MAY - JUNE 2023



ALL THINGS NEW

the Rev. W. Cairns Henderson

"Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

THE NEW CHURCH



Every year in June people meet to celebrate the birthday of the New Church. But in what way is the New Church "new"?

First, let us examine what is it that makes a church. From what is a

church derived, and in what does it consist? According to the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church, a church exists from the Word, and it is such as its understanding of the Word is. Thus a church is derived from doctrine. It consists in a life according to doctrine, that is, in love to the Lord and charity toward the neighbor, which is religion. And it is made by the presence of the Lord in doctrine, and conjunction with Him in the good life that doctrine teaches. Therefore the name, the "New Church," can refer only to the acceptance of a doctrine, the establishment from it of a religion, and a resulting presence of, and conjunction with, the Lord that

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never existed before. It is these new things that make this a new church.

This conclusion is the meaning of the words: "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that this is a prophecy of the New Church, foretelling that in it there will be essential and genuine truths, and thus new things of doctrine and of life, which were not in any of the former churches.

NEW TRUTHS

What are the new teachings that make the church a new church?

In the first place, there is an entirely new idea of God. The Divine truth given in the Heavenly Doctrine teaches that God is one in essence and in person, and the Lord Jesus Christ is that God. It teaches that the Lord in His Divine Human is the one God of heaven and earth, the Father being in Him and the Holy Spirit from Him. The first advent was the incarnation of Jehovah Himself. Its purpose was the redemption of angels and people, the glorification of the Lord's Human, and the extension from it of salvation. We are taught that the Lord has now made His promised second coming in the Heavenly Doctrine revealed through His servant, Emanuel Swedenborg. This doctrine teaches us to think of the Lord as a Divine Man, whose essence is love and wisdom, and from whom alone is all life, good, and truth.

The second new thing of doctrine in the New Church is an entirely new conception of the Word of God. This is that the Word is Divine, holy, and fully inspired, because its words are the words of the Lord's own mouth through the prophets and evangelists, and because it contains and supports a threefold series of more and more interior senses which treat only of the Lord and His kingdom. In other words, the Sacred Scripture is a parable from beginning to end. Its characters are not holy in themselves, but they represent Divine and spiritual things. The Word has no holiness apart from the spiritual sense that dwells within it. And because the Word contains the spirit and life of God, it is the fountain of all wisdom, the one source of spiritual life, and the only way to heaven.

In addition to these things there is a new idea of faith as being, not mere intellectual belief in the promises of the Word and blind acceptance of that which transcends understanding, but the love of truth for its own sake and the spiritual sight of truth which is given to those who live according to it.

With this goes a new conception of charity as consisting in doing well to others from an unselfish desire for their spiritual welfare. Furthermore, there is an entirely new idea of human responsibility: while a person cannot do any good from himself, he must remove and shun evils as if of himself, while acknowledging that the inclination and power are from the Lord.

And, finally, there is a new conception of eternal life: that a person lives as a person, with all that this implies, immediately after death. He is then established forever in the life of good or evil he had freely chosen while on earth. And he then lives a human life with like-minded companions in surroundings which correspond to his internal state.

These are, fundamentally, the new things of doctrine from which the New Church exists.



NEW LOVES

A life lived according to these new doctrines produces an entirely new kind of life, a new religion, in which the New Church consists.

As love is the life of a person, so this new life is a new love, and it is, primarily, a new love to the Lord. The teachings of the Christian Church, with its conception of a tri-personal God and the doctrine of vicarious atonement, produced a personal love for the Lord, akin to that which might be felt for an elder brother or friend who had made some great sacrifice to secure benefits for his younger and weaker brethren. But acceptance of the Heav-

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enly Doctrine results in a more interior and spiritual love, which consists in loving the good and truth that proceed from the Lord, and especially in loving His wisdom as it is revealed to the church.

