



**GLENVIEW  
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

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**PARK NEWS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

**February 2018**

**Pastoral Message**

**Thank the Lord**

As *Park News* goes to press for the month of February, we're coming up on a notable birthday. It's not the birthday of someone's sister or brother, someone's parent or grandparent. It's not the birthday of one of our parishioners who's clocked a hundred or more years in this world. Instead, it's the birthday of 18<sup>th</sup> century scientist, philosopher, and revelator Emmanuel Swedenborg, born January 29, 1688. If Swedenborg was alive today, he would have turned 330 on January 29th.

As many people know, the theological writings of Emmanuel Swedenborg are the lens through which the New Church views the Bible—similar to how other Christians view it through the writings of Paul, or how specific Christian denominations view Christianity through the lens of a particular individual—Catholics through the pope, Lutherans through Martin Luther, Calvinists through John Calvin, Mennonites through Menno Simons, etc.

On the occasion of Swedenborg's birthday this year, I invite you to answer two questions for yourselves. First, what is one of the most helpful, meaningful things that you've gained through your association with the New Church or with people in it? Think about it; jot it down if you wish. Whatever it is, it may relate to a way of seeing, a way of being, or a specific life practice that is influenced by the writings given to the world through Emmanuel Swedenborg.

The second question is this: What is a favorite theological concept or teaching of the New Church that has broadened your perspective or helped set you personally free? Again, think about it; get it on your radar. In addition, where do you see that particular teaching anchored in the words or stories of Sacred Scripture? The words and stories of Scripture are the ultimate foundation on which true and loving theological perspective is bound to rest, and through which it has its greatest power.

After isolating on these things, I hope you will join me in thanking the Lord for them, and for creating the New Church on earth—for the benefit of everyone who comes in contact with her through the centuries, and for all of the good that she, like other faith traditions around her, is doing to help make the world a better place.

Have a nice month, everyone. (Mark)

**Church Calendar**

**February**

- 2 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
- 3 SAT 9:30 GNCS Winter Wonderland
- 4 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service  
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Group  
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 5 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 6 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders  
7:00 Park Dwellings
- 7 WED 10:00 Arcana Class  
7:00 Pastor's Council
- 8 THURS 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 9 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group  
6:00 Spiritual Studies Club
- 11 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service  
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Circle  
11:00 Traditional Worship Service  
11:00 Holy Supper
- 12 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 13 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 14 WED 10:00 Arcana Class
- 15 THURS 7:00 MANC Board Meeting  
Park News Deadline
- 16 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
- 18 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service  
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Group  
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 19 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 20 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 21 WED 10:00 Arcana Class
- 23 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
- 25 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship service  
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Circle  
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 26 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 27 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 28 WED 10:00 Arcana Class

# General Announcements

## GNCS Winter Wonderland—February 3

Glenview New Church School is putting on a fantastical winter wonderland event for young children on Saturday, February 3 from 9:30-11:30am. This event will feature building blocks, sensory tables, a bouncy castle, car tracks and a singing performance by Jeanie B!. Please invite your friends and family with young children. Tickets are \$3 per person at the door on the day of the event.

## Journey Program: Practicing Forgiveness

Each year our church devotes one of its sermon series to an international, church-wide "Journey" program. It's a program of spiritual growth which targets a particular area of personal growth, and includes a well-written textbook and option to participate in weekly small groups. This year's program is titled, "Practicing Forgiveness".

Authentic forgiveness stems from a deep faith that we are enough, that love is abundant, and that even though we have been wronged, we don't have to spend our emotional energy trying to have that "debt" paid back to us. This kind of trust doesn't come easily! It takes practice to train our minds to learn to let go of what's not important, so we can make room for things that really matter. That's what *Practicing Forgiveness* is here to offer – a place for people to come together and focus on ways to learn to accept, forgive and love each other.

It will be five weeks long, beginning Sunday, February 4th. The program will include a sermon series, a weekly small group experience, and a book with daily readings. As many of you know, I (Mac) am working on a book about this exact topic. I am hoping to learn more from those of you that choose to be part of a small group with me, and also from any of you who go through this series and find insights to share with me on the topic. If you are interested in leading a group, being in a group lead by someone else, or using the daily reader workbook, please get in touch with me, Mac, at 512-694-9474, [mac.frazier@gmail.com](mailto:mac.frazier@gmail.com), or in person.

