

THE MESSENGER

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June 2005

Day of Remembrance for Wilson Van Dusen

Tuesday, May 3, 2005, 11am
Ukiah, California

In Remembrance of Van

Bill (some called him Van) died on April 25 in the early hours of the morning with a full moon to light his way. This was somehow appropriate as he was born during an eclipse of the moon. While he was lucid on April 24 he reminded me that it was the 60th anniversary of our meeting again in college after World War II. We had known each other from High School, but went separate ways during the war. We married two years later.

Here is something he wrote before he died. As always I will word process.

Marge Van Dusen

Saturday, April 10, 2005

So here I am nearly at the end of the journey of this life. I sit in a borrowed wheel chair from Hospice. At 4:03pm there is light sun and breeze in the garden. It seems like good fortune to sit quietly and reflect.

Though I should die soon that time of death will be the last mystery I face. My energy is so low I have to plan each step to do some little thing.

A light breeze swirls about leaving the air welcome and refreshed. Perhaps this breeze is a sotovoce way in which all things gently converse. To acknowledge that is true the breeze was stronger for a moment. I would be pleased if everything gently conversed. That would be so much better than our lifeless concept. I expect little of all things, and they expect little of me, but gentle communing would be most welcome. I would presume you, as all things would speak of life engendering things—the small gentle business of life.

I easily slide into an image of lying down and falling asleep. I hear some gathering of friends nearby. A dog speaks up now and then. In a nearby bush is a bluejay that had a nest and just managed with utter quiet to visit and leave its nest. She casually repeats her repetitive chirrup. ☒

Wilson Van Dusen, Ph.D., was the most prolific of writers on Swedenborgian thought and its inner workings. He was also remarkably able to sympathize with and seriously consider the teachings of other religions, especially Buddhism and Hinduism. In the preface to his book, *The Design of Existence*, he wrote:

Dedicated to my fellow adventurers, the mystics of all times, places, religions, and cultures. A special thanks to the Hindu Upanishads, to the Buddhist sutras, and to Emanuel Swedenborg, a giant, even in this wondrous group. A deep bow of respect to all of you and to the Spirit that animates you.

This was a primary characteristic of his – the ability to sense, far beyond the boundaries of often competitive religious beliefs, a common spirit by which they all could be recognized and valued. Even inside the Swedenborgian community, he became a member of all branches of the Swedenborgian Church in the U.S. What this seems to have meant is that he could rise above partisanship and go to a higher level of appreciation that offered a wider view of the reality that separate groups were trying to define in their own way for our time. He was an excellent example of the last stage of the early Greek philosophy that you first will have *Thesis*, then *Antithesis*—but that is not quite the end of the story; you must then rise above these two highly



Dr. Wilson Van Dusen answering questions from the audience at a special session at the Swedenborgian House of Studies in 2002 honoring him for meritorious accomplishments

polarized opposites and see things from a higher point of view, called *Synthesis*.

He has left behind a long list of lucidly written books and essays, widely available. Among them:

The Presence of Other Worlds
Beauty, Wonder, and the Mystical Mind
The Natural Depth in Man
Returning to the Source
The Country of Spirit

And, reflecting on his experiences as the chief clinical psychologist for the Mendocino State Mental Hospital, the remarkable *The Presence of Spirits in Madness*.

—Stephen Koke ☒

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Church is made up of terrific people and is permeated by an air of possibility and promise. There is life here. There is hope here.



There is a kind of quiet fermentation; a bubbling of ongoing creation. This is our heartbeat.

This year saw two ministers formally installed into parish life: Rev. Jane Siebert in Pretty Prairie, and Rev. Ron Brugler in New York. Our Kitchener Church of the Good Shepherd is experiencing a process of powerful renewal with the able leadership of Rev. Roslyn Vincent-Haven, a professional intentional interim minister. The Cambridge Swedenborg Chapel, while continuing its search for a new Swedenborgian minister, is carrying on well with the help of lay leaders and visiting clergy. The Church of the Holy City in Washington, D.C. is seeing larger numbers in its worship services and is enjoying services led by Rev. Rich Tafel and Rev. Andy Stinson, as well as by talented lay people.

The Swedenborgian congregation at Temenos is working on the "good" problem of outgrowing its worship space.

In California, both the Hillside Church in El Cerrito and the San Diego Swedenborgian Church are inviting new ministers into service. The denomination is supporting a professional training and development component to the ministerial work in San Diego, identifying that church as a target mission community where specific programs of growth and outreach will be utilized. The LaPorte Swedenborgian Church is growing with the ministry of Rev. Freeman Shrock who is working on a program through the Swedenborgian House of Studies that will lead to his induction into the Swedenborgian ministry.

Churches such as Cleveland, Wilmington, St. Paul, Royal Oak, St.

Louis, Puget Sound, Pawnee Rock, San Francisco, Bridgewater, Deland, Fryeburg, and Portland are reaching out into their communities with and through social action and aid programs, and many are quietly growing. The New Church of Southwest Florida continues to offer excellent services to the Fort Myers Beach community with the various children and youth programs, and, this year, in the aftermath of multiple hurricanes, the thrift shop and bread delivery programs were of major use. This past fall saw the establishment of a new Center for Applied Ethics at Urbana University. Rev. Kevin Baxter was selected by UU to be the first director of this new endeavor which will impact all areas of the University's life and programs. Rev. Baxter is also preaching monthly at the Urbana Swedenborgian Church.

In the Western Canada Conference, our Edmonton, Alberta, Church of the Holy City continues its journey with Rev. John Maine as pastor. This church is involved in local community efforts, particularly with children, and held its first "Vacation Bible School" last summer with plans underway for an even larger one this year. The Calgary, Alberta, congregation is involved in the exciting "Calgary New Church Project," a cooperative ministry of the General Convention and the General Church with ministerial support from Rev. Michael Gladish of the General Church.

Wayfarers Chapel continues its fine work, and the Swedenborgian House of Studies in Berkeley, California, imparts excellent theological training to students from many backgrounds. Our Swedenborgian ordinands are moving into a wonderful variety of ministries.

A sense of renewed, hopeful purpose is present in many of our denominational boards and committees. We are not only talking about new programs, we are actively working to establish them. Looking at the best use of our resources, a group called "Summit I: Financial" met over a long weekend in Florida during February. Four well-conceived plans resulted and are already implemented or soon will be. All are

helping our ministries. Next year, we will hold a "Summit II: Ministry" to brainstorm concepts, ideas, and plans to keep our various ministries vital, useful, and growing.

I've had the privilege of participating in church services in LaPorte, Kitchener, Pretty Prairie, New York, and Kelowna, British Columbia. It will be my pleasure to attend the Western Canada Conference's annual meeting at the end of June. I have served as chairman for exciting Cabinet and General Council meetings where the focus and effort were on positive help and new ideas for our ministries. I've attended two MINSU meetings and was part of that Unit's strategic planning session expertly led by Rev. Rich Tafel. My wish for collaboration to identify new possibilities for growth and new programs in the Church is nurtured through the new Summit Program.

