



APRIL 2005
(Jewish Year 5765)
Vol. II, Issue 4



Sunday, February 27, 2005 was
International Friendship Sunday

“At God’s Table There is Room for Everyone”

*a message written by Jane Cutting, Church member, and
read on Sunday, February 27, 2005, at the International
Friendship Sunday Celebration at the Church on the Hill.*

Jane Cutting is a member of our church. She is the wife of the late Ted Cutting, and sister-in-law of the late Elinore Peebles, both of whom were lifelong members of the Swedenborgian Church. Jane works with immigrants in our country. One of the primary ways she supports those who came to this country from other lands, is to organize and conduct workshops that help immigrants adjust to America, and to also increase for these same people the opportunity for success. Jane also works to increase understanding about immigrants in our country. Our church plans to host a workshop with Jane to foster our awareness in this area.

“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”

Matthew 25

... continued on page 2

Continued from front page...

“At God’s Table There is Room for Everyone”

“I am glad to have the opportunity to share my thoughts on the celebration of International Friendship Sunday. One of the many things I love to do is facilitate workshops about our diversity. We are well on our way into the 21st century. As our world becomes smaller and our country more diverse it is more important than ever to reach out in friendship to and learn from each other.

“I think of diversity as an asset where each of us is a unique part of a larger mosaic. Defining diversity as an “asset” implies that everyone has a contribution to make. Viewing diversity as a “mosaic” means valuing each person’s uniqueness and

appreciating the variety of backgrounds, styles, perspectives, values, and beliefs each one brings to the group. We all benefit. I am reminded of a story my late husband, Ted Cutting, a life-long Swedenborgian, told me about a group of Northern European explorers on an expedition to the Arctic. The wooden runner of the dog sled they were traveling in broke and they were in big trouble...really stuck. The dogs weren't moving and nobody was going anywhere. They had no tool to make a hole in what was remaining of the wooden runner. After much bemoaning of their fate by the explorers their young Eskimo guide took one of the men's pistol from him and shot a hole through the remaining wood thus making the necessary hole in the rudder to place the rein through and they were on their way again. The “best and the brightest” from one culture were conditioned to think of the pistol only as a weapon whereas this young Eskimo thought about everything in his environment as a potential tool. A simple story about how much we can learn from each other and how an “outsider” came up with the much needed solution.

“Being fearful of strangers in prehistoric times may have served a useful purpose. The “other” was seen as a threat. The Biblical story of Abraham welcoming a stranger is a reflection of humankind’s spiritual progress and awareness that the ‘other’ is not necessarily a threat and that we too may be a “stranger” in another land as he and Sarah were in Egypt and who knows what “angels” we may be entertaining unawares.

“There may be much in scripture that seems ambiguous but there is nothing ambiguous about Jesus's injunction to us in Matthew 25: “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

“Taking the time to ask someone where they come from and asking them to share a little of their history and culture – and truly listening attentively – may in the end be the biggest peacemaker of all. Every encounter with someone different than ourselves is an opportunity full of infinite possibility. In my small rural town in Central Mass, I know of a young woman from Mongolia and a young man from Fiji. Can you imagine! It's time for me to reach out in friendship. At God's table there is room for everyone!

Blessings to you – Jane”



The Church on the Hill

The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Incorporated

About our Church:

The Church on the Hill - also known as The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Incorporated - was organized as the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem on August, 15, 1818, and incorporated in the City of Boston under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on February 10, 1823.

The church is an independent organization for the observance of Swedenborgian teachings and the value inherent in those teachings. The church has no formal affiliation with any other Swedenborgian organizations.

The purpose of the church shall be to establish and maintain the public worship of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Holy Word, and the teachings revealed in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. In following those teachings, the church shall maintain free and open worship of the Divine, and being independent, nondenominational, and interreligious, shall honor the good in all religions that seek to foster a positive regard for all humanity.

The church, through its directed wisdom and Divine guidance, shall foster stewardship, within the Doctrine of Uses, of the spiritual and physical assets which Divine Providence and labor and the work of God have made possible.

For more information, or to reach our church office, please call 1-617-523-4575.