## Spiritual Studies Club

The "Spiritual Studies Club," will meet on Friday, February 9 in the Glenview New Church Youth Center. Come for yummy hors d'oeuvres at 6pm, a delicious free meal at 7pm, followed by stimulating discussion on spiritual topics at 7:45pm.

## Holy Supper

The sacrament of the Holy Supper will be offered at the 11am service on Sunday, February 11.

## Women Unwind

Women meet weekly for conversation and fellowship on Mondays at 5:30pm at Karen Stoeller's home. (100 Park Drive)

## Sunday Morning Sermon Discussion Circle

Sunday Morning Sermon Discussion Circle – informal weekly drop-in gathering in the Auditorium after the 9:30 service to spiritually connect and further discuss the sermon topic. The Journey Program: Practicing Forgiveness starts on Sunday, February 4 and our Sunday morning group will be weekly discussion group for the 5 week program. Daily reader workbooks will be available for purchase in the Assembly Hall.

## For Sale

The Park Dwellings Board is offering the condo at 1060 Shermer Road (former Tom Reimann/Dick Richter residence) for sale to any member of the church and/or teacher of GNCS for \$195,000, AS IS. The unit needs a great deal of "fixer upper" applied. The condo will be offered for 60 days. If you are interested, please contact Jane Enis at 847-309-4286 or e-mail [janebusinesspro@gmail.com](mailto:janebusinesspro@gmail.com) for more details and a walking tour of the property. (Park Dwellings Board)

## GNCS Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Think Spring! The GNCS Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be here before you know it (Saturday, March 31 at 10am). This is always such a great event for GNCS but we cannot do it without huge support from the Glenview New Church's members and friends. The first thing we need help with is stuffing the eggs with candy! Eggs are bundled in bags of 100. Please contact Judy Teel at the church/school office [judyt@glenviewnewchurch.org](mailto:judyt@glenviewnewchurch.org) or 847-724-0057x26 and let her know how many bags of eggs you'd like to fill. The second thing we need is volunteers to help on the day of the event. This includes jobs like hiding eggs, taking admission, selling raffle tickets, etc. Contact Kendra Paraskevopoulos [kendrap@glenviewnewchurch.org](mailto:kendrap@glenviewnewchurch.org) 847-724-0057x35 if you'd like to help.

## Democracy Doesn't Just Happen

Every voter who casts a ballot on Election Day depends on the poll workers who are there serving voters and facilitating democracy. The Cook County Clerk's office is hiring community members to serve in suburban polling places and make it possible for their neighbors to cast their ballots and be heard on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

There are two positions available for students: Election Judge or Equipment Manager. Both Election Judges and Equipment Managers assist voters and ensure the polling place is running smoothly. Equipment Managers are also responsible for setting up and maintaining the voting equipment. Due to the additional responsibility, Equipment Managers receive more training and get higher pay. Election Judges earn \$190, Equipment Managers earn \$340.. To learn more and apply online, visit <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/work> or call 312-603-0970.

## From the Park Commissioner

I would like to start my first publication off by giving a huge thanks to Gary Edmonds who put many years of volunteer time and dedication into the job of Park Commissioner. He took over this prestigious position from none-other than Woody Allen. The shoes to fill were vary large and with a slight limp, (one of which Gary has (large shoes)) and he did the job exceptionally well. The Park would not look as nice as it does without his vision.

I would also like to thank Gary Edmonds and the Church society for entrusting me with the responsibility of the job of Park Commissioner. I see the job of the Commissioner as upholding the vision and design of the Church grounds. I would also like to maintain and update existing areas to be as visually appealing and inviting as possible. We have one of the most beautiful campuses in Glenview, and that beauty takes updating and maintenance.

Some ideas that I would like to implement during my tenure are:

- Continue eradication of Buckthorn
- Maintain and open views to the lake
- Improve and update the front of our school and church buildings
- Showcase the beauty of our grounds by continuing to create vistas
- Replace and replant our aging and declining overstory trees
- Maintain safety and security of our grounds

I would also like to bring attention to some volunteer efforts that have recently taken place on our campus:

