



Established
1818

CHURCH on the HILL

MAY 2005
(Jewish Year 5765)
Vol. II, Issue 5

GOING OUT from EGYPT

Rev. Dr. Ted Klein

(This article is based on a sermon given on February 6, 2005. The sermon and article of this year build on last year's sermon and article on "Deliverance from Egypt.")

The Exodus story offers compelling images of deliverance and liberation, relevant to our lives and the world in which we live. Consider what in your life and lives of others is like slavery in Egypt. What would passage out of these conditions be like? What would change in this passage? We bring a variety of conditions from which we need, with the help of God and others, to be freed.

The theme of "Going out from Egypt" connects with February as Black History Month. Movements from slavery to freedom are a critical part of Black History. Movements of African Americans and others toward equal participation is an ongoing effort which calls for much further work.

Two kinds of oppression that weigh people down are oppression in societies and inner oppression. With oppression in society some people dominate over other people, and those dominated are pressed down and constricted. Inner oppression is a spiritual condition that enslaves or drives, as when someone is dominated by fears or driven by wanting to get back at people. Inner oppression helps to keep oppression in societies in place. An example is a fear of working to keep those oppressed from seeking freedom and those oppressing from sharing power with others.

God continually works to bring people out of oppressing one another and into community.

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**Ministers:**

The Reverend G. Steven Ellis, *Senior Pastor*
The Reverend Dr. J. Ted Klein, *Pastor*

**Executive Officials:**

Rex B. Ellis, *President*
Mary Guarino, *Vice President*
Tina Burm, *Secretary*
John Burke, *Treasurer*

Emeritus Officials:

Michael Latkowitz, *President Emeritus*
Thelma E. Hawkins, *Secretary Emeritus*

THE CHURCH ON THE HILL (SWEDENBORGIAN), 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.

About The Church on the Hill

The roots of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem are traced back to 1784, to the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. Admirers of the philosophy of Swedenborg gathered at the tavern in a theosophical group that eventually organized the church in Boston in 1818. Chartered in 1823, the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem is the first Swedenborgian church established in Massachusetts. Members of the church met in several locations before finally settling in 1845 in its present location atop Beacon Hill, a location that inspired the more informal and more recognized name by which the church today is known: The Church on the Hill.

Through the years, membership of the church has included the noted Timothy Harrington Carter; founder of the Old Corner Book Store; Sampson Reed, mentor of Ralph Waldo Emerson; Lydia Maria Child, abolitionist; Warren Felt Evans, Healer; Theophilus Parsons, Dean of Harvard Law School; Theophilus P. Chandler, Architect; Clarence Barron, financier/editor of the *Wall Street Journal* and President of Dow Jones; George James Webb, hymnologist; and The Honorable Malcolm Nichols, Mayor of Boston.

A beautiful Gothic Revival structure served the membership until the mid-1960s when it was replaced with a new church facility and an eighteen story high-rise apartment building. Today, the main sanctuary of the church is accessible from Bowdoin Street. The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem is the birthplace of the Boston Clergy and Religious Leaders Group for Interfaith Dialogue that was founded by The Reverend G. Steven Ellis and The Reverend Carl Scovel, Rector Emeritus of King's Chapel. The church has also served as a place of worship and gatherings for the local Muslim Community and other faith-based communities. The church organizes and conducts monthly senior luncheons as well as operas, theatricals, musicals, and concerts. Use of the church facility is offered to human service and outreach organizations.

Church GOALS Adopted by Church Council and Trustees

- 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.
- 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.)
- 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.
- 4. Envisioning:** To enhance, keep viable, and expand our church programmatic services and outreach to our church community and the greater Boston community.

GOING OUT from EGYPT

Continued from front page...



And God continually works to bring us out of our inner oppressions and more and more to good. These changes take time. We may find ourselves returning to and resisting letting go of attitudes and behaviors which need to change, as when we return, for example, to seeking to control others or get caught up in compromising honesty to get approval. "Going out from Egypt" movements in society may only come through many struggles; for example, from those in control resisting change and in conflicting interests pulling in different directions.

