



**GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

July-August 2023

Pastoral Message

Where Will You Settle?

We often think (in the New Church) of heaven as having three levels, or of heaven being made up of “three heavens” within its overall framework. These three heavens are known as the “natural heaven,” the “spiritual heaven,” and the “heavenly (or “celestial”) heaven.” We also know that our final home in heaven will be on one of these levels, depending on the main (or “ruling”) love that is established in us by the Lord and by our choices on earth. A person whose main love is obeying what the Lord says—doing what we’re told, and doing a good job in all that we do—will be most at home in the natural heaven. A person who grows beyond mere obedience and doing their job well, and whose main love ends up being *people* (loving their neighbor) will be most at home in the spiritual heaven. And a person who grows beyond loving their neighbor to loving the *Lord* above everyone and everything else will be most at home in the heavenly heaven.

The question is, “Where will any one of us ultimately settle down and find our place in heaven? Will it be the natural, spiritual, or truly ‘heavenly’ heaven?” Time will tell.

In all of this, we’re taught that the Lord’s own hope and goal for us is that we will all end up in the highest or truly heavenly heaven, as reflected in the following passage from the theology of the New Church:

In the Lord's kingdom there are those who are external, those who are more interior, and those who are internal. Good spirits who dwell in the first heaven are external, angelic spirits who dwell in the second heaven are more interior, and angels who dwell in the third heaven are internal. Those who are external are not as close to or near the Lord as those who are more interior, and these in turn are not so close or near as those who are internal. Out of Divine love, or mercy, the Lord wills to have everyone near to Himself, so that they do not stand outside, that is, in the first heaven. His will is that they should dwell in the third heaven. And if possible not merely with Him but abiding in Him. Such is the nature of Divine or the Lord's love. (*Secrets of Heaven* 1799.1)

Isn't that an interesting teaching? And quite aside from the lovely thought of the Lord wanting all of us to be in the highest heaven—closest to Him—notice what *else* is said—that people who find their eternal home in the *natural* heaven “stand outside” relative to the Lord and the higher heavens. Isn't that interesting? We might extrapolate from this that people in

Church Calendar

July*

2	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
4	TUE		July 4th Festivities
9	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
13	THUR	7:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
16	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
23	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
30	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary

August*

1	TUE	7:00	Park Dwellings Meeting
2	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
10	THURS	7:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
13	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
20	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
23	WED	9:00	GNCS Opening Chapel
27	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary

* all meetings will be held virtually

the *spiritual* heaven, although they are closer to the Lord than those in the natural heaven, still (to some degree?) “stand outside,” relative to the Lord and the highest, truly heavenly heaven.

Which raises another question: When we think of the word “settle,” it can refer to the act of settling down in a dwelling place. But it can also refer to choices we make to be satisfied with something less than what we really want. For example, I may want chocolate ice cream for dessert, but if I don’t want to take a trip to the store to get it, I may settle for double chocolate brownies. But if the brownies are downstairs in the basement refrigerator, and I don’t want to go fetch them, I may settle for the chocolate chip cookies that I know are in the upstairs freezer.

Well, if there are three heavens, and an existence in the spiritual heaven is “outside” relative to the heavenly heaven; and if an existence in the natural heaven is still further “outside,” might we be able to say that a person who chooses either of these heavens for their eternal home is actually *settling* for something *less*—something *less* than the truly heavenly heaven?

I remember a moment in a day, a couple years back, when I was struggling with a decision for how to respond to a certain situation. It wasn’t an easy decision. Clearly in my mind I wanted to do the right thing in my response. But at the same time there was more that I could do. There was more I could give of myself, more I could do to help and support the people involved...but I was tired that day...maybe my back was sore, or I had

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Park News

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General Announcements

a headache...or maybe life had pulled me in a lot of different directions that particular week. Whatever it was, I didn't feel like extending myself and "going the extra mile" in that moment. I wanted to go a *certain* distance—by doing the right thing—but on some level my thought was, "I just don't want to go the extra distance...I don't want to go further...this is enough."

Was I settling? And if so, *where* was I settling?

Where will you settle? It's an interesting question.

Have a good July & August, everyone.

Affectionately, Mark

GNCS Welcome Coffee Opening Chapel

The faculty and staff are excited about starting the 2023-2024 school year. Parents and friends are invited to join us for coffee on Wednesday, August 23 starting at 8:30am followed by our school opening chapel service in the Auditorium at 9am. Hope to see you there!

Golf Outing September 16

Join us for the annual Glenview New Church golf outing on Saturday, September 16. This year we're returning to the Chevy Chase Country Club at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling. The fee will be \$100 per person which will include your 18 holes of golf, a cart and a gourmet (perhaps not) lunch during your round. Experienced golfers and duffers alike, enjoy a fun day with friends and raise some money for the Church. For information contact Owen Smith – 630-327-1966, owen@abbey-paving.com

House for Sale: 38 Park Drive

Will and Connie Smith are offering their house for sale to church members. The asking price is \$650,000. Please contact Will (847-309-8905) or Connie (847-757-7182) if you are interested.

