

“All religion has relation to life and the life of religion is to do good”.

Swedenborg

The New Church In Victoria Newsletter

August/September 2017

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Dear Friend,

In these shorter days of winter with less sunlight, Neville has raided the New Church In Australia website, to remind us what supplies us with our spiritual light.

Fundamental New Church beliefs

- God is Love and nothing but what is good can come from God, because His very nature is Love. God came into the world in the form of Jesus Christ, who is the one and only God.
- The Old and New Testaments have a deeper meaning revealed in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, helping people learn how to live happy and useful lives to eternity.
- All religions have goodness in them. There are many paths and gates into the heavenly city, New Jerusalem.
- Heaven is for everyone who wants to live there. Heaven is where people (angels) love God and others and want to be useful. While people are free to choose to live in hell, God wants everyone to live with him to eternity.
- There will be no “last judgement” for God does not judge us, but we judge ourselves by what we love and how we live. People are saved who love God and try to live a good life according to what they believe is true.
- Marriage can last forever for God blesses people with a special love in marriage that goes on after death, even to eternity.
- God’s providence is powerful and unending. God guides each person’s spiritual path, from the smallest things up to the biggest things, and His angels are with us “every moment of ever”.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Board of The New Church in Victoria is delighted to advise that later this year we will welcome Rev. Glenn & Mrs Mary Alden from USA in our midst for several months. They will arrive late November and return home after Easter 2018.

During that time they will attend The New Church in Australia Summer camp in Queensland followed by a two week visit to

New Zealand. In recent years, they have become quite familiar with parts of Australia while serving the Hurstville (Sydney) New Church Society in 2011 for six months and then the New Church in Brisbane for two years between 2012 and 2014. This will be their first time in Victoria.

Their home is in Washington State on the northwest coast of America and they will be travelling from the depths of winter to a hot Australian summer. However, having lived in many places in America and Canada, they have learned how to quickly acclimatise.

Since ordination, Glenn has been Pastor at a number of New Church Societies, finally spending 11 years at the Sunrise Chapel, Tucson, Arizona, prior to retirement. Mary, a Registered Nurse with a Nursing diploma and a Bachelor of Science Nursing, was very much involved with this work in Tucson while continuing in her own professional capacity.

A number of decades ago, this Society began introducing programs using New Church teachings in small group work to enrich and strengthen personal spiritual growth and the sense of community. It enabled the church to become a centre for spiritual seekers in the community, and provide a sense of home or peace for many who might never become members. This approach has seen the church community there grow numerically and offer increasingly varied styles of ministry.

We are fortunate indeed that Glenn and Mary have agreed to join us in Victoria especially with the wish to share their knowledge and experience in small group spiritual growth techniques and programs. Their objective is to leave us with the skills and the necessary means for taking this work forward ourselves as best we can, for growing our communities both in Melbourne and Ballarat.

It is an opportunity we must all take forward during the short time they will be with us. They are also willing to maintain ongoing contact even from across the other side of the globe to provide advice as required. Glenn will lead some worship/devotional services and offer other classes as time permits.

We will keep you informed of developments in the months ahead.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Brian Robinson

Following an accident in the snow, Brian had an operation on his leg on Wednesday 26 July. He is recovering well but will need to keep his leg up for about four weeks. Knowing Brian's exuberant approach to life, no doubt he will find it difficult to

keep still for that long! Best wishes from us all.

Eva Teed's 90th Birthday Celebration

Our beloved dedicated member, Mrs. Eva Teed, is celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends on Sunday 10th September at Mingarra Retirement Village, Croydon (in their Community Centre). Her family extends an open invitation to our Church community to join with Eva for an early afternoon tea on that day (between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.). No presents please.

R.S.V.P. to Eva's son, Peter, by Sunday 20th August on 0431 464 754.

Helmut Lopaczuk

Helmut and his musical playing partner (Larry Kean) have been invited to play in Italy following a contact they made while supporting a singer at the Castlemaine Jazz Festival last year. The singer invited Helmut, Larry and their spouses to stay at her villa with the aim of performing at various locations. They will be away from 5 September to 20 October.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Commencing Tuesday August 22nd and continuing fortnightly during September and October, a Bible Study Group Discussion morning will be held starting at 10.15 a.m. in the church hall.

We will be exploring the bible together, and at the first meeting will be looking at an overview of the four gospels and also establishing a way forward for the continuing fortnightly discussions where we can all learn from each other.

The sessions will run for no longer than one and a half hours allowing for a mid-session tea break.

Diary of Events August /September 2017

August 6 10:30 AM	Service conducted by Karl
August 13	No Service
August 20 10:30 AM	Service conducted by Neville
August 22 10:15 AM	(Tuesday) Bible Study Discussion in church hall led by Karl
August 27	No Service
September 3 10:30 AM	Service conducted by Karl
September 5 10:15 AM	(Tuesday) Bible Study Discussion in church hall led by Karl
September 10	No Service
September 17 10:30 AM	Service conducted by Neville
September 19 10:15 AM	(Tuesday) Bible Study Discussion in church hall led by Karl
September 24	No Service
October 1 10:30 AM	Service conducted by Karl

Karl and Helmut
On behalf of The Board