Swedenborg describes true freedom as loving others and seeking to benefit others (Swedenborg, *Arcana Coelestia*, No. 2872). Seeking to dominate others may seem like a path of freedom, but it is actually a form of driven inner slavery (Swedenborg, *Divine Providence*, No. 43) Real freedom involves seeking good of others (Swedenborg, *Divine Providence*, No. 43). Think of the great happiness and freedom in being able to contribute, responding to others, being part of people working together.

If people living in communities move out of oppression in their communities, there is service to one another and love and caring grow. Living a life of service in community helps to set us free from inner oppressions: people coming to not be driven, for example, by fear, hate, or wanting to be in control. With "Going out from Egypt" there is more and more oneness among and within people.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, help us to follow paths out of our own Egypts, and to be with others on their paths to freedom. Help us to step by step build community. Protect and guide our efforts for bringing more love and oneness into the world. Amen.

**Email from the Desk of Colonel Rex Ellis:**

After a refreshing ten days off the job, I'm back ready to work hard and get some "stuff" done. What a beautiful day today, sunny and warm. I came from 65 degrees into 30 degree weather with snow on the ground. Wow! When does spring come around here? I am enjoying a fresh pot of coffee while I send out this message. You all have been so good to me making my job enjoyable. I always say if you enjoy your work you will do a better job. Thanks for all of your support. I will be in early Sunday morning ready for a full day. Mom and pap Ellis send their love and warm wishes for each of you, wishing that they could be with us in the services. If I can be of any help to any of you call me 24/7 at 617-248-8806. This phone number is connected to my email. If you leave a message, I will get back to you ASAP ~ otherwise, call me at the church. I will be in Monday through Friday. FYI, my daughter, Alex, graduates from college this semester, summa cum laude. She will start her master's degree program this summer. She will be doing missionary work in the spring and fall between classes, working with indigenous Indian tribes in the Bahaman Islands and South America. She was selected outstanding senior of the graduating class of 2005. I'm very proud of her accomplishments and love her appreciation of our church. I love my church, and I love each of you. Pass this on to those who do not have access to this email. Rex

In Loving Memory

Our deepest sympathy to Thelma E. Hawkins on the passing of her sister-in-law, Marcella Reynolds Porreca. Thelma sends the following:

She was the wife of my dear brother, Louis H. Porreca, who passed away in Feb. 1995. I am lost with all my best friends and loved ones that have gone, but I do have my brothers and sisters of the Church.

First my mom went, then my brother, then my sister, and then Marcella who was my big sister. She lived 95 years, and was still driving her car in Beverly and was active in the Church, as was my brother.

These people have been real Christians, and helped everyone, as my mom and sister also did. I have so many fond memories of the good times we all had. I am not sad and I know they are happy and at peace and are looking over me. Thank you for your prayers. I am feeling much better. My eyes were so bad from the concussion, but are much better now.

Our deepest sympathy to Matt Oliva in the passing of his aunt Harriet from California, the oldest sister of Matt's mother.

Our condolences to George Pais on the passing of his aunt, Amelia Pais. Sandy contributes the following in memory of Amelia Pais:

George's aunt's name was Amelia Pais. She had cancer for 17 years and attributed her longevity to the Lord. She and her husband, John, as well as their children were very religious. Her Christmas presents were invariably a religious book, and she gave Bibles out like candy. Her son is pastor of a very small village church in Washington State. He is also a fireman, E.M.T., and on the town council. The village is so small that everyone helps out in a small way – mostly on a volunteer basis; that's right: no pay.

They set up a memorial fund for Amelia, and we will send a donation for the village church – a church that does a great deal of good. Amelia was a wonderful woman. We loved her a great deal, and even though she was so religious she never preached when we talked. She would thank God every so often when we were having a conversation but she never tried to foist her religious thoughts on anyone unless they asked her. Aunt Amelia and Uncle John were married for 50 years; Uncle John was devastated when she died. But he also understood that Amelia had been bed-ridden and in pain, and that in passing she had gone to a better place and she suffered no more.

