

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

Swedenborg

The New Church In Victoria Newsletter

March & April 2018

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A Pastoral Message from Rev. Glenn Alden

Who Has Ever Come Back To Tell Us About It?

On the third day after the Lord's crucifixion two of His disciples walked along the road to Emmaus. In their grief they talked about the things they had seen and heard, and tried to make sense out of it. A stranger joined them, and asked what they were talking about, and why they were so sad. They were astounded that this man would not have heard of the Lord and his terrible death. The one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have you not known the things which happened there in these days?"

And He said to them, "What things?"

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel."

The hope and faith of those who had followed the Lord in the World had been dashed. They had believed that he would redeem Israel from its enemies. Little did they know He had come to redeem the whole human race from spiritual death. They did not even recognize that the man they were speaking to was in fact the Lord, risen from the tomb. It wasn't until later when He broke bread with them, and vanished from their sight, that they realized who He was.



The Lord had come that they might know Him, know God, and also that they might know something about eternal life and resurrection. Belief in life after death is so important to our spiritual life that Swedenborg begins the book *Heaven and Hell* by telling how his intromission into heaven was for the purpose of preventing the negative denial of eternal life and to help people to have some understanding of what that life might be like. Swedenborg writes:

“The Lord's coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” means his presence in the Word, and revelation....

Church people these days know practically nothing about heaven and hell or their life after death, even though there are descriptions of everything available to them in the Word. In fact, many who have been born in the church deny all this. In their hearts they are asking who has ever come back to tell us about it.

To prevent this negative attitude-especially prevalent among people who have acquired a great deal of worldly wisdom-from infecting and corrupting people of simple heart and simple faith, it has been granted me to be with angels and to talk with them person to person. I have also been enabled to see what is in heaven and in hell, a process that has been going on for thirteen years.

Now I am being allowed therefore to describe what I have heard and seen, in the hopes of shedding light where there is ignorance, and of dispelling skepticism.

The reason this kind of direct revelation is taking place today is that this is what the Coming of the Lord means.”

(Heaven and Hell paragraph 1)

Wishing you all a spirit filled celebration of the Lord's resurrection this year!

Glenn

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Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating what the Lord provides for our bodily nourishment and also our spiritual nourishment at our morning service on Sunday 18 March. You are asked to bring food and fruit, fresh and packaged, on that day which can be displayed in the Church for the service. Following the service, the produce will be given to a charity for distribution to the needy. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

- The Annual General Meeting of the New Church In Victoria (NCIV) will take place on Sunday April 15 at 12:00 noon. This meeting is open to all, but only members can vote.
- If you are a member and wish to have a matter raised at the AGM, please ensure your request is received by the Secretary by 24 March (21 days before the AGM, as required by our Constitution).
- Any current member of the NCIV who is interested in becoming a Director on the Board of the NCIV, should notify the Secretary, Helmut Lopaczuk, no later than 16 March, to allow time for the appropriate form to be sent out then returned to the Board for acceptance by 24 March.
- The preparation of the legally required financial documents for the AGM and for signing by external auditors, is a mammoth task, requiring much careful scrutiny. Karl has done this for us (again!) and we thank him for the huge effort undertaken.

News Of Events And People

It was a delight to have children with us on the first Sunday in February, Rev. Glenn and Mary Alden having decided to hold a service with a family focus. Emily and Alyssa Carter came with their Mum, Sina, and Jake and Ashton Woodstock with Mum & Dad, Colleen and Nick. They all listened to Glenn's talk about animals and insects and their uses, warming to answering questions. Later in the service, they went out into the hall where Mary Alden had activities for them which they enjoyed doing. In the future, we will hold a family orientated service on the first Sunday of each month.

The weekly spiritual growth workshops being offered by Glenn and Mary are continuing, with those attending becoming more familiar with their purpose and gaining more and more from their participation. The workshops will continue through March.