Conversations of all varieties; myriad emails; flurries of conference calls; continuing helpful and supportive communication with Rev. Eric Allison, chairman of the Council of Ministers; ongoing, outstanding assistance of our Central Office personnel; and the

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The Swedenborg Library

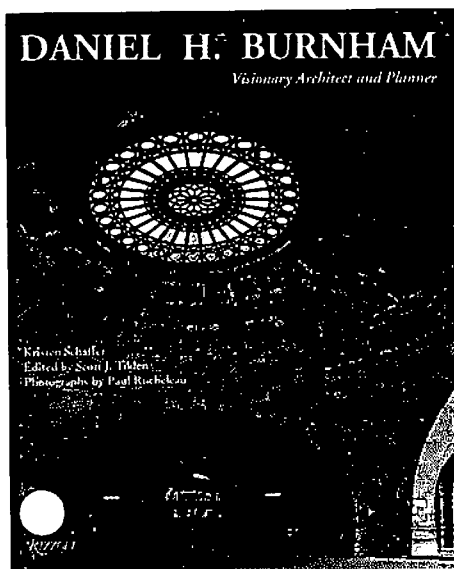
Karen Feil

Carrying on the work of the Western New Church Union is the renamed Swedenborg Library in Chicago. Founded in 1871 by General Convention churches in the Midwest, the mission of the Western New Church Union was to provide a permanent home for the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg in Chicago, making them available to the public. If you have browsed church publications from the late 1800s and early 1900s, you may have come across this name on the title page, as publisher. The Rev. George Dole's grandfather was among the ministers who worked at the Library, which was most typically housed in an office near the office of a member of the local Swedenborgian Church in downtown Chicago. The Library is currently located on the 17th floor of the First United Methodist Church building located across the street from City Hall in Chicago at the center of the spoke of mass transit, making it easily accessible to Chicagoans.

In its new identity as the Swedenborg Library, the organization's mission of providing the Chicago public with access to Swedenborg's works has received a welcome assist from its new director, Lily Gaines. With many years of non-profit management, including the Oasis-Midwest Center for Human Potential and the David Adler Cultural Center in suburban Chicago, Gaines has made rapid progress in building awareness of the Swedenborg Library in Chicago.

"The strategy that the Library's Board and I are following is to develop partners for our programs," explains Gaines. "With partners, our programs have the advantage of access to a larger mailing list, co-op advertising, and shared expenses program and hospitality," she adds.

In the past year, the Swedenborg Library partnered with several Chicago institutions. Last February, the Library co-hosted *Devil in the White City* author Eric Larsen with the Cliff Dwellers Club (a key artistic society in Chicago). The dinner presentation at



the Club drew 125 and gave Board member Karen Feil an opportunity to acquaint the audience with the Swedenborgian background of architect Daniel Burnham, a key figure of focus in that novel.

Last fall, the Library co-sponsored a special live enactment of Swedenborgian truth with The Art Institute of Chicago's VOICES program. Two actors—one speaking from the artist George Inness' words, and the other, related words from Swedenborg, added depth to projected slides of Inness' work. This program was promoted by the Art Institute through flyers distributed at the museum the month prior, and in the member magazine. Architect Daniel Burnham, author of the Chicago Plan, is an object of sustained interest from Chicagoans, thanks to the city's aesthetic, in which he played a key part. The Library will once again benefit from his affiliation with the local General Convention society with a program by scholar Kristen Schaffer, author of *Daniel Burnham: Visionary Architect* (\$95). In this beautifully researched volume, Schaffer documents the kind considerations for people inherent in Burnham's proposals for the city of Chicago. "By simply looking at the published Plan, modern architects reacted against the classical architecture depicted in the rendered perspectives but

appreciated the clarity of Burnham's vision of the city," says Shaffer.

"Planners responded favorably to Burnham's understanding of the city as an integrated organism, one that included the larger metropolitan area...Historians looked at the text more carefully, but sometimes discounted the words when they appeared to conflict with the images. The draft (of the Plan of Chicago) reveals an expansive social program for the less advantaged citizens of Chicago, one that was omitted from the final published version.

"This knowledge permits us to interpret and assess the Plan in terms of a disguised social agenda that still lingers in the text. And research into Burnham's Swedenborgian religious beliefs expands our comprehension further," she adds.

Schaffer's presentation is co-sponsored by National Louis University in Chicago, where it will be held on June 24 following a 6 PM public reception. The presentation will be promoted to National Louis University students, Chicago's architectural community, and the general public.

"The slate of co-sponsored programs, from the ecumenical talks by Common Ground staff (Common Ground is a local not-for-profit organization) to programs with Chicago's Noetic Science community have really helped us gain "brand recognition" for Swedenborg," says Library Board member Karen Feil.

"We are determined to share the truths that we have, shared by the worthy, prestigious Chicagoans who acted from their faith a century ago to lasting positive impact on this city. It's ironic that while our church as



Daniel Burnham
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The 7th Annual Global Nonviolence Conference

Held in Metropolitan Detroit April 16-21, 2005

Margaret Dwyer, Ph.D.

The Church of the Holy City (Royal Oak, Michigan) recently participated in the *7th Annual Global Nonviolence Conference* held at Cobo Hall in Metropolitan Detroit. The theme of this global conference was "Creating a Culture of Peace, Nonviolence and Prosperity: A Call to Transformative Choice and Action." Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the United Nations decade of *Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World* (2000-2010) during the 8th International Season of Nonviolence, this global conference was held to establish an institute of nonviolence education in the Metropolitan Detroit Community, included in the Great Lakes Region of the United States.

The roots of this institute for nonviolence education have been growing at Bethesda Hall for the past seven years at the University of Detroit Mercy in the heart of Detroit, one of the most devastated urban cities in the United States for nearly 50 years. Additionally, Detroit is located in the sixth largest county in the United States and is adjacent to one of the wealthiest counties in the United States.

Reverend Renee Machiniak and members of the Church of the Holy City took part in many aspects of the conference from its inception in 2004, when Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Executive Director of the Global Nonviolence Committee asked Alicia Renee Farris, Executive Director of the budding Michigan Institute for Nonviolence Education (MINE) to invite the stakeholders of the Metropolitan Detroit Community to form a steering committee to plan the conference, form the partnerships necessary to host an event of this magnitude and deliver it to the international public on April 16-21,

2005, then declared Nonviolence Week in Michigan.


A highlight of the conference was the collaboration with Interfaith Partners of the National Council of Community and Justice on Sunday, April 17th entitled "Transforming Life in Metropolitan Detroit by Transforming Life Within Our Congregations." This collaboration included a symposium of keynote speakers, exhibits and workshops. The keynote speakers included Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Executive Director of the Multicultural Institute for Nonviolence Education at the University of Rhode Island, Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, and Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Turman, Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church of Detroit.

