



SWEDENBORG CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sept 5, Labor Day Sunday
10 am -You Can Believe!**
Discussion Group

Sept 12, 10 am -You Can Believe! Discussion Group
Membership Class, 1:15 pm

Sept 19, 9 am -Church Council Meeting Membership Class, 1:15 pm

Sept 25, Sat., 9 am— Men's Group Outing to Berlin, OH. Returning by 7 pm

Sept 26, 11 am— Heaven & Hell Discussion Group in lieu of Worship Service

Oct 1-3—Ohio Association Meeting Weekend at Almont, MI

Oct 13, 6 pm—Men's Group Dinner and a Movie Night at Chuck Winter's

Oct 17, 9 am - Church Council Meeting Membership Class 1:15 pm, Confirmations during 11:00 worship

Oct. 24 - Rev. Bob Cole, General Church minister will lead services

Oct 31- 11 am— Worship Service led by Rev. Judith Dennis and Halloween Eve Community Candy Center. Set up after Service.

ALMONT SUMMER SCHOOL 2010

Judith Dennis, Lois Krebbs, Naomi Anderson and myself were among the 150 people who attended this year's camp at the Almont New Church Assembly in Michigan. I am sure that I speak for all of us in saying that it was a wonderful week! The theme was "The Life of the Lord." I lectured on the "Infancy Narratives from Matthew and Luke. Other lectures covered the Baptism, Miracles, Healings, Holy Week and the Crucifixion. The oldest camper was 94! The youngest was 6 months old! (And Cliff will be interested to learn that the largest bass caught was 26' long!).

The weather was most cooperative with the only rain falling on the last night. All summer days ensured that we all had "sunshine in our souls." The camp activities were delightful. The food was great. Many new friends were made. Love was abundant!

I truly hope that more of us from Cleveland will plan on attending next summer's session, which

will be held July 24-31, 2010. The theme will be "The Life of Moses." The four of us will be there, and we hope you will be too!!!



First year attendee, Lois Krebbs (center), enjoying a morning coffee with Jenny Caughman (left) and Sage Curry (right).

OHIO ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING WEEKEND, OCT. 1-3

This year's Ohio Association Meeting Weekend will be held at the Almont New Church Assembly, October 1st-3rd. As in the past, when we have met at Almont, the Michigan Association also holds their annual meeting on Saturday morning and both groups join in a planned sharing time in the afternoon and worship service on Sunday in the historic chapel. This year members of the Illinois Association are also invited to join us. The theme will explore the Past, Present and Future of our regional ministries.

Almont is about 40 miles north of Detroit, and can be a five hour drive from Cleveland. Those attending from Ohio will stay at a motel in Imlay City. All lodging expenses will be paid by the Ohio Association. **Contact the office or talk to Ron, before Sept. 19, if you plan on attending so these rooms can be reserved.**

There will be a children's program along with the adult sessions on Saturday. A social time is planned for Friday evening (8-10pm), and all

meals will be served at the retreat center.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our church, meet new Swedenborgians from the tri-state area, and enjoy a weekend in Michigan's Thumb! Let's have a great turnout from Swedenborg Chapel!!!!



The last night of camp featured a "Broadway Revue" of songs people had composed about Almont to various show tunes. One of the evening's hits was sung by all of us who were there from Ohio. It was sung to the music of "What I Did For Love" from *A Chorus Line*.

Kiss this camp goodbye.
And point us toward Ohio.
We've done what we came to do.
And we won't forget, all those we have met, at
Almont Summer School.

remember.
Bells, crafts, campfires too. Banana Hunts
and classes.
We've done what we came to do.
And we won't forget. We have no re-
grets. Almont Summer School.

Look, our hands are dry.
We've finished all the dishes.
Chapel's done. The flag is down.
And we have no regrets. And we
won't forget. Almont Summer
School.

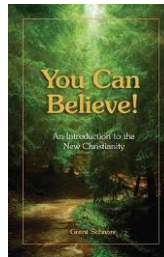


Look, the beach is closed.
The Candy Lady's packing.
But we have our dimes to save.
For next year! We'll be
here! You come too!
Almont Summer School,
Almont Summer School.

Gone? Are we ever gone? As
we travel on. Here's what we'll

"YOU CAN BELIEVE!" CLASSES & DISCUSSION GROUP

This Fall we continue our discussion group on Rev. Grant Schnarr's book You Can Believe!, led by Rev. Brugler. Classes will be on September 5, 12 and October 10 and start at 10:00 am at the church on the Sunday mornings.



