

***Religion is of life, and the life of religion is to do what is good***  
*(Doctrine of Life 8)*

**The New Church** is an international organization of people striving to improve their conscious relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, the one God who rules heaven and earth.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and invite you to take what you like and return it freely. We use the Bible and the Heavenly Doctrine revealed by the Lord and published by Emanuel Swedenborg to guide us in our lives, especially in our relationships. We freely share our love and understanding with each other, and try to give one another support in our spiritual journeys.

Temporarily the Hurstville Society is without a **Pastor**. During this period the Society will be served by lay leaders and visiting preachers.

**Worship Services** are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM except the first Sunday of each month. But please check the calendar for each month in case of changes.

**A tea and social** in conjunction with **discussion** meets on one Monday of each month (January excepted) beginning at 7 00 pm. This will be conducted by visiting ministers when available or lay led as appropriate. Please check the calendar for the month for the exact date.

**The Swedenborg Bookroom**, at 22 Dudley Street, Penshurst, contains books by and about Emanuel Swedenborg for sale or loan. It is open by appointment.

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**<http://www.newchurch.org.au/hurstville>**  
Call or come at anytime.

## The New Church Newsletter

**Hurstville Society February 2012**



(L to R Revs Darren Brunne, Julian Duckworth, David Moffat, Martin Pennington, Glenn Alden, Chris Skinner. (Peter Buss departed early)

### Phillip Island Family Camp

The annual summer camp held this year at Phillip Island in Victoria from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012 was once again a great success. Over 80 people from all over Australia and overseas enjoyed a stimulating and varied programme. This year the General Church was able to provide two ministers **Rev Glenn Alden** and **Bishop Peter Buss** to complement the New Church in Australia ministers, Revs Julian Duckworth, Chris Skinner, David Moffat, Darren Brunne and Martin Pennington.

Except on Thursday when most people were able to undertake an all day outing to nearby French Island the program consisted of family sessions in the morning followed after morning tea with programs geared to various age groups (children, teens, adults). Afternoons were free for various recreational pursuits on site (ropes course, wall climbing, flying foxes, canoes etc) or optional sessions.

Evenings included such things as a trivia night organised by the Ballarat young people, Board Games, visit to see the Fairy Penguins and of course the famous Talent Night on Saturday night to round things off. Regarding the Talent Night special mention is in order for **Norman Heldon**, age 94, who, dressed in character as an Aussie stockman, gave a rousing rendition of *The Man from Snowy River*.

Special thanks to **Rev Chris Skinner** and his wife **Margaret** who did so much to organise and keep the camp running smoothly. Next year the camp moves to Swanleigh near Perth Western Australia so start planning. Dates are 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013. <http://www.swanleigh.org.au/>

### **Grace Annie Horner**

7<sup>th</sup> August 1922 – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011



**Grace**, aged 89, passed peacefully into the spiritual world on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in her daughter **Margaret Heldon's** home in Loftus, Sydney. Grace's children came from far and near to attend the funeral. On Friday December 30<sup>th</sup> a private family service was held at Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland NSW followed by a Memorial Service at the Hurstville New Church, Penshurst, both services officiated by **Rev Glenn Alden**. Granddaughter **Rachel Heldon** with help from three of her sisters, **Carolyn, Angela** and **Michelle**, beautifully decorated the church to resemble a garden with a spectacular array of flowers.

**Donna Heldon** (the eldest sister), a graphic designer, produced lovely order of service booklets. Heart moving special music was sung by family members and a big thank you is given out to **Rev Julian Duckworth** for providing his expert instrumental piano music for the service. A huge thank you as well to **Lori Heldon** for organizing a luncheon in the Richard Morse

Endrede is the mother of six children including **Lori Heldon**. She is also the mother of a former Hurstville Society pastor **Rev Michael Gladish**. Lori was able to be there in time to say goodbye and attend the funeral.

Congratulations to **Phillippa Horner** for being accepted into the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts for the coming year.

Our thoughts are with **Rhonda** and **John Hall** at this time. John is in poor health and needing constant care.

**Shirley Taylor** is moving into Beechwood Aged Care Facility, 3-17 Albert St, Revesby 2212. She is able to take her home phone number with her.

The Hurstville Society has been fortunate to have **Bishop Peter** and **Lisa Buss** visiting from 21<sup>st</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> January, with Peter preaching twice. It was also a pleasure to have them at the Summer Camp at Phillip Island in Victoria in the first week of January before they travelled to Perth where Peter officiated at the wedding of **Lisa Smuts** and **Shaun Hester**.