Just before closing her eyes for the last time, Amelia said, "I want to go to the Lord, it's time." John said he accepted his wife's passing because he couldn't stand to watch her in pain and felt it selfish to want her to stay with him. Aunt Amelia's memorial service was held in Skowhegan, Maine. We will truly miss her.

New Membership Applications

Andrea Martin: An application for renewal of full membership for Andrea Martin was unanimously voted at the March church council, Sunday, March 13, 2005. The application will go before the full membership for acceptance at the call of the Chair.

Rev. Catherine Ono: An application for full membership for the Reverend Catherine Ono was unanimously voted at the April church council, Sunday, April 10, 2005. The application will go before the full membership for acceptance at the call of the council chair.

Please Remember in Prayer

Mark Oliva, brother of Matt Oliva, needs our prayers for physical healing. Matt shared his Easter with his brother and they had a wonderful home cooked meal together.

Marjory Hymans, member of our church, is recuperating from a recent illness. We miss "Marge" at church where she has attended every Sunday faithfully over the years.

Thelma E. Hawkins, emeritus secretary and long time member of our church, needs our prayers. Thelma writes,

Dear Steve, thank you for all your kind words and prayers that you asked of everyone for me. I know the Green's Palm Sunday must have been beautiful. I haven't missed a Palm Sunday in I don't know how long. I know that horrible night of my trip home that the angels were watching over me and the Lord was taking care of me. I knew I had a concussion, by the way I was feeling, but did not lie down to sleep, which was a good thing. I did go to the funeral because my sister-in-law treated me like her little sister, since she was an only child and my brother (her husband) was like a father to me. Both of them guided me and helped me through life. I am feeling better but the Dr. said to take things slowly. Anyway God Bless all of you for your prayers.

As for Mary Jo Davis, a member of our church who lives in Kentucky, a beautiful prayer and healing she sent me. I was in tears of love from her. She is a most God-loving and dedicated woman in the uses of Swedenborg. She does so much for everyone. I am still praying for her and Larry. Please tell them I thank them for all they do and the Lord's Blessings is shining brightly upon them. LOVE, THELMA

Mary Jo and Larry Davis, members of our church who live in Kentucky, need our continued prayers after recent illnesses and the loss of family members.



Mom and Aunt Martha Campbell in North Carolina are having a wonderful southern down home cooked breakfast. Martha is the aunt of Pastor Steve and Rex. Aunt Martha and her husband, the late Wayne D. Campbell, brother of Mary Ellis, hosted a memorable pig picking for members of the Swedenborgian Convention when the Convention was held in Boone, North Carolina.

Andrea Martin, member of the church, and daughter of Dorothy deB. Young, at Easter. The photo was taken by Andrea's son, Scott. Andrea, a gifted writer and wonderful supporter of the church, has contributed articles to our newsletter and helped us tremendously in other ways as well. Photo by Scott Martin



Exciting NEW Happenings

The Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice made a presentation to BSNJ leaders on Thursday, April 7, at the church. Our church council and trustees mutually agreed to work with this interfaith group and offered their support and the use of the church for meetings of the committee. Reverend Ellis and Reverend Klein will serve as participating board members. The new relationship is timely and fits in nicely for a renewed community outreach by the church. Rev. Klein also commented that he thought the meeting with the Interfaith Community was valuable and productive, and he learned a lot.

New Song Book: We are starting a new collection of your favorite hymns and songs to go into a new worship and music book for the church. You are invited to make a request, or to bring any hymns or songs to church and give them to Juliet Cunningham, Minister of Music, for placement in the new book. We are trying to adapt our music to the needs of our growing congregation.

New Jerusalem Church Shopping Event: A "church shopping" event was held on Sunday, April 10, 3-5 PM at Hill House, 74 Joy Street, on Beacon Hill. At the request of our pastor, The Reverend Dr. Klein represented our church at the event as a pastor of this church. Astrid Muller, a member at King's Chapel in Boston, sent our church an invitation to join in this opportunity to reach out into the religious community. What the "church shopping" event entails is that, on invitation, local area houses of worship are invited to set up tables of information about their church. People who are interested in finding out more about local organizations will be able to do this "one stop shopping" and see if a particular house of worship is a good fit for them.

New Website for the Church: The Church council and trustees voted to explore creating a Website for our Church. We have several capable experts in the church who are willing to help in this endeavor.

Ruah Spirituality Institute: The Church council and trustees voted to support the *Ruah Spirituality Program* by providing the use of the Church facilities for an all-day program (8:30 AM to 4 PM) on September 16, 2005. The title of the program is "Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations." Here is a description of the program: Do you long to bring your soul to work? Does your organization (business, healthcare facility, non-profit, even church) seem to have lost its soul? How can you exercise spiritual leadership in your workplace and other organizations in which you serve? This will be an experiential seminar, in which participants' own experiences in organizations will form the foundation for the day's reflections. Guided meditations, discernment exercises, and other spiritual practices will supplement the presentation of principles and practices that enhance soul at work. Margaret Benefiel, Ph.D., teaches at Andover Newton Theological School and offers consulting and spiritual direction to leaders and organizations. She has published widely and her new book, "Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations" (Seabury Books), will appear this summer.

The Interfaith Based Initiative: The church council and trustees voted to support the Interfaith Based Initiative as suggested by our new Interfaith Community Initiative consultant, Robert (Bob) von Wolfgang. Bob's plan is targeted to accomplish the following:

1. Fulfill our Christian mission to assist and help the less fortunate.
2. Generate more positive public relations for the church.
3. Get back into operating as a social service provider and receive recognition by the movers and shakers in the Boston area for our work and accomplishments, especially the work and accomplishments of Rev. Steve.

Bob writes:

After discussions with both of you (Rev. Ellis and Ed Mackenzie) about starting the process with regard to the Interfaith Community Initiatives, I am pleased to submit for your review and agreement a proposed outline of activities for the next six months. I am sure you both feel now is the time to act, and believe the potential of the initiatives will be an important part of the Church on the Hill's mission to provide the necessary services for the less fortunate in our society. Programs in the following areas will be organized as a beginning of the process:

- *English as a Second Language (ESL) for adult immigrants and non-English speakers*
- *Classes to assist immigrants groups in passing the INS citizenship test for US citizenship.*
- *First-time home ownership assistance*

After a six-month period has ended, Church on the Hill officials and Robert von Wolfgang will conduct a thorough evaluation of the programs. On completion of the evaluation, a decision will be made on whether to continue the programs. This agreement shall be covered by all state and federal laws where they apply.

182nd Anniversary Dinner: The church's plan to host an anniversary dinner some time in 2005, in recognition of the achievements of the church for more than 182 years, was unanimously approved by the church council and trustees. Robert (Bob) von Wolfgang is heading a committee to plan this happy occasion.



Robert von Wolfgang and Mayor Hoang Nghien at Hanoi City Hall in Vietnam

CHURCH EVENTS

Worship Service in Celebration of the 68th Anniversary of the First Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, Inc., (258 Main Street, Mashpee, MA 02649): A number of our church members and friends loaded onto the bus and went to celebrate the happiness of our friends in the celebration of their church anniversary on beautiful Cape Cod. We enjoyed the lovely ride, and the inspirational service. The dinner was excellent and what shall we say of the huge cake decorated with fresh chocolate-covered strawberries. Well, for some of us who were on diets it was a *no-no*, but just the same a joy to watch everyone having a delightful dinner together. *Uh, Ed, are you sure you saw me eat a tiny sliver of the anniversary cake?*



Bishop Green delivers a powerful sermon.



