



The **NEW CHURCH VOICE** of Florida

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What makes this a NEW church? In an unexpected way, but exactly as He foretold it, the Lord has come again! By his servant, Emanuel Swedenborg, the Lord has revealed Himself fully, disclosing an interior language that has lain hidden in the Bible for centuries. Swedenborg's testimony is true; come and see if it is so.

Coming to Desire the Undesired Lord

By the Rev. Kenneth J. Alden

Isaiah prophesied the Lord would be unattractive and rejected at His coming. "And He shall go up before Him as a tender branch, and as a root from an arid land; He has no form, nor honor, that we should see Him; nor appearance, that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men" (*Isaiah 53:2-3*). Indeed, only shepherds celebrated His birth, and when, at a tender age of under two years, the magi came to worship Him, they did not find the One born King of the Jews surrounded with majesty or honored in a palace. When they inquired at one, Herod and all Jerusalem with him were troubled at the news of the young King, and rejected Him.

We have no record of how the Lord looked when He came on earth, at least none beyond the presumed scars in His hands and side alluded to after His resurrection (See *John 20:25-27*). Although artists paint Him with a halo, that was not the sign given to the shepherds about how they would recognize Him. Isaiah's prophecy gives the only clue: no form or honor that we should see Him, nor such appearance that we should desire Him. But this is just the outside which the natural-minded see. The shepherd-like and magi-like qualities we have been given can see within the plain exterior, and with joy, fall down and worship.

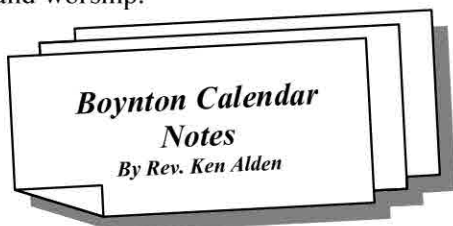
Today, the Lord's visible presence among us is in His Word. He is called "the Word" which "was made flesh" (See *John 1:14*). Even here, there is still a lack of magnificence and attractiveness. As the Heavenly Doctrine puts it, "In the letter, the Word appears like a common writing, in a style that is strange, and neither so sub-

lime nor so brilliant as apparently are the writings of the day." (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture 1*) This leads those who do not believe in the Word's inner holiness to reject it, as we see in this passage which says that such "...spurn the Word, solely because of its style, which is in appearance less polished than a style adopted to conform to the spirit of the age, such as that adopted by very many ancient and modern authors." (*Arcana Coelestia 9086:3*) The same passage shows that those who believe the holiness of the Word is from within and live as the Lord teaches, come to understand the Word only according to its internal sense, and so see the Divine and holy things there. These we can be sure, are breathtaking in their beauty and glory.

Most people today must rely on translators to portray the Lord in His Word. Translators have the impossible job of accurately conveying what is written in one language with words and idioms that are distinct to the one culture, into another that has none quite the same. Translators often aim to convey meaning, so that it is very understandable. They "improve upon" what is written in the original, in order to have it make sense in the target language. But this can detract from splendor of the internal meaning which the unpolished literal sense was designed to contain.

Swedenborg heard some spirits arguing against the Word as follows: "...in place after place it was written in a style so simple and at the same time so unintelligible that no one could learn anything from it, still less be enlightened by it." (*De Verbo 6*) But those who responded to them showed that the Word communicates with heaven by using natural imagery which corresponds to spiritual ideas. "There is not a sentence in it, nor even a word or letter, which does not have in it something relating to the Lord and so something relating to heaven and the church." (*De Verbo 6*) Changing even a word can lose the spiritual idea it was meant to convey.

The Lord challenged us when He came in the flesh, and again as He comes to us as the Word. Outwardly there is "...no form, nor honor, that we should see Him." But, inwardly is a Divine form that He wants to lift our minds to see. We can take that outward form and try to make it desirable by 'painting in halos,' as it were. Or we can take it as it is and be challenged by the "strange" and "unintelligible" elements of the literal sense to look for the beauty within. To see it, we need to believe that the holiness of the Word lies in its spiritual sense, and treasure it and the matrix in which it lies hidden. We need also, to learn from the Heavenly Doctrine about the laws of correspondence by which the literal and spiritual sense are related. And above all, we need to love to live as the Lord teaches for the sake of eternal life. If we do, the Lord will open our understanding more and more to see in the undesired outward forms a holiness, majesty, and beauty to desire and worship.



FAMILY SERVICES —

Sunday, November 24th, at 11:00 AM.

Sunday, December 18th, at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, December 24th, at 5:30 PM.