To love good and truth sincerely is to use them for new modes of thinking and speaking, and obthe purpose for which they are given by the Lord— servance of new conventions, do not in themselves for the spiritual welfare of humankind. Thus, hand make the New Church, though they are all necessary in hand with a new love to the Lord, goes a new love for its ultimate existence. toward the neighbor. The teaching of the Christian Church also produced a personal love of the neighbor which demanded that even external judgments gregations, only to the extent that it has been estabbe left to God and that all people be regarded and lished within their hearts and minds. And the New treated equally as brethren. To benefit others in this Church will be founded on earth as the new gospel undiscriminating way was said to be Christian chari- finds glad acceptance in human hearts and minds, as ty itself.

But the teaching of the Heavenly Doctrine that good them in the tabernacle of the Heavenly Doctrine is the neighbor produces an entirely new kind of which they love, understand, and live. love. This love consists in loving heaven more than any end of self or the world; in loving what is true. For these reasons this church is, and ever will be, sincere, and just; in seeking the eternal welfare of others by loving only what is good in them and trying to amend what is evil; and in acting only from the Word which alone teaches what good is; and all this because the Lord commands it.

A NEW LIFE

From these new loves, which come only from the Lord through the Heavenly Doctrine, there arises an entirely new kind of life, a new religion. Now this life is no different in externals from that of any person who obeys the civil and moral laws of society, but it is entirely new in its motives and quality. It is this life in which the New Church consists.

Yet while this life constitutes the church, it does not make it. What makes the New Church is the presence of the Lord within the Heavenly Doctrine in the minds of those who receive it. This presence is immediate because the Heavenly Doctrine is an immediate revelation of Divine truth-and the Lord is conjoined with those who receive Him in the life they live from that doctrine. In this sense the Church is "new," because such a presence and conjunction of the Lord is now given for the first time.

So we may say that the New Church is new, and a church, because it consists, from new doctrine, in an entirely new kind of spiritual life, in which the Lord

is what is meant by the prophecy, "Behold, I make all things new."

Now we must not fail to recognize the real significance of this claim. A new ecclesiastical body, a new priesthood, new rituals, new forms of worship and instruction, new customs and social practices,

The church exists among people, and in their conthe Heavenly Doctrine is received and lived by individuals, and as the Lord takes up His abode with

"new," although it is to endure to eternity. Since the church is made by the immediate presence of the Lord in the Heavenly Doctrine there will always be born in it new things of love and faith; new and ever more interior perceptions of the inner meaning of the Heavenly Doctrine and of uses and how they may be performed; and an increasingly more perfect life of charity, resulting from an ever clearer vision of the Lord and of His kingdom. In this way the church that is new will ever remain so, leading people ever more effectively to the worship and love of God. Amen.



can be present in a new way to effect salvation. This Lesson: Isaiah 65; Revelation 21; Doctrine of the Lord 65

YOUTH WEEKEND SUMMARY

April 21-23, 2023

By Naomi Reid

The 2023 spring youth weekend was hosted in the Mitchellville students) shared his musical tal-Caryndale, Kitchener, ON, over the weekend of ent by playing two beautiful songs on the piano: April 21-23. Rev. Justin Schorran and his wife Comptine de Autre by Yann Trersen and Marriage Denali (Heinrichs) Schorran were the hosts for the de Amour by Paul de Senneville. If you aren't event. A record-breaking number of people at- familiar with these lovely songs, they are worth tended, including 58 teens and 14 chaperones / finding and listening to. drivers from seven New Church societies -Caryndale, Toronto, Kempton, PA, Pittsburgh, Rev. Calvin Heinrichs and his sister Denali Schor-PA, Glenview, IL, Mitchellville, MD and Oak Ar- ran ran the lively, interactive, and fun icebreaker bor, MI.