CHURCH OFFICIALS:

Senior Pastor The Reverend G. Steven Ellis
 Associate Pastor The Reverend Dr. J. Ted Klein
 President Rex B. Ellis
 Vice President Mary Guarino
 Secretary Tina Burm
 Treasurer John Burke

EMERITUS:

President Emeritus Michael Latkowitz
 Secretary Emeritus Thelma E. Hawkins

“And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kin and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God. Let them forgive and show indulgence. Yearn ye not that God forgive you? God is Forgiving, Merciful.”

Qu’ran 24:22

“To build a friendship is to build wealth,
To maintain a friendship is to maintain wealth and
To end a friendship is to end wealth.”

Cakkavatti Sutta, Patika Vagga, Dighanikaya (Buddhist)

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Hebrews 13:2

“Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

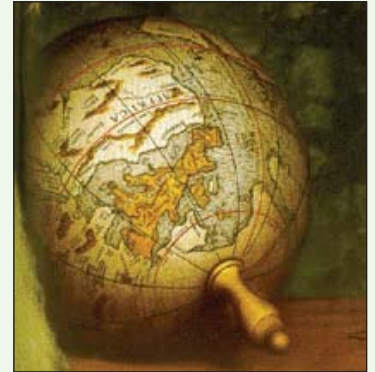
Exodus 22:21

“Beloved thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers.”

3 John 1:5

“Be closely related to all beings, seek the source of all living creatures and spirits. Love immensely.”

From the Cao Dai (Vietnamese)



World Scriptures “Treatment of Strangers”

Overarching Goals ADOPTED FOR OUR CHURCH

On Sunday, March 13, 2005, the Church Council and Trustees adopted the following goals for the Church on the Hill:

1. Location:

To maintain our present church plant at the Bostonview Apartments, 140 Bowdoin Street / Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts in perpetuity, in order to maintain our historical place and marked visibility in the surrounding community.

Task for Implementation of goal: maintain our church plant and facility, by keeping maintenance and making necessary periodic improvements in the plant; by keeping the structural integrity of the Beacon Hill Area; by making this site a historic landmark in our beloved City.

2. Theological Stance:

To maintain our Church as a non-denominational, independent, and interreligious Swedenborgian Church, and in accordance with our by-laws, public worship according to the Bible, the writings of Swedenborg, and other inspired works. (See Bylaws~The Church on the Hill.)

Task for Implementation of goal: To teach and preach the philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg and embrace its relevancy to modern times; maintain interreligious activities and outreach into the surrounding interreligious / spiritual Community.

3. Uses-Stewardship:

To maintain our church community and outreach services in accordance with Swedenborg’s Doctrine of Uses; i.e., service to the beloved Community (Church Members and Friends), and service to the Greater Boston Area.

Task for Implementation of goal: In keeping with our tradition that charity begins at home, to be of service practically and spiritual to our church members and to the Greater Boston Community in the exercise of good and responsible stewardship of our resources by adopting policies, procedures, and guidelines.

4. Envisioning:

To enhance, keep viable, and expand our church programmatic services and outreach to our church community and the greater Boston community.

Task for Implementation of goal: Appoint an *ad hoc* Committee to ensure that the overarching goals are being met and that tasks are being implemented and carried forth in meeting them. Perform a demographics study, or needs assessment.

Happy Birthday

to Thomas Worcester (1795-1878)

A Service of Celebration honoring the life of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Worcester, first pastor our church, will be held at the church on **Sunday, April 7, 2005 at 12 noon.**

Reverend Dr. Thomas Worcester, a member of the famed Worcester family of New England, was born in Thornton, New Hampshire, April 15, 1795, and died in Waltham, Massachusetts, on August 14, 1878. Actually, Rev. Worcester was mistakenly named Thomas. His parents intended to name him after the Worcester family member who came to America. They thought this person, who also became a reverend, was named Thomas, whereas his name was actually William.

His first wife was Alice Clark, daughter of John Clark of Waltham, Massachusetts. After she passed on, he married Lydia Dean, daughter of Philip Rowell of Salisbury, Massachusetts. Both Alice and Lydia were faithfully devoted to their husband, and the church



Noah Worcester's (Father of Thomas Worcester) home in Brighton, Mass.
Copyright © 1998 - The Worcester Family