Making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Juliet Cunningham, Minister of Music, takes to the piano at the Mashpee Church

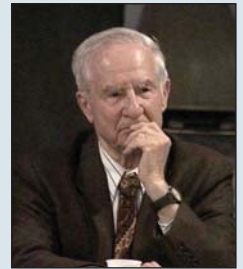


The Choir at the Anniversary Service in Mashpee, Massachusetts.

All Photos by David Dorsey

Community Fellowship & Bible Study:

A riveting discussion of the Middle East situation, entitled, "The Middle East on the Verge! Of What?" was given at our church by Sam Starobin, member of the Jewish Community and Boston Interfaith Group. Sam managed to move through a vast amount of historical material that brought us from Josephus, Jewish Historian, through the Crusades and Zionism to the current situation in the Middle East. His message was optimistic that peace is more probable now than in recent years with the prospects of a Palestinian state in the offing and the ongoing peaceful diplomacy between the leaders of Israel and Palestine. We were sorry that Muchtaque Mirza, of the Islamic Community in Boston, was unable to attend at the last minute. Muchtaque's mother is a direct descendant of Mohammed.



Sam Starobin listening to questions.



Sam Starobin and JP Guinieri, member of the church, listening intently.

Photos by David Dorsey

Rev. Ellis writes,

"For service that Sunday, I enjoyed preaching on Ishmael and Isaac, both sons of the Holy Prophet Abraham, in reference to their psychological / spiritual meaning for our life. Ishmael has come to stand as an archetypal symbol of the Arabs, Isaac as a Prototype of the Jew (Jesus - Meshiach), Esau of the Gentile (Rome), Jacob of the Jew. Swedenborg writes that Ishmael was the natural rational, and Isaac the spiritual rational. Shalom l'hitraot, Pastor Steve

On Sunday, April 10, 2005 a celebration of the birth and pastorate of Rev. Dr. Thomas Worcester (b. 1795 – d. 1875) was held at the church.

The theme of the celebration was taken from Matthew 5:14: "A city set on a hill cannot be hid..." Rev. Worcester, of very prominent early New England stock, achieved prominence in his own right, including his pastorate and serving as an Overseer of Harvard University. A cake adorned with the portrait of Rev. Worcester was indulged in and enjoyed by all ~ except for the pastor. ☺

Guest Speaker: The church council voted to invite the Rev. Dr. Dorothea Harvey, General Pastor of the Massachusetts Association of the New Jerusalem Church, to be a guest preacher at one of our Sunday services. Rev. Dorothea has been a lifetime devotee of the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, a Bible scholar; a professor; a writer; and a gentle lover of God's great creation. Her father, John Harvey, was a beloved member of the Boston Church..



Correspondence

Robert von Wolfgang on Easton and the Church on the Hill:

Dear Reverend Steve and Eddie, Please accept my sincere praise for a superb job on organizing and presenting the Easter weekend services and meals. Ed, you did a fantastic job on everything you touched; it was just wonderful. I am sure everyone would agree in the congregation that we all felt much closer to the "Passion of the Christ" this Easter than any prior Easton because of the way our leaders (attention Steven Ellis!) presented the occasion. Thursday night's event was very moving and the discussions with other members really created a great bond between us. I thank you for your efforts and sincerely mean it when I tell you this was my best Easter in a very long time!!! The feedback I have received from both of you concerning my recent email on the InterFaith Initiatives has been gratifying. I am ready to go and am determined to make this a great part of the mission for the Church on the Hill. Thank you so much for your confidence in my abilities. I will ask the Lord Jesus everyday to help me succeed in our project!! God Bless both of you fine gentlemen, Robert von Wolfgang ~ March 10, 2005

From Sandy Flaherty: Easter is the most holy of holidays besides Christmas. Both celebrate the life and death of Christ and help us to reflect on our lives and what we can do to make the world a better place. I hope I have contributed something worthwhile. Love Sandy & George

Rev. Ellis on the Church Choir and Music in the Church: As pastor, I have started regular meetings with the choir and Minister of Music to enhance the overall performance of our music. An ad hoc music committee to study the musical needs of the choir and congregation was formed with Carlton Doctor, choir member, as chair; Rev. Ellis, Rev. Klein, April Merriam, Karl Huff, Ed Mackenzie, and Juliet as members. Rev. Steve

We were happy to have special performances in our church services by: Keeana Saxon, pianist; Adriana Duarte, flautist; Ryan McGuire, bassist; Erin Blatt, soprano; Yumiko Mikami, xylophonist; Juan R. Chavez, violin; Jerron Oliver, rapper; and Dylan Halacy, drums.

