



The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

May 2025

FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

Easter having come and gone once again, I hope you all are enjoying the sense of new life – especially spiritual life – that the Lord ushered in at His resurrection. It is a fact we may not think about often enough, but we are clearly taught that unless the Lord had lived in this world, suffered, died and risen again, no one on earth could have been saved. No one. But with His power and guidance we all have the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of heaven – here and in the hereafter.

In that vein, we send our condolences to any in the congregation with a Catholic background, as you mourn the death of Francis, “the People’s Pope.” It will be interesting to see what the Conclave decides about the next pope, but whatever it is, we in the New Church should and must be ready to support whatever is good and true among those of that faith.

At The Sower’s Chapel, no doubt the question of whether the Rev. Olaf Hauptmann will be able to answer your call in the affirmative to serve as your next pastor is uppermost in your minds. I know it is top of my mind. Unfortunately, as of this writing we still do not have that answer, and it may be a few more weeks until we do. However, we will surely know before the end of May, and so I would like to proceed with a plan to hold a pastor’s council meeting on Saturday, May 31st, when I will be in town to preach on June 1st. At that time we will be able to begin a serious discussion about the best ways to support the church, either with or without Olaf, since either situation will call for some renewed and invigorated commitment. Between now and the 31st I will be in touch with the PC members, and will be inviting substitutes to fill in for any members who can’t make that date.

Meanwhile I understand your annual meeting went well, and I thank those who were voted onto (or back onto) the board, Glenn and Mike, as well as the others, for all your support.

In other news, you might be interested to know that I have completed another book of sermons for publication by

the church, this one called “Looking Deeper Into the Bible.” It’s all about the many challenging natural, moral and spiritual issues that really bother people in the Word, and shows how to understand them all in the light of the spiritual sense. Hopefully it will be ready to buy this summer (and, incidentally, would fit beautifully with Olaf’s interest in apologetics).

And here’s another recommendation for your summer reading. Late last year the classic history of the New Church in America, *The New Church in the New World*, by Marguerite Beck Block, first published in 1932 and subsequently reprinted 3 times, was republished again by the Swedenborg Foundation (in hardcover and paperback) with a new and interesting introduction and epilogue by the Rev. Christopher Barber. It’s an impressive 535-page tome, with footnotes, a complete bibliography, and an index for easy reference. If you’re interested in church history, this is the book for you! And you can get it from www.swedenborg.com, or from Amazon.
–Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)

SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Society Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, April 26th with 13 members present. Again we had a very busy 2024. A new water fountain was installed and the church parking lot was repaired, sealed and new lines painted. Work is being done this year on the manse inside and out. And we’ve successfully managed a year of visiting ministers that included all of our usual events.

The Board of Trustees and Pastor’s Council made a joint request of the Bishop that Rev. Olaf Hauptmann be considered to serve The Sower’s Chapel as full time minister. This occurred after a gathering of anyone interested with Olaf and his betrothed, Annina King. The purpose was to get to know him better and consider how we might work with him and he with us as our Pastor. There are many considerations to be made on the part of the Bishop’s office and we do not know when we will hear more.

The Board of Trustees for the 2025-2026 year is as follows:

Rev. Mike Gladish (*as Regional Pastor, unelected position*)
Miriam Heilman, Chair (*1st year of 1st term*)
Ian Heilman, Secretary (*elected annually*)
Bill Kronen Sr., Treasurer (*elected annually*)
Trish Lindsay (*3rd year of 1st term*)
Al Lindsay (*3rd year of 1st term*)
Chris Bown (*2nd year of 1st term*)
Mike Brown (*finishing 2 years of another member's term*)
Glenn Heilman (*1st year of 1st term*)



MAY 2025 CALENDAR EVENTS

Sun., May 4: Rev. Nathan Cole
Tue., May 6: 1 pm - Bible Study @ Blair's
Wed, May 7: 7 pm - The Wonders of Heaven Study Group
Sun., May 11: Rev. Chris Bown
Tue, May 13:: 1 pm - Bible Study @ Blair's
7 pm - Board of Trustees
Wed, May 14: 7 pm - The Wonders of Heaven Study Group
Sun, May 18: Rev. Chris Bown
Tue, May 20: 1 pm - Bible Study @ Blair's
Wed, May 21: 7 pm - The Wonders of Heaven Study Group
Sun, May 25: Rev. Chuck Blair
11 am - Memorial Day Service
Sun, June 1: Rev. Mike Gladish