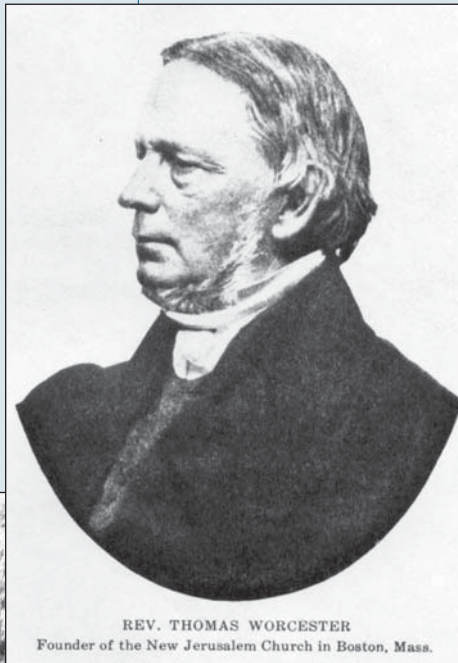
John Thornton Kirkland (1770 - 1840) served as President of Harvard University from 1810 to 1828. A minister like many of his predecessors, he is remembered chiefly for his lenient treatment of students.

This image is licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License. It uses material from the Wikipedia article "John Thornton Kirkland".



that he served throughout his life. Sampson Reed documented the life of Reverend Worcester in a biography, "The Life of Thomas Worcester."

Worcester graduated from Harvard College in 1818, and studied theology at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was while a student at Harvard that the college's president, John T. Kirkland, gave him permission to study the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. Worcester was introduced to Swedenborg while reading and researching in the library at Harvard. It was in the library that Worcester and Sampson Reed, another Harvard Divinity student, discovered a three-volume



original set of Arcana Coelestia, which included annotations made by Swedenborg in his own handwriting. This extraordinary collection of volumes had been given to the college by the Reverend William Hill, Episcopal minister from England, and son-in-law of Rev. Jacob Duche, chaplain of the First Continental Congress.

It is sad that when Worcester and Reed found the volumes, they were among discarded relics that were not considered especially valuable or important. Yet, still, while demonstrating that the teachings of Swedenborg had been neglected, the event also described the Christian paradigm of something good and holy and far-reaching rising

from humble circumstances. For in these texts, miraculously resurrected from dusty shelves, was the genesis of something remarkable. Worcester and Reed, and others, were so moved and inspired by the teachings, that they formed a theosophical society that is a foundation of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem.

While pastor of the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem, Worcester was also the editor of The New Jerusalem Magazine, a New Church publication, copies of which are housed in our church.

In 1854, he was appointed Overseer of Harvard College,; and in 1856 Harvard College conferred on him the title of Doctor of Divinity. After resigning his pastorate in 1867, he resided in Waltham where he continued service to his church. He and his devoted wife, Alice Clark, are buried in Mount Feke Cemetery in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Care for Other Life Forms and the Earth

By The Reverend Dr. Ted Klein, Pastor



"April has sometimes been described as "Earth Month," and a special "Earth Day" is set aside each year in April. April is also a month with wonderful changes as spring more and more unfolds. This message for April will consider care for other life forms and the earth.

"Think of experiences of care for nature. One example is caring and oneness that comes in walking when surrounded by colors before sunrise and the singing of birds. Another wonderful experience is sitting on a rock at the top of a hill and looking out to beautiful tree covered hills. Perhaps, you have stopped to look at a beautiful tree and been inspired by its beauty. Maybe you have felt at peace watching a beautiful sunrise or sunset. Think of walking through woods, surrounded by beautiful trees, wonderful smells, and the sounds of birds.

"All of the previous examples involve caring where one receives and appreciates. Another kind of caring is that of taking action. One example is picking up litter. Another is being careful on a nature walk or hike not to hurt anything in one's path. Another is joining with others is an effort to create a nature preserve.

"Human beings face a great challenge. There are many ways in which we are harming other life forms, environments, the earth. We are poisoning or polluting air, water, and the ground. In various ways we are destroying individual creatures, sometimes whole species, and sometimes whole environments supportive of life – as when we destroy forest areas or wetlands. Also, we are using up energy resources without adequate efforts to conserve them or to develop renewable alternatives.

"In considering how to meet these challenges and best care for other life forms and the earth, we can find important guidance in Swedenborgian teachings. One teaching is that God is present in all creation. God is present and acting in all created beings; God's love and wisdom is found throughout the universe (Swedenborg, "Divine Love and Wisdom," numbers 24, 25, 52). All creatures of the earth are the creation of God (Swedenborg, "Divine Love and Wisdom," numbers 55, 56). These teachings inform us that we must treat all

beings, all creatures, with care. For God is in all of us.