Of special interest to us in the Church of the Holy City delegation were presentations on youth-adult partnership formation; a workshop on Peaceful Tomorrows, a non-profit organization founded by the families of the September 11, 2001 disaster presented by Beverly and John Titus; Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., superbly discussing his life's work in Nonviolent Communication; Aeshah and Kokomon Clottery, founders of the Attitudinal Healing Connection in Ghana, West Africa, and Oakland, CA; authors of *Beyond Fear* and *Mindful Drumming*, Dr. S. Radakrishnan, Director of Education for a Violence-Free Society in New Delhi, India; Yolanda Pinto, Former First Lady, Antioquia, Columbia; Marie Loures Elgirus, Toussaint-King Cultural Center, Port Au Prince, Haiti; Rev. Dr. Joseph Tshwahne, King-Luthuli Transformation Center, Johannesburg, South Africa; Hema Pokharna, Council of the Parliament of World Religions; Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Harvard University School of Medicine. And assorted workshops, entertainment, and

a Peace Jam Concert & Rally.

Maryanne Williamson closed the conference on Thursday with an impassioned plea to encourage the United States House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to create a Department of Peace in Washington, D.C. Youth and Adult Peacemakers Awards were given out during the Global Peace Awards Reception and Dinner, and at the Youth Rally.

A hopeful prayer has sprung up in the Metropolitan Detroit Community that our beloved community may one day emerge as one of the first international cities of peace, prosperity and sustainability, *nonviolently* here at the beginning of the 21st century. We learned that the mayors of 714 cities in 110 countries have signed a resolution to lead their cities into becoming international cities of peace. More can be learned about this effort of cooperation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Mayor of Hiroshima, one of the awardees at the *7th Annual Global Nonviolence Conference* by viewing the U.S. Conference of Mayors website.

Margaret Dwyer, Ph.D. is a counseling psychologist and dispute resolution specialist. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan, her M.A. and Ph.D. in Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations of Human Development 

Heaven on Earth

Heaven on Earth (aka the Swedenborgian Church of Puget Sound) will host the next annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Association of Swedenborgian Churches Sept 23-25 in the Seattle area. Details are listed on our website Heavenonearth4U.org The theme of this meeting is

Finding your Heaven

On Becoming A Dad

Kit Billings

I've been asked to write about what my experience has been like becoming a father for the first time, which is a joy and privilege. My wife, Penny, and I were blessed by the Lord to conceive and help bring into the world our baby girl, Julia Renee, affectionately known by a few other names already—"pumpkin noodle," "Honeypie," and "Ms. Fu-Fu LaRue," to mention a few—and she, like all babies, reminds me that God is the Master Artist of life.

Her middle name, by the way, was inspired by Julia's Aunt, my own sister, the Rev. Renee Machiniak. I've been involved in many amazing things in life, and most seem to pale in comparison to the birth and presence of our baby girl. In short, I'm in awe. I'm in awe of how much I love her and how beautiful she is to me. I tell you, I could be having the hardest day and one little smile from my baby girl makes rainbows appear.

Julia, like all babies, requires an enormous amount of care and support, and a few times after losing lots of sleep I have

felt deeply frustrated with some long crying spells. Yet, for me at least, the overarching feelings I feel are awe, joy, and love. It is profound how easy it is for this bundle of joy to strum and pluck my heartstrings with the simplest sounds or even the beginning of crying.

There's a relatively new New Church Christian gal who lives in Arizona whom I've had the pleasure of emailing a few times, given that she found my sermons published online. After learning of the arrival of baby Julia, she wrote to me online and shared the most accurate description of what God has been doing inside of her own heart since the birth of her own precious ones many years ago. She said that the birth and presence of her own babies somehow mysteriously "unearthed" new depths of love and life she never knew were inside her. *Bingo!* She hit the nail on the head with that one, at least for me anyway.

My experience with becoming a new dad is that once again I am deeply moved by the creativity and wisdom with which the Lord inspires parents to passionately

love our children, which I believe are *actually* His children, so that the Lord's tenderhearted and oh so vulnerable new "apples of His eye" get loved, wanted, and nurtured. Never before have I felt so obviously *infused* by God's influx of deeply warm and beautiful love, and never before have I felt so monumentally overjoyed with the truth of it all. Our theology states so well that all love and truth belong to the Divine and flows into us from God, and also that it is coming into our own personal understanding of this as well as an affection for it where heavenly peace is found. The angels in heaven are often so happy because they "get it" that all of the goodness and truth living in and flowing through them does not belong one bit to them, and only to the Lord, and yet how much it *appears* to them that it comes from themselves. This is my experience with Julia Renee—all of this beautiful and wonderful parental love is one of the greatest blessings I've ever felt, and yet I do get it that it is really streaming into me (and my wife) from the Lord.

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A Journey to be a father

Rev. Junchol Lee

Every child is a blessing and gift of God. I love looking into children's eyes, which seems to reflect the whole world as it is. The children carry special energy and atmosphere around them. When your heart is touched by the innocent and pure joy of any child, you may be experiencing the heavenly joy.

When I came to the Cleveland Church, there was one thing I prayed for the most. "Please God, send us some children." At the time, the average attendance per Sunday was ten adults and one teenager, and among the ten adults eight were seniors. Indeed, God answers our prayer. Now we have up to twelve children coming for the Sunday school, with about 20 adults on any given Sunday. More specially, I now have my own son to join the gang!

The wonderful journey to be a father came upon me suddenly and rapidly with many adjustments that challenged me deeply. Originally Heejoung, my wife, did not want to have a child in the near future, and I agreed with her without a

single argument. My belief was and still is that it should be her decision because she is the one who is going to nurture the new life inside her for nine months. Then, we bought Kuku, our dog. One day, Heejoung was entertained by Kuku so deeply. Out of this joy, I guess, she said, "It should be much more delightful to see our child playing like that."

"Without a doubt," I replied.

"Then, let us have a child!" She declared.

Of course, my answer was a big "YES." This was a week before our wedding day. And a week after our honeymoon we found out that Roiy has come into his mother's womb! WOW!

In a way, any male can be a father. Even an eleven-year-old boy can be a father. So what is special about being a father? The meaning of being a father and fatherhood hit my heart with a whole new degree of importance and depth after I acknowledged the fact that I was becoming a father for real. What should I do now? How can I be a good father? Many questions and concerns arose in my mind while I was helping Heejoung go through the ups-and-

downs of the pregnancy. The ride with the emotions of a pregnant woman was not easy at all. Yet the most difficult of all to me was the fact that I was trying to understand and support something that was totally alien to a male soul.

An important thing that I discovered in my journey to be a father was that there was an undeniable difference between my journey and the journey of my wife. Many say that it is easy for dads because moms do all the work. Certainly, it is true that the mother does all the hard work of child bearing, even to the unimaginable pain of the actual delivery. So what is the hard work on the father's side? The hard task I faced as a father-to-be was not of any physical origin, but fully psychological and to a certain extent spiritual. The problem was that the child was not existentially real to my mind until the fifth month. It may sound strange, but the truthful existence of the child was confirmed to my mind only by means of my wife. The child was in her, not in me yet. All I saw for real was the growing belly of my wife and the changes in her mood!

