Fox
17th	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr N Jarvis
August 2016		
7th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
21st	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak

