



The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

January 2021

PRAYING FOR A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

A message from Pastor, Rev. Garry Walsh

Revelation 21 opens with the words: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." For humanity things were changing. Indeed, just four verses later the Lord declared, "Behold, I make all things new."

New Church teachings help us to see that the "new heaven" was a new eternal heavenly reality for the people of our current human era. People from ancient times that preceded this current one were safe in existing heavens that suited their natures. The "new earth" was a new era for the Lord's Church on earth. By "church" is not only meant church organizations and communities, but the broader human community that we live within. In other words, the Lord's new realities would affect the lives of people here in the world and on to eternity. A new life experience would emerge, a life of love to the Lord and to our neighbors.

Going forward the opportunity would exist for new sense of community. Here is what is said of that community in the work Arcana Coelestia (Secrets of Heaven):

The ties that connect people in the next life are remarkable. They are like family ties on earth, in that some acknowledge others as parents, as children, as siblings, as blood relatives, and as more distant connections. Their love for one another reflects these different levels of relationship. The varieties come in unlimited number. The way they are communicated and perceived is so exquisite that it cannot be described.

People there pay no attention at all to who was whose parent, child, blood relative, or connection on earth. They do not care what a person's outer identity was like, whether the individual had importance or wealth, and so on. They look only at differences in mutual love and in faith, and at what kind of capacity for welcoming love and faith a person has received from the Lord while living in the world...

Since that is what heaven is like, no angel or spirit could ever have any life without being part of some community, without joining in harmony with many others. Community is simply harmony among many. No one's life is ever isolated from the life of others. (§ 685, 687)

Imagine a life where mutual love reigns. People look for the things that they hold in common. And, of time the Lord promotes a love in everyone so that they find their greatest joy in serving other people's needs over their own. They do care for their own wellbeing, but only for the sake of being in a state that allows them to fully serve others. A community that showers love on each other, that is what the Lord is working to create.

This might be a prayer for 2021, that we enter more fully into the reality of that type of heavenly community. If we will it, it can happen. For, as said already, the Lord promises that He will indeed "make all things new".

NEW TEXT ALERT SERVICE

The Sower's Chapel is now using a group texting service. Look out for texts from (724) 230-8424. You might want to add it to your contacts list. This service will provide timely reminders of church related activities and other messages of interest, working a little bit like a telephone grapevine. Most texts will come through reading: Sower's Chapel Alert. At certain times the texts will invite you to check your email for further information. We hope that you will find this helpful.

"THANK YOU" FROM LAUREL & GARRY WALSH AND FAMILY

We would like to share our heartfelt thank you to all of the people who have expressed so much love for us following the passing of Laurel's mother Lynn Smith. This includes those who sent flowers and cards and those who attended the Zoom memorial service and watched the slideshow video (see the link below). We truly live in an incredible community.

Lynn W. Smith video slideshow link:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=4126209824060695&id=100000151534852)

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100 Iron Bridge Rd. • Sarver PA 16055

Rev. Garry Walsh, Pastor • (301) 741-6397

E-mail: Rev.Garry.Walsh@gmail.com

[Web page: www.sowerschapel.org](http://www.sowerschapel.org)

Miriam Heilman, Editor • e-mail: miriam.heilman@gmail.com

JANUARY MEETINGS

Tuesdays 11:00 am - Daniel Discussion at Church

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 am - Pastor at church

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7:00 pm - Board of Trustees

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7:00 pm - Pastor's Council

BAC & ANC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!

Two education scholarships will be offered for the 2021-22 school year. This annual award is for the purpose of supporting women attending the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church who desire to become New Church teachers and declare education as a major or minor (or Interdisciplinary Degree.)

The annual scholarship award is \$2,100 (\$700 paid directly to the college at the beginning of each trimester), for up to 2 recipients. One award is for an incoming freshman, and one award is for a current Bryn Athyn College of the New Church education student. May be used toward tuition, fees, and/or books.

Three scholarships are available to women students of Bryn Athyn College of the New Church who have a 3.0 GPA and are studying Religion (major, minor, ID) or MARS program or are international students. There are (2) \$2,000 and (1) \$1,000 scholarships awarded to eligible recipients who exemplify the teachings of the New Church. These are annual merit-based scholarships that can be used for tuition, college fees, books or supplies.

Two scholarships are available to women attending Bryn Athyn College of the New Church earning a master's degree and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Each annual award is \$2,000 (paid directly to the college at the beginning of each trimester) These are annual merit-based scholarships that can be used for tuition, college fees, books or supplies.

Applications are due February 1, 2021.

To apply: email ancdaughters@gmail.com or call Sarah Wong at BAC 267-502-6085 or see BAC website.

ANC Scholarships!!

Two annual scholarships are now offered for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$2,500 for up to 2 young women who exemplify the teachings of the New Church. The Scholarship may be used toward tuition, books or fees. These are annual merit and need-based scholarships and may be applied for yearly.

Applications are due March 1, 2021.

To apply: email ancdaughters@gmail.com for applications

SEEKING STUDENTS WITH INQUIRING MINDS

The Washington New Church School is pleased to announce our young and growing new high school – The White Horse Academy. Our vision is to serve students near and far who would like to have an individualized, New Church, high school education. We are harnessing the power of the internet to connect our students with both live and recorded classes and, as important, with each other.

When accepted to the program, students and parents meet with their education coach to formulate their individualized plan of study which will include the necessary courses to earn a high school diploma, as well as a plan for experiential learning and the development of a portfolio showcasing the student's skills, knowledge and service to community.

If you are or have a rising high schooler please contact us. We would love to share more details about our program with you.

We are excited to build a network around our vision of individualized, New Church education for our students. If you are someone who loves creative education and raising children in the New Church we would be thrilled to be in touch with you, even if your high school years are long behind you. If you have a talent that you love sharing with others and are familiar with tools such as Zoom or Office 365, or are willing to learn new skills, contact us. We want to make you part of our team. Call or email us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Education Coach, Jana.Sprinkle@washnewchurch.org ; 410-220-9003

Principal, Brian.Smith@washnewchurch.org ; 301-850-3029

A NEW CHURCH TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURE

Each word in the Sacred Scripture is like a precious stone given to us by the Lord, each phrase and verse is like a jewel. There are aspects of the Letter of the Word that cannot truly be brought into what is called Standard English, but a translation faithful to the original text in the light of the Heavenly Doctrine can convey to the English reader what the Lord has revealed to man.

It is with this hope that the editors of the Kempton Project offer again a translation of the Sacred Scripture to the New Church. This translation is even more thoroughly and carefully revised, keeping in mind the fullness, holiness and power, by which the Word serves the eternal purpose of conjoining heaven and earth, together with the Lord.

This new edition of the New Church translation of the Word is a red cloth hardcover volume, at the price of \$35.00 US, plus shipping. We also expect to make available a limited quantity of leather-covered volumes. Please check our website for pricing and other information: <https://kemptonproject.org/TheWord>

You can also order by e-mail, phone, or mail.

Email: TheWord@knccs.org

Phone: 1-215-938-8663

Mail: Kempton Project, 1050 Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529.