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Greetings from Wayfarers Chapel Visitors Center

Margie Snavely

In 2004 The Wayfarers Chapel Visitors Center welcomed over 42,000 guests from all corners of the world, as well as many of our neighbors. They enjoyed the information, which is so beautifully displayed around the room, about Emanuel Swedenborg and the Swedenborgian Church, the architects, Lloyd Wright, who designed the Chapel and his son, Eric Wright, who was design consultant for the Visitors Center.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working at the Visitor Center is talking with the wonderful people who pass through these doors daily. Many of our guests have expressed their appreciation that the Visitors Center is open and has staff that can answer their many and varied questions. They are also happy to have a person to talk with them and even lend a soft shoulder.

One lady visited us who was very sad and felt she had to come to the Chapel for solace. She related how she had lost her adult son a year ago and was still grieving. She was told by others "to get over it and get on with her life," and said she was unable to do so. After a lot of hugging and sharing, she was told it was okay to mourn her child, and anytime she needed to talk the Visitors Center was always open. She was ever so grateful and has subsequently returned from time to time.

Of particular joy are the two mute women, who immediately let us know that they could not hear or speak and went on their way exploring the Center. As they were, paying for their purchases, we began a conversation, not in the usual way, but by writing short

sentences on paper. We learned that one of the ladies came here as a child and always had such fond memories of the Chapel and wanted to share them with her friend. She particularly



remembered, as a child would, that the hill leading up to the Chapel was much steeper when she was younger. A pendant hung from one of the women's necks that displayed a hand signing. When asked what it said, she told us it

said "I love you" and taught us how to sign. Now we too can use sign language and tell the world "I love you." What a gift!

A couple who were married at the Chapel came to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a visit. As she meandered through the Center, he

surprised her with a Chapel pendant as a gift to commemorate the day. Now isn't that romantic?

We have a large selection of Swedenborgian books highlighting Emanuel Swedenborg's philosophy and visions as a theologian. Among the bestsellers are *Heaven and Hell*, *Divine Love and Wisdom* and *A Scientist Explores Spirit*. Other subjects such as Helen Keller and Johnny Appleseed, as well as theme books on prayer, wellness, spiritual healing and an angel cookbook are available here at the Center. Overall we sell approximately thirty-five books

per month. Visitors can view the video "Splendors of the Spirit, Swedenborg's Quest for Insight." Our attractive Chapel jewelry is made of 14K Gold and Sterling Silver. Pendants, earrings,

charms, tie tacks and lapel pins feature the Chapel Logo. Pendants with semi-precious stones are designed exclusively for Wayfarers Chapel. We also offer water for the thirsty, cookies for the hungry and cameras for the forgetful.

We have a vast array of angels, cuddly angel bears, fine crystal, note cards and postcards for

the visitor to take back home as a remembrance of their journey to Wayfarers Chapel. We offer a wide variety of Gentle Soul Angels, which are beautiful ceramic figurines, and also Ella Bella Angels, a delightful childlike angel (a portion of the profits on these are donated by the manufacturer to worthy childhood charities, i.e. Juvenile Diabetes, Child Abuse, Down's Syndrome, and many others). Blessing Stones are well received by the visitor to the Center. We also offer elegant crystal champagne flutes, bud vases and a footed candy bowl with the Chapel logo daintily etched on them.

To quote a few of our visitors: "Paradise is not lost"; "It's like a bit of Heaven here on earth"; "What a beautiful place to talk to God"; "A fresh breath to the soul" and "This is music for my heart, it makes my heart sing."

Next time you are in Southern California please visit us, our Welcome Mat is always out.



Margie Snavely is the manager of the Wayfarers Chapel Visitors Center.



MEET THE NOMINEES

Editor's Note: *Many of the nominees' statements were printed in the May Messenger*

Vice-President

Jim Erickson

Minnesota

I am honored to be a candidate for vice-president of General Convention. I currently serve in that position and have learned much and worked hard to understand the responsibilities of the office since my election last year. I have had the good fortune to serve in many careers and leadership roles in my life. As former teacher, private school director, businessman, anthropology specialist, and in my current role working in history for a nonprofit organization, as well as serving as liaison to state and federal government, I have learned much and developed skills that I hope will be seen as useful and ask for your support for the opportunity to carry out the functions of this important office.

Treasurer

Lawrence Conant

Massachusetts

I am seeking my sixth term as our denomination's treasurer. The treasurer's job involves accounting for the denomination's many restricted funds, providing guidance to the General Council and our local societies. The treasurer is the chair of the Financial and Physical Resources Support Unit (FPRSU). As your treasurer, I have led an effort to simplify our chart of accounts and get our financial house in order. Historically, the denomination has had a Financial Review, which is a review of our financial practices by an outside firm. For the year 2004, we are having the outside firm conduct a full audit. An audit is the next level of financial review and requires among other things that we can account for the origin and cost basis of all of our assets. Thanks to the staff at Central Office, we are ready to go to this level of review.

I am a lifelong member of the Bridgewater, Massachusetts Society and have served on many committees at the association and national level. With your support, I would like to continue this refinement of the denomination's accounting system.

General Council

Deane Currie

Pennsylvania

I am a member of the Swedenborgian

Church at Temenos. I am the father of three fine young adults, Sage Serene, who will be ordained as a minister in our church this summer, Grace Helene, who will be graduating from Johns Hopkins University and Benjamin Sanborn, who will be graduating high school. I have a degree in Education from the University of Southern Maine. While in Maine, I was responsible for setting up a Workplace Education program at a business in Southern Maine and I worked for eighteen years in the hospitality industry, managing the Black Point Inn. Along with my wife, Rev. Susannah Currie, I now proudly run the Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester, PA. My hobbies are reading, cooking and baseball. I seek to be of Use.

Education Support Unit (EDSU)

Paula Kraus Hilbert

Kansas

When I was asked to be nominated to EDSU, I was pleasantly surprised. Born and raised in Pretty Prairie, Kansas, I have attended the New Jerusalem Church my whole life. My first introduction to Convention was working in the Central Office and at the Registration Desk in the summers of 1988-1989. Currently, I am the secretary of our church board and a trustee for the Kansas Association. Professionally, I am an R.N. and received my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Wichita State University. I work both at a nursing home and a local hospital. These things, coupled with a parent's view toward education and its importance, will help me provide educational experiences that are both meaningful and useful.

Information Management Support Unit (IMSU)

Rev. Kevin Baxter

Ohio

I am a lifelong member of the Swedenborgian Church. Ordained a year ago, I am currently the director of the Center for Applied Ethics at Urbana University. Growing up, I surrounded myself with computers. I'm often seen running around at work helping people with various computer problems. While not an expert with HTML programing, I am looking forward to the opportunity to be involved in one of the most used portals for people inquiring about the church. In this day and age, we cannot place a high enough importance on our presence on "the web."

Ministries Support Unit (MINSU)

Rev. John Maine

Alberta, Canada

I am presently completing my fourth year in parish ministry, serving the Church of the Holy City in Edmonton, Canada. I am also the chaplain for Paulhaven Camp and I sit *ex officio* on the executive committee of our regional association, Western Canada Conference. My particular interest lies in defining, developing and promoting New Church evangelism, especially through a "community partnerships" model. I am also interested in developing both new visions for our church and the "spirit of generosity" (both tithing and giving) to support it. I have served on the Ministries Support Unit (MINSU) since 2003 and I am also involved in the work of the Nominations Committee and the Sunday School Association.