The 'Dinners for six at the Alden's' have also been greatly enjoyed and appreciated by members and friends who have attended. The wonderful atmosphere provided by two very amiable hosts ~ Glenn and Mary ~ and the sumptuous delicacies provided by Mary, has resulted in much discussion over a range of topics. If you have not yet had the opportunity to join one of these dinners, do contact Glenn and Mary; they will certainly be able to fit you in.

While Rose Robinson has not yet been able to get along to Church following her knee replacement surgery, it is pleasing to know that Rose's rehabilitation is going well and she is looking forward to leaving the crutches in a cupboard.

On a sad note, we have recently been advised that Ian Stell, a loyal member of the Church over many years and Church Secretary for a considerable period, passed into the higher life last October after several years in a home. We send condolences to his family, especially his daughter Sharon West, at their loss. Ian left a small bequest to the Church which is greatly appreciated.

Diary of Events in March and April 2018

Activities at Mt. Waverley unless otherwise stated

MARCH	
Thursday 1 6.00pm	Dinner for six at the Alden's ~ 3/14 Lang Road, Mount Waverley
Sunday 4 10.30am	Family service conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden Topic ~ <i>Please and Thank-you: What are you grateful for?</i>
Tuesday 6 7.30pm	<i>Rise Above it</i> Group session <u>to be held at 3/14 Lang Road, Mount Waverley</u> "Do Not Murder / Be a Life Giver"
Wednesday 7 7.30pm	<i>Joy of Spiritual Growth</i> Group session "Dealing with difficult Emotions"
Friday 9 6.00pm	Dinner for six at the Alden's
Sunday 11 10.30am	Bible Study (or alternative) led by Rev. Glenn Alden
Tuesday 13 7.30pm	<i>Rise Above it</i> Group session "Do Not Commit Adultery / Honour Marriage"
Wednesday 14 7.30pm	<i>Joy of Spiritual Growth</i> Group session "Taming the Wild Elephant"
Friday 16 6.00pm	Dinner for six at the Alden's

Diary of Events in March and April 2018 (continued)

Sunday 18 10.30am	Harvest Festival service conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden. Please see notice in this Newsletter about bringing produce.
Tuesday 20 7.30pm	<i>Rise Above it</i> Group session "Do Not Steal, Do Not Bear False Witness / Be a Credit Giver and Truth Teller"
Wednesday 21 7.30pm	<i>Joy of Spiritual Growth</i> Group session "Dealing with Lying"
Thursday 22 6.00pm	Dinner for six at the Alden's
Friday 23 7.30pm	Swedenborg Association meeting
Sunday 25 10.30am 3.30pm	Palm Sunday service conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden <u>Ballarat.</u> Devotional service led by Rev. Glenn Alden including the Holy Supper administration
Tuesday 27 7.30pm	<i>Rise Above it</i> Group session "Do Not Covet / Cleanse the Inside"
Wednesday 28 7.30pm	<i>Joy of Spiritual Growth</i> Group session "Living in the Present"
Friday 30 9.30am	Good Friday service conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden – PLEASE NOTE starting time
6.00pm	Dinner for six at the Alden's

APRIL

Sunday 1 10.30am 12.30pm	Easter Sunday Family service conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden including the Holy Supper administration. Farewell lunch for Rev. Glenn and Mary Alden ~ details to be provided
Wednesday 4	Rev. Glenn and Mary Alden return home to USA
Sunday 8	No service
Sunday 15 10.30am 12 noon	Service of Worship led by Karl Robinson Society Annual General Meeting – see separate Notice in this Newsletter
Sunday 22	No Service
Sunday 29	Service of Worship led by Neville Jarvis

Advance Notice

May 6	Family service conducted by TBA
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Duty Roster

<i>March:</i>	Sunday 4	Elke & Klaus Drevermann	Sunday 18	Alexis & Neville Jarvis
<i>April:</i>	Sunday 1	Elke & Klaus Drevermann	Sunday 15	Marika Sivak
	Sunday 29	Norma Whelan and John Cook		