



TERRITORIAL

April 2013

"Helping People Experience Heavenly Joy through Spiritual Growth"

8421 E. Wrightstown Road • Tucson, AZ 85715 • 520-298-1245 • SunriseChapel.org

Life-After-Death Experiences are Life Changing

By Nathan Gladish

Over twenty Sunrise Chapel members and friends attended a fascinating lecture by Dr. Eben Alexander recently. He is the author of a recent best seller entitled *Proof of Heaven* based on his near death experience several years ago. The standing-room-only attendance at the large hall of the local JCC is a testimony to the keen interest people have about life beyond our physical world.

When I asked him to sign my copy of his book, I introduced myself as a member of the local church community based on Swedenborg's teachings. He said he has become acquainted with Swedenborg's work and is very impressed with what he has learned.

One of the things that struck me about his message is his earnest desire to help people believe in the continuation of life. He is convinced of it and wants others to enjoy the benefits of his experience. He spoke of his meningitis as the blessing that turned his life around and gave him a new sense of purpose and direction. I applaud his intentions and his efforts. At the same time I find myself a bit frustrated that the teachings of the New Church do not get the same kind of public recognition and acceptance, since they go so much farther in their descriptions of the other world.

There is a big difference between Dr. Alexander's one week Near Death Experience and Swedenborg's prolonged daily life of interaction over a span of twenty-five years. Swedenborg observed and interacted with thousands of people, now fully alive in the spiritual world, living active lives in various areas of heaven, the world of spirits, and hell.

Dr. Alexander's experience was, for him, proof of heaven - I think of it as a "Near Heaven Experience." It was a big, healthy taste of some of the basic delights of heavenly life, and there is so much more to the complete meal.

The beauty of Swedenborg's experience: it was not just a relatively quick jump in and out of another realm, but a deep and long-lasting back-and-forth exposure to the vast spiritual world. That is why the title of his most popular book is *Heaven and Its Wonders and Hell, Drawn from Things Heard and Seen*.

Like Dr. Alexander, Swedenborg had a life-changing experience visiting heaven, and it gave him new purpose and direction. In his preface to *Heaven and Hell*, he writes, "Many deny life after death. In their hearts they are asking who has ever come back to tell us about it. I am being allowed to describe what I have heard and seen, in the hopes of shedding light where there is ignorance, and of dispelling skepticism."

Years after publishing *Heaven and Hell*, Swedenborg made another strong statement of the impact of his experience: "Because it has been granted me to be in the spiritual world and in the natural world at the same time, and thus to see each world, I am obliged by my conscience to manifest these things; for what is the use of knowing, unless what is known to one be also known to others?"

I am happy for Dr. Alexander's transformation from skeptic to advocate of the reality of life after death. And, like both Dr. Alexander and Swedenborg, I also long for people to experience the healing and joyful message of the reality of life after death.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CORNER

By Betsy Gladish

The Brittlebush, Lupine, and Fairy Duster scatter the hillside and path with their color. Everywhere I look I see wildflowers. I am walking in Sabino Canyon and it is a glorious spring morning. I hear snippets of conversation as the other walkers come and go within earshot.

A young father bends down to hear his son say, "Daddy, big people know just 'nough cereal to put in the bowl, so it won't spill over. I don't know that yet."

I walk quietly up a long hill with only the chatter of birds and then on a downhill slant toward the creek, I hear a concerned woman speak to her friend and say, "She is on her last chemo and cannot wait to have her hair grow back."

People weave in and out of my awareness. Some in tune with God's gift in front of them, some not at all. How "in tune" am I? Certainly while walking today, I have a heart overflowing with gratitude: The warm sun on my back, the steady beat of my feet on the pavement, the postcard blue of the sky. But what about other times when I am not so grateful? God's gifts are always present; I just don't always see them.

My eyes spot the 350 foot high cave that my sons climbed up to when they were ten and twelve years old. I had been sitting at the bottom of the hillside watching them. An elderly gentleman sat down to wait for his friends and his eyes followed mine to where my boys were, high above the road.

He said "Just look at those kids. Where is their mother?"

Surprised I said, "I am their mother."

"Oh, sorry," he stammered.

"Actually, I think it is exciting that they are curious and surefooted enough to want to climb up there," I explain. "They love a challenge." We both laugh.

These days the "boys" are grown and off to adventures in the military. Steve the oldest, after 13 months in Afghanistan now flies as a Pilot Commander of other Apache Helicopter Flight Instructors. In May, our youngest son Dave, a Federal Agent will deploy to Afghanistan for the third time. Their fearless service spins in my mind as a source of parental pride and a slippery slope. Their risks are still beyond my control but make them happy just like that day in Sabino Canyon.