### **Exciting News**

Barring a last minute hiccup **Rev Todd** and **Jenn Beiswenger** with five year old **Zach** will be making a visit to Australia for about three months starting at the end of February. Such a visit is allowed under the Department of Immigration rules while the visa application for permanent residency is being processed. This will enable Todd and Jenn to meet people in Hurstville and other parts of the country, look at schools for Zach and begin to make plans for when they move here permanently. Pencil in a **Pot Luck Lunch on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** after church to welcome them. Please bring a savoury and sweet to share. Drinks will be provided.

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to **John Hicks** (9<sup>th</sup>), **Mike Lockhart** (11<sup>th</sup>), and **Anne Lawrence** (21<sup>st</sup>)

*angels are so full of love that they touch the deepest reaches of life of the people they meet. I have been aware of them a number of times, and they have moved me deeply. (Heaven And Hell # 17)*

The Lord's love, like the light and heat of the sun of this world, is always there, always shining, but sometimes the clouds hide the sun. This happens when sometimes our personalities, egos, fears, and yes, even our evils, block the sun and leave the world around us cold and dark. We have a choice, when we feel darkness, either in ourselves or in others, to be open to love and let our light shine. I am continually amazed at the power of one small light from one individual to burn away the surrounding darkness and help others to experience warmth and light. "Let your light shine" Jesus said.

You are not alone in doing this. The heavens are surrounding us with light. "Above the clouds the sun is always shining."

So thanks so much Hurstville New Church friends and all our New Church friends in Australia for being who you are and making us feel so loved and so welcome. It brings out the best in us.

### News Notes

A memorial service for **Rev Bruce Williams** was held in Brisbane on the same morning (December 30<sup>th</sup>) as the service for **Grace Horner** in Sydney. Grace and Bruce were good friends so no doubt there has been a happy reunion in the spiritual world! Bruce, who was 97 when he passed on December 27<sup>th</sup>, had a very long, colourful and rewarding life which included managing a family farm in Fiji, serving in North Africa in the Second World War and finally beginning a full time ministry in 1964 in Melbourne, later serving in Perth and Brisbane.

Also adding to the population of the spiritual world is **Endrede Gladish** who passed on in Bryn Athyn USA on December 31<sup>st</sup> at the age of 86.

Room afterwards in spite of immediately needing to catch a plane to the USA to be with her own ailing mother.

In memory of Grace we are publishing some of the material from the Memorial Service. Grace has been associated with the Hurstville Society for most of her life but was fully involved in all its uses when she lived in Baringa next door to the church from early 1971 to Christmas 1975 while her husband Chris and sons renovated the old building and added the Richard Morse Room at the rear. Through this she patiently endured constant disruption to the family's daily routine. She actively supported the restoration of the tennis court on the church property, participated on committees and taught Sunday School. Her greatest contribution though was as organist for the society.

### Memorial Talk

by Rev Glenn Alden

On the third day after the Lord was crucified, women who had loved Him and followed him in the world came to the tomb to honour him, to anoint His body, and to grieve their loss. They were met by angels who said to them "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen." The Lord wants us to know and believe that even though a person's body dies and we do not see them again in this world, still the person does not die! He told His disciples: "In my father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

We are here to honour and remember Grace Annie Horner. It is good for us to take this time to feel our loss. It is good for us to remember and to celebrate the real person that Grace was and is again. The past number of years has been especially difficult as disease gradually robbed Grace of her own connection with who she was. Disease also robbed those who were with her of connection with that living, loving, vital person they had known and loved. I suspect that some of the grief that people feel today is more

about the loss of connection with Grace that they experienced over the past few years, than it is about her death. I doubt that anyone here would have wished for Grace to have lived a little longer. But her dying is still hard because in some way it marks the end of our physical connection to her. Her body will not be with us anymore, reminding us of the person who was once there. Today we are also here to turn our hearts and minds to the Lord with hope of a better life for our friend, mother, grandmother, Grace. The Lord invites us to rise out of that place of grieving: "Do not be afraid; only believe."

A person's body is only a covering of the real person. When it is young and healthy it is a marvellous covering. It enables the person to interact with the world in which she lives. By means of that body she can see and hear the things going on around her, can share her thoughts and feelings with others. To a certain extent the body is an image of the person who lives within it. But it is a limited image. Have you not felt the frustration of your soul because your body cannot do the things you still long to do? The soul is a cook, a gardener, a great musician and singer. But as the body ages, and especially when it is ravaged by disease, it lags behind and cannot begin to do all the things the soul would ask of it. The more our body ages the more profound the discrepancy becomes. No matter how old your body is, you yourself, living inside that body don't feel any older than you did twenty, thirty, fifty or more years ago. And the real person that you are has to learn to accept the limitations the aging body places on it.