The Heaven & Hell Discussion Group is led by Rev. Judith Dennis on September 26 ,on Oct. 31 she will lead a worship service.

**CHURCH COUNCIL
AT 9 AM
SEPT 19 & OCT 17**

The Church Council meetings start at 9:00 am. The coffee should be ready by 9:00 am!

**GENERAL CHURCH
MINISTERS VISITS
FOR 2010-2011**

Oct. 24 - Bob Cole

Nov. 28 - Calvin Ohdner

March 27 - Todd Beiswenger

May 29 - To Be Determined

Lou Synnestvedt is going to Africa so will not be available.

Attention All Men!

See why the Amish live the way they do!
Experience the 30-minute tour of Behalt - the
stunning 265 ft. mural-in-the-round depicting
the history of the Amish and Mennonites. Enjoy
a video of local life and culture. Browse the gift
shop, bookstore and displays to learn more
about their faith, culture and beliefs.

**Men's Group Fall Outing
Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center
In Berlin, Ohio**

SEPT 25, 9 AM

Swedenborg Chapel
Returning Around 7 P.M.

\$25 per person
includes the Center and Dinner.

Don't miss the Fun!!! Plan to attend and help at our

**Community
Halloween
Haunted Church
and Candy
Distribution Center**

on Trick or Treat
Night.

Call Harry Anderson @
440-838-5528



REMINDER—BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Ron has been asked recently how one arranges to be baptized and join the church. Here is what you need to know.

We believe that baptism can take place either as a child or adult. It is, as our teachings say, one's introduction into the Christian Church. Traditionally, we do this by using water to make a cross on the person's forehead. Baptisms can take place during our worship services, or they can be held as private ceremonies. One does not need to be re-baptized to join our church.

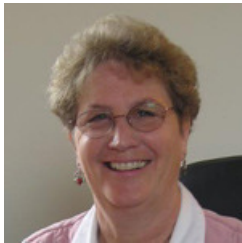
Church membership is one's claiming the Swedenborg Chapel as their spiritual home. It is a commitment to participate and support this local congregation. One can become a member after taking a series of six classes. Ron will be offering a membership series on September 12 & 19 and October 10 & 17 at 1:15 pm.

If you have questions about either of these, please let him know.

CONVENTION 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Convention 2010 met on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Mi from June 23-27. Chris Laitner ended her Presidency and Rev. Ken Turley was installed as the new President.

Ohio's own Betsy Coffman (left) was elected Vice President .



Sherrie Connelly (right) was ordained into the ministry of the Swedenborgian Church

Rev. Jonathan Mitchell was elected as the Chair of the Council of Ministers.



Rev. Ken Turley (center) was installed as our new President. Proud wife Laurie (far left), outgoing President Chris Laitner and Marilyn and Rev. Sue Turley Moore (Ken's mother and sister at right). Ken's father, Cal, served as President in the early 80's.

PERSONAL NOTES

Our thoughts and prayers are with Leo Serreno and his family due to the death of his nephew.

Rev. Junchol Lee's new mailing address is:

#1404 1901-19 Street N.E.
Calgary, AB T2E 4Y4 Canada

Gloria Toot has posted the video of the demolition of the Montgomery Road New Church on YouTube. If you would like to see the final page on this facility, go to www.youtube.com and enter **ncom1811**.

WEDDINGS

We are happy to report that our Wedding Ministry is on the rebound after a lengthy drought!

We wish the best to these couples who took their vows over the summer months.

May 28—Tiffany Rectenwald & Pedro Colon

July 3—Joyce Blatnik & Mike LeRoy

August 7—Carol Weber & Edward Schultz

MAKE NO LITTLE PLANS: DANIEL BURNHAM AND THE AMERICAN CITY

PORTRAIT OF A SWEDENBORGIAN ICON PREMIERES MONDAY, SEPT. 6 ON PBS

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work."

— Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912)

Few individuals have had more impact on the American city than architect and planner Daniel Hudson Burnham. In the midst of late 19th century urban disorder, Burnham offered a powerful vision of what a civilized American city could look like. He built some of the first skyscrapers in the world; directed construction of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition that inspired the City Beautiful Movement; and created urban plans for Washington DC, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco and Manila—all before the profession of urban planning existed. In fact, some say that he invented it.