Brown, Ahmai Cole and Nicole Frazier brought 25 they divided the group into four smaller teams and teens from Kempton. Rev. Jared Buss, Gabrielle competitions were held, including guessing Dis-Uber and Burgundy Smith brought 9 teens from ney movie lyrics, stacking cups, and knocking Pittsburgh. Rev. Elmo Acton and Phil Parker them down with ping pong balls, and a lively brought 3 teens from Glenview and 6 teens from hockey game outside. Oak Arbor. Rev. Justin and Denali Schorran had 10 teens attend from Caryndale. Jana Sprinkle On Saturday, the group planted trees for the new brought 2 teens from Mitchelville. Naomi Reid and emerging landscaped outdoor space and future brought 3 teens from Olivet. The male chaperones steps that will eventually go from behind the Carand boys stayed overnight at the Carmel Church, mel Church down to the valley and houses below. while the female chaperones and girls were hosted The teens were good natured about planting trees by Denali Heinrichs at the manse down the hill in the rain. from the church.

The spiritual theme for the weekend was based on an idea from the Writings called "The Affirmative Principle." Rev. Brett Buick introduced the idea in the Friday evening vespers service and Rev. Jared Buss explained it further in the afternoon doctrinal discussion class. Through their explanations, we learned that the affirmative principle means accepting and affirming that what the Lord says in His Word is good and true because it comes from Him. This attitude leads to intelligence and wisdom, while acting on the belief that we know better than the Lord leads to a life of folly and insanity. This idea comes from Arcana Coelestia 2568.4 and opposes the ways and common thinking of the world, which would like us to think that we can decide for ourselves what is right and wrong while ignoring what the Lord says in His Word. Rev. After washing their muddy shoes, they attended a Calvin Heinrichs did the Saturday evening Ves- doctrinal class, had a BBQ lunch, and went to the pers service, sharing more in-depth ideas on the Skyzone Trampoline park. After returning, they topic. After the vespers service, Kai Smith (one of

game time on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Since the teen group was large and it would have Rev. Brett Buick, Rev. Calvin Heinrichs, Brooke been hard to get to know so many individuals,



They planted 220 shrubs and tress species, including the following: Smooth Service Berry, Black Choke Berry, Bush Honeysuckle, Canada Plum, Canada Elderberry, Red Elderberry, Maple-leaved Viburnum, Wild Rasin, Arrowwood, Nannyberry and Grey Dogwood.

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were invited into Caryndale church homes for This was perhaps the largest group ever in the hisshowers. Thank you to the hosting families.

from a local stone store and other stones that were who brought the young people to this weekend sitchurch service on Sunday morning.

The meals were planned with care and precision by memorable experience for them. Rev. Justin and Denali Schorran. Thank you to the local Caryndale church members who assisted in As I looked around that morning I felt a strong the kitchen with the important job. The weekend sense of gratitude and connection to everyone who concluded with a society pancake breakfast cooked helped make these weekends possible. Without the by the teens, followed by thee church service with hard work of those who plan and organize the Rev. Mark Allais, who asked the attendees to con- events, as well as the dedication of those who are sider if they have asked the Lord to be a central part willing to drive and chaperone from as far away as of their lives. Being willing to ask the Lord to be at Maryland, Glenview, and Kempton, these weekthe center of our lives is the capstone idea to the ends would not be feasible. It is heartening to know affirmative principle of being willing to accept that that these youth weekends are made affordable what the Lord says is true and not putting our own through the generous support of the General Church ideas about life above what the Lord has said in His in Canada Board. Thank you for your continued Word. This idea resonated with me as I observed support of this invaluable resource for the young the young people and adult leaders gathered togeth- people in our wider church community. er in church that morning.

tory of young people's weekends. Throughout the weekend, I witnessed the teens making positive After a pizza dinner on Saturday evening, Naomi connections with each other and displaying positive Reid taught the teens to make twisted wire trees, and helpful attitudes towards both their peers and which they mounted onto semi-precious stones the staff. I noticed the Ministers and chaperones collected from the shores of Lake Ontario. The final ting among the congregation. These individuals results of this project were displayed on the stage place a high value on supporting the youth in our and could be seen by everyone who attended the church, as evidenced by their willingness to drive many miles to bring their young people to these events and their dedication to ensuring a safe and



FROM THE REGIONAL PASTOR / GCIC EVP

by Rev. James Cooper

WORSHIP SERVICES

I'll be travelling to Ottawa on June 25th.