Sue Burns

Rhode Island

I appreciate being asked to serve as a member of MINSU. Although I now live in southern New England, my heart is still with the St. Louis church. I have served in several capacities over the years. Just to name a few—on the board of SHS, president of the board of the Church of the Open Word and currently as the chair of the Building Fund Committee. I have grown to understand the needs of our churches and ministries and enjoy working with church boards to help reach their stated goals and dreams. Churches and ministries are the heart of our organizations and MINSU is an integral part of helping each attain those goals and dreams. My professional background is in strategic planning and marketing. I am currently the Director of Membership Marketing for AAA Southern New England. I welcome the opportunity to serve our churches and ministries through MINSU.

Nominating Committee

Chuck Winter

Ohio

I am a member of the Swedenborg Chapel of Cleveland where I have served on our church council for twelve years, eleven of them as president. I have been on the executive council of Ohio Association as vice president for seven years and serving my second year as president. I served on General Council for six years and presently am a trustee at Urbana University. Since I retired six years ago as a high school teacher, I have been able to give more time to serve the church.



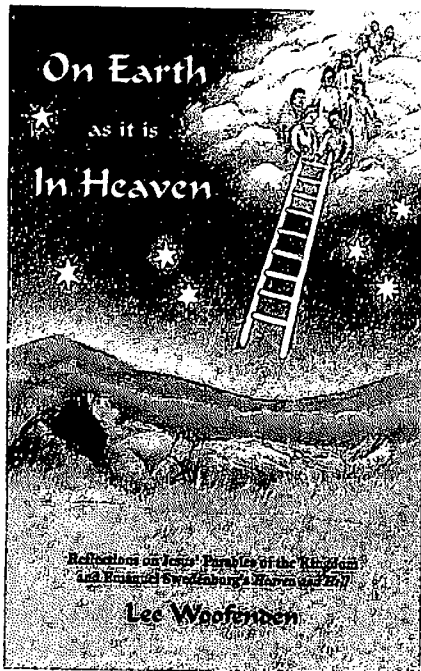
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Reflections on Jesus' Parables of
the Kingdom and Emanuel
Swedenborg's *Heaven and Hell*

By Lee Woofenden

A publication of NCE Ministries 2005
Available in paperback at
www.illumina.com/store/onearth.htm

Reviewed by Stephen Koke



This is an exceptionally clear and readable book. It is a collection of chapters on basic themes in good spiritual living, each chapter beginning with two or three passages from Scripture concentrating mainly on the parables, and on relevant passages from Swedenborg.

It can be used as a set of devotional readings, but what really stands out is its penetrating "Reflections" after the readings. This is not the usual inspirational writing, but a set of insights into common spiritual problems not immediately clear to the reader of the parables or other scriptures that teach spiritual living. Lee has always emphasized the value of simple, clear writing; but often simple, clear writing will simply confine itself to simple, clear ideas at the expense of deeper insights.

Here there is deeper teaching, but still cast in simple language—a great accomplishment if you can do it.

Lee's own introductory remarks sum up the book as well as any review: "Of course, Swedenborg wasn't the first person to realize that heaven was a popular topic. Many centuries earlier, Jesus spoke about the kingdom of heaven over and over again. But instead of writing voluminously as Swedenborg did, he condensed his teachings about heaven into short, pithy parables. Each of them provides a memorable image that we can unpack to learn something about heaven, and about how we can make things here on earth more like heaven." (pg. 7)

That turns out to be a set of surprises. There is more in these parables than we normally see or have learned to expect. For example, consider the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13:24, 25 which reads: *The kingdom of heaven is like someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everyone was sleeping an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.* "The kingdom of heaven," Lee continues, "is not only like having good seed sown in the field of our lives, but also like having bad seed sown in our lives by an enemy—which Jesus identifies as 'the devil,' a personification of hell. . . . Now why, when we see a wrong thought or feeling sprouting up in ourselves, should we not instantly rip it up out of the field of our minds?"

Wouldn't that be a safer course? The Lord, in the parable, says, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest.' What could this mean?"

The answer is virtually an entire perspective or philosophy about how to grow spiritually without being too hard on ourselves for the darker inclinations we still have, thereby letting inner growth take place at its own pace while watching over it in faith and in confidence in the Lord. This is, however, my own overly brief wording. There are some profound points here, Lee goes to some length to explain them, and this review will not try to be as clear as he is.

Buy it. ☩

Letter from Sri Lanka

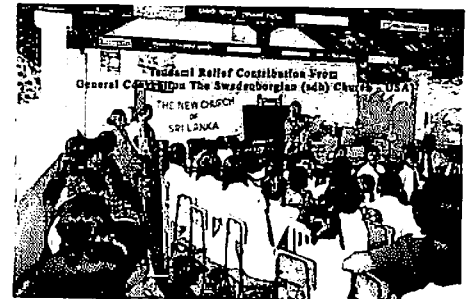
Dear Ms. Martha,



Tsunami Relief Funds

We believe that you may have received our earlier E-mail regarding the Tsunami Relief Contribution from your Church.

Here I am sending some pictures we have taken where the Tsunami Contribution had distributed. The contribution had been distributed at the M/MIRRISA GOVERNING GIRLS



JUNIOR SCHOOL, MIRRISA, MATARA.

The New Church of Sri Lanka and our friends [are] together with this relief work.

The members of our Church and people who are affected for the Tsunami paid their gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the General Convention of the New Jerusalem and the General Convention the Swedenborgian (SDB) Church in the USA.

Our New Church has been organizing another relief program in April and May 2005. We hope that your church will help our future program here.

Kind Regards,

Walter Jayewardene, Secretary ☩

Brugler Hit Home

The Rev. Ron Brugler's article points to the heart of all peoples who have seen their loved ones seemingly fade into nothing at death. His insights based on the New Church's teachings give great hope and comfort about "death's sting." I became a member of the Swedenborgian Church via the NDE [Near-Death Experience] group several years ago. When loved ones suffer and die, the very thought of a reuniting is everyone's deep yearning. Almost all spiritual communities have a variation of this, but Emanuel Swedenborg gave great clarity to that "other place." The Terry Schiavo debacle was based in fear and not in understanding.

Larry Vaughn
Kemper Road Swedenborgian Church
Montgomery, Ohio

"Reflections on Heaven" Reflections

I really enjoyed Erni Martin's April article in the Messenger, *Reflections on Heaven*. Larry King had six religious leaders speaking on the subject: "What happens when we die?"—an evangelical Protestant, a Roman Catholic priest, a muslim scholar, a rabbi, a leading atheist, and Marianne Williamson—she was by far the most effective of the lot. (Interestingly, a week later Larry had another group of religious leaders speaking on the topic "Good and Evil," and this was equally fascinating.) Except for the two New Age women on these panels, and Deepak Chopra on the second one, these were rather embarrassing exercises! These good people supposedly represent the cutting edge in religious thought, but by and large they came across in a foundering, uncertain fashion.

