

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

MAY 1975



ARCLAY AND BAILEY HALLS

URBANA COLLEGE—CONVENTION SITE

THANK YOU

By Monday Eichie
Urbana Student from Nigeria

On September 16, 1972 when I was registering for my first classes at Urbana College, I did not know nor did I have the intention of making the college degree work in less than three years.

The primary and hidden problem I was facing during the 1972 period of the freshman orientation and the subsequent class registration was how will I ever get the financial resources to further my studies in America. Other secondary problems for instance, my adjustment into the new environment, socially, culturally, etc. though severe, were regarded as challenges that must have to be faced.

Today I have many reasons to be grateful to the individual members and the entire Swedenborgian Mission in America for all their financial, moral, etc. contributions they have made towards my education in America. I am indeed very happy to announce to all those that have made these contributions and to other well-wishers that on June 8, 1975 during the Urbana College Commencement exercises, I shall be one of those that will be receiving a college diploma—Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

It will not be an easy thing for me to mention all the names of those whom I know have directly and indirectly helped me, but, however, I would like to make special reference to the following people and say thank you.

Roger Dean Paulson: I must have to thank you for your relentless efforts, self-sacrifice, personal understanding and your continuous willingness to help. My relationship with you for the past few years has been so great and noticeable both here in the USA and in Nigeria to an extent that you are now often referred to as Uncle Paulson.

Ernest O. Martin: I must have to thank you for your able leadership, your dedication in using your good offices to help all Swedenborgian members all over the world, for your sincere devotion to humanity and your approachability.

William Boker: Special thanks to you, Bill, for were it not for you, I would not have been able to complete my first two quarters at Urbana College.

Rev. Leslie Marshall: Your personal financial contribution towards my studies, most especially your occasional gifts that often came at the hours when I was in need, contributed immensely in making ends meet. I say thank you.

Urbana Swedenborgian Church: I would like to give special thanks to the local members of the Swedenborgian Church at Urbana—Dr. Dorothea Harvey, Dr. and Mrs. Horand Gutfeldt, Dr. and Dr. (Mrs.) Theodore Klein and every other member. I thank you. I appreciate all that you have done for me.

Alliance of New Church Women: I would also like to thank you for your financial contribution towards my studies and your devotion towards the course of Urbana College.

Urbana College Community: As I have earlier said in my previous article in this *Messenger* magazine, Urbana College has cared and is still caring for me as an individual. My time with you has been so great and it definitely brings about a great change in my life for the good. I am very grateful to the entire college community, the administrators, the faculty members and the student body.

Finally, on behalf of my family, my people in Nigeria, I say thank you for all you have done for me.

THE MESSENGER

MAY 1975

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Robert H. Kirven, Editor

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MINI-COURSES AT CONVENTION

For the inspiration and edification of Convention delegates and visitors, the following 10 Mini-Courses will be offered. Each course will meet for three 2-hour sessions. To develop group spirit and to get the most from the courses, participants are urged to attend all three sessions of a course. Transfer from one course to another is permitted. Registration will be in Urbana.

Multi-Age Creative Learning Activities

(Betsy Young and Marilyn Turley)

Swedenborg, Yoga, and Meditation

(Horand Gutfeldt)

Religious Meaning in Modern Music

(Brad Steward, Steve Ledingham, Betsy Bishop)

Women

(Ginger Tafel and Mary Kay Klein)

Introduction to Swedenborg—A Modern Language Approach

(Dorothea Harvey)

Death and Dying

(Randall Laakko and Paul Zacharias)

Swedenborg's Writing Process

(George F. Dole)

Swedenborg's Use of Terms

(William R. Woofenden)

Nurturing the Image of God—An Experiential Approach

(Calvin E. Turley)

Long-Range Planning for the Church

(August A. Ebel and Eric Zacharias)

MISSIONARY MITE

Goes forth to help distribute our literature through the missionary outreach at the Wayfarers' Chapel. Here, over 500,000 pass through its doors each year. There were over 700 people at the Easter Services alone. Here at the Chapel is an unprecedented opportunity to reach people and share our beliefs. Here many will hear of Swedenborg for the first time and will pick up the pamphlets, collateral literature and Swedenborg's Writings.

The Women's New Church Alliance voted last year to donate its 1975 Mite Box contributions to the

missionary outreach program at the Chapel, thus participating in a very tangible way in getting our teachings before the public.

The Chapel can distribute all the literature we can send. It takes money to run a Chapel, a great deal of money for literature distribution. Please send contributions to:

Corinne B. Tafel

Mite Box Chairman

200 Chestnut Avenue

Narberth, Pa. 19072

ADVANCE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

My activities as President have been reported regularly through the pages of *The Messenger*. The "President's Corner" appeared in the December 1974 and April 1975 issues. My convention address was printed in the September issue.

On November 2, 1974 I officiated at the consecration of Milton Hone-mann as Lay Minister of the Baltimore Church. In January 1975 I journeyed to Guyana, South America to ordain Robert J. Murray as Missionary Minister to serve the Georgetown Church under the supervision of the Board of Mis-sions. As one of my last official acts as President, I look forward to ordaining Dorothea Harvey at the 1975 convention as the first woman minister of Con-vention. Dorothea was made an Authorized Candidate for the Ministry at the 1974 convention.

During the year I attended meetings of nearly all Convention boards and committees as well as sessions of the Governing Board of the National Coun-cil of Churches. A highlight in January was participation in a meeting of National Council denominational leaders with President Gerald Ford in the cabinet room of the White House.

I have visited many of our churches and preached in New York, Washing-ton, D. C., De Land, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Park Ridge, the Wayfarers' Chapel, San Diego and Kitchener.

I have continued to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Urbana College during its 125th anniversary year. On April 9th the college received word that it had been granted accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. We look forward to holding our 1975 convention on the Urbana College campus; the General Council held its mid-winter session there; and other boards and committees have been privi-leged to make use of the college facilities. Four young people from the church have been granted scholarship aid to attend the college.

CONDENSED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE NEW JERUSALEM IN THE U.S.A. FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1975

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SECTION I

PROPERTY HELD BY CONVENTION MARCH 31, 1975

Shares in Common Fund (1)	\$4,844,460.93
Stocks—Special	3,762.44
Mortgage and Note—Urbana College	372,343.79
Church Loans, Mortgages and Real Estate	840,525.25
Savings Banks	83,852.24
Cash in Bank and on Hand	10,617.58
Accounts Receivable Net of Payable	48,183.54
New York Office (Dept. of Publications)	812.36
Books and Pamphlets	11,510.50
	<hr/>
	\$6,216,068.63

(1) Market Value 3/31/75 \$4,161,604.00 Approx.

Designated as Follows:

Funds—"Special Purposes"	
Income only to be used	\$2,378,258.71
Funds—"Special Purposes"	
Principal and income for use	698,740.55
Funds—"General Purposes and Designated"	
Principal and income for use	615,571.88
Income only for use	303,258.96

The Planning and Development Committee, under the chairmanship of Captain August Ebel, met for a week in Bridgton, Maine in August 1974. An eight-page report was submitted to the General Council in January and approval was given to six of the recommendations as follows: (1) That the "planning and development" process be used for all boards and committees of Convention; (2) That the use of team ministries in regional centers be encouraged with a fund of \$2,000 to be administered by the President for travel expenses for ministers, students, and laymen to explore the possibilities of working as a team; (3) That a national team be formed to be a "facilitating group" responsive to the church at large in the areas of planning and development; (4) That a second minister be employed at the Wayfarers' Chapel provided that such employment is used to expand the program of special services and counseling; (5) That *The Messenger* be strengthened as a vehicle for Convention-wide inter-personal contact; and (6) That a fund be established to provide continuing education for ministers.