The travel schedule during the summer is a little lighter than the rest of the year because so many people are away on holiday (which is a good thing). We do expect to resume a full schedule of regular visits in the Fall. We are working on those travel assignments now.

SWITCH TO DIGITAL

Those of us who still subscribe to print newspapers have probably noticed some changes. A few years ago, newspapers started adding digital access for those customers who were really on the cutting edge of technology. And so began the transition away from print. I now get regular email notices from my newspaper reminding me that my subscription includes access to their wonderful new website where all the news is in colour and up to the minute. I get it. It costs a lot of money to buy all that paper, to keep the printing shop running, and pay all those people to print and deliver a printed newspaper to my door every morning. You don't need all that stuff to produce a digital edition – and subscribers can read it on any of several devices wherever they are, and you can still sell advertising.

The same business realities exist with the New Church Canadian, except that we depend on volunteers to do much of the heavy lifting (literally - carrying boxes of paper from the printer, buying stamps, folding, stuffing, labeling, sealing and stamping envelopes, and then taking them to the post office) in the production of a paper edition. It's getting to be time for us to recognize the coming of the digital age and significantly reduce the paper edition of the New Church Canadian.

Now many of you are already getting New Church Canadian as a PDF file in you email. The good news is that it's much easier for us to produce that way and saves all that paper. The other good news is that if you really prefer to have a print edition to read in your easy chair, the PDF format is easily printed on your home printer. Some of us even use GOOS (good on one side) paper as an additional economy.

This transition will, of necessity, but gradual over the next few issues. What we need from you is to have the email address you would like us to use to send your digital edition. Please send that information to <u>sandy.c.kuhl@gmail.com</u>.

We do recognize that there are some readers who, for various good reasons, don't have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please let us know, we will continue to make some print editions available for those who need them! Our local congregations could help with that by printing a few copies locally and having them available to be picked up at the church, or they can be delivered or mailed to those unable to pick them up in person.

And, as always, the current issue of New Church Canadian, and several past issues, are available on www.newchurch.ca

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News from Olivet New Church School Earth Day at Olivet School

By Laura Braam, Principal

Although we should be looking after our Earth every day of the year, there are certain designated days in which we pay special attention. Olivet School celebrates Earth Day every year on or around April 21st. We take time to clean up the environment around the school including the boulevard, the Hydro field and of course on our own property.





New Church Vineyard Update

By Rachel Glenn

General Church Education is excited to announce an update to our New Church Vineyard website. New Church Vineyard is an online library of resources to help children and adults learn about the Lord, His Word, and the purpose of life. The new interface, which has just been launched, offers a more visual, streamlined experience for users and a wealth of new materials. Visit the site at www.newchurchvineyard.org to see our new collections, browse resources on key spiritual topics, and subscribe to our highlight emails. Let us know what you think.

Rachel Glenn vineyard@newchurch.org



A New Church Camp for Teens Held at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario

We look forward to welcoming campers **Saturday, July 8 – Friday, July 14, 2023**.

This will be a week of friendship building, laughter, restorative relaxation, and spiritual growth for teens who will have just completed any year of high school.

After our unfortunate hiatus due to the pandemic, we look forward to at last exploring the theme of **LIGHT**.

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, " I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." ~ John 8:12 ~



Want to register or get more information? Please visit the updated <u>maplecamp.com</u> or contact:
Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, regarding any questions at <u>gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com</u>.
Maple has been serving New Church youth since 1969; it is sponsored by the General Church in Canada and staffed by experienced volunteers.

After GCIC contributions, regular camper fee is **\$300**, with discounts for early bird registration (before May 1) or for "junior staff" (returning campers finishing high school). A deposit of at least **\$50** (\$5 non-refundable) is required with registration and full payment is due by June 16.