One address spans all ages. Nursery is not offered during Family Services.

BIBLE STUDY ---

Tuesdays at 4:00 PM.

Meet at the church. All welcome. Bring a Bible.

HOLY SUPPER SERVICE —

December 4th at 10:00 AM.

at the close of the regular service.

SINGLES CLASS —

Wednesday, November 9th at 7:30 PM

at Beryl Moorhead's home in Boynton Beach, (561) 498-8326. Reading: *Landmarks in Regeneration*: pp. 31-48.

Tuesday, December 13th at 7:30 PM

at Barbara Weaver's home in Boynton Beach, (561) 733-7843. Reading: *Landmarks in Regeneration*: pp. 49-63.

MONTHLY SOCIALS —

Nothing is planned by the Social Committee, as the Theta Alpha Women's Guild is organizing Thanksgiving dinner in November, and the Aldens are inviting members and friends to dinner following the Christmas sing in December. In addition, all are welcome to get together for breakfast on Wednesday mornings at 'Benny's At The Beach' in Lake Worth.

SOCIETY DOCTRINAL CLASS —

Thursday, November 17th at 7:30 PM

Apocalypse Revealed, 35-67, Vision of the Lord.

Thursday, December 1st at 7:30 PM

Apocalypse Revealed, 67-106, Ephesus & Smyrna

Thursday, December 15th at 7:30 PM.

"Pondering the Advent" — *Luke 1 & 2; Arcana Coelestia*, 7298:2; *Divine Providence*, 233:7-8

THANKSGIVING SERVICE & OFFERING —

Thursday, November 24th at 11:00 AM.

During the first hymn the congregation is invited to bring an offering of fruit or vegetables, or a non-perishable food for the harvest procession. Bring your offering forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. No nursery or Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING AND DINNER —

Sunday, December 11th, after 10 AM Reg. Service

If you have an instrumental or vocal piece to offer, please contact Kenneth Alden. Following the sing, the Alden family invites members and friends of the congregation to be their guests for lunch in the Boker Room. Please sign up on the notice board if you plan to come.

CHRISTMAS TABLEAUX SERVICE —

Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 PM

we will have a service with a few, very simple tableaux scenes from the Christmas story as part of a worship service for the whole family, so there will be no Sunday morning service and no Nursery or Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH —

If you would like to contribute poinsettias for the chancel during the month of December, please leave your flowers on the north wall counter in the Boker room. If you would like to give a wrapped gift to the church, check the "wish list" on the bulletin board for ideas. (If you know of an inexpensive item to put on the wish list, please do so.) Gifts may be placed under the Christmas tree in the Boker Room prior to the Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS EVE —

Saturday, December 24th at 5:30PM

This family service includes a single address to the whole family. Small gifts will be handed out in the church after the closing of the Word. If you know of any children who might not normally be expected at that service, who are elementary school age or less, please let the pastor know so that we can provide a gift for them. No nursery or Sunday School

CHRISTMAS DAY —

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 AM.

This Sunday service will have a Christmas theme.

USE AND OLD AGE*

“IN A RECENT editorial it was said that uses cannot be done except through occupations. That is the law in both worlds; but there is one notable exception here on earth, and a clear understanding of it may be of aid and comfort to those who are in the evening of their days. Because the spirit does not grow old with the body it is understandable that those whose minds still desire active employments should chafe under the physical infirmities of advanced age which place them beyond such pursuits. It is even understandable that they may think of themselves as useless, especially if sickness claims them, and resign themselves with as much grace or fortitude as possible to a period of waiting until they shall be called into the spiritual world.

But while this is understandable, the Heavenly Doctrine gently rebukes such thinking. As was pointed out previously, a man’s spiritual use is the influence he has upon others, for good or ill—the impact of his character upon other men. In this interior view, use does not cease with compulsory retirement, or even with the weakness of more advanced years. A character formed by the choices of a long lifetime of experience, and expressing something of the real wisdom of life, may have a far greater effect upon others than its possessor realizes; even if that character is revealed mainly in a truly patient attitude toward the limitations or infirmities of age. Wherever its sphere is received it has much of value to give, much that only wise old age can give.

Every age has its own particular enemies to which it is especially vulnerable. And if undue self-confidence is the foe of youth, and self-justification and self-excusing the evils characteristic of middle life, perhaps it may be said, with understanding sympathy, that disguised self-pity and the awful prompting to doubt the Divine Providence because they are kept here when their use on earth has apparently ended; these are surely the temptations peculiar to the old. Like all other temptations, however, they may be broken by affirmation of the truth assailed, that the capacity for use continues to the end of earthly life, though the use may be more interior and less readily seen.”