The report of the Planning and Development Committee will be available to delegates at convention time and it is hoped that there will be opportunity for discussion. General Council voted to continue the P and D Committee, at least for the coming year. It is essential that such a committee keep at the task of formulating specific proposals for the future development of the church.

A screening committee considered candidates for the directorship of the Central Office of Convention and recommended that Roger Dean Paulson be employed. The General Council approved the recommendation and Roger took office on May 1st. He will direct the day-to-day activities of the Central Office in Newton, Mass.

The seven years of my presidency have been a source of great joy and satisfaction. I shall always be grateful for the opportunity to serve Convention as president, and I want to express appreciation to all of the officers and board and committee members who have worked with me. I am also indebted to the members of churches and associations who welcomed me so cordially on my trips throughout Convention.

Ernest O. Martin

Funds—"General Purposes"			
Principal and income for use	1,890,112.85		
Fund—Alfred Regamey	10,642.74		
Fund—Vienna Building	2,840.62	5,899,426.31	
Fund—Washington Church		100,000.00	
Fund—Wayfarers' Chapel		131,925.43	
Income Accumulations:			
Augmentation Fund	80,909.31		
Pension Fund	3,807.58	84,716.89	
Total Funds and Accumulations		<u>\$6,216,068.63</u>	

SECTION II

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1975

INCOME

Gross Income—Investments and Other		\$ 288,070.12	
Blakebell Donation		6,480.00	
Bissell Rent		4,100.00	
Dept. of Publication—N.Y. Office		781.74	
Contributions:			
Augmentation	\$ 1,000.00		
Appeal	9,461.90		
Missions	1,085.00		
Messenger—Subscriptions and Donations	699.25		
Pension Other Than Premiums	512.62	12,758.77	
Total Income		<u>\$ 312,190.63</u>	

EXPENDITURES

For Convention Uses per terms of gifts or direction of General Council		
Augmentation	\$ 55,820.31	
Missions	52,972.58	
Pension—Net Premiums	11,166.13	
Messenger	20,683.89	
Scholarship Fund	<u>2,500.00</u>	143,142.91
Income from Convention held funds payable by terms of gifts		
Theological School	\$ 5,918.49	
Michigan Association	1,956.20	
American N.C. Tract and Publishing	826.86	
First Pennsylvania Society	1,324.23	
Orange Society	1,008.22	
Cambridge Society	146.30	
Connecticut Society	186.64	
Newtonville Society	1,807.12	
Mass. N.C. Union	181.86	
Swedenborg Publishing Association	980.00	
Illinois Association	1,070.00	
Various Others	<u>45.00</u>	15,450.92
Expenses:		
Administration	45,948.68	
Boards and Committees incl. Dept. of		
Publication N.Y. office	31,939.79	
Real Estate	4,082.79	
Other	<u>36,591.67</u>	118,562.93
Income credited to expense accounts		<u>963.67</u>
		\$ 278,120.43
Deduct transfer Augmentation to Missions		<u>2,700.00</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 275,420.43</u>

Income credited to funds and surplus accounts

General Fund Surplus	9,564.00	
Pension Fund Surplus	1,950.94	
Augmentation Fund Surplus	22,937.93	
Pausch Scholarship Fund Surplus	297.66	
Other Fund Accumulations	<u>2,019.67</u>	36,770.20
		<u>\$ 312,190.63</u>

SECTION III

CHANGES IN FUNDS HELD BY CONVENTION
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1975

Funds and Surplus per Next Prior Account March 31, 1974 \$6,119,940.48

Fund Additions

Restricted Free		
Foreign Travel	\$ 68.97	
Keller, Helen	68.60	
Pausch Scholarship	<u>297.66</u>	435.23
General Funds Permanent		
Regamey, Alfred	2,987.62	
Vienna Building	<u>113.51</u>	3,101.13
General Fund Free Special Purposes		
Lehnen	<u>105.10</u>	105.10
General Purpose Funds		
Barler	10,000.00	
Vinal, M. Amelia H.	48,033.82	
Income in Excess of Expenditures	<u>9,564.00</u>	67,597.82
Other Surpluses		
Augmentation Fund	22,937.93	
Pension Fund	<u>1,950.94</u>	24,888.87
Funds and Surplus March 31, 1975		<u>\$6,216,068.63</u>

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Several new activities within the educational scope of Convention have been successfully explored this year by the Board of Education. These, coupled with the variety of on-going concerns under its jurisdiction, have combined to make this a busy and productive year.

The Board sponsored a pilot conference for those of our membership concerned with Retirement. It was held in January, in DeLand, Florida. Post conference evaluation by lay participants and staff was positive, and the Board is considering ways and means of expanding in this educational area.

The first conference for Women of the Church was sponsored early in April in Urbana, Ohio. The experience and resulting growth in understanding expressed by those attending opens some interesting possibilities for future meetings.

The fourth post-Convention Conference was successfully piloted by the Board in Urbana, Ohio in 1974. Plans for the fifth Conference, following Convention 1975, are now being finalized.

A Mini-Course in religious education concerned with Small Group and Family Worship was presented at the 1974 Convention. The Board will again sponsor a course this year, the thrust this time being use of the Open Classroom for multi-aged learning.

For many years LEI has been an active and productive outreach in the Conference area for the training of our young church leaders. Summer '75 will see a new format with a program which involves walking the correspondence trail—this year in New England in late August. The program has been aptly nick-named “WEYS”—Wilderness Experience for Young Swedenborgians.

The Board continues its interest in tapes for isolated members, and small group use. Book revues and group discussion material are the principal thrust at this time. There is a persistent awareness of the need for effective material to be used in the teaching of our young children. Suggestions of specific needs, or additional material not already available for Board study, would be welcomed by the members.

During the year the Rev. Randall Laakko, Adult Work Committee Chairman, resigned, after many faithful and productive years in this capacity. Mrs. Perry Martin has assumed this assignment and we look forward to fruitful work under her capable direction.

Your Board of Education remains active and earnestly concerned with the educational needs, and potential, of our Church. It looks forward to expanded programs and the implementation of new ideas in the coming year.

Betsy Young, Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

SWEDENBORG SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Another school year is drawing to a close at SSR, a year much like other years in many respects, but significantly different in some. It is primarily of these that I would write.

Anyone visiting SSR for long this year would notice that female students are very much in evidence. Not that we have not had women students before; students' wives have frequently attended classes. But only in the past three years have we had women preparing for ordination. Only this year have we had four. This has been made possible by recent votes of General Convention, but seems also to represent a widely experienced trend in

American churches and theological schools. Indeed, enrollments in many seminaries would be well below the level of several years ago, were it not for an influx of female students reaching in a number of cases as high as forty per cent of the student body. We have been very pleased with the performance of our women students and would urge Convention churches to be giving careful consideration to making use of the talents which they have to offer.

Two of our women students have been with us several years. Polly Baxter, whose husband is also a student, has had to reduce her participation this year because of a second addition to her family. Barbara Scholz continues to make good progress. Diana Kirven and Susan Turley entered last September and show good promise in this their first year.

School began in the Fall with four male students: Dick Baxter, Ron Brugler, Robert Murray, and David Rienstra. Dick was returning to us from a year's field education in the San Francisco Bay area under the supervision of faculty member Owen Turley. Ron had recently graduated from Urbana College. Robert Murray was to spend four months with us and then go to South America to become a Missionary Minister of a church in Guyana. Dave Rienstra would be spending the major portion of his time completing an undergraduate degree at Boston University.

