



# The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

February 2026

## FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

As I write this, we are expecting a major snow storm and super-cold temps across Pennsylvania. But by the time you read this it will all be history – or at least you will know how accurate the forecasts were.

In the interests of safety, though, as you know, your in-person worship service for the 25th was cancelled. Hopefully you were able to find a suitable online service to watch at home. As you may have discovered, there are many offered across this country, in all 3 time zones, from east to west, from formal to informal, from adult services to family services, and, of course New Church Live. They're all listed at <https://newchurch.org/connect/find-online-services/>.

### Safety First, Especially in the Parking Lot

At their last meeting, your board members agreed that when it snows enough to warrant plowing, the church parking lot will also be salted from now on to ensure your safety and confidence getting from your cars to the church door.

### Future Services – and a Meeting

I look forward to my next TWO visits, on the first weekends of February and March, with a special meeting of the members (a sort of “pastor’s council of the whole”) on Saturday, February 28 at 10 am to discuss ideas and strategies for The Sower’s Chapel in this new year. Please, if you have any ideas OR CONCERNS, or if you just want to be informed about future plans, please do your best to join us.

### Hosting or Meeting With the Visiting Ministers

When I visited on the weekend of January 4th, I stayed as usual with Dr. Dan Heilman and we had a good chat about this hosting routine. We agreed that both he and I, and the other ministers all enjoy his generous hospitality, but that we are also concerned to give other members opportunities also to host if any of you are so inclined. It’s not just about housing or meals. In fact it’s mostly just about having extra time to VISIT when we ministers come for the weekends.

So, whether you would like to host, or maybe just contact the visiting ministers ahead of time to set up a lunch or dinner or afternoon or evening visit, we want you to know that we would be delighted to spend that time with you.

We now have a regular schedule of ministers’ visits, including Dan Calvo, Nathan Cole, Lou Synnestvedt, me (Mike) and an occasional bishop or other volunteer. As noted last month, Chris Bown will continue to help out, but will be taking a break from preaching. You will see phone numbers for all the visiting men in this issue of the Courier.

### Sermon Topic Requests?

Finally, for now, although we ministers always have ideas of what topics would be most useful to address in sermons, you should know that we also welcome requests or suggestions from you. So if there’s something you’d like to hear about at church, please don’t hesitate to let us know!

—Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)

## VISITING MINISTER’S CONTACT NUMBERS

Dan Calvo: 267-241-0723

Nathan Cole: 215-692-3638

Mike Gladish: 301-461-3521

Lou Synnestvedt: 561-597-6062

*The Country Courier*

THE SOWER’S CHAPEL

100 Iron Bridge Rd. • Saxonburg PA 16055

ph: (724) 353-2220

Rev. Mike Gladish, Regional Pastor

Ph: (301) 461-3521 • E-mail: mgladish@gmail.com

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

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

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

On Saturday, February 28, at 10 AM we will gather as a Congregation to Review our 2025 Year and Plan for 2026 Events: Easter, Memorial Day, 19th of June, Bible School, and our Charity Golf Scramble and to discuss our vision for the future of The Sower's Chapel.

Please come with your question, concerns, ideas and enthusiasms! Our Regional Pastor, Mike Gladish, will be here to join us in our discussion. See you then.

## LIFE OF THE LORD BIBLE STUDY

The Kids' Life of the Lord Bible Study will meet on **February 12th at 4 PM** at Trish Lindsay's home. The kids are asked to bring their Bibles and their copy of *The Life of the Lord* to the meeting. Please call if you have any questions. Trish Lindsay (724-584-6515)

## MANSE PROPERTY MANAGER NEEDED

Before renting the downstairs on a month-to-month basis, the Board is searching for someone to assume the position of Property Supervisor. Glenn Heilman is willing to take care of outdoor issues at the manse, but would like someone else to be responsible for the interior. This is a very important corner in our operations.

*Please let one of the Board of Trustees know if you feel you are willing to take on this important role. Maybe more than one person can share the responsibility.*



## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun, Feb 1:	Rev. Mike Gladish
Tue, Feb 3:	1 PM - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
Sun, Feb 8:	Rev. Nathan Cole
Tue, Feb 10:	1 PM - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's 7 PM - Board of Trustees
Thur, Feb 12:	4 PM - Kid's Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
Sun, Feb 15:	Rev. Dan Calvo
Tue, Feb 17:	1 PM - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
Sun, Feb 22:	Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
Tue, Feb 24:	1 PM - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
Sat, Feb 28:	10 AM - Committee of the Whole Mtg.
Sun, Mar 1:	Rev. Mike Gladish



## Society Annual Meeting Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 10 AM

The annual Meeting of Members of the Freeport Society of the General Church is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at the church.