* This is a reprint of an editorial from the *New Church Life* magazine between 1950 and 1974 by then editor, the Rev. W. Cairns Henderson,

The Book Corner

By Forrest Dristy

THE YEAR 1757 WAS a major turning point in world history, not because of political or military events here on the natural plane but because of much more important events in the spiritual realm. It was, in fact, the year of the long-

awaited Last Judgment, which we know about from the eye-witness account of Emanuel Swedenborg. The following year he published an astounding little book called *The Last Judgment and Babylon Destroyed* in which he describes the events he observed as being the fulfillment of prophecies made in the New Testament book of Revelation.

Swedenborg clearly stated that there would be no sudden or drastic effects felt immediately down here in the natural world, but rather that human affairs would proceed pretty much as before. But the long term effects of the spiritual judgment would lead gradually to a completely new order on this planet. If you reflect for a moment on our way of life in the modern world and compare it to life in the pre-1757 world, you can appreciate the extent to which conditions have totally changed.

In 2007 a conference was held in Bryn Athyn to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the great spiritual events of 1757. Speakers were invited to present their thoughts and ideas on how those events have shaped the world we live in and how they will affect the future world. The papers that were given at that conference have been published in book form, and fortunately that book was made available in time for the Assembly in June of this year. It is an impressive work indeed, edited by Dan Synnestvedt and given the appropriate title *The World Transformed*.

Its contents fill some 780 pages with an enormous variety of subject matter, which is divided into several sections including: World Religions, Society and History, Science and Mathematics, and Philosophy. There are too many authors to name them all here, but several of them have been speakers at Eldergartens. These include Jane Williams-Hogan, Brian Henderson, Reuben Bell, Dan Synnestvedt, and Walter Orthwein. In the interests of full disclosure, I will admit to being one of the authors myself. Yes, I too attended that conference in 2007 and presented a paper in which I claimed to show that the Last Judgment of 1757 had a liberating effect on the field of mathematics and altered the history of that subject.

The modern world seems to be an amazing conglomeration of wondrous technology and dismal human relationships. Reading the thoughtful papers in *The World Transformed* can give us assurance that, despite the paradoxes of life in the 21st century, the New Jerusalem is coming down from heaven. Be of good cheer.

HOLD THE PHONE! CHANGE THE E-MAIL!

BOYNTON BEACH NEW CHURCH — In a move to save \$360 a year, the church and the *New Church Voice of Florida* have upgraded to single line DSL Service. DSL provides substantially faster internet service than “Dial Up,” and it enables the Pastor and the *Voice* to work

on line without preventing incoming calls; a great improvement. There will now be only one line to all the phones at the church and there are still some bugs to be worked out. Our answering device has not yet been updated. Our dial-up Earthlink service will soon be discontinued.

Please Change Your Address Book & Phone Directory...

Telephone (all calls): 1 (561) 736-9235

Pastor: pastor@newchurchboyntonbeach.org

Voice: ncvoicefl@newchurchboyntonbeach.org



DIRECTORY

Our past-snowbird friend, Margo F., has achieved a long held desire; she was to move into Cairnwood Village in early October. So, please change her winter address to PO Box 550, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009.

**W, Edna (Change).....Phone number
And address available from the pastor.**

How Do You Join The New Church?

The First Step is Baptism—

Baptism into the New Church is a covenant with the Lord regarding your spiritual life, and it is an introduction into the life of the New Church. It does not mean that you understand all the details of the revelations through Emanuel Swedenborg. But, it does mean that you embrace three basics: ★ Jesus Christ *is* the one infinite God, the beginning and the end. ★ You must *strive to live* by His teachings to be saved. ★ You believe that the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Writings by Emanuel Swedenborg are revelations of the Lord. The sacrament of baptism represents your willingness henceforth to be led by the Lord. If you are ready to make such a serious commitment, or if you want more guidance, talk to your pastor, or call New Church Outreach at 1+ (877) 411-4673, or email:

outreach@newchurch.org

Tutorial Materials for Step One

You may want to pursue a popular introductory path, the seven-week program called, "*Foundations.*" It is an interactive, on-line experience exploring questions about God, life after death, the Bible, and spiritual growth, all from a New Church perspective. You can sign up at:

[www.newchurch.org/materials/
programs/foundations/sign-up.html](http://www.newchurch.org/materials/programs/foundations/sign-up.html)

An Optional Mid-Step —

Many who were baptized as children choose to *confirm* the faith promised for them by their parents. After the age of 20, the rite of "Confession of Faith," is to be performed with a minister.