In January our student body was increased by the addition of Erick Allison and Wendel Barnett. Erick had been on leave of absence since May and was returning. Wendel, a graduate of the College at Bryn Athyn, and a member of the General Church, was just entering. Now Wendel has joined our Boston Church and is looking forward to a ministry as an Air Force Chaplain.

A number of aspects of our students' education experiences this year deserve separate mention:

Our faculty has remained the same during the past year, except that Dr. William Woofenden is now at 3/4 time. Drs. George Dole, Robert Kirven, and Calvin Turley have taught full time. Mrs. Robert Kirven is full time librarian with faculty status. And Dr. Coleman Bender, a professor at Emerson College, continues to work with our students in Homiletics and Voice.

Owen Turley, who has not had a student with him this year, has been on the faculty since 1960, first in Cambridge, then in Bellevue, and now in the San Francisco Bay area. Partly because of changes in our field education, but more because of financial necessity, his regular faculty relationship with the School will end this year.

Last Spring we changed our fiscal year from April to March to the twelve month period beginning July 1st. We started off that new fiscal year with a budgeted deficit of some \$31,000, an amount we could not accept. A meeting of representatives of our two boards, of administration, of faculty, and of the student body, met in September to seek ways to improve the situation. Some new money has been obtained. Some savings have been accomplished. The end result will be a deficit nearer \$10,000. This we can tolerate for a year or two more, but obviously further work needs to be done, particularly when we note that faculty have not even had cost-of-living raises since September of 1973.

This past year has seen the publication of a new school bulletin (catalogue). Small supplies were sent to each church. Individual members of Convention are welcome to copies on request.

Considerable activity of a scholarly nature has gone on at SSR this past year. Dr. Dole has completed his new translation of *Heaven and Hell*; Dr. Woofenden has prepared a revision of Signe Toksvig's biography, *Emanuel Swedenborg, Scientist and Mystic*, for printing. Three faculty members meet regularly to work on Swedenborg in Latin. And two more issues of *Studia* have come off the press and been distributed.

1. We have worked out a required program of first year courses as follows:

First Semester

Overview of Swedenborg's Ideas
Introduction to Pastoral Care and Caring
English Bible
Orientation to Research and Writing in Swedenborg Field Education

Second Semester

Swedenborg's Terminology
Forms of Ministry
New Church History
Field Education

2. We are requiring a field education experience of each student each year. This year students have chosen such experience in a state mental hospital, in an ecumenical parish, in a counseling center, and in a church oriented to college students.
3. During January (our Project Period) four of our students spent three weeks studying the life of Swedenborg and two spent the month exploring ministry with the Rev. Ernest L. Frederick in DeLand and participating in the planning conference for those 55 and over.
4. Though it was not school sponsored, I want to mention that three students and one student wife attended the Conference for New Church Women held in Urbana in early April.
5. Dr. Wilson Van Dusen visited us for three days in January and talked with us about the implications of Swedenborg's teachings for parish ministry.
6. During the Fall semester two Andover Newton Theological School students added to the discussions in Dr. Turley's course on "Pastoral Care and Caring." This Spring a B.U. School of Theology student and a woman from Andover Newton have participated in the "Forms of Ministry" course.

With financial help from Convention's Augmentation Fund Committee, SSR has been cooperating with the Western Canada Conference in a Western Canada Conference Training Program for Lay Ministers. In the Fall a three-day workshop was staffed by Drs. Dole and Turley. During the Winter the trainees have met in Edmonton and exchanged tapes with Drs. Dole and Woofenden, who are scheduled to be at a second workshop in May at Paulhaven.

Two concerns trouble me most at this writing: the availability of viable parishes and ministries for our graduates, and the difficulty of determining qualifications for ministry in applicants to the School. These are both problems for which we plan to seek help from Convention officers and agencies.

Edwin G. Capon, President

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION

In addition to the special convention meeting on June 22, 1974, the Department of Publication was fortunate to be invited to the Swedenborg School of Religion for both of the regular semi-annual meetings which were held on September 12-14, 1974 and February 13-15, 1975. Students of the School not only attended portions of the Department's meetings but were receptive and kind hosts. The members of the Department express their gratitude.

Much of the attention of the Department in the past year has been focused upon the difficult and exceedingly important task of selecting an editor for the *New Church Messenger*. Following the announcement by Robert Kirven that he would be leaving the editor's post which he capably had held for several years, the Department solicited applications for the position which was to become open in June, 1975. The Department carefully evaluated the credentials of the applicants, and carried on extended discussions, which were focused on the format, content and direction proposed by each candidate for the Church's most widely circulated periodical. After thoughtful and

painstaking consideration of a field of highly qualified applicants the Department selected Reverend Paul Zacharias to fill the three-year term as *Messenger* editor. The members of the Department anticipate a close and productive working relationship with Reverend Zacharias and look forward to a continuance of the tradition of excellence which previous *Messenger* editors have established.

The Department was also pleased to acknowledge that *Our Daily Bread*, under the dedicated editorship of Reverend Richard Tafel, Sr., celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1974. This truly admirable contribution to the life of the church was marked by a special 25th anniversary issue which was distributed just prior to and during Convention in 1974. The Department commends Reverend Tafel for his years of service and looks forward to many more issues of *Our Daily Bread* under his learned and sensitive editorship.

The first three issues of the New Church periodical, *Studia Swedenborgiana*, edited by Reverend William Woofenden, have been published in the past year. Containing scholarly essays and translations of Swedenborg's previously unpublished works, *Studia Swedenborgiana* has made a major contribution to Swedenborgian thought. The Department eagerly looks forward to coming issues which are to be published intermittently by the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Through the extraordinary efforts of Cecile Werben the distribution of available New Church literature at Convention reached new heights in 1974. The Department recognizes that the sale and distribution of literature at Convention provides a major contribution to our publication efforts and without Ms. Werben's dedication and hard work we would be unable to bring the printed word to many of our church members.

In addition to reviewing the needs for editing and republication of literature presently out of print, the Department has continued to solicit and review new materials for publication. Working with the representative members to the Department from the Swedenborg Publishing Association, the Swedenborg Book Center, the Swedenborg Press, the Massachusetts New Church Union, and the Swedenborg Foundation, the Department continues

Community Church were prepared by guest editors, Harvey Tafel and Jaikoo Lee respectively. Technical help with lay-out and paste-up has come from a series of senior students from Boston University's School of Public Communication: Margaret Kirven, Madelyn Johnson and Wendy Smith. As always I've had help and support from the Department of Publication, and especially from President Martin and the Central Office staff—Gladys Baker and Lu Freedman.

Although my editorship continues through the July-August issue—a third of the next fiscal year—I assume that this, my ninth, is my last report as editor. I usually feel at a loss for words when called on to report to Convention on a work that all members have already seen, and I find no appropriate final word. I offer thanks and apologies as may be appropriate to different readers in different connections, and express my great confidence and best wishes to my successor, the Rev. Paul Zacharias.

Robert H. Kirven

THE NEW CHURCH PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

The New Church Prayer Fellowship reports for the 1974-75 season a membership of 192 of whom 54 are in Puerto Rico, Norway, Australia and England. We received an average of 8 or 10 requests for prayer each month, and our Emergency Prayer Group of 9 members responds at once to emergency requests.

Guest writers for monthly bulletins were Rev. Galen Unruh, Jill Kinglake and Gwynne Dresser Mack.