More of Eddie Mac's Great Impact on Youth: A note from Tolman High School... I wanted to thank you for the book and autograph that you sent me. I am reading "Street Soldier." Right now I am reading the chapter about Whitey Bulger. It's a really awesome book and believe it or not "Street Soldier" is the first book I'm going to start reading and actually finish. I wouldn't have it any other way. Thanks for everything and showing me that education is really important, and that I need it in my life. Sincerely your friend, L. F.

Sandy Flaherty's Trip to Australia: We had a wonderful trip and even though it was almost a month, it was not enough time. Our friends were terrific hosts who live in Nova Scotia on Folly Lake in the summer, and in the fall and spring they spend their time in London where they keep a flat.

Patty Sacco, member of our church and the church council, enjoyed an exhilarating and refreshing month stay at her friend's home in beautiful Honolulu. While there she visited many sites and took in the warmth of the island.

Rev. Ellis Thanks Edward MacKenzie, Tom Kennedy, and Robert Von Wolfgang:

Ed and Tom, thanks for all you did in preparation for the visit at Bishop Green's church. It was a good feeling to be in worship with those dear people at their church. We have a great church, with the best team ever, and all the more reason why we manage to keep the morale of our church high even through the difficult times. Ed and Tom, both of you do a great job, and your faithfulness is exceptional. I don't remember when you two ever missed a service at the church. Bob, as for you, I am happy to know that you are a new trustee of the church. With your many and varied contacts, you bring so much expertise and great networking to the table. We are brothers and stand united in our conviction and determined purpose to have the best church ever on Beacon Hill. Rev. Steve.



Ed Mackenzie at Bishop Green's Church.
Photo by David Dorsey

Letter from Suffragan Bishop John D. Green, Pastor and Evangelist Cynthia M. Green, Assistant Pastor, First Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, Inc.: Dear Pastor Steve Ellis, Church on the Hill (Swedenborgian), Just a note to again say "thank you" for the precious fellowship with your congregation on Palm Sunday. Our congregations certainly have created something unique in fellowship among "the brethren."

We vividly remember some years ago when you walked into our church and began a friendship that has spanned many bridges. You have been through your "valley and shadow of death," but through the prayers of your friends and loved ones, God has brought you out victoriously.

The Church on the Hill can certainly be commended for the support you have given to those who are in need of assistance whether individually or corporately. You most assuredly carry out the Scripture in [Psalm 41:1](#): "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

May God continue to shower blessings upon you, your congregation and your family. BE BLESSED!

In the Master's Service, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
[II Corinthians 5:7](#)

A Note from Joyce Bicknell (taken from an Easter card Joyce sent to Rev. Steve): Dear Rev. Steve, It was good to talk to you on the phone, your call was much appreciated. Knowing what goes on in the church is important to me. You are to be commended for consistently standing up for what you feel to be right. You are doing a great job of making our church known, respected, and useful in the larger Boston community. Keep on "fighting the good fight." Warm regards to you and Brenda, [Joyce Regamey Bicknell](#). (Joyce is the daughter of late Reverend Antony and late Peggy Regamey.)



Antony Regamey (b. 1899 – d. 1976)
was pastor of the New Church in Boston 33 years.

