



MORNING STAR VOICE

NOVEMBER 2009

“I AM THE ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID, AND THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR” REV. 22:16

THANKSGIVING FROM LOVE

IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS with others, a lot of people do not like to feel indebted. If someone does them a favor, they like to pay him back. To some degree this is simply a matter of good manners, a matter of returning the goodwill of others. But often there is another element involved. A lot of people do not like to feel dependent on others. They are proud, and like to feel a sense of independence. They don't want to be indebted to others. When it comes to the Lord, though, we have to get used to this idea of being dependent upon someone else, for we are totally and completely dependent on Him. We cannot repay the Lord. We can never repay Him.



There is, of course, the appearance that there are things we can do for the Lord in return. We can give to the church. We can serve others. We can promise to read His Word and to obey His commandments. And in accordance with this appearance, there were, in the Israelitish church, sacrifices to Jehovah that were intended as a repayment to Him. The Writings call them votive sacrifices (AC 3880:9). In the Old Testament, such



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sacrifices are said to be a paying of vows to the Lord. In the *Psalms*, for example, we read, "I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people" (Ps. 116:18). The reality, though, is that nothing we could ever do would ever be sufficient repayment for what the Lord has given us, and continually gives us. In fact, when we do things for the Lord – when, for example, we read the Word, or serve others – these are simply occasions for the

All we have to offer Him is our love.

Lord Himself to give us even greater blessings. And so, in the Old Testament, there was another kind of sacrifice. It was called the sacrifice of thanksgiving or eucharistic sacrifice (Lev. 7:13; cf. AC 3880:8). This sacrifice

was also offered to the Lord as a way of thanking Him, but it did not imply repayment. To put it another way, it did not, in the literal sense, imply any effort to make restitution to the Lord for His gifts. It was, really, more an expression of gratitude, an expression from the heart, from love.

We can see this when we consider the things that made up the sacrifice. As we read in the *Arcana*, "All the things here mentioned – the 'unleavened cakes mingled with oil,' the 'unleavened wafers anointed with oil,' the 'fine flour boiled,' and the 'leavened cakes of bread,' signify the celestial things of love and faith, and confessions therefrom, and that those who made the offerings must be in humiliation" (AC 3880:8). In other words, to give thanks to the Lord is, in essence, something celestial, something that comes from the heart. And this does not simply mean that we should thank the Lord from our hearts. It means also that this, really, when it comes right down to it, is the *only*

way we can really thank Him. What we have to offer to the Lord, all we have to offer Him, is our love. And this is what the Lord wants of us. He wants us to give our hearts to Him, freely.

Now those in the celestial kingdom of the Lord, the highest heaven, the heaven of angels who, more than any others, love the Lord with all their hearts – these angels know and confess, for they see it so clearly, that everything they have is from Him alone. And so they love Him, they love Him with all their strength.

It is perhaps unlikely that any of us have reached the level of a celestial angel. Still, even for us, there is a lesson in this. We need to give ourselves to the Lord, in whatever way we can and as much as we can. We need to realize that no matter how proud we might be in our dealings with others, we are completely dependent upon the Lord. He is our Father, and He loves us and He gives us all that is good. He loves us so very, very much. All we can really do is love Him back, love Him in our hearts, love Him with our minds and with our thoughts, love Him in all that we do and say, loving Him with all our strength. "So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever" (Ps. 79:13).

This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer to the Lord: If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil. (Lev. 7:11-12)

OUR THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THIS YEAR our Thanksgiving Service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day (on Nov. 22, 2009) instead of on the Thursday. We have made this change because in the past many people have been unable to attend a service on the day itself.

On the Tuesday of that week, I will be making a run up to MUST Ministries in Canton. Please consider bringing donations of non-perishable food for our Thanksgiving Service. There is a great need for emergency food help amongst those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thanks,
Patrick.

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

FOLLOWING OUR SERVICE on Nov. 1 there will be a joint council meeting (this council is composed of members of the board and of the pastor's council). This meeting is open to all, and you are encouraged to attend since we will be discussing ways to encourage the growth and development of our society.

The Rev. Michael D. Gladish, the new regional pastor, will be chairing this meeting.

Following the meeting there will be a pot luck dinner for all those who wish to participate.

Patrick A. Rose, Pastor.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Our website this month is an example of one of a number of independent New Church ministries that have sprung up across the United States.

Go to <http://lastchurch.com> to access the site of the Rev. Mike Cates of Texas. He is a remarkable man, and runs a remarkable New Church ministry reaching out across the United States.

The Lord is working in many places and with many people for the establishment of His New Church! For this we give thanks.



PASTOR'S COUNCIL by Linda Carr

[This report on the work of the Pastor's Council was given at our recent society meeting. We wish to make it available here for those who were unable to attend that meeting.]

TO START, I WOULD like to say that the first part of this report is my observations of more than 41 years here in Atlanta. I have been a silent observer of this group, and I am not proud of that. I have felt that this society has had, and still has, problems being united in following the Lord who should be guiding us to grow with each other so that we can bring a warm and positive feeling to any new comers to our church. I wrote to Bishop King a number of years ago because I felt that the society was forgetting what we should be doing to support the pastor and the uses of our church, and we needed to be working together towards being a more unified group. The Bishop's response was that we as a group, without interference from him or the General Church, should work out any problems within our own society. I did not take this information to the pastor's council, and just let things continue on as they had been. But I feel that things have not changed since then. We have some very outspoken members and what seems to keep happening, is that people are phone calling and emailing each other discussing ideas and complaints, rather than taking these things to the pastor's council. This makes for uncomfortable feelings, and nothing positive gets done in proper order.