At times, I slide into concern and fear as if I'm on ice, losing my balance too easily. I'm the one who is not always surefooted. I tell people I know God is there with Dave, and Steve, and the other soldiers. In truth, I need God's strength beside me.

I have a mother's heart and somehow I think that explains how I feel. It really isn't black or white. The choice is not to trust the Lord or not. I know He has a Plan. But my trust in their safety seems fluid, flowing in and out of my mind. Just like the other walkers' conversation this morning. Some of my thoughts are filled with trust, and hope, and positive feeling; while some are negative and fearful. From the Spiritual Growth Groups, I know my happiness depends on how I think. "Whatever you focus on expands," a favorite quote from the Course in Miracles. In the beginning, we always have a choice about where we put our attention and how long we keep it there.

So for today, I choose to wake up and see my world from a Higher Place and rejoice in God's gifts: the desert, the love I have for my children, and the courage they all display.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Calendar Planning Meeting April 30 @ 5:30 pm

I am eager to hold another calendar planning meeting for the coming church year – July 2013-June 2014. At last July's meeting we had very good discussion, and a variety of significant decisions were made. At this next meeting we can discuss what worked well, make any needed adjustments, and lock various activities into our church schedule. This meeting is open to anyone interested, and we will make decisions based on the input provided by the participants – So join the fun, and let's make some plans!

Welcome our Regional Pastor Friday & Saturday, April 26, 27

David Roth, pastor of the Boulder New Church in Colorado, is the Regional Pastor for the General Church congregations in the Western US. He keeps communication up with all of the ministers serving in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Texas and Washington. He is also responsible for administering my annual Professional Development Review.

I have invited him to visit Sunrise Chapel on Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27 (he has to return to Boulder to preach on Sunday). He will meet with the Board Saturday morning the 27th. Stay tuned for more information about an open house with him Friday night, the 26th.

Notice of Annual Meeting Sunday, May 5

All members and friends of Sunrise Chapel are invited and encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, May 5 after the church service. One important item of business is the election of Board members and officers. This year we need to elect a new Board Chair, since Jack Baty has served the maximum number of terms allowed in our By-Laws. Another important item of business is discussing the church's budget for the coming fiscal year.

JOIN A SPRING TERM SMALL GROUP TO STUDY, SHARE, PRAY, SERVE

Join our New "Care Team"!

Want to show you care? We are launching a new effort of care to various members and friends. There are a variety of ways you can be involved, including visiting, calling, providing meals occasionally, and prayer. Thanks to Judith Keane for her enthusiasm and leadership. For more information, or to consider getting involved, speak with Judith Keane or Élise Gladish.

New Church 101 - Mondays @ 6:00 pm April 1- May 13

This course is a survey of the major teachings and general history of our church. The text is called "New Church Foundations." Whether you are new to Sunrise Chapel or just want a refresher, let me know if you would like to take these classes. If the schedule of classes doesn't work for you this time, let's talk to arrange the next round. ~ Nathan



You are Invited to a New Spiritual Growth Group

Time for Spiritual Spring Cleaning!

Do you need to sweep away old regrets?

Shine up your gratitude?

Unclutter your mind of negative thoughts?

We are digging in and getting busy, and we are asking you to join us!

Wednesdays, 6 pm, Betsy and Steve Gladish's house, starting April 17.

Please contact Betsy or Kelly or Nathan for more details.



ministering to the missing generation

“Team Sunrise” consists of Élise Gladish, Art Watson, and Kelly Woofenden. They are traveling to this year’s Outreach Training Seminar, hosted at the Glenview New Church in suburban Chicago. This seminar is being run by the General Church Office of Outreach. Here are some highlights of what they will learn about.

Go team! ~Nathan Gladish

Impact 365 – April 18-19 at the Glenview New Church in suburban Chicago

Topics include:

Theology and Vision for Outreach; Ministering to the Missing Generation; Voices of Young Adults: exploring their passion, challenges, and experiences in the church; Preaching and Effective Communication; Addressing Barriers in Your Local Church & Problem Solving; Sharing Your Faith: theological roadblocks; Social Media Workshop; Blogging and Video blogging Workshops.

Visit the Impact 365 website to learn more about it.

<http://www.newchurch.org/materials/programs/leaders/impact365>

Arizona Mountain Camp – July 3-7

By Nathan Gladish

The theme for our beloved family summer camp this year is “water.” In the Bible, there are many stories that feature water in various forms – clouds, rain, snow, dew, rivers, waterfalls, streams, pools, lakes, and seas. We read of various characters drinking water, bathing in it, fishing, swimming, walking on it, getting baptized, washing people’s feet with it, collecting and carrying it.