Holy Week and Easter Celebration from our Pastor:

Thank you for such a wonderful and glorious Easter! Because you, the members and friends of the church, cared, we had a great time at the church over the Easter Holy Days, beginning on Thursday of Holy Week. What a time together! The sanctuary was decorated beautifully for the occasion. Brenda Ellis and I did the altar setting, with the inspirational painting of Christ's passion by Patrick Anderson. Thanks, Brenda, for the extra attention to detail. Matt Oliva and David Dorsey did the lighting, and that made the scene very realistic. Juliet did a superb job with the music. The instrumentalists were fantastic! April Merriam did an outstanding solo, and what a beautiful voice. Go April! Carlton's rendition of, "There is a Balm in Gilead," should be on a "Gold Album." Last but by all no means least, major thanks to our own Karl Huff, with his personal charm and ability to master songs from classical to gospel to pop, is blessing for our church. And you've got to hand it to the choir, folks ~ for performance and dedication; they are headed for an Emmy. For the first time ever in my memory, we had "Maundy Thursday" service at our church. This was followed by a fabulous Agape meal – which is Christian fellowship "love feast" – prepared by our own devoted member, Eddie Mac. The masterfully decorated tables were lavish, with an exciting variety of delectable dishes served, from humus to mouthwatering baked fish with rice pilaf. The community of believers gathered around the table made it a holy night to remember. The Good Friday service was modeled on the notion of a Tenebrae service (Tenebrae being Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") that focuses on Christ's suffering on the cross, with a specific emphasis on the "last seven words" Christ uttered before he gave up his spirit. Rev. Ted gave a thoughtful meditation on why we call the day "good" when in fact Jesus was crucified. Mary Guarino read the last sayings of Christ on the cross, and JP Guenrei snuffed the candles. JP told me that he was really moved by the service in that it was the first time he was at the altar since his days as an altar boy in the Catholic Church. Saturday, Rex arrived back to Massachusetts from his whirlwind travels with mom, dad, his daughter, Alex, and her boyfriend, Doug. Saturday night through early morning Easter Sunrise, several of us gathered in the church for an all night vigil. Unlike, Jesus' disciples who fell asleep, Ed Mac kept us all awake with Chinese take out, and nibbles, and some DVD. Patty Sacco brought a friend. She had just gotten back from a month visit to Hawaii to be with her friends who live in Honolulu (and what an awesome time she had visiting). Andy McLain did the watch check to see if it was time for the sunrise service. At 5:30 in the morning, thanks to Rex and Mike Bancewicz, the two angels, the stone rolled away from the door and we all gained access to the rooftop of our building for a very cold and frosty yet breathtaking view of the city of Boston and the sunrise reflecting on the John Hancock and Prudential buildings. When the sun came up, the choir and instrumentalist started ringing out, "When this old world starts to getting me down, I climb way up to the top of the ROOF..." It was our very first ever sunrise service at church, and the very first ever service on the roof of the BostonView Apartment building atop historic Beacon Hill. We made our way back down 18 stories to the church for a warm breakfast featuring smoked salmon and boiled eggs. Then, it was time for Easter with all the potted lilies, Easter baskets and candy enough for all of us kiddies. A ham and raisin dinner was the whipped cream and cherry to top everything off. I just want to give every one of you a truly great big thank you from my heart for making our holy days at the church special and historical. For all of you who wanted to come to church, but could not make it due to family and other engagements, I hope your Easter was great in every way. Remember, Easter or coming to church should never be a "guilt trip." We should do things because we either need to, or want to and are able to do them ~ certainly not because we feel guilty not doing them. Coming to church, and being a part of the church life is good, but being with our families is equally as important. Swedenborg teaches us that "church" is primarily in the heart, and that wherever we are, "the church" is with us. So, on that note, wherever you were, you were there, and the Lord and all of us were there with you, wishing each of you the best of the Easter Season. Happy Easter! **Pastor Steve**

CONGRATULATIONS John !