When Gwynne Mack started the Prayer Fellowship in 1958 we hoped never to ask for dues or a donation, and we never have had to—thanks to the continual thoughtfulness of our members in contributing for expenses. This year we were able to send copies of "ES AND ESP," by Mrs. Mack, to all the members. Again we express our appreciation to the Office of General Convention for printing our monthly bulletins.

to receive reports and to provide recommendations and advice to these bodies in an effort to serve not only present church members but potential members as well. The Department is currently reviewing manuscripts for publication as pamphlets by Reverend Paul Zacharias, Reverend Ernest Martin, Reverend Eric Zacharias, and Reverend Richard Tafel, Sr. The representative members of the Department have reported that the respective publishing bodies are exceedingly active in publishing both edited reprints and new works. Space limitations prohibit a complete listing of these activities in this report, however, summary reports may be obtained directly from the respective publishing bodies or from the Secretary of the Department of Publication.

The program of underwriting the costs of literature for distribution at the Wayfarers' Chapel, the Kemper Road Center, and Urbana College, which was established in 1973 has met with great success. Harvey Tafel, Richard Tafel, Jr., and Roger Paulson all have reported that the Department's program has resulted in the dissemination of thousands of pieces of literature. It is anticipated that this vital outreach program will be continued into 1976.

This report is intended to provide an overview of the activities of the Department of Publications. As always the Department solicits proposals and manuscripts, as well as suggestions and comments. We also welcome information regarding interested and qualified persons to serve as members of the Department. The entire Department is eager to provide meaningful service to the church in the exceedingly important field of published materials.

Edward Bohlander, Chairman

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF THE MESSENGER

The usual eleven issues were published, with a total of 220 pages during the fiscal year. The customary double issue for July-August was supplemented with a double issue for September, devoting 64 pages to Convention news and pictures. Special issues on the Wayfarers' Chapel and Good Shepherd

Rev. Andre Diaconoff has continued as director, with Rev. Thornton O. Smallwood for his assistant; and Marion Greene as secretary-treasurer has supervised the office work and mailings.

*Rev. Andre Diaconoff, Director
F. Marion Greene, Secretary*

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PASTOR ALFRED G. REGAMEY

The first event of importance to report upon as General Pastor for 1974-1975 for Europe is the ordination on October 6, 1974 of Gudmund Boolsen in and as minister of Copenhagen (Denmark). Mr. Boolsen will assume full responsibility as minister for Denmark. He will also pay monthly visits in Stockholm.

It was a joyful occasion as since the war and the departure of Rev. Bjorn Johannsen for the USA, the society had no resident minister.

Early this year, that is on February 24th, the Geneva Society celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation, at which I presided as its minister. There also it was a happy and joyful celebration. But, unfortunately, the Society has decided to cease its activity and quit the premises it has had for about ten years, on account of lack of financial means and a heavy deficit.

Later on, that is on March 30th (Easter day), our dear friend and colleague, Werner Schmidt, passed away after some years of suffering and handicap. Nevertheless he tried valiently to carry his duties to the end, but was finally compelled to give up. His departure faces us with some serious problems. It will be particularly an increased responsibility for Rev. Friedemann Horn.

The authorizations as lay leaders of those listed on page 106 of the 1974 Journal of Convention have been renewed for another year, that is up to the summer of 1976. Some of these leaders have been very active and regular in the fulfillment of their duties and I feel very grateful for their cooperation.

Alfred G. Regamey

AUGMENTATION FUND COMMITTEE

This report covers the activity of the Augmentation Fund Committee during the fiscal year of the General Convention from April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1975.

Income:

From the Common Fund	\$77,758.24
Contribution	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$78,758.24

Disbursements:

Assistance to 12 theological students	\$26,493.92
Assistance to 11 churches	24,225.67
Assistance to Board of Missions	2,700.00
Administrative Expenses	405.65
Other Expenses	1,895.07
Peoria Fund	<u>100.00</u>

Total Disbursements	<u>\$55,820.31</u>
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Income in excess of disbursements	\$22,937.93
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Surplus April 1, 1974	<u>57,971.38</u>
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Balance on March 31, 1975	\$80,909.31
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Stewart E. Poole, Chairman

AN ANSWER TO THE CRIES



In the February issue of *The Messenger*, it stated, "A contribution mailed today will be an answer to the cry of the hungry child." Swedenborgians responded and to date \$971.50 has been sent to

UNICEF. Along with the checks came many letters, all stating in various ways the same thought. "My heart was troubled by the pitiful picture of the starving mother and child." It is impossible to overlook the little ones of the world as they struggle for survival under intolerable conditions.

It has been stated that the United States has less than one-third of the world's population, but we consume two-thirds of the resources. We must find ways to share these resources with the starving children of the world.

For this one year, Swedenborgians will attempt an answer as we respond to the cries and fill the bowls through UNICEF. Will you help? A check made out to The Swedenborgian Church, marked *Children's Fund*, and mailed to 48 Sargent Street, Newton, Mass. 02158 is one way. The Lord said, "As ye do it unto the least of my brethren, ye do it me."

ASSOCIATIONS

CANADA ASSOCIATION

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener is the only active Society in the Canada Association. About 25 isolated members in the province support the work of the Kitchener Society in varying degrees. Five or six home meetings are held in Toronto each year.

The Executive Committee of the Association meets twice annually and carries on a number of useful programs for the New Church in the province and beyond its borders. This past year the Association appropriated funds for the following purposes: to assist clergy and lay members to attend Convention sessions in Urbana; to carry weekly church advertisements in the local newspaper; to mount an advertising campaign for Swedenborgian literature in a nearby city newspaper; to fund a Homecoming Sunday in June, with the Rev. and Mrs. Obed Mooki from South Africa our special guests; contributions were sent to Urbana College, the Swedenborg Foundation and the New Church College Building Fund in South Africa, as well as to the general uses of Convention. The sum of \$400 has been set aside for the re-printing of the booklet, "Insights into Heaven and Hell."

The Church of the Good Shepherd carries on a full and varied program throughout the year, including Sunday morning worship services, Sunday School classes for all ages, special seasonal programs during the year. A Women's Auxiliary meets twice monthly, a local discussion group also meets twice monthly, and three or four social activities are held during the course of the year. The church facilities are also used regularly by three outside service organizations. A weekly bulletin is mailed to about 115 homes, in and around Kitchener. The Church of the Good Shepherd is actively involved in the work of the K-W Council of Churches, and the pastor also serves on the On-Call Chaplaincy Program at the K-W Hospital.

During the year 1974 there were two baptisms, eleven confirmation, three weddings and four resurrection services in the Canada Association.

Paul Zacharias President

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut Association met twice in 1974 at Center Church House in New Haven. The Rev. Clayton Priestnal conducted the worship services and at both services the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

The annual meeting was held on May 6, 1974 and the following officers were elected for a two-year term:

President: Mrs. Foster G. Woods

Vice-Pres.: Rev. Clayton Priestnal

Treasurer: Miss Frances Vodola

Secretary: Mrs. Martin F. Lynn

The fall meeting was held on October 15th.

During the year the Connecticut Association has given financial support to the following: Almont New Church Assembly, Fryeburg, the Mooki Fund, Urbana College and the Mooki College Building Fund.

At the October meeting Mr. Priestnal suggested buying an "ad" in the New Haven Register and The Yale Daily News, offering a free copy of *Heaven and Hell*, the "ad" to appear about a month before the Association's spring meeting. At this writing sixteen requests for the book have been mailed out and have been followed by an invitation to the April 29th meeting. The response to the advertising exceeded our expectations.