Repeatedly I thought to myself: How much I wish they had some knowledge of Emanuel Swedenborg! And how can we more effectively get the good news out there? Over the past 50 years we've tried so many ways to share this heavenly information with the world; seemingly to little avail! I wish there would be more opportunity at Conventions to address this issue. It seems we talk about everything else, except this central concern. When I was ordained we had about 4000 plus members, now the figure is around 1600. What would happen if dozens of small groups throughout Convention would meet, locally, all based on this common, essential theme! Before I die, which is perhaps 10 or 20 years from now, I'd love to see this happen. Thanks again for the good article.

Paul Zacharias
Kitchener, Ontario

A VISION FOR THE NEW CHURCH

John Maine

My vision for the Church of the New Jerusalem (the Swedenborgian Church) in the 21st century is one in which its member churches become *spiritual centers for their surrounding communities*, however those communities may be defined (the local neighborhood; the marginalized; the members of a particular institution or industry, etc.). As such, our churches must learn to live "in the world and yet not of it," a well-known phrase by which is meant:

- Being *deeply rooted* in, and responding to, the needs, struggles, and journeys of all those who dwell in their communities *as the church's primary concern*, according to the *doctrine of spiritual use*, while . . .
- Always holding to, and offering, an *alternative vision*, a vision of life in the Spirit, guided by a clear understanding and bold proclamation of the New Church gospel of the present Second Coming of the Lord.

Following on from the above, there

are seven key characteristics that will define our churches as being part of the Lord's New Church. They are:

1. **Community linkages and partnerships** nurturing rootedness in their communities through linkages and partnerships with all those individuals and agencies who share a concern for the well-being of the neighbor.
2. **Inclusiveness and compassion** reflecting and modeling the diversity of heaven by their commitment to welcome and include all who may wish to enter in for the purpose of seeking healing and wholeness through a closer relationship with God (Rev. 22:2).
3. **Focus on families** offering sanctuary and support especially to children and families who live increasingly under siege amidst the perils and pitfalls of a world that "does not know God" (1 John 3).
4. **Affirmation of divine-human being** celebrating and sharing the New Church revelation of our divine-human being, that all people are bound together as bearers of, and participants in, the eternal life of the one Spirit.
5. **Spiritual learning and growth** fostering growth into conscious, lived awareness of our life in the Spirit, guided by the core principles and values of the Lord's revelation as set down by Emanuel Swedenborg.
6. **Congregational polity** affirming the spiritual use and call to ministry of all persons by adhering to a process of open and democratic decision-making for directing the affairs of the church.
7. **Financial self-sufficiency** taking ownership and responsibility for their church community by supporting themselves financially through their own contributions, programming, and partnerships.

The Rev. John Maine is pastor of the Swedenborgian Church in Edmonton, Alberta.

"IN COMPANY WITH ANGELS"

(Continued from page 76)


Angel windows without a church building to house them. This inspired the congregation to examine the definition of "church" and Swedenborg's teaching about the "Lord's church on earth" which is not bound by denominational or faith boundaries. Our church's teachings about the intentional diversity of human experience of the Divine, and Temenos' strong connection to the interfaith movement, further encouraged us to share these treasures as interfaith messengers of peace, healing and connection. It is our hope that they will spread the message of acceptance among people of all faiths and to inspire experiences of individual and group spiritual transformation.

"In Company with Angels" will offer these windows to be displayed in museums, churches, universities,

hospitals, and other public buildings. We are letting the angel windows lead us into the unknown of the future, just as many people report being guided by angels without knowing exactly where they will lead. We want to serve as facilitators for the mission these angel windows were created to fulfill. These unique treasures also have the potential to greatly broaden the world's awareness of the treasure of our Swedenborgian theology, thus fulfilling our mission as a church.

In the book of Revelation, the letters to the angels of the churches close with the words, "Let anyone who has an ear hear what the Spirit says to the churches." We are listening to what the Spirit is saying to us! The "In Company with Angels" fund has been established to gather the funds for these messengers to fulfill their mission in the

world. And the Temenos Angel Chapel Building Fund has been established to accumulate the resources to someday build a chapel to reunite these glorious windows in a unique sacred space. Please consider how you might participate in this historic undertaking. And watch for updates on our progress at Convention and in future *Messenger* issues! If you'd like to contribute or be on our emailing list for pictures of the restoration process, email Rev. Susannah Currie at revscurrie@yahoo.com or call Temenos at (610) 696-8145.


Rev. Susannah Currie is pastor of the Swedenborgian Church at Temenos and Executive Director of the Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester Pennsylvania. Donna Larsen is the chair of the Angel Committee' and a new member of the Church. 

The Swedenborg Library

(Continued from page 63)

an institution is small, its effects, as seen here in Chicago, have been huge and lasting. The problem is, our contemporaries are generally ignorant of the spiritual roots of those we revere here today."

In addition to strategic alliances with other groups, the Swedenborg Library offers a variety of spiritual practice programs on a regular basis, from a bi-monthly exploration of Kabbalah with Rabbi Menachem Cohen, monthly Hatha Yoga practice with Yvette Washington and weekly Qi Gong practice (breathing exercises) with Jim Kobus.

"Our mailing list has gone from a dozen to three hundred in two years," says Feil. "Developing awareness of Swedenborgian theology by example is our goal. We seek to practice ecumenism and be of service to the Chicago community, and trust that building a broader community will flow from that." If you're planning to be in Chicago, you can find updated information on the Library's programs by visiting www.swedenborglib.org 

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 62)

chance to meet so many terrific, warm, caring people have all contributed to the positive, hopeful outlook that remains with me at the end of this first year of my service as your president. My thanks to you all for providing the energy that creates this ongoing heartbeat of the denomination!

Christine Laitner

President's Travel: "Year One"

CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS

Washington, D.C.
San Diego, CA (twice)
Pretty Prairie, KS
Kitchener, ON (twice)
LaPorte, IN
Kelowna, BC
New York
Michigan Association
Ohio Association
Western Canada Conference

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Cabinet
General Council
NCCC General Assembly
Summit I: Financial
Wayfarers Board (twice)
SHS Board (twice)
CAM (twice)
MINSU (twice)



On Becoming A Dad

(Continued from page 65)

Two other things that strike me about becoming a dad. One, how true it is what our theology expresses about how the Lord gives babies a deep influx of innocence right out of the highest heaven, and how greatly it affects moms and dads (not to mention others!). In *Heaven and Hell* n. 277 we read: "I have been told from heaven that children are specially under the Lord's auspices, and that they receive influx from the inmost heaven, where there is a state of innocence that this influx passes through their interiors, and that in its passing through, their interiors are affected solely by the innocence; and for this reason innocence is shown in their faces and in some of their movements and becomes evident; and that it is this innocence by which parents are inmost affected, and that gives rise to the love that is called 'storge.'" It may be a more external innocence, yes, since a baby's mind is not filled with this spirit by choice, but out of ignorance, but *my goodness* what an innocent still is! Swedenborg wrote about how the innocence of infants flows through the special sounds they make, too. I am struck by the way Julia loves being held, and by the light in her eyes when someone wants to relate with her. Ultimately I

believe we are born to grow out of infancy and into (hopefully) an innocence of wisdom, which is what the angels enjoy. But I cannot also ignore the truth for me at least that God's Spirit is partially kept alive on earth by the great presence of babies. Their innocence is just right out of heaven!