Water is an everyday, vital part of our physical life. Without it we would literally dry up and die. Similarly, a healthy, vibrant spiritual life depends on regular inspiration from truths of various kinds that we experience in many different settings and activities.

Like water for our bodies, truths are an everyday, vital part of our spiritual lives. Without frequent interaction with a lively supply of true, noble and nurturing ideas, we would simply lose inspiration and direction. And like water, truths come in many forms – veiled, gentle, cold, subtle, harsh, collected, vast, specific, obscure and obvious. And in our lives, we do many different things with the truths we encounter – thirst for them, dive into them, drink them up, accept and protect them, set up guidelines with them, discuss them, share and spread them, use them for maintaining tradition or for implementing change.

So, come to Arizona Mountain Camp this summer, and plan to immerse yourself into a refreshing, dynamic study of water-related stories and their symbolism to our continual need for inspirational truths!





NEWS NOTES

By Billie Baty and Louise Rose

Please let us know if you have any news we can put in these News Notes. We have a feeling we are missing some of the goings-on. Billie Baty 520-298-2995 or Louise Rose 520-721-1091. Thanks!

On Friday March 22, there was a special tea held for our dear friends who come to Tucson for the winter, and will soon be leaving for the summer. Some of them will not be returning in the fall, and it was a good time to let them know how much they are all loved and appreciated.

VISITS

It was inspiring and stimulating to have the RT. REV. TOM KLINE and his wife, NINA, come to Tucson for a visit the weekend before Easter, making it the last visit before he retires in June. As Bishop of our church the timing made it even more of an honor to have him deliver the Palm Sunday service. We also thank Nina for the beautiful bracelets she made and presented to all the women in the congregation. On Saturday night, there was an open house for a meet and greet with the Bishop and his wife at the home of our pastor Nathan and his wife Élise. We hope that once the Bishop retires that he and Nina will find more time to come to Tucson.

STEVE and BETSY GLADISH, the RAY and DAWN GRAFFAM family, son STEVE and GAURI had their first (exhilarating) San Diego Easter weekend with son DAVE as host.

KRIS BERNARDY spent a few days in Oklahoma where she visited family. Her brother DOUG and wife LINDA live in Oklahoma, and her nephew and his family came up from Houston.

How nice it was to see CHUCK and FAY LINDROOTH in church recently. They were on their annual visit to Tanque Verde Guest Ranch where they have enjoyed spring vacations for the last 18 years--ever since their son, DAVID LINDROOTH, was our Associate Pastor. They have a special love for Arizona.

We are excited to hear that MARY ALDEN is here from Australia for a long visit that will last almost until May. She will see family in Canada and help move her son, CALEB and his family, into the house on Tanque Verde Rd. In the meantime her husband, GLENN, back in Australia, prepares for a trip to Korea and Japan for the Asian clergy meetings of the Church. He sent his love

to the congregation, and hoped we had a happy Easter. What he misses the most is leading the Good Friday service where the whole story of the crucifixion is read, interspersed with beautiful music. He did this for many years when he was Pastor of Sunrise Chapel.

The FRANK ROSES had the joy of a visit from their granddaughter, KAYLA ZENO on her break from Northern Illinois University. Kayla accompanied her grandfather when he gave a presentation to the Arizona Native Plant Society, and she was invited to be the one who introduced him.

KEN LEE's mother, NANCY has been visiting from Glenview, Illinois. Long ago, Nancy was a resident here for a while. It is always lovely to see her.

The MICHAEL BARNETT FAMILY has had the pleasure of a visit from Mike's mother GWEN RHODES and her husband, EDMUND who live in Costa Rica. They were here over Easter to enjoy the grandchildren close up.

SUSAN MILLIRON spent some lovely relaxing days in Maui, with her sister CAROLYN and friend, MELINDA CAREVICH

TRAVEL

We are looking forward to having a team of three people - ÉLISE GLADISH, ART WATSON, and KELLY WOOFENDEN - attend the Impact 365 Outreach Seminar in Glenview, Illinois, on April 18 & 19.

WELL WISHES

Our long term friend, DOROTHY VOCIAL, who lives in West Virginia, is now in a nursing home and doing well. She is hoping to return to her apartment in the near future. Our other DOROTHY, (JEFFRIES), called from Washington State to find out how we are doing, and sent her greetings. We love to keep in touch with our "points of light" all over America.