Louise W. Lynn, Secretary

GULFPORT SOCIETY

Since our last report all has gone well with the Gulfport Society. Sunday services, conducted by Lay Leaders, were held without interruption in the Church building each week. At present we are again undergoing our studies from "The Sower." Attendance is considered good considering the distance

some must travel. Dedication is considered great. The children are interested and respond well. Yes, this Society has been blessed, but this does not mean that we are satisfied. More should be done, and more should be written in these reports, on what needs to be done, rather than on feeble accomplishments of the past. For instance, we can report no baptisms or confirmations and we would like to see this record changed.

Again we express gratitude for our friends in the Southeast Association for the help rendered, and we again send out an invitation for a minister interested in filling the pulpit of the Swedenborg Memorial Church here at Gulfport. It is felt that the challenge is out to one who genuinely desires to promote and teach the enlightened writing of Swedenborg in this area.

*Robert S. Loper,
President*

KANSAS ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the Kansas Association was held on November 3, 1974 in Montezuma, Kansas. The Rev. Andre Diaconoff of St. Paul, Minnesota was the guest speaker.

A dinner was served in the Church substory following Church services.

A business meeting was held and conducted by President Eric Zacharias.

Reports were given by Rev. Galen Unruh for Pawnee Rock Society, Rev. Eric Zacharias for Pretty Prairie and Doris Friesen for Montezuma. All societies remain active and work to keep the writings of Swedenborg alive.

The 1975 meeting will be held in Pawnee Rock.

*Joan McDonald,
Secretary*

Camp Blairhaven completed a very successful 16th year of operation. Mr. Robert Littlefield was the new director and proved to be an excellent choice as both campers and staff enjoyed a most rewarding season. During the months from May to October the property at Blairhaven was in constant use, and plans to winterize it are underway so that it will be usable all year.

The Massachusetts Women's Alliance held six meetings, visiting Boston, Cambridge, Brockton, Elmwood and Bridgewater. The study of women in the Bible was continued and also a review was given and enjoyed of the Rev. Brian Kingslake's new book, *For Heaven's Sake*.

The Boston Society, in addition to regular Sunday morning services, held adult discussion groups on one Sunday evening each month, entertained ninety guests at the annual Swedenborg's Birthday Dinner, sponsored two musical evenings, presented tableaux at the Christmas Eve service, and hosted the Spring meeting of the Massachusetts Association.

The Brockton Society continued to hold its services in the Memorial Chapel of the First Parish Congregational Church in Brockton. The Ladies' Circle and the N.T.O.'s were active and entertained the Alliance in November. Mr. Alan W. Farnham continued to serve the congregation as Lay Leader.

The Bridgewater Society reported an active year. Family Sundays on Easter, Children's Sunday, Homecoming Sunday and Christmas were especially well attended. Groups working within the Church include the Ladies' Sewing Circle, the King's Daughters, the Study Group and the Young People's League. A new carpet in the church and a fresh coat of paint on the exterior have enhanced the beauty of the new stained glass windows installed last year.

The Cambridge Society has held regular services with the Rev. Wilfred G. Rice as pastor. During his illness, Lay Leader Rafael Guiu conducted the services. The Study Group meets on Monday evenings under the leadership of the Rev. Julian Kendig. Memorial services were held for the Rev. Samuel O. Weems and for Dr. Howard Miller.

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION

Officers serving the Massachusetts Association for the year 1974-75 were: President, Mr. Clarence L. Mitchell; Vice-President, Rev. George D. McCurdy; Secretary, Mrs. Lucile B. Flagg. The Executive Committee met regularly each month, carrying on the work of the Association, planning the Spring and Fall meetings, preparing the budget for the action of the Union, hearing and acting upon the reports of the Blairhaven Committee, and electing delegates to Convention.

The Fall Meeting (289th) was held at the Cambridge Church on October 20, 1974. The sermon was given by Rev. Dr. William R. Woofenden, whose topic dealt with women in the ministry. The program included a slide and tape presentation, "An Evening with Johnny Appleseed." prepared by Rev. and Mrs. Woofenden, and a very enjoyable slide presentation of activities at Camp Blairhaven which was given by camp director, Mr. Robert Littlefield.

On April 27, 1975 the 290th meeting of the Association was held at the Boston Church. Officers elected for the year 1975-1976 were: President, Mr. Clarence L. Mitchell; Vice President, Rev. Edwin G. Capon, and Secretary, Mrs. Lucile B. Flagg. The worship service was conducted by the Rev. George McCurdy, the sermon was given by the Rev. Dr. George F. Dole, and the speaker was Dr. Brijen Gupta, whose topic was, "The Challenge of Spurious Hinduism to the West." The missionary offering taken at the meeting was sent to the Mooki Mission in South Africa. Dr. Gupta asked that his honorarium be donated to CARE for the starving children in India.

The Northern Area Council sponsored the Summer Union Services, a Maundy Thursday Service, and the annual Swedenborg Birthday Dinner at which the speaker was the Rt. Rev. Louis B. King of the General Church.

The Southern Area Council sponsored six Sunday evening services during Lent and the annual Blairhaven retreat. Buses were provided for members of the southern area churches to attend the Swedenborg Birthday Dinner and the Annual Meeting in Boston.

The Elmwood Society again enjoyed an active and rewarding year. Church School enrollment was forty-six, with an average attendance of thirty-six. The Senior and Junior Choirs provided excellent music, and three concerts by the Bridgewater Antiphonal Brass were enjoyed. Organizations active in the church include the Joppa Guild, the Ladies' Circle, the Y.P.L., the Boy Scouts, and two groups of Girl Scouts. Special events during the year include a play presented by the Junior Choir, several auctions, rummage sales, catered meals, slide programs, and the Lenten Sunday night services.

The Manchester Society continued to hold services under the leadership of Rev. Edwin G. Capon, and the Newtonville Society met monthly with members of the General Church, Rev. Sonesen, Minister.

Yarmouthport held services during ten weeks of the summer season, attracting many visitors and friends from both on and off the Cape. John Bishop served as organist for the third consecutive summer. Two of the three Summer Concert Series were held in the New Church and attracted large audiences. The project of bringing a black student from Alabama was not as successful as in previous years due to changing conditions in that part of the country. However, a very competent college student who was in need of financial aid provided the help needed.

The Massachusetts Association and the New Church Union join in expressing their regrets to members of the Mansfield Society that after so many years of great service to both the Mansfield community and the Association it has become necessary to disband their society. It is deeply appreciated that the group voted to turn their church property over to the Association and Union as a contribution toward the future work of the New Church in Massachusetts.

The Swedenborg Spiritual Library (S. S. L.) attracts more and more seekers after spiritual help. Interesting dialogues develop daily with the result that sales of books have increased substantially. The Library again participated in the New England Book Fair with very satisfying results. The manager of the Library, Mr. Rafael Guiu, participated in a half-hour TV discussion program on Channel 5 with the Rev. George McCurdy and Mrs.

Louise Woofenden. The program, entitled "New Heaven and New Earth," made a most encouraging and favorable impact on the viewing audience and stimulated the sale of books concerning New Church teachings.

The Massachusetts New Church Union is the financial arm of the Association. Its officers for 1975-76 are: President, Mr. C. Fred Burdett; Vice-President, Mr. Wilfred C. Peck; Secretary, Mr. H. Page Conant; Treasurer, Mr. Chester T. Cook.