John Thompson, long time friend and frequent participant at our church, was recently named the New England Aquarium's Volunteer of the Month. John wanted to make use of his education in biology and botany, and became a volunteer in Visitor Education at the aquarium. He spent his first summer in 1995 at the aquarium's Whale Watch conversing with visitors about whales. John, a survivor of cancer, has made a permanent friend at the aquarium with one of the sea turtles, who is also a survivor. We congratulate John on the recognition he received from the aquarium. John is also a loyal devotee of our church, often bringing his camera, and freely making and giving away his professional photographs gratis. John, in his quiet, unobtrusive way is always about doing something good and making others happy. It is a delight to have a person of John's convictions in our church.

Contributions & Church Council News

SAM (Social Action Ministries): Rev. Ted attends the Social Action Ministries Meeting Clergy Breakfast Group. He is also represented on the steering committee of our former clergy group.

In accordance with a request from our good friend, Claire Kashcuk, executive director of * **Metropolitan Ministries**, the church council and trustees voted to assist CASPAR in getting items needed most. Claire sends her appreciation for the support of the church. Pastor Steve sent the following reply to Claire,

"Shalom, I wanted you to know that our church council voted \$200.00 dollars to get needed items for CASPAR per your email. We plan to call them to see what is most needed, and assist to the sum voted. I miss seeing you, but am happy that so many good things are going on in the area to help the needy. I wish you a happy and high Purim. Shalom v'lihtraot, Rev. Steve *The Mission of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) is to bring people together across economic, religious, racial, and ethnic boundaries so that, in partnership, we can work more effectively for a just society.

Future Scholarship Fund Contest: The church council voted to form an ad hoc committee to explore the creation of a scholarship fund for students who have the capacity to excel, but lack the financial means to pay for college. Evaluated will be the possibility of granting scholarship money for deserving students to help pay the costs of attending Urbana University, Urbana, Ohio founded by Swedenborgians and supported by the Church for many years). As well there will also be a study of granting scholarships for the purpose of paying for college to deserving graduates of East Boston High School, an institution whose student population is largely from low to moderate income homes.

The Swedenborgian House of Studies: The church council and trustees have voted to explore granting financial assistance to the Swedenborgian House of Studies, Berkeley, CA. The Swedenborgian House of Studies assists the needy and teaches about Emanuel Swedenborg and Swedenborgianism.

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. *Holy Word*

MAY 2005


CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1 No Service due to the Walk for Hunger, instead please note the service is on the last Saturday in April.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 11 AM Worship: Mother's Day; 12 Noon Mother's Day Luncheon
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 10 AM Swedenborg Discussion with Rev. Ted 11 AM Worship Service (Rev. Dr. Klein with special guest from Urbana, Ohio.) 12 Noon Luncheon 1 PM Presentation by Dr. Head of Urbana, President of Urbana University, Urbana, Ohio. Urbana University was founded by a group of Swedenborgian who honoring the memory of Johnny Appleseed, established a school of higher learning.
16	17	18 12 Noon Senior Luncheon	19 10 AM - Church Council Meeting 11 AM - Trustees Meeting	20	21	22 11 AM Worship Service
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 9 AM Breakfast at church 10:30 AM Bus departs the church for a Memorial Day Service at Mount Auburn Cemetery, at the Rev. James Reed Gravesite. Visit gravesites of many of the beloved dead of our church and explore the grounds. A guided tour of the historic cemetery may also be possible.
30	31	June Calendar Preview				
		Saturday, June 4 10 a.m. Bible Study; 11 a.m. Worship			Sunday, June 18 CHURCH OUTING TO MAINE ... EATING AND FUN! (Bus departure and return times to be announced.)	
		Sunday, June 5 No Service due to the Walk for Aids, note that the service is on Saturday, June 4			Sunday, June 19 Happy Father's Day! (Service to be determined)	
		Sunday, June 12 11-11:30 a.m. Last regularly scheduled service until September 2005			Sunday, June 26 2nd Annual church youth day at Six Flags. Trip sponsored by the church.	
		11:30 a.m. Luncheon				
		12:30 p.m. Annual Members' Meeting				



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)

“Religion is wholly a matter of life and its life is doing what is good.” - Emanuel Swedenborg