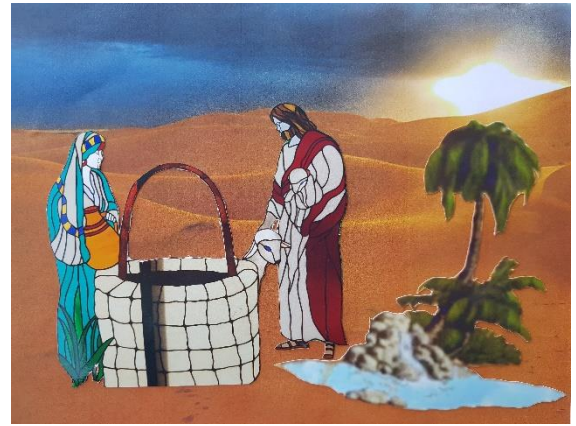


The Oasis



Nov. – Dec. 2018

Want to support this Newsletter? Please send your support to *Chris Clark* at:
5631 E. Shea Blvd, Scottsdale AZ 85254. Thanks



A Bimonthly Newsletter of **New Church Of Phoenix**

Bimonthly Newsletter of New Church of Phoenix – Contacts: *Rev. Jean Atta*, Pastor
Office: 480-991-0048. Facebook: fb.me/NewChurchofPhoenix Web Page: www.newchurchphoenix.org/
Email: newchurchphoenix@gmail.com 5631 E. Shea Blvd, Scottsdale AZ 85254 Issue #2

Happy New Year!

May the Almighty Lord, our Savior, continue to be your strength and guide. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones.



The Lord's Word

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. **John 10**

The principal reason why the Lord willed to be born on our earth, and not on another, was for the sake of the Word, in that it could be written on our earth, and when written could then be published throughout the whole earth; and once published could be preserved for all posterity; and that thus it might be made manifest even to all in the other life that God had become a Man. **Secrets of Heaven 9351.**

Sunday Worship

We meet Sundays, **10:30 a.m.**, at New Church of Phoenix, 5631 E. Shea Blvd, Scottsdale AZ 85254 .

- ✓ Bring a friend: a free book is given to all first time visitors
- ✓ Children's Program and Nursery are provided
- ✓ Coffee and refreshments are available

Doctrinal Discussion Group

This group meets at the church on Mondays at 1pm
You are all invited!

Bible Deeper-Study

You love the Word of God and want to know more?
This is your group!
This Bible Study group meets at the church.
Wednesdays 7Pm
Check us out on Meetup.com: Bible Deeper Study

Spiritual Journey Campaign

See Page 2 for more info

Church Reminders/Info

Hello New Church Of Phoenix Community,
Here are some reminders for January and February 2019:

- If you are interested in the Journey Campaign (Love Over Ego), please sign up to be in a small group. See signup sheet on the church info board.

Mondays

- Doctrinal Discussion group meets at 1:00 pm at the church. Book: *Love in Marriage (Conjugal Love)*

Wednesdays

- *Bible - Deeper Study*. We resume classes on January 9, 2019. This group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the church. You are welcome to join in anytime. Check for updates on our Meetup page. Go to Meetup.com and search "Bible Deeper Study" organized by New-Church-Of-Phoenix.

✓ **Jan. 13, 2019:** We start the **Journey Program (Love over Ego.)** - 6 sessions.

Being confident does not mean being cocky. Being humble does not mean being weak, or full of shame. True confidence and humility come from a place of knowing your worth, feeling grateful, and wanting to be useful. Love Over Ego follows the biblical story of Daniel from his early days as a child captive in Babylon, to becoming one of the most respected leaders of the nation. Throughout each chapter, we witness the clash between the ego of the Babylonian rulers and the humble confidence of Daniel and his friends. The story offers a rich narrative for exploring questions such as: What is the difference between arrogance and genuine confidence? What is our true identity? As Daniel and his friends boldly face the powerful Babylonian rulers, we glimpse ways that vanity, manipulation and desire to control never hold up to the grounding power of confidence, love and true self-worth.

These themes are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago.

In times like these, we as members of the human race can learn to rise above petty issues, put aside differences and simply help one another, remembering our shared humanity.

For times when we find ourselves getting lost again in a self-focused mindset, Love Over Ego challenges us to remember what matters most. Like Daniel who stands amid lions, and his friends stand in the middle of fire, we also have the option to stand true to our values even in hard times. We invite you to join us in this program, as we practice letting genuine love take priority in our lives.

Each week explores a communication task drawn from the parable:

- **Week 1 - Jan. 13, 2019:** **True Identity** - Choosing to respond from our higher nature, rather than from ego.

NB: Board Meeting.