The Second Step is Membership—

The membership of the General Church is made up of those who have been baptized into the New Church and who have applied to the Bishop of the General Church for membership. Not surprisingly, we have a form for that. Get one from your pastor or go to:

www.newchurch.org/about/membership

Once your application has been accepted, you may participate in any church-wide referendum, and you may also join any local congregation (Step Three, below).

The Third (Potential) Step:

Congregational Membership

Usually, if you are so fortunate as to live within the established confines of a local Group, Circle, or Society, and if you live there at least 51% of the time, you simply ask the Pastor for permission to sign the roll. He verifies that you are a member of the General Church, cautions you if there are any by-laws restrictions, and hands you the pen to 'sign in.' You may now vote on any measure put before your local congregation...until you move away.

**? DON'T PUT A QUESTION MARK
WHERE GOD PUT A PERIOD !**

**Write this in your new, 2012
Calendar:**

ELDERGARTEN



Our New Year begins with a Wine Reception and Eldergarten Registration at the Duncan Center on Sunday, January 22nd, from 5PM to 7PM!

- Discounted registration fees are closed; full price of \$200 per person now prevails.
- After December 31, 2011 no refunds can be made for cancellations.
- Holy Supper will be offered on Monday afternoon.
- The boat ride (Tuesday) has been subsidized by generous friends and is free to all registrants.
- A reception and banquet will be presented Wednesday evening.
- Luncheon and farewells: Thursday, 01/26 at 12:30PM

Theta Alpha

GUILD of BOYNTON BEACH Rummage Sale

The annual Rummage Sale is coming up on *Saturday, November 12 from 7 a.m. until 12 noon.* I hope you have all been saving up your goodies.

MEN please help *set up* the *tables* and *clothes rack* on *Sunday, Nov. 6th.*

Items for the sale can be *dropped off* any time that week, but preferably on *Monday through Wednesday from 10 AM-2 PM,* I will be there on those days to accept your donations, help unload, etc.

On *Thursday and Friday, the 10th and 11th,* I will need *volunteers to help sort, price, etc.* Unfortunately, we are not able to pick up furniture donations. If you have large items, you will have to get them to the church on your own.

Once again, I hope *some men will volunteer* to help on *Friday the 11th* with the *sorting and pricing* of items that will be *in the garage* and – *then on Saturday* for the actual sale.

Doris M. will again be in charge of the jewelry items and would like to have them donated early so that she may get them sorted and bagged. Please bring them to church or contact her to make arrangements to get them to her.

I need *volunteers to make sandwiches* for lunch for the workers. And, as always, we will *need people at the end* of the sale *to help pack up and deliver* unsold merchandise *to Goodwill Industries.*

In the past, almost every person in the Society has participated in some way to make the Rummage Sale a success. I know that this year will be no different. If you have any questions, please call Sylvia K.. Remember, if I don't hear from you – you will hear from me. Thanks everyone!

Sylvia K.

shift
Small Changes



*A New Church Journey
Workshop based on the
Bible story of Jacob*

Big Difference

SMALL CHANGES in life's habits can make a big difference in life's impact. Learn from the Bible's story of Jacob how his struggles and passions can teach and inspire us to better interact with the Lord and with others.

Starting on February 5th and meeting for seven weeks through March 25th, small, compatible discussion groups will meet in local homes and at the church itself to ex-

plore and open the message the Lord gives us in the story of Jacob. Each week, guided by a personal manual and work book, we will apply, as tasks, what we have learned from the previous meeting.

BUT, we need three additional volunteers of host/hostess homes for weekly meeting sites. (At organizational meetings the groups make a 7-week schedule of 'refreshments stewards' so the hostess' burden will be minimal.)

AND, we need additional volunteers to serve as moderators for three groups.

If you can fill any of these needs, or if you think you know someone who can, call our Boynton Beach leader, Peggy B., at home, or email her at:

an address available from the pastor.

If you are isolated, or if you live nearby some other isolated potential participant(s), *General Church Outreach* will be very happy to assist you as an individual, or by helping you form your own group.

Call: Michelle Chapin at 1+ (267) 502-4916, or visit:

www.newchurchjourney.org

or email Michelle at:

michelle.chapin@newchurch.org



Kainon School
Westville, RSA

**EIGHTEEN
MONTHS
AGO**

the need arose for Kainon School to expand substantially. Due to our open application policy huge interest was being shown in the school, but we didn't have the facilities to grow. So the society took the plunge, adding five, wonderful, new classrooms to our structure; upgrading all the old classrooms; adding a beau-