This is an essential annual gathering in which we elect members of the Board, review our budget, and discuss the state of the congregation and what we might focus on moving forward.

There will be a report from the Nominating Committee in the near future.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-26

Rev. Mike Gladish, Regional Pastor

Miriam Heilman, Chair

Ian Heilman, Secretary

Bill Kronen Sr., Treasurer

Trish Lindsay

Al Lindsay

Chris Bown

Mike Brown

Glenn Heilman

## THETA ALPHA LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Eligibility: 15–16-year-old girls worldwide (Sophomores in HS in the US)

**Prizes:** 1st Place: \$200 USD, 2nd Place \$150 USD, 3rd Place \$100 USD

**Suggested Length:** 500-600 words (two pages double-spaced)

**Topic:** Your Laws of Life.

“Laws of Life” are a set of rules, ideals, or principles by which a person chooses to live. What is important to you? What ideals do you hold deep in your heart? Think about the people and experiences that have helped you form these laws.

*Pick a topic to write about:*

1. A personal experience/lesson learned that affects how you live/view your life now.
2. An aphorism or quote that inspires or guides you.
3. You can use an analogy, a quotation, a story, or a parable.
4. No personal romantic relationships

*continued...*

## *Theta Alpha Contest continued...*

### **Form for Submission:**

1. Essays are to be in English (Google Translate can be used for this purpose).
2. No name or identification can be on the paper itself to be impartial judging.
3. Name and address need to be included in the envelope or email.

Submissions are to be sent to Theta Alpha International PO Box 154, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA, or emailed to [scholarships@thetaalphainternational.org](mailto:scholarships@thetaalphainternational.org). They must be received by March 27, 2026.

For exemplars, three winning essays published with permission are available in the May, 2016 Theta Alpha Journal which can be found here: Theta Alpha Journal May 2016 (Pages 18, 21, 24).

### **MIDWEST REGIONAL YOUTH RETREAT**

This year's retreat is set for April 30 - May 3, 2026. The brochure and registration forms are attached to the email this Courier came in. There will be a handful of brochures already printed at the church.



## **GLENCAIRN AWARD**

### **2026 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

On January 5, 2026, the Glencairn Award Committee will begin accepting written nominations for the 2026 award.

The award is given to an outstanding teacher or a member of a New Church community for past achievements and/or contributions in the fields of religion, science, education, the arts, literature, or community service. Such achievements are the sole criteria for the award. The award may not be given as compensation for service or as a supplement to salary or based on the financial needs of the recipient.

All nominations must be made on a nomination application form and submitted electronically or by mail to Committee's Secretary, Phillip R. Zuber, Esq. (address, email, and phone below). The Secretary is not a member of the Committee and has no input on who receives a Glencairn Award.

You may obtain a nomination application by either DOWNLOADING the document using either of these links:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/zfsflkob2ws3hmr7q61xv/GAC-Application-2026-fillable.pdf?rlkey=y4w5e76ivonbvsxjmpuuewawo&st=j0li34i0&dl=0>

[GAC Application-2026-fillable.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/zfsflkob2ws3hmr7q61xv/GAC-Application-2026-fillable.pdf)

Or requesting a nomination application form from the Committee Secretary.

To be given consideration for an award in 2026, the nomination application form must be completed and submitted to the Committee Secretary by **March 27, 2026**.

All nominations and any other information provided to the Committee about the nominee will be kept in strict confidence by the Committee. Further instructions on how to make a nomination are contained in the nomination application form. A subsequent announcement will be made on when and where the 2026 award(s) will be announced.

**PHILLIP R. ZUBER, ESQ.**

SECRETARY to the Glencairn Award Committee

P.O. BOX 711 / BRYN ATHYN, PA 19009-0731

PHONE: 301-518- 7115

EMAIL: [phillip.zuber@anc-gc.org](mailto:phillip.zuber@anc-gc.org)