When a person first wakes up in the next life, they are in a state much like they had been in the world. I imagine that they are free of physical diseases and restrictions, but they are living the life of their external self. They feel, think, and act in much the same way they did when healthy in the natural world. In this first state after death they will meet friends and family who have passed on before themselves. They will relate with them as they had in the world. Grace has no doubt already been reunited with her beloved husband Christopher. This was her hope, ever since he was taken from her some seventeen years ago. This reunion is what she has been longing for and holding out for ever since his death. They will have wonderful sweet times together, perhaps much as they did when they were young and in love so many years ago. This will be a time to reconnect and reunite.

experience. She loved to read and especially be read to. I recall as a child sitting and listening to Dad read all manner of things from novels to major poetical works while Mum was ironing, folding wash, mending clothes or making dozens of sandwiches for the next day's school and work lunches.

We will miss you Mum but we are so happy that you are yourself again and that great team of Chris and Grace is together again.

## Heavenly Joy

by Rev Glenn Alden

Our time in Australia has been like heaven. This isn't just because of all the strange, cute, and unique critters you have here. The Lord's love, expressed in the individual and collective of people; love lived and shared in the church as an organization and community, that has made my time in Australia like heaven.

Emanuel Swedenborg describes his own experience in heaven with these words:

*All my experience in heaven bears witness to the fact that the divine nature that comes from the Lord, affects angels, and constitutes heaven, is love. In fact, all the people there are forms of love and thoughtfulness. They look indescribably beautiful. Love radiates from their faces, from their speech, from every detail of their behaviour.*

*Further, there are surrounding auras of spiritual life that emanate from every angel and from every spirit and envelop them. By means of these auras one can recognize even from a distance the quality of the affections of their loves, since these auras flow out from the life of their affection and consequent thought - that is, from the life of their love and consequent faith. The auras that emanate from*

Sorrento, a beach town just south of Melbourne. Her Mother built “Diamond Cottage” there in 1932 which Mum eventually inherited in the late 1950s. This inheritance prompted a visit to Sorrento which led subsequently the purchase of the “Camp Store”, a general store and milk bar adjacent to the Sorrento foreshore camping area. The family owned and ran the store for about 10 years.

The first child, Graham was born in 1945, then followed the next 5 children over the next ten years, Pam 1947, Ralph 1948, Margaret 1951, Brian 1953, and Ken, who broke the neat boy/girl sequence, in 1955. David came along later in 1964 after the move to Sorrento. There were a lot of mouths to feed and although I am sure money was short, I have good memories of growing up in the Horner household and never felt I lacked for anything. I believe that Mum’s difficult childhood was something she wished to avoid at all costs in raising her own children and at this she certainly succeeded.

My impression is that we were given a lot of freedom in our development but we knew the boundaries, Mum & Dad’s relationship was open and honest and they made a great team in raising the kids by example. Certainly there were disagreements and arguments but they made a point never to go to bed without settling their differences or at least agreeing to disagree.

The children were mostly teens and early 20s when in early 1971, Mum and Dad moved to Hurstville, NSW to bolster the Society’s numbers and renovate the old Morse house “Baringa” next door to this church. After a stay of 5 years they moved again to “Baringa Vale” a rural property in the hills to the southeast of Tamworth, NSW.

Some of Mum’s dislikes included driving and snails. Mum would drive us to school if the weather was too bad for us to walk but I think she did it from necessity and when she no longer needed to drive she chose not to. She hated snails, those destroyers of the garden, and she would collect them and ruthlessly crush them underfoot, probably the most violent thing I saw her do.

Mum was the quiet provider, apart from her music she loved gardening, both vegetables and flowers, she was very knowledgeable in this and encouraged the children to participate, which was a great learning

The Writings of the New Church tell us that this first state of externals is only a transition into the states that follow as we are prepared for the fullness of life in heaven. Grace will soon begin to enter into the second state after death.