My second final point is how positively the birth and presence of our daughter has impacted our marriage. Penny and I have both expressed how precious the effect has been on the energy and emotions of marital love we feel for one another (my wife, by the way, is my newest hero). I have no doubt that we would feel deeply in love without Julia's birth and presence, and still this journey is such an enormous gift and privilege—in part because becoming parents has been a long-term dream for us both. I think it's great whether husbands and wives want to be blessed with children or not. And now, after nineteen years of adult living, I am happy to share how wonderful *both* forms of marriage are.

Thank you, Lord, for granting my wife and me this experience...this journey, called parenthood.

The Rev. Kit Billings is pastor of the St. Louis Church of the Open Word. ☩

A Journey to be a father

(Continued from page 65)

In the U.S. the irresponsible fathers are quite a serious social issue. Somehow fathers seem to abandon their children a lot more easily than mothers, if a mother ever can abandon one's child. How is it possible to fathers? In my experience, one possible guess may lie in the difference between mothers and fathers-to-be in experiencing the period we call pregnancy. As soon as a woman knows that she is pregnant, overnight she becomes a mother! Her body promotes the change before her mind comprehends what is about to come. The change in the hormones and chemicals sends undeniable signals to the mother that a new life is making its room inside her body. The child is already physically, psychologically and emotionally a significant part of her. She is partaking in the miraculous work of

God in creating a new human being. Her whole self, body and mind, is touched by the divine power in this sacred and amazing event!

Now what happens to the father during the pregnancy? The amazing and miraculous experience of the pregnancy, to the father, is just someone else's experience. To the fathers-to-be what is more real than the coming child is the unpredictable ups-and-downs of his wife's emotions and worries related to the unpredictable changes that are about to come with the child. The task for a father-to-be is to support the mother through the journey of the pregnancy and delivery, and to actualize the coming child as a real being in his mind, overcoming any possible doubt or confusion arising from the fact that the major supporter is just an inside observer of the miraculous event.

Roiy became a real being in my mind finally after I saw him on the screen of Ultra Sound. I saw his legs, arms, ears, nose, and etc... WOW! Seeing is believing, may not be all true, but it did work for me at this occasion! He was really there inside my wife's belly! Afterward I sensed that the difficulty I was having before was slowly fading away. And when I was embracing him after the breathtaking drama of the sudden c-section, I felt something heavy and amazingly fulfilling pouring into my heart. I actually felt that my heart was broadening as Roiy entered into my heart. That was such a feeling that I cannot describe in mere words. Somehow I felt that Roiy suddenly became a part of me! "Thank you God for allowing me to have this miracle of yours, and please help me so that I will be a good father to him." A prayer came into my mind without any conscious effort.

An acknowledgment came into my mind a few days later that the journey to be a father might just have started by now. Until now I was just a father-to-be. The real task as a father is about to begin from now and on. I see a lifelong journey lying ahead of us between Roiy and me as son and father. The fatherhood, unlike the motherhood, does not accompany initiatives like the unavoidable, but amazingly fulfilling experience of the pregnancy and delivery. The beginning of the fatherhood, in my case, arose from the cognitively conscious participation in the journey of Heejoung to be a mother. But that was how it started, not how it should end. I believe that the love for the child is natural and innate for both mothers and fathers. Now whenever I see my son, the indescribable joy of having him as my son fills my heart. Indeed, it is a life-changing and enriching experience. Now I see the world in a whole different way.

This is my experience of being a father. Some of you may agree with me and some of you may not agree with me. But I just wanted to share with all the fathers my feelings and gain by joining this amazing journey to the fatherhood. May the Lord bless and guide all fathers to truly acknowledge the amazing and fulfilling blessedness of God in the journey of fatherhood.

The Rev. Junchol Lee is pastor of The Swedenborg Chapel in Cleveland, Ohio. ☩

❧ Thank You ❧

The Messenger and the Communications Support Unit wish to thank these individuals and groups for subscriptions and donations to *The Messenger* from May 1, 2004 to April 1, 2005. We are most grateful for your enthusiastic support. We hope no contributor has been omitted from this list, but if your name is not here and should be, please let us know.

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West Coast Swedenborgian Youth Retreat

The Hillside Community Church in El Cerrito, California, sponsored a Swedenborgian Church Youth League Retreat for young people between the ages of 12-18 on the weekend of March 11-13. Our denomination's youth director, Kurt Fekete, led the retreat along with local ministers, including Doug Moss, and Swedenborgian House of Studies seminary students.

The Pacific Coast Association provided some grant money to fund youth from the Puget Sound church in Washington, so that they could attend. Alison Putnam of the Puget Sound church relates her experience:



Youth director Kurt Fekete and Swedenborgian House of Studies seminary student Carla Friedrich.



Eight kids were brought together in a church for the California retreat. During the days, we would have discussions about who was Swedenborg, and have a prayer every night before we slept. We went on hikes, played games, and just talked throughout the two days. I was afraid in the beginning of the retreat, and felt like I was a hostage in some church I knew nothing about. Later on, I met six new kids (four from California), learned who inspired the church, and had a

really great time staying up at night and playing games. On the last day, I realized I would give up anything to stay just one extra day. My friend and I were upset to leave, and hugged everyone on our way home. I'll never forget this wonderful experience and all my new friends.

*Love,
Alison*

The Swedenborgian Church Statistics - as of December 31, 2004

Associations	Churches		Ordained Ministers			Authorized Lay Leaders	Members			Number of Delegates
	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Retired		Active	Inactive	Total	
Canada	1	0	0	0	1	1	101	0	101	12
Illinois	4	2	2	1	0	0	109	30	139	12
Kansas	2	0	1	0	1	0	84	0	84	10
Maine	2	0	3	0	0	0	139	139	278	15
Massachusetts	4	1	7	2	1	0	131	38	169	15
Michigan	1	0	1	0	0	0	73	36	106	9
Middle Atlantic	3	0	4	0	0	0	107	34	141	12
New York	2	0	2	0	0	0	64	26	90	8
Ohio	3	2	3	2	0	1	65	17	82	8
Pacific Coast	4	0	8	2	7	4	366	28	394	38
Southeast	2	0	3	0	0	0	66	3	69	8
Western Canada Co	6	0	1	2	1	1	105	41	146	12
SCYL										2
SOCIETIES										
Bayside	did not report for 2002, 2003, or 2004									
Total	34	5	35	9	11	7	1410	392	1802	161

Baptism

Steinhiser—Wyatt Henry Steinhiser, infant son of Lori and Alan Steinhiser of Michigan City, Indiana, was baptized into the Christian life and faith April 3, 2005, at the LaPorte New Church in Laporte, Indiana, the Rev. Freeman Schrock officiating. Godparents are Victoria McHugh Carroll and Kieran L. McHugh, sisters.