"Swedenborgian teachings tell us that we are interdependent with other beings in creation. All that is created is for uses or service, and God works to bring forth all things and holds them in uses (Swedenborg, "Divine Love and Wisdom," number 313; Swedenborg, "Arcana Coelestia," number 4322). What is important for us is to seek to be of use or service in creation. Our service is to people – and also to all in creation.

"Our caring in creation takes different forms. We can learn from nature as a guide; for example, learning from the arrival of spring and the growth of trees. We can seek to not harm and also to benefit and nurture with our presence in creation. We can join in efforts to preserve creatures and the earth and efforts to restore wherever possible when harm has been done. This caring involves individuals, as with a pet, wild animal, or tree. It also involves collective beings, such as forests and meadows. We can seek as far as possible to do no harm to and act to preserve and restore individuals, species, and environments. We can do all that is possible to conserve and recycle, and to seek and use renewable resources. We can act to curb and reduce, as far as possible, all forms of pollution.

"A favorite hiking area for me, when I was able to hike it, was Franconia Ridge in the White Mountains. Many of the forests in the White Mountains were devastated by logging and by fire. Now, restored by nature's rejuvenation and human support of preservation, there are incredibly beautiful forests in the White Mountains again. Nature rejuvenates itself in many ways. God works to bring about healing in creation. Our part is to be caring servants and stewards in creation. Our gifts as humans need to be used not to dominate nature but to care, nurture, and serve. In many ways nature, other life forms, the earth, are all around you. You need them, and they need you. God, help each of us to be at home in creation, and on earth, through a life of caring."

A Celebration of Women's History Month

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005

The Reverend Dr. Tina T. Saxon, did an outstanding job as guest preacher for the celebration of Women's History Month held at the church on this Sunday. The title of Reverend Saxon's sermon was "Women as Nurturers"; and she sent a rousing and electrically dynamic message to all of us! Also extraordinary were the piano performance and the singing of her daughter, Kiana Saxon. (It has been agreed that Kiana should be invited back to perform.) Thanks should go to the ladies of the church – Anna H. Brown, Chairperson of the Event, and her numerous enthusiastic helpers, including Mary Guarino, Josie Calareso, Tina Burm, Thelma E. Hawkins, Brenda Ellis, Juliet Cunningham, and others – all of whom helped to make this event successful. Juliet Cunningham located six works written by prominent women poets and personalities. These works were eagerly read by six different women at six different intervals throughout the service. Tina Burm purchased pink

and yellow tableclothes and strung yellow crepe paper across the assembly hall to gladden our day. Thelma and Brenda worked on the church decorations and also put together a small tokens of appreciation and honor (porcelain Faberge-style eggs) for the women of our church. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful members and friends of the church involved in assisting in the Sunday morning worship services, and other church functions. It is good to see so many members willing to devote their time and talent to the church. Several of the ladies volunteered time to assist at various tasks during the work week. Special thanks are extended to Mary Guarino, Josie Calareso and Anna H. Brown for their assistance. The success of this event illustrates that close and harmonious cooperation between a number of individuals in our Church can result in good times and a gratifying sense of unity and purpose.

In Memoriam

Marcella Reynolds Porreca

Condolences to Thelma E. Hawkins on the passing of her sister-in-law, Marcella Reynolds Porreca.

Clement E. Walsh, 74, of Boston, who worked for 32 years in the state House of Representatives, died on March 3. Mr. Walsh, know as "Clem" to family and friends, was born in Dorchester and graduated from the Hickox School of Business in Boston. He worked as a page in the House of Representatives and was promoted to assistant clerk by Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., then speaker of the Massachusetts House. Mr. Walsh also worked for the law firm of Joyce and Joyce, using his knowledge of the legislative process to assist the firm's clients. He enjoyed hockey and baseball, and was a catcher and manager for the Hamilton baseball team in the Boston Park League. Expressions of condolence were sent to Mr. Walsh's brother, Eugene.