Our pastor in Phoenix, Reverend GARRY WALSH, reports that his daughter DEANNA is doing remarkably well after her awful ski accident in New Hampshire during spring break from college in Bryn Athyn, PA. DEANNA has endured

NEWS NOTES CONTINUE -

surgery to repair damage done to her lovely face. Her mother, LAUREL, is with her at the Dartmouth College hospital where the plastic surgeons are doing a fantastic job. They are hoping that DEANNA will be home in Phoenix within a few weeks. We send our love and are pleased to hear that a full recovery is expected.

We enjoyed seeing RAY MICHOLSKI (now living in Canada) who came down to help MICKEY and SHARON ZOYETZ move their possessions north of the border. The economic situation makes it hard for people to maintain two homes. We understand, but we miss them so much when they go.

Our love and hopes for a very successful recovery go out to Chairman of the Board JACK BATY who has had hip surgery at St. Joseph's hospital.

WELCOME

Welcome to JERRY and CAROL HEIFNER from Colorado who came to church at Sunrise Chapel several times recently.

WEDDING BELLS



Congratulations to ASHLEE FORD and COLTON ECHOLS who were married on March 16.

Congratulations to BRANDY MILLIRON, daughter of JOE and SUSAN MILLIRON on her recent engagement to RICHARD BRANDON. Brandy and Richard live in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Also, congratulations to TINSLEY MILLIRON and AARON WHYDE who are being married on April 14th!

Easter News

At Sunrise Chapel, we had a delightful Easter weekend, including three special services, each with its own spirit.

On Friday evening, we followed the tradition of hearing long sequences from the crucifixion story read by our pastor Nathan with musical interludes in between. One moving part of the service was a video of Jesus talking to His disciples at the Last Supper and then all leaving to go out to the garden of Gethsemane. The holy communion was offered to the congregation when we reached that part of the story. This peaceful and deep service left us more aware of what suffering the Lord had to go through in order to achieve His purpose in coming into the world.



Sunday morning early, about thirty people gathered in the outdoor worship area facing the mountains to celebrate the resurrection. The beauty of the garden, the lovely scenery and the joyful message, along with the sounds of nature waking up, brought us into the happiness of Easter Day. We are so blessed and full of gratitude for the triumph of life over death.

We had a full house for the 11 a.m. service when more than 130 people joined together to worship the Lord on this special day. The choir started us off with a spirited rendition of "Alleluia, Christ is Risen." The children stayed in for the whole service and were "as good as gold" throughout. The chancel was decorated as a garden of colorful flowers. Our pastor spoke of the Lord's strength in overcoming evil. How could you not rejoice? It was a true celebration of our Lord.

Afterwards, the children took part in an egg hunt on the church grounds, followed by a sumptuous dinner for over 90 people in Friendship Hall. Sunshine, perfect temperature, smiling faces, happy children, delicious food, excellent companionship, deep gratitude. Easter 2013.



April 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6pm Foundations Class 6pm Meditation	2	3	4 5pm Private wedding & reception 7pm Men's group	5	6
7:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:15pm Proof of Heaven Discussion 12:45pm Women's Guild	8 6pm Foundations Class 6pm Meditation	9 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	10	11 7pm Men's group	12 Patio Sale	13 Patio Sale
14 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:15pm AMC plan mtg	15 6pm Foundations Class 6pm Meditation	16 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	17 6pm Spiritual Growth Group	18 "Team Sunrise" Attends Impact 365 in Glenview, IL 7pm Men's group	19 "Team Sunrise" Attends Impact 365 in Glenview, IL	20
21 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:45pm Board Mtg	22 6pm Foundations Class 6pm Meditation	23 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	24 6pm Spiritual Growth Group	25 7pm Men's group	26 6pm Open House for David Roth	27 9am Meet with David Roth
28 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service- Holy Supper 12pm AMC Luncheon	29 6pm Foundations Class 6pm Meditation	30 5:30pm Calendar Planning Mtg 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	May 6pm Spiritual Growth Group	May 2 7pm Men's group	May 3	May 4 8:30am-Noon Care for Our Church Day

AA & AL-ANON

Monday AA 6pm

Tuesday AA 11am

Wednesday AL-ANON 9:30am, AA 7:30pm

Saturday Men's AA 8am, Women's AA 11am

Sunday AA Meditation 7pm

Other Regular Events

Monday & Thursday 9am - Yoga

Tuesday 5:30pm - Self Defense

1st & 3rd Thursday - Global Chant



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PATIO SALE

Friday 4/12, 7 am - 2 pm

&

Saturday 4/13, 7 am - noon



Sunrise Chapel Annual Meeting

“Save the Date!”

Sunday, May 5

After Church

*Attend & Win
a Gift or Prize!*