Confirmations

Cox, Mrozinski, Perez, Scherb, Shank, Taylor—Alecia Cox, Teresa and Stanley Mrozinski, Mary Perez, Dwayne and Tina Young Scherb, Lori Shank, and Bobby Taylor were confirmed into the life and faith of the Swedenborgian Church and warmly welcomed into membership April 3, 2005, at the LaPorte New Church in Laporte, Indiana, the Revs. Freeman Schrock, Dick Tafel, and John Maine officiating.

Marriage

Mounce and Quartuccio—Tammara Lynn Mounce and Michael James Quartuccio were united in marriage March 19, 2005 at the VFW in LaPorte, Indiana. The Revs. Carl and Betty Yenetchi, friends of the bride, officiated. Tammara is a long-time attendee of Almont New Church Assembly. The newlyweds and their family are residing in LaPorte.

Deaths

Anderson—Larry S. Anderson, devoted longtime member of the Detroit Church and Michigan Association, entered the spiritual world April 15th, 2005, due to cardiovascular disease. A memorial service was held for Larry April 26, in Royal Oak, Michigan, officiated

by the Rev Renee Machiniak. Our prayers are with Larry's family.

Banaszak—Ray Banaszak, a member of the Royal Oak Church of the Holy City, entered the spiritual world February 4th, 2005. He passed away peacefully in his sleep next to his new wife of only ten months, Mary Jo Banaszak. Rev Renee Machiniak officiated at his memorial in Davisburg, Michigan, honoring his years of service as a U.S. Marine Sergeant, his role as a loving father of two daughters, Becky and Stacey, and his service and commitment to our church as a member and former president of the Board of Trustees. Bless you Ray.

Bruley—the Rev. Claude Bruley entered the spiritual world December 21, 2004. The resurrection services were held December 27th, with Rev. Alain Nicolier officiating. Mr. Bruley served the Swedenborgian church in LaPresle Centre, France, for many years. He is survived by his wife, Madame Jacqueline Bruley.

Dusen—Wilson Van Dusen, Ph.D., author, mystic, and Swedenborgian scholar, entered the spiritual world April 25, 2005, in Ukiah, California. A private memorial service was held May 3, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Marge; two children, Joan Aramaki, and Rebekah Van Dusen; and one grandson, Miles Van Dusen.

Lindstrom—Paul Lindstrom, a founding member (with his wife, Ruth) of the New Church of Southwest Florida, entered the spiritual world November 18, 2004. His memorial service was held in January 2005, the Rev. Nadine Cotton-Durgin officiating.

Lindstrom—Ruth Lindstrom, 87, a founding member of the New

Church of Southwest Florida, entered the spiritual world February 28, 2005. She and her late husband, Paul, are survived by their son, John; their daughter, Sally Hoyland; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Melis—Jose Guiu Melis entered the spiritual world April 6, 2005, in Arizona. Jose and his late wife, Sue, were members of the New York New Church. Jose Melis had a long and brilliant musical career. He loved the church and gave several benefit concerts in Cambridge and at Convention when it was held in New Hampshire. Jose is survived by his son, Michael, and daughter Suzanne Golembieski; his brother, Rafael Guiu, and seven grandchildren, plus many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Tafel—Corinne Tafel, 96, formerly of Narberth, Pennsylvania, entered the spiritual world May 10, 2005, in Midlothian, Virginia. Corinne was the mother of the Revs. Harvey Tafel and Richard H. Tafel, Jr., and Jonathan Tafel, and the wife of the late Richard H. Tafel. She was born and raised in Canada, and was originally a member of the Swedenborgian Church of the Holy Shepherd in Kitchener, Ontario. She became a lifelong member of the Philadelphia church following her marriage to the Rev. Tafel. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and daughters-in-law Linda, Mareta, and Sandy. Plans have not yet been made concerning a memorial service celebrating her life. "We rejoice that heaven has gained another angel, and know that her family and friends wish her the Lord's blessings as she begins a new chapter in her life's journey." ☩

Erasmus Swedenborg was born January 29, 1688, in Stockholm, Sweden. Although he never intended a church denomination to be founded named after him, a society was formed in London 15 years after his death. This 1787 organization eventually spawned the present General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches. As a result of Swedenborg's own spiritual questionings and insights, we as a church today exist to encourage that same spirit of inquiry and personal growth, to respect differences in views, and to accept others whom we have different traditions. Swedenborg shared in his theological writings a view of God as infinitely loving and at the very center of our beings, a view of life as a spiritual birthing as we participate in our own creation, and a view of Scripture as a story of inner-life stages as we learn and grow. Swedenborg would conclude, "All religion relates to life, and the life of religion is to do good." He also felt that the sincerest form of worship is a useful life.

"IN COMPANY WITH ANGELS"

shares Tiffany Angel Windows as interfaith messengers of peace, healing, and connection.

"Inwardly spiritual people are in company with angels though they are unaware of it." Emanuel Swedenborg, *Heavenly Doctrine* #40

Rev. Susannah Currie & Donna Larsen

The Swedenborgian Church at Temenos is pleased to announce that two of our seven Tiffany Stained Glass Angel windows have been removed from their undisclosed storage location and

taken to the Art of Glass Studio for restoration. The Philadelphia and Ephesus windows are finally freed of their wooden coffins and can once again transfer

light. Documentary filmmaker Amanda Costa captured the move on film with cameraman Todd Wall for her independent film tentatively entitled "Following the Angels." The restoration of these

two windows will take approximately two months. The timeline for completion of all seven windows is one year which leads to the big question: *And then what?* Herein lies the heart of "In Company with Angels."

Our windows have had an unusual history. In 1903, these seven Tiffany stained glass windows, representing the angels of the seven churches in Asia from the book of Revelation, were dedicated to Charles and Mary Allen at the Cincinnati church by the Glendale Society of the First New Church. In 1964

the church building was torn down to make way for Interstate 71. Although they were unsure of what they would do with them, the Cincinnati congregation bought back the windows from the state. For almost twenty years they remained in the Rev. Dick Tafel Jr.'s garage until they were driven in a U-haul trailer to Pennsylvania by Pete and Gloria Toot. A fundraising campaign headed by the Rev. Erni Martin had

raised enough money to purchase the windows for a church building, designed by Eric Lloyd Wright, being planned for the Temenos property. This plan was delayed when the Temenos Retreat House

was built instead, leaving the windows waiting in various humble storage locations: a damp shed, another garage, and a basement, for another dozen or so years.

An anonymous donation of \$50,000 toward the restoration of the windows

began the process of bringing the Angel windows out of hiding. Additional donations have been received, and a fundraising campaign has begun to fund the additional expenses associated with displaying these unique and awe-inspiring art treasures. Within a year's time we will have seven restored Tiffany

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of North America
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