



SWEDENBORG CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

MARCH-APRIL 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 7, 10 am - **You Can Believe!** Chapter 1

March 14, 9:15 - Church Council

March 17, 6:30 pm. Men's Group—"Dinner and a Movie" at Chuck Winter's house

March 21, 10 am - **You Can Believe!** Chapter 2

March 28, 10 am - **You Can Believe!** Chapter 3

March 31, 6:30 pm. Men's Group- the Gospel of Mark

April 11, 1:00 - 3:00 pm - 1st Cong. Mtg with Rev. Cromwell. A light luncheon.

April 11, 10 am - **You Can Believe!** Chapter 4

April 14, 6:30 pm. Men's Group—Bowling Nite

April 16th -17th—Men's Retreat, Almont New Church Assembly, Almont, Michigan

April 18, 10 am - **You Can Believe!** Chapter 5

April 5 - 8 - Midwest Regional Clergy meetings in LaPorte, Indiana

May 2, 1:00 - 3:00 pm - 2nd Cong. Mtg with Rev. Cromwell. A light luncheon.

LIFE IS FOREVER

As they left the tomb, Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you...Do not be afraid."

From Matthew 28:8-9

A few years ago the news was filled with stories about a woman in Florida whose parents and husband had fought legal battles over disconnecting her feeding tube. When the courts finally ruled on the matter the tube was removed and the woman died.

I must admit that as things unfolded I felt deeply saddened. I say this because I have been there. Back in 2001 Val, her sister and I had to make such a decision twice within a thirty day period -- once for their father, and then again for their mother. And although we did the right thing, it was still a difficult and painful experience -- even though we were in complete agreement as to what needed to be done.

But as a Swedenborgian, I want to offer two insights that guided our decisions, yet were woefully lacking in this story's media coverage. And I do so, thanking God that these truths are part of our faith.

The debate revolved around the sanctity of all life. Basically, I agree with that premise. But when the "experts" on television addressed it, their definition of life was so inadequate. Life to them seemed to end at death. This is not so within our New Church way of thinking. It has been said that we believe "first we live, and then we die, and then we live forever." The following words from our Memorial Service explain it this way:

"When our body is no longer able to perform its

functions in the natural world and is separated from our spirit, we still continue to be ourselves and to live. Thus, when we die, we but pass from the consciousness of this world into that of the world of heaven. For as the Apostle Paul has said, 'There is a natural body and a spiritual body. The one is put off, and the other is put on.'

When this happens, we take with us everything that truly makes us a person -- all of the loves and qualities that make us who we are. And we awaken amid the company of those who have gone on before us, and they delight in teaching us of the wonders of heaven. We know them, and rejoice in their company, and we relate to one another according to the depth and reality of the love and friendship that we have shared in this earthly life."

I truly wish that the Schiavo family knew of our teachings. Their daughter is even now doing just fine.

The second insight that I want to interject is that it is futile for the courts, or a spouse's decision, or the parent's desires to guide this debate. A better guide would be the power and presence of God's love. And although God's love can lead us to comprehend and respond to situations in different ways, if it had been the basis of their discussions, I can't help but



LIFE IS FOREVER continued from page 1

believe that the legal battles would not have been fought. The focus would not have been on politics, religion, or even a person's right to die. With God's love as the focus, the primary concern would have been how that power could be used, called upon and made real. It just did not seem to me that this was the case.

The most difficult decision that a family can make comes during such dark times. As I noted earlier, I've been there. But thankfully,

so was a faith that lifts up the reality of heavenly life and the presence of God's love at all times. And during this Easter Season, this seems to be an important thing to remind us about. Ours are wonderful teachings!

Blessings,
Ron

MEN'S GROUP UPDATE

The meetings of the Men's Group have been very interesting. We have been introduced to the book Person to Person: The Gospel of Mark which was written by Rev. Paul Vickers of the British Conference of the New Church. Our discussions have focused on the history of the Gospels and learning how to read them in the light of our teachings.

Our next meeting will be "Dinner and a Movie" at Chuck Winter's house on March 17th starting at 6:30 pm. Our movie will be "Swedenborg, The Man Who Had to Know"

followed by what I am sure will be lively discussion! We will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark on March 31st starting at 6:30pm at the church. Plans are also underway for our April 14th meeting which will focus our attention on either a bowling alley or dart board.

We have also received word that there will be an overnight Men's Retreat at the Almont New Church Assembly on April 16th -17th. I will be attending and will have room for four others in my van.

"YOU CAN BELIEVE!" CLASSES

Would you like to have the opportunity to learn more about our teachings and faith? If so, plan on attending the new series titled You Can Believe! in which we read and study the book of the same title written by Rev. Grant Schnarr. Classes start at 10:00 am at the church on the Sunday mornings.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Heaven & Hell discussion group, led by Judith Dennis that takes place the last Sunday of the month in lieu of our regular worship service. It will not be held on Palm Sunday.