Lucile B. Flagg, Secretary

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION

This has been a year of transition for the Detroit Society, in that we have sold our church building at Curtis and Meyers roads in Detroit. Since the sale, in January 1975, we have been meeting in the Royal Oak Women's Club, Fourth and Pleasant Streets. The Women's Club building, which is the oldest building in Royal Oak, was originally designed as a church, and is very attractive. It is just the right size for us, too. We continue to meet at our regular times: Sunday School at 9:30, Divine Worship at 11:00 A.M. and we are able to have coffee hours and dinners at the Women's Club.

The move from our former church building was made very smoothly, and we have kept our program of worship and education going without interruption. We have had an active Sunday School with classes for children of three years old up to adult. Our basic material is the Dole Notes, which we augment with movies, slides and other special material.

The meetings of our monthly doctrinal Study Group and the Women's Alliance have been very warm and pleasant affairs this year, as last. The Study Group has been discussing *Heaven and Hell*, and we have discovered how much depth there is in this work. At first we were trying to cover eighty numbers or more at each class, but then we dropped back to approximately forty paragraphs because of the richness of the material. We hold the meetings on Sunday, in a member's home, and always have a delicious pot-luck dinner before the class.

Although the Detroit Society is in a state of transition and hopes to find a new permanent home during the next year, we are maintaining a full and active program inspired by the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem.

*Walter E. Orthwein,
President*

MIDDLE ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION

Members of the Middle Atlantic Association met for a four-day period of spiritual renewal and fellowship at Drayton Manor in Maryland over the Memorial Day week-end.

Our annual meeting was held in the Baltimore Church on November 2nd. The Rev. Ernest O. Martin, President of Convention, attended and together with the Rev. Randall Laakko and the Rev. Richard H. Tafel led a panel discussion of "Woman's Role in the Church."

Following lunch a short business meeting was held. At the close of the meeting, the members attended the Service of Consecration at which Milton L. Honemann was consecrated Lay Minister to serve the Baltimore Church.

The Association has extended an invitation to General Convention to meet in the Philadelphia area in 1976 and the General Council has accepted.

Baltimore reports their great joy in having Mr. Honemann's services and expresses their deep thanks to Horace Rich, Edgar Rinehimer and Wilbur D. Preston, Jr., devoted laymen, who have helped provide leadership for regular Sunday Worship Services. Their special thanks go to those who provide the music each Sunday.

"The Baltimore Society is about holding steady thanks to the dedicated members who take the time and make the effort to do just a little more for the Church."

The Women's Alliance also meets once a month in the home of a member for a luncheon, business meeting, and study. This year the book discussed was *Where Heaven Begins* by the Rev. Everett E. Bray. The meetings are always very enjoyable. In April, the ladies were joined by some of the men of the Society at Almont for a day of work at the camp. The May meeting will be held there also as there are still many chores to do.

The Detroit Society celebrated Swedenborg's birthday jointly with the General Church Society in Troy again this year. We had a fine banquet and a most interesting and inspiring talk by the Rev. Frank Rose of the General Church Society in Caryndale (Kitchener) Ontario.

The Grand Rapids—Grand Haven Group continued to meet this year under the leadership of Mr. August Rienstra. The Rev. Walter Orthwein visits once a month.

Terrific progress has been made at the Almont New Church Assembly during the last year. The chapel was put on a new foundation, set further in on the property and turned so that it faces east, and is being improved by the addition of new wiring, plaster, paint, carpeting, pews and refinished altar. It will be like having a brand new church, and yet the charm of the original little white chapel has been retained. The work will be completed by camp time and one of our members plans to be married in the Almont Church a few days after the summer school session ends in August. The old "Big House" has been put on a new foundation, and plumbing is being installed. The old recreation hall has been taken down and the new recreation-dormitory complex is nearing completion. We are going to have a tree-planting program to landscape the grounds.

We had a League retreat at Almont during Christmas vacation last winter, and another retreat is planned for Memorial Day this May. The topic of the Christmas retreat was "The Doctrine of Use," and during Memorial Day we are going to consider the spiritual world and its relation to the natural world. The leaders of the Memorial Day retreat will be: Rev. Walter Orthwein, Rev. George McCurdy, Rev. Dr. Horand Gutfeldt, Rev. Geoffrey Childs of the General Church, and Mr. Rafael Guiu.

Philadelphia celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the ordination and service to the Parish of their pastor, Richard H. Tafel. The joyous occasion also celebrated the Tafel's fortieth wedding anniversary.

We are pleased to report that four of our young adults in their 20's are serving the Church as secretary of the Society and members of the Church Council.

The ladies continue to provide many services to the Church, as well as make donations to the local unit of Church Women United, the Philadelphia Crime Prevention Association and Urbana College. This year's Fair raised over \$1800!

Worship Services were held each Sunday throughout the year. During the summer months and in the Pastor's absence, devoted lay men and women conducted the Services.

Washington reports as follows: "The Washington Church finally was blessed with a new minister, Rev. F. Robert Tafel, after a search of about a year and a half. Bob and Mareta, plus children Kathy and Jennifer, officially came aboard February 16, 1975.

Again, we want to thank all the ministers, teachers and other friends around the country for filling the pulpit during our time of need, thus holding us together, indeed helping us grow.

Our organ fund drive in memory of Maude Sewell is gradually building up with good support from many sections of the country.

The Sunday Morning Forum is winding up its third year in great fashion, and continues to draw in more people, black and white.

Our Church doors are wide open now from about 11 A. M. to 4 P. M. most week-days when the minister has his office hours.

Now a great push is underway to focus the light of Swedenborg onto the National Capital area with greater brilliance. Task forces have been set up to recommend new and sharper programs responsive to needs of the community."

Mrs. Robert W. Tafel, Secretary

OHIO ASSOCIATION

The Ohio Association of the New Jerusalem held its 121st Annual Meeting October 4-6, 1974 at the Kemper Road Center for Religious Development, Montgomery, Ohio. A SEMINAR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, conducted jointly by Dr. Dorothea Harvey and Rev. Richard Tafel, Jr. was enjoyable and instructive. It provided opportunity for exchange of ideas and for participants to become better acquainted with fellow church members.

During the meeting, financial aid was voted for Youth Aid to Almont and LEI, Glendale, Urbana, Kemper Road Center Churches, Almont Assembly, Urbana College and Youth of the World for Swedenborg (Yowsers).

Almont Assembly extended an invitation to hold the 122nd Annual Meeting at Almont, in order that members can see the recent improvements to its facilities.

The CLEVELAND SOCIETY has had a productive year of activities although without a resident minister. Seven services were held from October 1973-June 1974 and the following visiting ministers took part: Rev. Robert H. Kirven, Rev. Ernest O. Martin, Rev. Walter Orthwein and Rev. George McCurdy. Dr. Owen Reeves conducted four lay services during this period, assisted by Frank Theriault, also a Lay Leader.

The younger members have been useful to the church, working to finance their bi-monthly meetings and other activities by planning and serving meals for the occasions on which there were visiting ministers. The Annual Meeting of the Cleveland Society was held June 9, 1974. Alberta Theriault was chosen representative to the Executive Committee of the Ohio Association.

The Swedenborg Chapel is again being used by the North Ohio Circle of the General Church for two services a month. The First Ohio District Assembly of the General Church was held at the Chapel September 20-22, 1974, to which all members of the Cleveland Society were invited.

Although the INDIANAPOLIS SOCIETY is no longer active in any formal manner, the members try to keep in touch by phone and occasional visits

funds. The Center looks forward to a new program year with seven new members, a large number of active friends and expanded developments in education and fellowship.