4th of July Festivities in the Park

Join us for our traditional July 4th festivities in the Park! The Park parade kicks off at 9:30am. Everyone is invited to create themed floats and/or decorate bicycles to walk in the parade around the Park Drive circle. Prizes will be awarded to all float, bicycle and pet entrants! (Entrants for the Park parade assemble in the church parking lot at 9:15am)

The parade is followed by a flag raising ceremony at the flagpole in the church parking lot which includes the singing the national anthem and a patriotic speech from one of our church neighbors. Following the morning festivities there will be a picnic by the Park Lake at 12:30pm. We hope you can come!

If you would like to help with any of the day's activities please contact Martha Heilman, GNC Volunteer Coordinator, marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org or 847-302-7619.

2023 Schedule of Events

9:15am – Park Parade entries assemble in the church parking lot.

9:30am – Park Parade. Flag pole ceremony & speeches! Prizes for parade entries!

11:15am – Glenview Village Parade

12:30pm – Picnic by the Park Lake. Races, egg & water balloon toss & softball.

GNCS in Glenview Parade

GNCS will be marching in the [Glenview July 4th Parade!!](#) Come and cheer us on as we drive by in the decorated school van and hand out fun patriotic goodies! We are looking for kids and parents to march with us. If you would like to join us for the July 4th parade, please email Lisa Philbrick lisap@glenviewnewchurch.org.



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Park Patter

Dry, drier, driest and dry, dryer, driest = DROUGHT! and hazy, hazier, haziest = air pollution alert! So much for a nice pleasant June. Maybe July can at least produce more than a teaspoon full of rain. Hope always springs eternal-ly.

HITHER, THITHER AND YON(DERS)

The peerless teaching staff of GNCS—Laura Barger, the three Ps—Phil Parker, Mark Pendleton and Emily Pietra-siak, Elmo Acton, and Kara Smith trekked out to Yon (Bryn Athyn) to attend a set of education meetings in early June. The meetings were the first ones held since the pandemic hit. Eighty educators from church schools in North America enjoyed meetings and workshops together. An impressive number for the Church, don't you think?

HOW'S THIS FOR HITHER?

Aixa Chen sure gets around. Not too long ago, she did Ireland; now she has done Italy; ending up in Sorrento - at least that was her excuse for not being able to do something in Glenview. Ciao, Aixa!

COMING FROM YON...

Daric and Tara Smith packed up their daughters, Audrey, Scarlet, and Windsor, and fled smokey, soggy Bryn Athyn for the hazy desert of Glenview. They stayed right on the main thoroughfare at 32 Park Drive. When last seen, they were on a guided tour to the playground led by their cousin Daniella (We're not stopping at the lake!) Paraskevopoulos.

THITHER, YON, AND HOME

Bruce and Valerie Reuter drove from Linden Hills (Thither) to Bryn Athyn (Yon) to see granddaughter Caeden Reuter graduate from the Academy girls' school on June 10. They were also able to celebrate older sister Emma's college graduation from Ursinus College. And there was time to visit with Mark and Kay(Reuter) Alden, and Scott and Gail (Reuter) Cooper and some of their children and grandchildren at a family picnic...And dinner with Valerie's brother Pete Stevens...And lots of family time in a short time period...And back to good ole GV--which currently stands for ground vaporous.

ANOTHER POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE...

Michael Holmes traveled to Fargo to attend the graduation of his niece Brooke Holmes (Steve's daughter) who received degrees in both Psychology and Criminal Justice (minor in Women's Studies) from North Dakota State University. Her graduate studies will be in Forensic Psychology and then a doctorate. Proud grandma Sue Holmes did mention that both degrees were magna cum laude.

TO YON (BA) BACK

Jenny Edmonds spent a wonderful week with her sisters Meg and Erin. Part of the wonders was the falling of the bridge on I-95 and a smoke alert from Canada. What could have been more fun?

Thanks to whoever spray painted all the purple alliums red and white for New Church Day--very much appreciated.

AND NOW FOR SOME MISCHIEVOUS MERRIMENT

(from Hither, Thither, and Yon)

Today I am wearing pink to raise awareness of people like me who forgot to separate the red laundry from the whites.

Two people are eating hamburgers. Husband: These hamburgers are really good for you. They're plant-based. Wife: Really? But they taste so delicious. Which plant do they come from? Husband: A meat processing plant.

Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

Them: what inspires you to get up in the morning? Me: My bladder, mostly.



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7-1-2023