VISITING MINISTER SCHEDULE

May 4 - Rev. Nathan Cole
May 11 - Rev. Chris Bown
May 18 - Rev. Chris Bown
May 25 - Rev. Chuck Blair
June 1 - Mike Gladish
June 8 - Rev. Lou Synnestvedt

The Country Couriers

THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

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THANK YOU TO YOU & YOU &, YES, YOU, TOO

With the help of many we successfully worked our way through a year of visiting ministers, weekly worship, religion classes, and many annual events. The key word here is WE. None of this happens without all of us working together and each of us helping in unique ways with various and oh so many tasks and events.

- Coordination on our end of Visiting Ministers
- Housing and feeding of Visiting Ministers
- Mowing
- Music
- Sunday School
- Maintenance & project coordination at both church and manse
- Keeping the books
- Keeping written records
- June 19th gifts for the children
- Christmas gifts for the children
- Christmas Eve Tableaux organization & costuming
- Chancel flowers
- Holy Supper bread
- Communication
- Golf Outing
- Memorial Day Service
- Vacation Bible School
- Pastor's Council
- Board of Trustees
- Ushers
- Chancel candle minders

I guarantee you I missed something in the above list because I unintentionally missed many thank yous at the annual meeting. What is important though is that there are hundreds of moving and shifting parts to getting through a year here at The Sower's Chapel, and many, many of us help out in countless ways. Without you, and you over there, and you quietly in the corner, none of this would function. None of it. And yet, we are here, standing tall and striving to be our best for each other, our church, and ultimately the Lord.

I dare not list names, because if I do, someone will be inadvertently overlooked. Next time you're at church, thank someone near you for being a part of this glorious organization, because not one of us doesn't contribute some time and love to this effort we call The Sower's Chapel.

—Miriam Heilman

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 25, 2025

11 am at The Sower's Chapel

We're pleased to announce this year's honoree is Joseph Rodney (Rod) Chapman, a U.S. Army Rifleman who served in the 3rd Army under Gen. George S. Patton during the Normandy Campaign. He was held captive in a German prison camp for over 7 months.

Rodney received the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the French Legion of Honor award.

On November 11, 2022 the Freeport Post Office was named the "Corporal Joseph Rodney Chapman Post Office" in honor of his 35 years of service from mail carrier to Chief Clerk.



**A New Church Camp
for Teens Held at the**

Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario

Saturday, July 5 – Friday, July 11, 2025.

Our theme this year is SEASONS.

Want to register or get more information? Please visit maplecamp.com or contact Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, regarding any questions at gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat July 24 - 27, 2025

Faith: An Internal Acknowledgement of Truth

A summer church retreat held in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania. Besides daily worship, the retreat includes instruction and activities revolving around the Lord's Word and the Heavenly Doctrine as revealed through Emanuel Swedenborg. The focus of this retreat is to assist participants in building a strong foundation of doctrinal understanding for spiritual growth.

Visit jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org for more information. You can find details such as how to register, directions, what to bring, cost to attend, programs, accommodations, daily schedule and information on lectures/discussions/programs.

Two Camps in Bryn Athyn, PA

Tools 4 Life is a career and life skills camp designed to help teenagers who have completed grades 10 and 11 develop the tools and confidence needed to make choices about their path after high school. The camp offers 7 days of activities and workshops under the mentorship of skilled counselors. Visit <http://www.ancss.org/academics-summer> or email tools4life@ancss.org to learn more.

Academy of the New Church Summer Camp is geared to students who have completed grades 8 or 9, helping to familiarize them with the Academy Secondary Schools. It also allows for New Church young people to socialize in a friendly and informal, but chaperoned environment. Visit www.ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp to learn more.



For information on more New Church camps around the world visit newchurch.org/connect/attend-a-camp-or-retreat/