LIVING WATERS FAMILY CAMP

JULY 13 - 16, 2023

Living Waters date is set for July 13th-16th. Please note it is a week later than the standard date. Registration is now open! You may notice that the sign up process is slightly different than in the past. If you would like to register, or have any questions about this process, please talk to The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario on the Rev. Justin Schorran at

asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org.

Theme: "What does it mean to be "New Church"?

The theme for our camp this summer is "What does it mean to be "New Church?" Is it even possible to define? At its broadest, we are told The General Church in Canada has been wonder-Church a state of mind in the individual or can it affordable enough for everyone to attend! apply broadly to an external organization as well? Perhaps it is both! Please join us for camp and

let's discuss this together!



Now is a great time to start a family tradition where Grandparents, Parents, and Children can all go to a summer camp and worship, learn, pray, and play together. These family camps provide a fantastic opportunity for the Lord to store up some cross-generational New Church "remains."

I hope you will take time to fill out the registration forms and plan on attending this annual event! It runs Thursday through Sunday, so you only have to take two precious vacation days to make it happen.

Saugeen River and is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp, you can explore it on the web at www.hvccamp.ca. It is only 194 kilometers from Olivet and just 154 kilometers from Carmel. It is also only 183 miles from Oak Arbor, Michigan so we are warmly welcoming any of our southern neighbors from the United States to attend as well! Canoeing and fishing are available, and the camp is just 20 kilometers from the beach on Lake Huron.

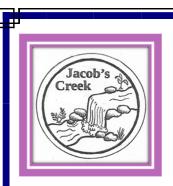
that there are two essentials to being New fully supportive of this venture and, there are Church. Are there any qualifiers? Is the New scholarships available to ensure that the camp is

> For more information Living Waters Family Camp or if you would like to attend, please email:

livingwatersfamilycamp@gmail.com

or call 519-748-5802.





JACOB'S CREEK FAMILY RETREAT July 27-30, 2023

Registration is now open for this year! It is online at <u>https://www.jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org/</u>

This Year's Theme is

Creation: Behold! | Make All Things New"

"A person must be born anew...by means of truths from the Word, and by a life according to them." (Apocalypse Explained 721)

This year, we are utilizing the website for information instead of receiving numerous emails as information is updated! Please point your friends and family who you think might enjoy the retreat to the website. Not all the information is available at this time – it is still a work in process being done by Kirsten Cranch. Bear with us as we attempt to utilize the website to its full potential. Rest assured no personal information will be posted on the website. Address lists and assignments for the children's program will still be emailed out closer to the time to those who have actually registered for the retreat.

The dates for the retreat are July 27 to the 30^{th} – please be aware that is Thursday to Sunday!

Please keep in mind that registration will be capped at 150 people and the cost of the retreat goes up \$25 *per person* after June 30th. So, register now!

Information you will currently find on the website:

- Welcome Letter
- Pastoral Staff so far
- Online Registration there are no more paper forms, however you will still need to mail the check to Jamie and Julie Uber (48 Collinwood Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15215).

Come join us as we celebrate 30 years of Jacob's Creek this year!

Andrea Cranch abcranch@cranchlandscapers.com

Jamie Uber 48 S. Collinwood Dr Pittsburgh, PA 15215 412-782-2710 (h) 412-951-8361 (c)







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General Church in Canada Worship Services

Carmel New Church Kitchener, ON



11:00am In Person and Online Dawson Creek New Church Dawson Creek, BC



Olivet New Church Etobicoke, ON

10:30am In Person and Online





Editorial Deadline for the JULY — AUGUST ISSUE JULY 7, 2023

I always welcome your comments, letters and articles!

Please send submissions to Sandy Kuhl, Editor NCC 8 Marshall Avenue, RR #1, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 Phone: 519-696-2070 Email: <u>sandy.c.kuhl@gmail.com</u>