The PITTSBURGH SOCIETY has had regular services conducted by Lay Leaders Gilbert T. Heddaeus and Adolph Liebert. The Rev. Paul Zacharias provided a communion service. It is still hoped a joint ministry with the Cleveland Society can be worked out. Members of the Society are active in church affairs on several levels: Adolph Liebert and James Zehner serve as Trustees of Urbana College and are also on the General Council, with Adolph having the office of Vice-President of General Convention. Thomas B. Zehner serves as Treasurer of the Ohio Association. Members are also active in various local community activities.

The church organ, the first ever given by Andrew Carnegie, who attended Sunday School in the Pittsburgh New Church, was featured in a program of special music to honor the anniversary of the gift.

The membership is now reduced by two, having lost in death Ray L. Heddaeus and Herman Weidner.

The URBANA SOCIETY has had regular Sunday Services conducted by the Rev. Dr. Horand Gutfeldt during the school year. The Communion service was held twice. A Christmas play, written and directed by Mrs. Elizabeth Gutfeldt was staged at the Presbyterian Church and included children from the Urbana College Faculty and from the Second Baptist Church (which group is at present sharing the New Church facilities.)

Dr. Gutfeldt was guest professor at the Swedenborg School of Religion during the spring quarter, Dr. Harvey taking his place as Coordinator and Chairman of the Society.

All local members of the Society were active in the preparation for and in the activities of Convention on the Urbana Campus in June 1974 and anticipate providing the same support for Convention on the Campus in 1975, when Urbana College celebrates its 125th anniversary. Some of the members

since they are so scattered. Some members meet with the General Church South Ohio Circle under the leadership of the Rev. Daniel Heinrichs.

Mrs. Tollye Mae Stockton, loved and respected member of the Indianapolis Society for many years, passed into the spiritual life on April 16, 1974.

At the GLENDALE SOCIETY, services were held monthly from November 1973 to June 1974, by James Zehner, Lay Leader.

In April 1974 an agreement was signed with the South Ohio Circle of the General Church of the New Jerusalem whereby they will purchase the church building and premises from the Ohio Association within a year's time following the signing of the agreement of all parties concerned. Included in the agreement to sell is permission for the Glendale Society to continue having monthly services as long as desired. Considerable damage was done to the church building during a tornado on April 3, 1974. This has been repaired and a new furnace was also installed.

A life-long member, Mrs. Mary Alexander Leicht, passed into the spiritual life in November 1974. The resurrection service was conducted by the Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Jr.

THE KEMPER ROAD CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT has developed spiritually and physically with a varied program of worship, fellowship, personal growth and outreach. A Children's Meeting House, a Montessori pre-school and a gymnastics school make use of the premises. Weekly Sunday services were held except during the summer, when services were conducted monthly. These were led by Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Jr. except for occasional services by lay leaders.

Two Human Sexuality Groups, each lasting ten weeks, were conducted in 1973-74. The Wedding Chapel continues to be a growing, successful self-supporting program. This is the most active outreach program and is well accepted by the community. It provides opportunities of finding new friends and drawing new members from the contacts made through the Wedding Chapel. The Chapel not only supports itself, but contributes to operating

are also assisting in cataloguing the collection of Swedenborgian books, many of which were gifts from the Cincinnati Church. A number of volunteers participated in an experiment for spiritual growth. This was a pilot program and it is hoped that it can be continued with greater participation in the coming year.

The YOUTH OF THE WORLD FOR SWEDENBORG (YOWSERS) met most of the goals it set for itself in its initial meeting in 1973. Meetings were held in LaPorte, Indiana, November 9-11, 1973; Detroit, Michigan January 4-6, 1974; a brief meeting in Detroit, April 27th and a retreat at Almont the week-end of Memorial Day. Attendance totalled thirty-three adults and members from as far as Kitchener, Chicago, Cincinnati and Bryn Athyn. Eighteen members attended the 1974 Convention at Urbana and five newcomers were able to attend Almont. The YOWSERS look forward to more activities and increased participation in church affairs.

Margery A. Jester, Secretary

PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION

The Association met for three days ending September 1, 1974 with the San Francisco Society as host. Festivities started with a dinner at the Reddekopps' home on Thursday evening for visiting ministers and board members. Friday meetings were held in the San Francisco Church, as was the Sunday service. Saturday meetings were held in the El Cerrito Church. Delicious meals were served by the women of both churches. Spiritual food was not forgotten, with discussion groups planned for those attending the meetings. Business matters were attended to.

A 1974 book entitled, *Building with Nature: Roote of the San Francisco Bay Region Tradition*, deals largely with the late Rev. Joseph Worcester, his homes and the San Francisco Church, which was inspired by him. The church building is locally famous.

The usual attendance at the Sunday morning worship services is from forty-five to fifty, with the church filled to capacity on special days such as Easter

and the annual Marriage Sunday, when couples who have been married in the church are invited to attend their wedding church. There are over 200 weddings a year in the church. The parish is an active one, with the Youth Class, the Young Couples' group, the Interest Supper group and the Marthas' Alliance meeting on a monthly schedule. There is also a monthly parish fellowship dinner.

El Cerrito has been without a pastor since the recent resignation of Rev. John Billings. The two worship groups continue to meet on Sunday mornings and evenings respectively. The Women's Alliance is still active, usually meeting in the home of a member, and accomplishing a good deal of work for so small a group.

The San Diego Pastor returned from his year-long leave on July 1, 1974 and has since been preaching twice a month. The Society's very able laymen occupy the pulpit on the other Sundays. Dr. Franklin is a Lieut. Commander in the U.S. Navy, and serves as a psychiatrist at Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. He and his wife have taken up residence between San Diego and Camp Pendleton. The church is active, especially so with the Thread Twisters, who not only raise money for church uses, but also to assist charitable agencies in the community. Average attendance for worship services is thirty-two.

Riverside enjoys the services of Rev. John Spiers about once a month. At least one Sunday out of three the president of the Society, David Barnhill, takes the worship service and others help on the remaining Sundays. The Sunday School meets regularly and a new youth group has been started, meeting weekly under the leadership of Frances Skinner. The Alliance has been helpful. Average attendance is sixteen.

Los Angeles continues its many activities, with church attendance averaging forty-seven. The Little Angels Church precedes the regular service. There is also a church school which meets on Saturdays. The League has been re-activated. The womens' Stitch and Study Club is very helpful, as is also the library under the guidance of Alice Spear. The Pastor preaches every Sunday afternoon at a local Korean Church, bringing them a New Church message.

Temple City continues its Sunday worship services at the home of its secretary, with a hospitality luncheon on the last Sunday of each month. This is a faithful group of older people.

Portland, Oregon continues to meet in homes of members on alternate Sundays. They have sent financial aid to Urbana, to the Wayfarers' Chapel and to the Association.

At Bellevue, Washington the worship services are usually held on Friday evenings, with either the minister or one of the lay people conducting. Forms of worship vary with the leader. Don Lovell is leading a spiritual awareness group, and other groups are in existence. The major time and effort of the staff are given to individual counseling, and through this activity some one hundred and fifty or two hundred persons are reached, varying from one-time contacts to those lasting months or years. The members feel that a vital service is being performed in their area.

An Association Retreat was held in the city of Orange on February 21st to 23rd, led by Dr. Franklin, with the theme given as "A Search for Meaning." About forty persons attended from societies in the Association.

Young people fourteen years of age and older still enjoy a two-week session at Split Mountain Camp each August. The Rev. Chungsun Lee has been the leader for the past two years.

Most of our fourteen members-at-large learned about our Church through the Wayfarers' Chapel, which distributes a great deal of New Church literature. A Harbinger goes out to these and other isolated New Church people four times a year.

