



The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

October 2026

FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

Probably the main General Church news this month is the annual celebration of the original granting of the state charter to establish the Academy in Bryn Athyn, a whole weekend of what we now call "Charter Day" events. Of course, it may be that only a few from Sarver will be able to attend, but just in case, here is a link to all the activities that are on the general schedule: [Charter Day Weekend](https://www.ancss.org/alumni/charter-day). If this link doesn't work for you, you will find it here: <https://www.ancss.org/alumni/charter-day>.

Why is this such a big deal? It's because the principal use of the General Church from the very beginning has been education, that is, education in the light of the Heavenly Doctrine. And this work continues to evolve, with new initiatives being added on a regular basis.

For example, there is a brand-new program, now in only its second year, but growing in popularity, called "**The Compass Program**." In a nutshell, as explained in a tidy flier about it, this program "offers a personalized, purpose-driven education rooted in New Church values." So? "Through project-based learning, real world internships, individualized curriculum, and dual enrollment (in either of two colleges!), students pursue their passions while meeting core academic requirements." To see more details about this highly specialized initiative, go to the Academy website at <https://www.ancss.org/> and type it into the search field. You might be really surprised.

In other news, I am happy to report that our theological school now has a total enrollment of FIFTEEN students; some young and some coming in from other careers. Of these, as many as 8 may be able to serve in the U.S. Unfortunately, the first of these will not graduate until 2028, followed by a bunch more in 2029. Typically, newly ordained men serve for at least a year as assistants to other pastors. So unless there are major shifts in pastorates before 2029, this confirms the importance of ongoing lay leadership and visiting pastors in Sarver.

Finally, for now, I want to share with you an amazing new resource I have been privileged to receive from a New Churchman, a PhD in Brisbane, Australia, who has written a series of THREE amazingly insightful essays about the history of the development of doctrinal ideas in the Christian Church.

Altogether totaling 28 articles, these powerfully show how and why incorrect ideas about the Trinity, Salvation by Faith, and other heresies in general developed over the centuries, all while communicating a deep sense of humility, acknowledging the reasons for these errors and expounding on their value, regardless. Of course, they all resolve with statements about the importance of the corrections offered by the doctrines of the New Church. Not everyone will find this exciting reading, but for anyone who wants to understand the Christian culture around us, or who wants some excellent material to inform your doctrinal discussions with other Christians, I can highly recommend these essays and would be pleased to send them to you.

Best wishes for the harvest season, and especially for the young peoples' weekend in Pittsburgh at the end of the month.
—Mike Gladish (mgldish@gmail.com)



The Country Courier

THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

100 Iron Bridge Rd. • Sarver PA 16055

ph: (724) 353-2220

Rev. Mike Gladish, Regional Pastor

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

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

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - BOOK OF JOSHUA

Moved to 2 pm on Tuesdays

This month we'll meet at Marlene and Alfred Brown's at 2 pm each Tuesday.
— *Chris Bown*

KIDS' BIBLE STUDY

At our September Thursday meeting, only Marion and Jack were able to attend so we changed the sign and enjoyed playing a round of Canasta at the church. We discussed the best time for the future meetings and decided that Tuesday is better to avoid conflicts with the kids' schedules.

Therefore, the next Life of the Lord Bible Study meeting will be on the 3rd Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 4 PM at my home.
See you then!
— *Trish Lindsay*

NEWLY FORMED HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

To welcome our visiting pastors, who travel miles to serve us on Sunday, we are forming a Hospitality Committee to facilitate their visits, in addition to the necessary preparations provided by the Manse Committee. We will fashion a way to coordinate invitations to visit members of our congregation and to join families for a meal and/or any event that may occur during their visits. (Dan Heilman generously filled this need in his home before we fixed up the Manse apartment to host the visiting pastors.)

In addition to the Manse Committee, managed now by Mike and Michelle Brown, Ian Heilman, and Sally Parenti, those who have volunteered to serve on the Hospitality Committee, are Michelle Brown, Carol Kronen, Maureen Rodgers, Marlene Brown, Mary Lindsay, Zarah Blair and Trish Lindsay.

Please let us know if you would like to pitch in!



OCTOBER CALENDAR EVENTS

- Sun, Oct 4: Rev. Chris Bown - *Holy Supper Service*
Tue, Oct 6: 2 pm - Bible Study @ A&M Brown's
Sun., Oct 11: Rev. Nathan Cole
Tue, Oct 13: 2 pm - Bible Study @ A&M Brown's
7 pm - Board of Trustees
Sun, Oct 18: Rev. Dan Calvo
Tue, Oct 20: 2 pm - Bible Study @ A&M Brown's
4 pm - Kids' Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
Sun, Oct 25: Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
Tue, Oct 27: 2 pm - Bible Study @ A&M Brown's



NEW CHURCH REGIONAL YOUTH WEEKEND

hosted by the Pittsburgh New Church

Must sign up by October 1st!

Join us for the weekend as we learn about personally approaching the Lord.

- Doctrinal Presentations and Discussion
- Artistic Activities
- Vespers in the Sanctuary
- Bowling and Arcade at Zone 28

See the information attached to this month's Courier and calendar email.