The pastor's council has been doing a lot of work on this problem. The research done (reading, making reports, discussions, etc.) concerning some of the negative and unhealthy things that have been happening in our group, shows that

one or two dominant or aggressive factions can pull apart a small group such as ours. Our research shows that this must be stopped if the group or society is to grow and become a positive place to worship the Lord. What the council found as one of the solutions, is to utilize the pastor's council, so that things can be discussed in a group, and not as individuals. No one's ideas should be unanswered, but brought forward to the council for discussion first. Then the possible answers can be brought to the whole society if that is what the council feels is needed. If the question or idea does not really pertain to the whole society, the pastor's council will answer the individual, the whole point being that decisions and discussions are made by a group, going to the Lord for guidance, and not by individuals.

We want our society to think carefully about this, and if there are any questions, suggestions, ideas, grievances, etc., we feel need to be addressed, that they be brought to the pastor's council which is the proper order of things, and not to take things into our own hands. We have a pastor and pastor's council that are for this purpose. The council will discuss anything that is brought before them, and with the Lord guiding, make suggestions as to how to handle whatever is brought before them. Maybe, before the Lord brings new people to our church, He is waiting for us to be a more unified group, using positive and proper channels within our group.

The Lord God is to be our guiding force in this church, and we all should be looking toward Him as we work together to make our church useful and loving, so that we may bring goodness and truth to each other, and to all who enter into our church to worship the Lord our God.

NOVEMBER 2009 CALENDAR



- Sun. Nov 1 11:00am Church Service. Rev. Michael D. Gladish
Open Joint Council Meeting. Pot luck following.
REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!!!
- Sat. Nov. 7 10:30am. Fall Cleanup Day at Church.
- Sun. Nov 8 11:00am Church Service.
Pastor's Council.
- Mon. Nov 9 6:30pm Swedenborg-Atlanta event in Marietta/Smyrna.
- Fri. Nov 13 8:00pm Reading Discussion Group.
Location and reading to be announced.
- Sun. Nov. 15 11:00am Church Service.
Pot Luck and Doctrinal Class.
- Sun. Nov. 22 11:00am Thanksgiving Family Festival Service. Food offerings.
Outreach committee.
- Fri. Nov 27 8:00pm Reading Discussion by Phone.
Reading to be decided after press time. Contact pastor for details.
- Sun. Nov 29 11:00am Church Service.
Chancel committee.



Go to www.morningstarchapel.org/calendar.html to get the latest calendar information. Information on Swedenborg-Atlanta events can be found at www.swedenborg-atlanta.org.

Starting this month we are including the calendar in two formats: upright, so that you can read it on your screen, and sideways with larger print, so that you can print it out and put it on your fridge in landscape mode!

November

2009

Morning Star Chapel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Daylight Time Ends 11:00am Church Service. Joint Council. Potluck	2  Full Moon	3	4	5	6	7 10:30am-02:00pm Clean Up Day at Church
8 11:00am Church Service 12:30pm Pastor's Council	9  Last Qtr Moon 06:30pm Swedenborg-Atlanta at Vittles	10	11  Veteran's Day	12	13 08:00pm Reading Group. Location to be announced.	14
15 11:00am Church Service 12:30pm Pot Luck/Doct Class	16  New Moon	17	18	19	20	21
22 11:00am Thanksgiving Festival Service 12:30pm Outreach	23	24  1st Qtr Moon	25	26  Thanksgiving Day	27 08:00pm Reading Discussion by Phone	28
29 11:00am Church Service 12:30pm Chancel Committee	30				OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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BOARD MEMBERS:

Patrick Rose — Chair, ex officio.
Wayne Wadsworth—Vice chairman
Eli Echols — Secretary
Drew Ludwick — Treasurer
Cedric Lumsden
Bronwyn Robinson

PASTOR'S COUNCIL:

Stuart & Jayne Burke
Tom Kimble
Linda Carr
Jon Widerstrom
Patrick & Dinah Rose

CHURCH LIBRARY

Corinne Echols — Librarian
Keith Roloson — Assistant

OTHER DUTIES:

Pen Robinson — Mail Collector
Henry Wadsworth —
Electronics Advisor

DIRECTIONS TO OUR CHURCH

From downtown Atlanta, take GA 400 north to exit #11, (Windward Parkway). At the bottom of the exit ramp make a left on Windward Parkway. Proceed through the sets of traffic lights, and cross Hwy. 9 (AKA Alpharetta Hwy). Continue on the new extension of Windward past the Kroger. This new extension to Windward bends gently into Cogburn Rd. Take Cogburn about 1.5 miles to the traffic light on Bethany Bend. Make a left on Bethany Bend. Our church *Morning Star Chapel* is the second property on the right. The address is 2780 Bethany Bend.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

JESUS CHRIST (THE LORD) is our one loving God in perfect Human form. Within Him there is a trinity of soul (Father), mind and body (Son) and influence (Holy Spirit).

His Word (the Bible) is a parable with a spiritual meaning throughout.

Faith and charity cannot be separated. The life of religion is to do what is good.

Life continues immediately after death. In the other world what we are really like inside ourselves becomes evident.

Marriage is holy. All joy, happiness, and delight from the Lord are gathered into the love of marriage. A husband and wife who truly love each other and approach the Lord in their marriage will live together as married partners after death. True love really is forever.

The Second Coming of the Lord is not a coming in person but in the Word. The Lord has come again by revealing the internal sense of His Word for His New Church. The Lord used a servant (Emanuel Swedenborg) to reveal these deeper things, just as he used servants to write down the Old and New Testaments.

Our **Lord God Jesus Christ** is the Ruler of Heaven and Earth.