Reverend Harold Cranch (1911-2004)



Reverend Harold Cranch, former interim pastor of the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem, Inc. passed into the higher life of uses. Reverend Cranch, although a minister of the General Church of the New Jerusalem, ordained in 1941, served as interim pastor of BSNJ for a few years. He was succeeded by Reverend Ellis who became the church's sixth pastor since its founding in 1818. Reverend Cranch was related to Thomasine Minot, an original member of the Boston Church. Reverend Ellis, before becoming full pastor of the church, enjoyed many times with Reverend Cranch. Reverend Cranch's wife, Jean, who was related to John Potts, of Potts's Concordance fame (a Swedenborgian concordance to the writings of Swedenborg), preceded her husband into the spiritual world six years ago. A memorial was held at the La Crescenta Church in California.

Mrs. Freya King

Miriam Synnestved, General Church Outreach, informed the pastor that Mrs. Freya King, wife of Bishop Emeritus Louis King, entered the higher life of uses on Monday February 28th. The address for Rev. Louis King is PO Box 512, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009. Our pastors, Reverend G. Steven Ellis, and Reverend Dr. Ted Klein, and members of the church, extend their condolences to the family.

Poem

Written by Reverend Ellis, March 4, 2005

Please know that I love you all even with all my flaws...Steve

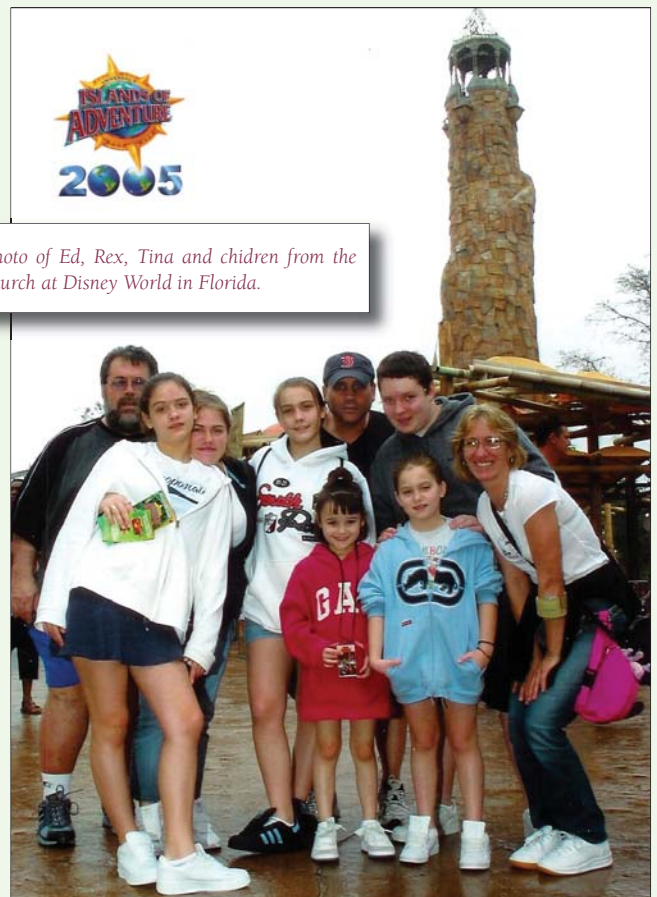
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"Lord, let your light shine brightly through me
 As billows toss on life's dark sea.
 And when with waves I tend to vie,
 To seek the shores that far off lie,
 Find in this moment, Thy purpose sure,
 Thy light shine now, in me so pure.
 May I not flee, and leave to drown,
 My hapless neighbor sinking down,
 Beneath the waves, the waters sup,
 To drink of life's dark bitter cup.
 Forgetting self, share other's pain,
 And only then, yon haven gain."



Photo of Ed, Rex, Tina and children from the church at Disney World in Florida.





Correspondence

Dear Members and Friends,

"I received an email (printed below) from Mary Jo Davis, member of our church, who lives in Kentucky. Larry and Mary Jo both suffered heart attacks recently. Larry also lost his grandfather. They have been through many hardships, but maintain a strong faith in God, and our Church. Mary Jo holds periodic meetings in her home where people gather to have church, and to read and talk about the Bible and Swedenborg. Both Mary Jo and Larry have professional nursing backgrounds. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Rev. G. Steven Ellis"

Here's the email from Mary Davis:

"Hi all,

I am writing this from the hospital room. Just wanted you all to know I'm still breathing. Larry and I both have just become broken down from all we have been through these last few months. My body just couldn't take anymore. But God willing He still has more work for me to do on this planet. I love you all, keep praying for us.