His work sought to reconcile things often thought opposite: the practical and the ideal, business and art, and capitalism and democracy. At the center of it all was the idea of a vibrant urban community. A timely, intriguing story in the American experience, *Make No Little Plans: Daniel Burnham and the American City* explores Burnham's fascinating career and complex legacy as public debate continues today about how and for whom cities are planned.

As Director of Works for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Burnham not only envisioned a "beautiful city" but also constructed it in record time despite enormous obstacles. The Fair itself, which recorded over 27 million visits, represents a pivotal shared cultural moment in 19th century America that exposed people to scores of foreign countries and cultures from around the world and to the idea that a city could be beautiful.



Burnham's other architectural achievements include constructing over 500 structures, including architectural icons such as the Reliance, Rookery, Marshall Fields and Monadnock Buildings in Chicago; the Flatiron Building in New York; the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco; and Union Station in Washington, DC. He seemed to have been willing to tackle any commission—from the Mount Wilson Observatory in California to Selfridges department store in London.

As an international figure, Burnham believed that an ideal city could be both beautiful and commercially efficient. His ideas had enormous influence on towns and cities across America and even abroad. He was an early advocate for parks and open space who understood their importance in fostering a deep sense of community in a democracy. Although his urban plans are criticized for their monumentality and absence of social concerns such as better housing, they have an identifiable coherence. As a man, Burnham was a paradox: politically progressive but conservative in taste; a tough businessman and a Swedenborgian mystic; a pragmatist and a dreamer; and a complex man both efficient and indulgent.

Make No Little Plans: Daniel Burnham and the American City, produced by Judith Paine McBrien of the Archimedia Workshop, premieres Monday, September 6, 2010. Check local listings to see when it is airing on your local PBS station.

Burnham was born in Henderson, New York and raised in Chicago, Illinois. His parents brought him up under the teachings of the Swedenborgian Church of New Jerusalem, which ingrained in him the strong belief that man should strive to be of service to others.



The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition was one of the most pivotal moments in American cultural history. Burnham, as Director of Works, envisioned a beautiful city and oversaw its construction.

To view the trailer for this special, visit the PBS website at <http://www.pbs.org/make-no-little-plans/>

These articles are taken from the PBS, Wikipedia and Swedenborg Foundation websites.

THE 1903 GROUP PLAN FOR CLEVELAND

The **Cleveland Mall** in downtown Cleveland, was conceived as part of the **1903 Group Plan** by Daniel Burnham, John Carrère, and Arnold Brunner as a vast public room flanked by the city's major civic and governmental buildings, all built in the neoclassical style. Many of those buildings were built over the following three decades, including the Metzzenbaum Courthouse (1910), Cuyahoga County Courthouse (1912), Cleveland City Hall (1916), Public Auditorium (1922), the Cleveland Public Library main building (1925), and the Cleveland Public Schools Board of Education building (1931). Other buildings include Key Tower, the Cuyahoga County Administration Building, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

In the spirit of the City Beautiful movement, formerly seedy areas were transformed into a "magnificent civic center", which was supposed to be crowned by the Union Terminal at the north end of the mall, on the shores of Lake Erie. However, the location of the station was eventually moved south and west, to Public Square, where it was finally born as the Terminal Tower. Even though the plan was never fully carried out, it was one of the few City Beautiful plans to be realized to a large extent, and remains one of the most complete examples in the United States. The Mall was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and the Cleveland Restoration Society is pursuing a National Historic Landmark designation.

BURNHAM'S SWEDENBORGIAN VISION

Dr. Kristen Schaffer, in her book, *Daniel H. Burnham: Visionary Architect and Planner*, and in her lectures on Daniel Burnham's City Plan of Chicago, has shared the role his understanding of and devotion to Swedenborg's theology played in his urban plan for greater Chicago, in his plan and design of the architecture for the White City of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and in the urban plan for San

Francisco after the fire, as well as the Washington Mall. The dominant archetype that Burnham utilized from Swedenborg was that of the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City.

She makes the point that though beauty was supremely important for Burnham, it was not so in the same way as it was in the art-for-art's sake school of aesthetics. Rather it was beauty with a purpose—a use, in Swedenborg's terminology—namely, to morally uplift the souls of people who beheld it. She recounted that on the day of the World's Fair when people of Chicago from all classes of society were given free admission, Burnham witnessed the truth of his hypothesis. The masses filed in and were seen to fall en masse into stunned silence as their hearts drank in through their eyes the heavenly beauty that had been prepared for them. The generous philanthropy of Daniel Burnham was boundless and almost difficult to grasp from the standpoint of the material age in



Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio

which we live. He performed almost all of the above mentioned projects as a service freely given, without pay. He was a titan in his professional field but a towering angel in the dimensions of his soul.