- I don't know if anyone has noticed but some large problem trees have come down or died and miraculously disappeared. I would like to thank our local tree companies for their volunteer work for removing them. Will Smith of Woodstock Tree and Bruce Horigan of Horigan Urban Forest Products both removed the old Willow that came down on the Park Spur and Bruce has been making his way along the ballfield removing elms that died from Dutch Elm disease.
- We also have improved visibility with repaired and installed lighting on signs and Christmas lights thanks to Jon Sheer.
- Over 6,000 daffodil bulbs were planted this fall thanks to the Smith Boys including my brother, Jeff, who was in town for Christmas. This will bring the total number of bulbs planted over the last couple of years to about 34,000. All of these bulbs were donated by Lurvey Garden Center; every year whatever is left that they can't sell is given to us to plant.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brannon Smith  
Park Commissioner



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## Park Patter

It's that time of year when it's hard to find news for your perusal — January is fading and February fades fast, too—it's the shortest month of the year, remember. That's one of its charms, however. Another feature it has that no other month owns is that as month two, it has two pronunciations — Feb-roo-ary or Feb-ewe-ary. Take your pick; they're both correct.

Starting with some LATE breaking news, ( it happened in December) Kelley and Brian Burseth became parents of Jack Curtis Burseth on December 30, 2017. Congratulations to Kelley, Brian and all grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, et al.

As long as we are in December, visitors arrived for Christmas or New Years or just to enjoy our Arctic air.

Bob and Gail Brickman left Florida—can you believe that? —to see their Glenview family over the holidays. Of course they had to wait for Keith, Cindy, Christian and Elizabeth Parker to return from Canada where they spent the yuletide with Keith's family. Added note: Lila spent the holiday with cousin Moose and Lila had a new snowsuit to wear for the occasion.

Phil and Beth Parker and their entourage also went up to Canada to join the Parker festivities just after Christmas. They got back just in time for Phil's new backyard skating rink to solidify and now they are skating at Park Lane.

Kent and Jerry Fuller drove (very carefully through the white-out in Michigan which disappeared just over the border) up to Canada to spend the New Year with Jennifer and Chris Raymond and the grandchildren — Kent and Jerry's that is, not Chris and Jennifer's. K and J returned with their usual colds which they are still enjoying prior to attending the Boynton Beach retreat. That should cure them until they come back to the Glenview Flu (ours is special).

Here's some more breaking news — Trudy Wright tripped and fell at home just after Christmas and broke her left hip. (Last year it was the right side she broke.) As an astute observer remarked, "It must be Christmas; Trudy broke her hip." She is home mending nicely.

And more breaking news — Gina Shelton fell on the ice and banged her head (concussion) and broke her left collar bone and did some damage to her ribs. She, too, is at home and on the mend.

Another Christmas plus visitor (she stayed for a longer time) was Anna Mergen. She was attending her mom, Vera Kitzelman and seeing family and friends. She came from New York, so she didn't leave any better weather because they got what we got, only later. She probably got home to re-enjoy the freeze front and the nor'easter.

Lynn (Hedstrom) McBride came in from Casper, WY to spend both holidays with her mother, Pat, and the rest of the Hedstroms. She arrived jet-lagged due to many delays

caused by guess what? weather and mechanical problems. Nevertheless, she had a warm welcome and cozy visit.

Sara (Fuller) Smith just arrived in January for a short visit with her mother, Kathleen. Unfortunately, Katy had to go to the hospital and then to the Abington for some physical rehab. However, Sara still had time with her and the rest of the relatives.

Meanwhile, Dan Woodard was laid low by pneumonia, but Joan to the rescue. She went out and wielded the snow shovel with great expertise and cleared the "smattering of snow". (The weatherman's phrase— it was a tad more than a smatter.)

Kirstin Synnestvedt took off right after the festival season for some well-earned R and R out in the Galena area. She was careful where she walked and came home in one unbruised piece.

Just to show that some people never quit, here's an example: Fun in snow, ice and sun happened on Sunday (January 7) afternoon with a perfect day of broomball, skating, a bonfire, and hot chocolate and hot dogs. We had about 25-30 people show up for an outing at the Park lake. It was a perfect day thanks to Wade Smith who provided hot dogs and hot chocolate to warm our bodies and feed our tummies. Hopefully with this 50 degree weather and rain, we will get a fresh smooth layer of ice to that we can do this again.

Thanks to our roving reporter (and broomball enthusiast) Brannon Smith for this glowing report. Well, we got the 50 degrees and rain and the ice melted and so now we are awaiting a fresh new chill for those intrepid souls that think it fun to freeze, frost, shiver and shake in the snow.



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**2-1-18**