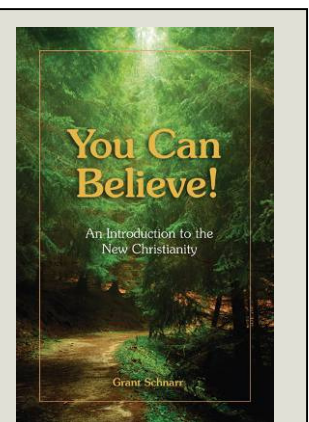
SUPPORTIVE PEER SUPERVISION MEETINGS

The Council of Ministers sponsors a Peer Supervision Program which gives our clergy the opportunity to meet with other Swedenborgian pastors and discuss issues and ideas related to their ministries. Judith Dennis and

I will attend, along with twelve other clergy, the Midwest Regional meetings over April 5th - 8th in LaPorte, Indiana. Both of us also thank the Ohio Association for paying the expenses for this.

CHURCH COUNCIL MARCH 14

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on March 14th starting at 9:15 am. These meetings are open to all members of Swedenborg Chapel. The coffee should be ready by 9:00 am!



- March 7** - Chapter 1
"Who Is God?"
- March 21** - Chapter 2
"What Am I Doing Here?"
- March 28** - Chapter 3
"How Can I Grow?"
- April 11** - Chapter 4
"Am I Being Cared For?"
- April 18** - Chapter 5
"What Is the Bible Telling Us?"

SPECIAL MEETINGS FOR OUR DENOMINATIONAL GRANT

As a condition of receiving the denominational grant, we are to meet with an outside consultant to review our goals, engage in strategic planning, and identify ways that we can deal with congregational conflict should it arise. We have engaged the Rev. Theron Cromwell, a member of our church in Royal

Oak, MI, as our consultant. He has been very helpful in helping that congregation in a similar fashion. Rev. Cromwell will be with us on April 11th and May 2nd. The sessions will be held from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. A light luncheon will be served. All members are urged to attend!

DOROTHEA HARVEY

Abridged from an article compiled by Dr. Mary Kay Klein

Rev. Dr. Dorothea Ward Harvey, the first woman to be ordained in the Swedenborgian Church, died on February 23, at her home in Annisquam, MA after a long illness. She was 87.

Dorothea received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College, after which she served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. Later she received her B.D. (M.Div.) in Old Testament from Union Theological Seminary in New York and her Ph.D. in Religions of the Ancient Near East from Columbia University. She did post-doctoral work at the American School in Jerusalem and Heidelberg University in Germany, and was on a Fulbright Study in India.

Dr. Harvey was the author of *The Holy Center*, and her work has been published in the prestigious Interpreter's Bible. She contributed an introductory article for *Rooted In Spirit: A Harvest of Women's Wisdom*, published by the Swedenborg Foundation, and was the author of a number of articles and pamphlets.

Her interest in Biblical archaeology took her to excavations in Jordan, and she visited sites in Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, and Greece.

Dorothea served as a faculty member at Wellesley College, Milwaukee Downer College, Lawrence University, Urbana University and the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Her students often commented on her dedication, her concern for them as whole persons, and her wealth of knowledge in her discipline

of religion. She was always willing to offer extra time and support, and hosted numerous student gatherings in her home. She was very supportive of international students.

As Urbana University chaplain and minister of the Urbana Swedenborgian Church from 1971 to 1988, Rev. Dr. Harvey was always open and sympathetic to students' needs and concerns. Respect for her work as Chaplain is clear from the fact the Urbana University Chapel was named in her honor. Dorothea was a mentor for a whole generation of women and men who became leaders in the Swedenborgian Church. She was elected to the Urbana University Educators' Hall of Fame in 2004.

Rev. Dr. Harvey served on the Swedenborg School of Religion Board for numerous terms, and later became a part-time faculty member. She was an inspiration to her students and colleagues. A chair in Swedenborgian theology, named in Dorothea's honor, has been established at the Swedenborg House of Studies at the Pacific School of Religion.

The daughter of the Rev. Charles W. Harvey and Leslie (Carter) Harvey, Rev. Dr. Harvey was predeceased by her only sibling, John C. Harvey. She is survived by several cousins, a host of friends, and students whom she mentored lovingly through the years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Haiti Projects, Inc., 31 Leonard Street, Gloucester MA 01930.



“Spirit is the creative Presence in all that is. It is the goodness in every aspect of the human being, in every feeling of the human heart. There is nothing we can learn about the depth of who we are, which is right to God's creation. Yes, heaven and earth are different, but rightfully and peacefully so, as each requires the other to be whole.... God's will is not alien to my own will; God's will is that I find my deepest joy.”

Dorothea Harvey

SWEDENBORG CHAPEL

4815 Broadview Road
Cleveland, OH 44109

Phone: 216-351-8093

Email: swedenborgchapel@att.net

Website: www.swedenborgchapelcleveland.org



A MINISTRY OF THE
SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

UPCOMING SERMON THEMES

March 7th "Misfortune Cookies" Why does God allow us to face difficult times and how are we to respond to them? The answers might surprise you!

March 14th "A Second Look at Second Chances" Our teachings offer refreshing insights into the parable of the Prodigal Son and how we can put it to use in our lives.

March 21st "Harvest of Joy" The Lord longs to bring us an increasing sense of joy and appreciation. But what about those darn times when these elude us? Come, and learn what I mean!

March 28th Palm Sunday

April 4th Easter Communion Service

April 11th "Are You Finished?" Our teachings tell us that in the resurrection and ascension our Lord finished the proc-

ess referred to as "the glorification." But what about our own spiritual growth and when is it "finished?"

April 18 - Joint Service, Rev. Bob Cole preaching

April 25 - Heaven and Hell Study Group