For Swedenborgians generally, how fascinating it is to learn that some of America's greatest cities, parks, monuments, and buildings have imprinted Swedenborg's vision of the New Jerusalem in filigree within the landscape of our great country.

Under cover of a plan whose rhetoric purported to renovate and organize Chicago's transportation systems, create a harmonious, ordered, a convenient city, and to beautify Chicago, Burnham devised a plan for Chicago whose contours he deliberately based upon the heavenly city described in *Heaven and its Wonders and Hell*.

...
Fundamentally, Burnham's Plan of Chicago is a massive blueprint for the ideal city derived from the eschatological writings of Swedenborg. No critic has discerned this paradox.

- From Irving D. Fisher's "An Iconography of City Planning: *The Chicago City Plan*."
—Emanuel Swedenborg: *A Continuing Vision*

FULL BARNS, EMPTY HEARTS

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 91: 1-6, 11-16 LUKE 12: 13-21

Today I have decided to speak to you about those things that are of real value to us in life. And to begin, I want you to picture in your mind one of the great comedians of TV's Golden Age, Jack Benny. Mr. Benny was famous for a skit that illustrated what was important to him -- at least in terms of his stage persona. In this skit he would be walking down a street when suddenly an armed robber would approach him and demand, "Your money or your life!" There would always be a long pause as Jack just stood there with one hand on his chin. The robber would grow impatient, and say, "well, hand it over!" And Jack would always reply, "Don't rush me, It's a difficult choice!"

I've begun with this story because when it comes to thinking about the things that give our lives value, too often we begin by thinking about money, possessions and things. But today, I want to remind us of what our Lord had to say about value and worth. And one lesson that he taught about this came to us in our New Testament Lesson.

The background for this parable was an incident that occurred in Galilee as Jesus was teaching to a large crowd. A young man called out and said, "Rabbi, tell my brother to divide the inheritance of our father." Jewish law clearly prescribed that at the death of a father, the elder son received 2/3 of the inheritance, and the young son received 1/3. This was obviously a younger son who complained about the unfairness of it all. After all, we know that nothing will split families apart more than dividing up an estate. So it was then, and so it is now. Jesus refused to get involved in a petty family squabble.



Jesus was concerned, however, with the larger implications of the son's preoccupation with the things of this world. He said in effect, "Beware of greed, for life does not consist of things possessed. For after all, the sum total of a person's life is more than their financial portfolio."

He then illustrated this point by telling a story. There was once a man who had an unbroken run of prosperity. In today's language, he had successfully played the commodities market. So prosperous did he become that his barns could not hold all of his crops. His solution was to tear down these barns and build bigger and better barns.

Then, with his financial security in hand, he could sit back and truly enjoy life. His philosophy was eat, drink, and be merry.

If the story were to end here, perhaps we would find ourselves being rather envious of this man. After all, he had made it! He was financially successful. He had used his talents wisely, and we can easily see him as

savvy and wise. But Jesus did not view him in this light. In fact, our Lord concluded the story by saying that this man was a fool.

And so, let's begin by asking a question. What did this man do to deserve such a negative moniker? In order to answer this, we must first realize just what this parable is really about. For we misunderstand it if we think that it is a parable about wealth and money. It is a parable about values and what is important in life. And with that in mind, let me offer three insights for us to carry with us into our daily lives.

First, why was this man a fool? He was so because he had full barns, but an empty heart. He was rich in man's eyes; he was

What is truly of value to us in life? This is the central question that we are to ponder.

poor in God's eyes. The question that we should ask ourselves is "Are we rich in God's eyes?"

For most people, wealth comes from the investments that we make in life. But think about this for a moment. The early Christian theologian, St. Jerome, wrote a letter in 400 AD about a woman who "preferred to store her money in the stomachs of the needy than in her purse." What does this say about her investments? It says a lot. She knew that the best investment that we can make in life is in the Kingdom of God, and that all people are part of that Kingdom. And, where the man in the parable was a fool because he banked on full barns, while having an empty heart, it was not so with her.