Love, Mary Jo"

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Told by Mary Guarino and Typed by Anna Hunt Brown

An airplane with four people (a pilot, a politician, a young man, and a priest) and three life-saving parachutes on board developed engine trouble and began losing altitude. The pilot immediately ran out of the cockpit, announced the impending disaster; and stating, "I'm an airplane pilot, therefore I am completely necessary to society and the world can't possibly afford to lose me!" grabbed one of the parachutes, donned it, and jumped from the plane.

Realizing that there were now three persons on board the plane, but only two parachutes left, the politician quickly shouted, "I'm the world's smartest politician and thus am absolutely indispensable to society, considering all the funds I obtain for my district and all of the social service work, etc. I do for the community. He then very speedily jumped out of the plane.

Now only the young man and the priest were left/ How would they resolve their situation? The priest graciously said, "Young man, you take the remaining parachute and jump to safety! You are much younger than I am, and thus deserve to live a long life. I'll go down with the plane!"

"Oh, father, that won't be necessary at all! Worry not!" said the young man consolingly to the priest. "I just observed the "world's smartest politician" jumping out of the plane with my backpack! Therefore, there are still two good parachutes left; let's each take one and jump to safety!"

A Letter to Edward J. MacKenzie, Jr.

Dear Eddie Mac:

"I know that you are a busy man, what with your book and raising two wonderful daughters, but I wanted to tell you that I am very thankful for you giving me your book. Since I got it from Clint I have been sucked into your life, and every page draws me in even more. I can wait to see the movie, although I am sure that it will be nothing compared to meeting you, and reading about the life you lived. After every chapter I stop and ask myself how you could have lived through that one, or how you make it out of there alive. I still can't believe it sometime when I am reading about you and Frankie shooting up the projects and the car dying, the whole time I had to remind myself that I met you, so you had to live through it. I still can understand how you got out of there without packing a beating home. Oh, or when those drug dealers beat your brother and you went there for the money, and got their money, and their drugs, only to find the cops coming up the stairs. To read those stories and know that you changed your life helps me to know that I'm not the only one, and I have that much more to work to word. I am a lot younger than you were when you turned your life around, so I had better work even harder to keep it that way. Again, thank you for your book, and the simple words left for me.

Live Large and Train Hard.

Thanks, John John"



Edward Mackenzie, Jr. at Western Kentucky University addressing students about the importance of life's decisions.

WORDS OF THE MONTH

Shrove and Maundy

Shrove (as in "**Shrove Tuesday**" or "**Shrove tide**"). Past participle of the verb "to shrive" -- shrieved, shrove, or shriven. From Old English scrifan, akin to German schreiben, to write, from Latin scribere, to write. To make one's confession, go to confession. "Shrove tide" is the Period just before the beginning of Lent when people used to go to confessions every day and also enjoy festivities.

Maundy (as in "Maundy Thursday"). The Thursday before Easter: From Middle English maunde, ceremony of washing the feet of the poor: From Old French mande, derived from Latin mandatum "commandment of God". Derived from the Latin mandate, as it was the custom to use mandatum at the beginning prayers preceding the ceremony of washing the feet, in order to commemorate the act of Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3 Find a Rainbow Day; Daylight Saving Time Begins (At 2 am set clock ahead one hour); 10 am Community Fellowship and Bible Study; Guest Sam Starobin, Jewish Community, Boston Interfaith and Mushtaque Mirza, Islamic Community of Boston, and descendant of The Prophet Mohammed through his mother's side. 11 am Worship: Make Them One
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	10 Celebrating the Birthday of Reverend Thomas Worcester; 11 am Worship with Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 10 am Swedenborg Class and Continental Fair 11 am Worship (Rev. Ted Klein presiding)
18	19	20 12 Noon Senior Luncheon	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24 Pesach/Passover
25	26	27 <i>National Administrative Professionals' Day</i>	28	29 <i>Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day; Arbor Day</i>	30	



Church on The Hill (Swedenborgian)
The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Inc.

140 Bowdoin Street, Beacon Hill
Boston, MA 02108-2799



“ Everything can be improved. ”

- Clarence W. Barron
Beloved Member of the Boston Church
Born July 2, 1855, in Boston; died Oct. 2, 1928
President, Dow Jones & Company (1912-28)
Editor of the Wall Street Journal
Founder and Editor, Barron's, (1921)