

MORNING STAR VOICE

FEBRUARY 2010

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

THE RAINBOW

WHEN NOAH CAME OUT of the ark, the Lord made a covenant with him. The Lord then gave him a sign of this covenant. The rainbow, with its beautiful colors, was seen in the dark cloud. The dark cloud is a person's mind, and specifically the darkness that is in our minds at first. The rainbow, though, is the result of the Lord's truth shining into that darkness (See AC 1043).



Because we have the Word in written form, we perhaps tend to think of the Word as books. The Word in its essence though is not a book. The Word is light from the Lord and what saves us is not the book or books lying on our bookshelves, but the light that these books make possible, light from the Lord shining into our minds.

The rainbow is a picture, an image, of how the Lord saves us. The rainbow represents conscience, a conscience formed from the truths of the Word (*ibid.*). This is the way, and the only

way, that the Lord can save us. As we read in our text, "They who have not received conscience in the world, cannot receive it in the other life; thus they cannot be saved . . ." (HD 138)

There is a great deal said in the Writings about conscience. Perhaps the simplest way of seeing it, though, is that conscience is how the Lord talks to us (see AC 371). It is how He talks to us in the course of our everyday lives. Now

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we know that the Lord teaches us, talks to us, through His Word. If the Word is to lead someone, though, that person must receive the Word into his mind. This is the only way in which the Lord can guide us through His Word.

How is it that you make decisions as you go about your life? You make them, don't you, on the basis of what is in your mind. You decide on the basis of how you yourself understand things.

***His Word
has to be
inside your
head.***

If you are to follow the Lord, and live a life in obedience to His Word, then His Word has to be inside your head. That is what conscience involves. It is said in the Heavenly Doctrine that "when a man is acquainted with the truths of faith, and apprehends them in his own way, and afterwards wills and does them, he receives conscience" (HD 131). Notice that it is said that a person has to apprehend or understand the truth *in his own way*. If you are to live the truth, you have to understand it for yourself.

It is so obvious, so basic, and yet so vitally important. If you are follow the Lord to heaven, you have to learn the truth of His Word and come to understand it *for yourself*. It is *your* understanding of the truth that is going to guide your life, not the understanding of someone else. Certainly books sitting on a shelf gathering dust are not going to guide your life. These books must be read, and they must be read for the reason that you want to obey the Lord. You must not only read and try to understand things for yourself, but you must also receive them into your heart.

We read that "conscience is formed with a man of the Church through the truths of faith from the Word, or from the doctrine derived from the Word, according to their reception in the heart" (*ibid.*).

Now the Lord does not require people to be scholars. Neither does He expect people to be perfect. He knows that there will be many times when we are confused about many things. We will at times misuse and misunderstand the truth. What the Lord does though is offer us a miracle. And it does indeed take a miracle for people like us to go to heaven. We tend to love ourselves more than others. We tend to want to do what is evil and wrong. We tend to believe all kinds of mistaken and false ideas. Still, the Lord can work miracles. He can work a miracle with all of us. He has given us His Word. If we go to the Word and if we read His Word, and try to understand it the best we can in our own way, and if we then live according to our best understanding of the Word, then this is the Lord Himself talking to us, telling us how to live. This is the Lord's light shining into the dark clouds of our minds. This is how the Lord turns us into angels. This is the miracle of the rainbow.

I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. (Gen. 9:13)

DYNAMICS OF CHURCHES

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE on Feb 14th we hope those of you planning to take (or be taken by) your sweetie out for lunch on Valentine's Day and those who have other plans for the afternoon will be able to stay for a brief one hour presentation.

Members of the Pastor's Council will be talking about what they have learned from reading various books about the challenges faced in many congregations in regard to people's behavior toward one another, and also about approaches that have helped congregations become healthier.

There will be a followup meeting or meetings in coming months. Those presenting this subject have done significant work in exploring and learning about these issues. Please come hear what they have to say!

The presentation and discussion for this first meeting will be limited to an hour. There will be light refreshments. In addition, the pastor will, in recognition of the fact that this is Valentine's Day, be casting nutritional caution to the wind, and bringing a box of chocolates for all to share.



WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

To see a recently-launched New Church website go to <http://www.newchurchperspective.com>. It is being published by some of the younger people in the church, including some of the younger clergy. You may even find an article by a young minister who grew up in Smyrna, Georgia!

"New Church Perspective is a new online magazine which publishes weekly articles. We discuss perspectives on the New Church and we also consider all sorts of topics from a New Church Perspective. We solicit articles from across the lines of denomination and country. We warmly invited readers and writers to join the conversation at [newchurchperspective.com](http://www.newchurchperspective.com). Subscribe for free and receive notices when each new article posts. If you have something on your mind, write and submit your own piece! Expect article topics to range all over the map. But also expect that all will have you thinking and re-discovering what the New Church means in today's world! Please spread the word!"



GRANDDAUGHTERS

WE DON'T OFTEN get to announce the birth of two granddaughters in the same newsletter, but this month we are delighted to announce the arrival of two special little angels!



ELLIE JOANN BOEHLE was born on Jan 18. She is the daughter of Amanda Dike Boehle and Chris Boehle. Her middle name is after her grandmother Joan Dunlap. She is 21 inches long and weighed 8 lbs 4 oz. Charis and Bob couldn't be more thrilled to have a granddaughter in their lives. The Lord has blessed us greatly!



KATHERINE GRACE ROSE was born January 12th, 2010, at 10:28am. She was 7lbs 6oz and 20 inches. Her parents are Matt and Lindsay Rose.

Dinah Rose is ecstatic at the birth of our first granddaughter. Patrick is already planning to spoil her rotten.

We rejoice that another little angel has been born into the world.

FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR



- Sun. Feb 7 11:00am Church Service.
Trustees.
- Mon. Feb 8 6:30pm Swedenborg-Atlanta event in Marietta/Smyrna.
DP 43-69. Presented by Cedric Lumsden.
- Fri. Feb 12 8:00pm Reading Discussion Group.
Doctrine of the Lord 29-36. Location to be decided.
- Sun. Feb 14 11:00am Church Service.
Presentation to Society by Pastor's Council.
- Sun. Feb 21 11:00am Church Service.
Potluck and doctrinal discussion. Subject: *Conscience: A Workshop. Part 2*
- Sun. Feb 28 11:00am Church Service.
Outreach 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.

February

2010

Morning Star Chapel



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	1	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7 11:00am Service 12:30pm Trustees	8 06:30pm Swedenborg-Atlanta at Vittles	9	10	11	12 08:00pm Reading Group. Location to be announced	13
14  Valentine's Day 11:00am Service 12:30pm Presentation by Pastor's Council	15  President's Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 11:00am Service 12:30pm Pot Luck/Doct Discussion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00am Service 12:30pm Outreach Committee						<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>

For updated information visit <http://www.morningstarchapel.org/calendar.html>

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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

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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 (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.