Which one do we want to model our life after? The answer is clear. Let us as the people of God store our money in the stomachs of the hungry, the minds of the uneducated, the bodies of the sick, and the spirits of the oppressed. Then we shall be rich in God's eyes.

The second lesson for us to carry with us from this parable can easily go unnoticed. However, if we look at the parable with open eyes, we can learn an important lesson that involves how we perceive our value as children of God. You see, this man was a fool because he overestimated his value. Just listen to how he talked: This is what I will do. I will store my grain, I will build bigger barns, I will say to myself, I am so lucky!. In four short verses the rich man used the words "I" and "my" ten times.

What does this say about his "proprium" as Swedenborg called it? It speaks volumes. Swedenborg noted that the proprium is the mind's capacity to focus solely upon our own selves and desires, rather than upon the Lord and his will. Thus, when we act from proprium, Swedenborg notes that "we see all things perversely." This is exactly what the Rich Man was doing.

You see, he was the center of his world. He did not see others as the source of his bounty, or even God. The only thing that mattered was his own desires. And so, he had an important lesson to learn.

I grew up on a farm. My grandfather, who was also a farmer, made sure that we knew

that God provides 95% of the energies necessary to produce a crop. We farmers, he would say, only provide 5% of what a seed needs to yield a bountiful harvest. Let this teach you a lesson, he would say. You'd better allow room for God on that tractor! The man in today's lesson did not know this.

The third and final lesson that we can glean from this parable stems from the fact that this man forgot what his real business in life was all about. He thought that his business was about commodities and markets. Jesus thought in deeper terms.

In this parable, our Lord is suggesting to us that our business in life goes far beyond tally sheets, investments, and tax forms. Our real business is that of our humanity. It gets down to that old philosophical tension between becoming and being. If we spend too much of our time and energy concentrating on what we are becoming, and we will easily lose sight of what we are being. But what do I mean by this?

Several years ago there was a very powerful movie starring John Hurt called "The Doctor." This particular doctor was a very businesslike, rather glib surgeon, who had absolutely no rapport with his patients. One day he had a Hispanic farmer and his family in his office. He had run some tests that revealed that the farmer would soon die. The doctor matter-of-factly suggested to him, "If I were you, I would get my affairs in order. At that the farmer placed one arm around his wife, and the other arm around his children, and said, "Sir, my affairs are in order."

What is truly of value to us in life? This is the central question that we are to ponder from today's lesson. It is not to be successful; it is to be faithful. It is not to amass things, but to grow closer to the mind of God. It is not to become rich in things, but to love people. It is not to have full barns, while having empty hearts. And so, may we carry this lesson with us into the week to come – seeking to be faithful, growing closer to the mind of God, and seeking to have hearts filled with the love of God. Amen.

Help us Lord,
to make use of the
ways that you
come into our lives.
Help us to change
our lives, where
change is
necessary. Help
us to reach out to
others, when we
are blind to their
needs.

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**A MINISTRY OF THE
SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH**

UPCOMING SERMON THEMES

Sept. 5, 11AM..... “Lost and Found”

Two familiar parables – the lost sheep and the lost coin - reveal important tools to use when we face times of feeling lost and abandoned by God.

Sept. 12, 11AM..... “The Potter and the Clay”

Our new church year begins by revisiting Jeremiah's vision of a potter attempting to form a perfect jar. This has much to teach us about our efforts to build a church worthy of the Lord's name. The Sacrament of Communion will also be observed.

Sept. 19, 11AM..... “When it Rains, Let It Pour”

Another reading from the prophet Jeremiah, shows us how even times of pain and struggle can be shared with God, and he will listen.

Sept. 26, 11AM.....Heaven and Hell Discussion Group

Oct 1-3.....Ohio Association Meeting Weekend at the Almont New Church Assembly (No service at Swedenborg Chapel)

Oct 10, 11AM..... “Collateral Damage”

A concept that comes not from modern warfare but from the Bible itself. Jesus used this image in relation to our spiritual lives.

Oct 17, 11AM..... “Location, Location, Location”

More than a mantra of a Real Estate Agent. It offers a sound foundation for our spiritual growth.

Oct 24, 11AM.....Worship Service led by Rev. Bob Cole of the General Church

Oct 31, 11AM.....Worship Service led by Rev. Judith Dennis

Followed by setting up our Community Candy Distribution Center for this evening's Trick or Treaters! Volunteers will be most appreciated this afternoon and evening.