In the second state after death, the Writings tell us: “we are given access to the deeper reaches of our minds, or of our intentions and thoughts, while the more outward interests that engaged us in the first state become dormant.” (Heaven and Hell 499)

I think this can be a frightening and at the same time freeing time. People become themselves, as they are on the deepest level. They act out all their desires and lose all restraints of fear of loss of reputation, or punishment. But they also lose the external patterns of behaviour learned in childhood and youth. The external effects of hereditary evil, dysfunctional childhoods, and difficult challenges in life that do not accord with who they are inwardly are stripped away. In this way the person becomes who they really are. For people who are evil this can be frightening because their real character can no longer be hidden. But for people who have inwardly loved what is good, this inward goodness comes forth without restraints. I think it can be a wonderful time of discovery where we experience the fullness of our love. Especially for married couples, who have deeply loved each other, this can be an introduction into the bliss of heaven itself as they experience the inner joy of the Lord's love with greater fullness and clarity than they ever could while living in the body.

None of us can know with any certainty what this state of discovery will be like for ourselves, let alone for another. But if what we knew about Grace and her relationship to Christopher is any reflection of the real person she is, then this second state is going to be filled with joy and blessedness.

Those who are in the love of marriage, and especially those who tenderly love their own married partner already know these things. They know that marriage love is the highest love given to human beings by the Lord. They know that all other loves are descended, like infants, from the love of marriage, and that all delights and pleasures come from that love and are gathered together in the joys of that love. They know that marriage is eternal, and that those who have tenderly loved each other in this life will

continue to live together and love each other after death. For the Lord our God has ordained that a man shall leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh. A husband and wife who give themselves to this kind of relationship become so closely joined that she becomes, as it were, his heart, her loves become his love. And he becomes, as it were, her lungs, his wisdom becomes her wisdom. This love and this relationship grows and becomes deeper to eternity. Such love is rare in this world. It is a precious gift, and we are grateful for having learned something about it from couples like Grace and Christopher. Only the LORD knows the true state of an individual's life. Only the LORD knows the true state of any marriage. We judge by external evidence and appearances. But if the externals of Grace and Christopher's marriage in any way reflect the real state of that relationship, these two are becoming one, and they more and more, to eternity.

I Invite you to join me in Prayer.

## **Eulogy for Grace Annie Horner**

by Brian Horner

The Grace "Anne" Horner who has been with us for the last several years is not the mother we recall from our childhood and much of our adult life. Some of the characteristics we recall were of course still there, the sweet smile, the quiet caring nature, but the loss of her dear husband Chris some 17 years ago had saddened her and later the slow onset of dementia took away many of the abilities and characteristics that had been so much a part of her life.

Mum was born in Prahran, Victoria 7<sup>th</sup> August 1922. It was not an easy childhood, she never knew her father Albert Ernest Henden, who had died of an illness shortly before her birth and she was raised by her widowed Mother, Grace Bertha Victoria (Davis) Henden, until age 14 when her mother also died of an illness. Grace learned piano from her Mother, and her love of music persisted throughout her life. She was an accomplished church organist. As a young woman she played for services at the Melbourne New Church. For years she played for our family services and

after our family moved to Sydney in 1971 she played the organ for the Hurstville Society.

She did not talk much about her childhood. We do know that although she was christened Grace "Annie", she intently disliked the name Annie and adopted Anne (with an 'e') in its place whenever she could get away with it (her marriage certificate actually has Anne as her middle name). She was close friends with her schoolmate Joyce (Morris) Winter, a friendship that continued through much of her life. Joyce and her husband Eck were Auntie Joyce & Uncle Eck to us kids when the families got together.

Close to her Auburn, Victoria, home was "Pett's Sweets Shop" where she met and became friends with Caroline Pett, a young woman who worked in the shop and cared for her invalid uncle who was the owner. Caroline was a member of the Melbourne New Church and encouraged Mum to attend the Sunday school there. When Mum's Mother's died, Mum was left in the care of a man who had been a friend of her Mother's but who Mum disliked and distrusted. She removed herself from that situation and Caroline took her in and became her de-facto Mother. Caroline continued to live with our family until her death in February 1971 and to us kids growing up she was a much loved grandmother figure.

It was through the association with the Melbourne New Church that Mum got to know the Horner family. As a young woman she trained as a stenographer and typist and worked in this field in Melbourne. Grace and Chris were married in Melbourne 11<sup>th</sup> December 1942, after a 13 month engagement. This was during World War II and for the remainder of the war, while Dad was away in the service, Mum lived with Chris's parents on the family farm at Lancefield, Victoria. This again was not an easy time for Mum with Dad absent and the difficulty of living with her newly acquired "very English" in-laws.

After the war, Mum and Dad built a house in Lancefield and by that I mean they did the work themselves. We have a picture of Mum sitting up on the house frame sawing a length of timber. Sometime after the house was finished, Mum and Dad took over the running of the family farm and Dad's parents retired to the house in the town. The farm was their home for about 15 years. Mum had good memories of summer holidays with her Mother at