*Alice Van Boven,
Secretary*

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR ANCL PROGRAM AT CONVENTION 1975

WED.	Arrival	Arrival	7:30–8:00 Opening of Convention 9:30 ANCL Get-together to meet new people, etc.
THURS.	Business meeting Mass Art Project (Mosaic or mural or something)	2:00–4:00 Mini courses	Evening program 9:30 Reception
FRI.	Business Meeting (Nominations) Project Continued 10:00–12:00 Mini courses	2:00–4:00 Mini courses	Evening program (hopefully movies) Refreshments
SAT.	Business Meeting (elections)	Outing	Dinner, etc. for everyone
SUN.	Closing Service	Departure	Departure

Yes, there are a lot of open spots—time for swimming (we have been assured of the pool this year), volleyball, tennis, handball—you name it—or working on our mutual project, a mosaic or something similar, depicting a memorable relation from *Conjugal Love*. This project is something everyone can contribute to and enjoy while learning something in the process—we want to try it out and see how it works.

There are a few loose ends here and there, but they will be fixed up when Convention gets here.

Hope to see you there . . .

Julie Rankin, President ANCL

BONNETS, BUSTLES AND CUTAWAY
COATS COSTUMES
FOR CONVENTION!

To keep with the mood of the 125th anniversary year for Urbana College, we encourage Convention goers to bring an 1850's costume for the banquet and entertainment following on Saturday night, June 28th. High button shoes, long dresses, bonnets and bustles will be in high style for the ladies. Cutaway coats, stove pipe hats, cummerbunds, boiled shirts and walking sticks will equip gentlemen in proper sartorial splendor! There will be a committee of judges and prizes for the best costumes of the evening. You won't want to be left out when Convention helps celebrate the 125th birthday of Urbana College.

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES?

Philemon Foundation is seeking first-hand reports of the spiritual experiences people have while reading Swedenborg or the Bible. Send a few lines or paragraphs describing your experience and the surrounding circumstances. We are seeking to understand ordinary common spiritual experience rather than great visions, spirits interacting, etc. This is part of a scholarly project of the Foundation.

Wilson Van Dusen, PhD
Philemon Foundation
185 Calvert Court
Ukiah, Cal. 95482

BIRTHS

George and Laurie Weston are the parents of a baby boy, John Sprague, born on March 16th in Fryeburg, Maine.

Corey Matthew was born to Jimmy and Jane Dutton of Fryeburg on April 29th.

Robert and Andrea Graffam announce the birth of their son Jeremy Mark on April 7th; and Murray and Roberta Lord welcomed Shannon Marie on the same day; all in Fryeburg.

BAPTISMS

The following children were baptized in Fryeburg on March 30th: Jason Lindon Bartlett, Shawn Joel Daigle, Vicki Lynn and Angela Rae Holt, Hope Emily Kiesman, and Lori Ann Thompson.

In Guyana, South America babies recently baptized were Wendy Pertcher on February 9th; Clinton R. Stanford on March 16th; Shawn G. Baker on March 23rd; Vesnessa Ford on March 25th; Madalene Alice Jack on April 13th; and Earl Owen Goldburn Keiszer on April 13th.

Rosalie Maxine Thompson was baptized on April 6th by the Rev. Horace Briggs in Fryeburg.

The Rev. Paul B. Zacharias baptized Sandra Anne Ingram and Leslie Ann Kobayashi on April 13th in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener.

Gertrude Chaplin and Clarence Brown were baptized in Fryeburg on March 23rd.

CONFIRMATIONS

Claire Cram and Kevin Antonucci were confirmed in Fryeburg on April 6th by the Rev. Horace Briggs.

On April 13th in Kitchener at the Church of the Good Shepherd the Rev. Paul Zacharias confirmed Shelley Doreen Dienesch, Mrs. Betty Drummond, Christine Lynne Hemmerich, Peter Harold Heuss,

Sandra Anne Ingram, Leslie Ann Kobayashi, and Christopher David Schneider.

On March 23rd Kelly Bell, Patricia Brown, Michael Chaplin, Andrea Cressy, Cindy Leach and Debra Rogers were confirmed into church membership in Fryeburg, Maine.

Daphne Collins, Millie Florita Fraser, Beryl Massay, Shelly Baker and Lennox Ramsey were confirmed recently in Guyana.

Florence Susan Milden was confirmed in the Philadelphia Church on Easter Sunday.

Hazel Frederick of DeLand and T. Skuli Thorhalsson of Winter Park, Fla. were confirmed in March at Swedenborg House.

On March 30th the Rev. John Worcester Spiers officiating, Mr. Charles Stephen McCormick and his wife, Mary Barron McCormick, together with a young neighbor, Miss Michele Melton, were confirmed and admitted into membership of the Riverside New Church Society.

MARRIAGES

Phyllis Dunham (nee Young) of Winston-Salem, N. C. was married on April 12th to Guy T. Ward, Jr. of Winston-Salem. She is the daughter of Mrs. Walter and the late Dr. Walter Young.

DEATHS

Stanley Weeks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Weeks, of the Boston Church, passed into the spiritual world, and a memorial service was held on April 26th.

Mrs. Hazel Woofenden of Dearborn, Mich. passed into the spiritual world on April 14th. She is survived by her husband and son William.

Resurrection services were held on April 3rd in Fryeburg, Maine for Anna Burnell, past president of the church.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, June 22

Afternoon and evening, Registration for ministers and wives

8:00–10:00 p. m. Open house at home of Dorothea Harvey

MONDAY & TUESDAY, June 23, 24

9:00 a. m. Council of Ministers program

Ministers' Wives' Groups

WEDNESDAY, June 25

9:00 a. m. Council of Ministers' program and Ministers' Wives' groups

1:00 p. m. General Council

7:30 p. m. Opening of Convention and Presidential Address

9:30 p. m. Reception. Hosts: President and Mrs. Ernest O. Martin and President-Elect and Mrs. Eric J. Zacharias

THURSDAY, June 26

7:00 a. m. Worship service in front of Swedenborg Memorial Library

9:00 a. m. Convention business session with reports of officers, boards and committees and report of Nominating Committee

2:00–4:00 p. m. Mini-courses (choice of 10)

4:00 p. m. Splash party in college pool

7:30 p. m. Panel discussion on "The Authority of Swedenborg"

9:30 p. m. Reception and autograph party. Hosts: The Ohio Association

10:30 p. m. Worship service

FRIDAY, June 27

7:00 a. m. Worship service

9:00 a. m. Convention business session

10:00 a. m. Mini-courses

12:00–2:00 p. m. Women's Alliance program and luncheon

2:15 p. m. Mini-courses

4:00 p. m. Splash party and other recreational activities

7:30 p. m. Presentation by Urbana College faculty and administration

9:50 p. m. Reception. Hosts: Urbana College, President and Mrs. Roland Patzer

SATURDAY, June 28

9:00 a. m. Convention business session including elections

2:00–5:00 p. m. Open meetings of boards and committees

2:00 p. m. Annual meeting of Sunday School Association

2:00–6:00 p. m. Splash party and other recreational activities

6:30 p. m. Banquet

8:30 p. m. Entertainment and 1850's Soiree with prize for best costume

SUNDAY, June 29

10:00 a. m. Convention Sunday Worship Service

The Rev. Eric J. Zacharias, Liturgist

The Rev. George D. McCurdy, Convention Preacher

The Rev. Ernest O. Martin, Communion Celebrant

THE MESSENGER
MAY 1975
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