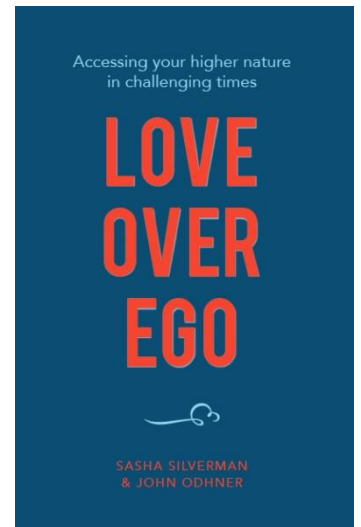
- **Week 2 - Jan. 20, 2019:** **Intention Over Expectation** - Coming to a situation with a desire to love and serve, rather than expecting to be served.
- **Week 3 - Jan. 27, 2019:** **Confidence Over Arrogance** - Staying centered and present, even in highly charged situations.

NB: Congregation Special meeting - Budget meeting.

- **Week 4 - Feb. 3, 2019:** **Humility Over Shame** - Accepting that we are imperfect, and learning from our mistakes.
- **Week 5 - Feb. 10, 2019:** **Contentment Over Materialism** - Appreciating this moment, instead of constantly seeking "more."

NB: Board Meeting.

- **Week 6 - Feb. 17, 2019:** **Love Wins** (Wrap-up) - Navigating hard times with prayer, and belief that God's love is the most powerful force.



-January 27th, 2019: **Congregation Special Meeting (Budget Meeting)**

* **Swedenborg Birthday celebration:** January 27th. Please come to church with your favorite quotes to share with the community. Barbara Fiedler will bring a cake since it is birthday Sunday as well. Thank you Barbara Fiedler.

-Sunday Feb. 24, 2019: **Special Service - Honoring Caregivers.**

Official Church Email: NewchurchPhoenix@gmail.com

Official Church Website: www.Newchurchphoenix.org

From the Pastor



Rev. Jean Atta

Dear members and friends of New Church of Phoenix,
Happy New Year! Happy 2019!

I would like to thank you All for your devotion to Church during the last few months I have been serving at New Church of Phoenix as your Pastor. Because of you and your participation, we are making a real difference in people's lives. Your presence and commitment help our church shine like a star!

Mary and I wanted to say Thank you for all the support and gifts, and beautiful notes we received from you last December. We are grateful to have you in our life. Baby Daniel is doing well, and growing already. It's amazing to see him changing every day. His arrival has changed our life completely in a wonderful way.

I remember how it all began. On December 15, around 7am, Mary had started having some contractions. We thought this was just simple contractions, not knowing the time was very near.

The same day around 11 pm, things started getting serious. A few questions on our mind: Is this the time? Should we wait and see? Should we go to the emergency room? What if I had been in Canada as scheduled...? What would have happened in my absence? Maybe baby Daniel will not wait till the 23rd as estimated?

About an hour later, the answer was crystal clear. I drove us to the emergency room and that was exactly the right thing to do. For after about half an hour, the nurses informed us that there were some complications.

Imagine what was going on in my mind at that moment. Yet I had to find someone to take care of Carl. He wanted to be with us, but it was hospital rules that children 3 years old should not visit the delivery area, and certainly not at 1Am. That night, Barbara Bellamy was the "angel" my family received from God. She showed up and picked up Carl. I was very happy that my son was going with a trusted person, and that he was going to get some sleep.

Around 2Am, the nurse told me that the doctor needs to take Mary to the surgery room because the baby was not doing well. This part was very scary!

Yet don't we remember God being our strength in moments of need? As a pastor, what do you do when your faith in doctors is being tested? Of course it's easy to say: "No, your faith should not be in human beings, it should be in God alone." I was constantly reminded that God would do His miracle through those same human beings. Focusing on God's powerful hand, and His healing power, was most comforting and reassuring. You've got to trust in something in times of trouble. And I always choose to trust in the same person, in God. The Lord said: "call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." *Psalm 50:15*.

He sure delivered our family from anything negative. Sparring you the details here. Around 3:47 Am Sunday, December 16th, our baby Daniel was born in good health. He weighed 6lbs5oz. Joy to our family, for a son is born unto us.

I personally couldn't have asked for a better Christmas gift! looking into Daniel's face, I can see a gentle and sweet innocence all around him, like one from God shining and glowing all around my eyes in an infinite rainbow of love. More to follow.

Hoping your week is going well, and that you and your loved ones are having a happy year already. Blessings!

Rev Jean Atta



Outreach At New Church Of Phoenix

~ Operation Christmas Child Boxes ~

The New Church of Phoenix has much gratitude for Carol Cronlund's many years of encouragement and organization for participating in the annual, national Operation Christmas Child charity project. She helped the Sunday School children fill and deliver boxes to children across the globe every year for several years. Carol inspired me to carry on this work, so one year we did the boxes together, and in her last year in Arizona, we filled the boxes at her house with several women, including Carol's daughter Jayne, son Jeff (ever delivering fantastic stuffed animals and Hot Wheel cars) and grand-daughter Rose too. Although we miss the Cronlund's direct participation, they are with us in our hearts.



This year, we gathered monetary and gift donations from our congregants and the Cronlund family. We named our project "Carol's Christmas Boxes," and filled 13 sturdy plastic containers full of practical and beautiful gifts like crayons and journals, Hot Wheel cars, whiffle balls, socks, toothbrushes,

homemade crocheted pouches, sparkly-eyed stuffed animals, and Angel cards designed by Donnette Rose Alfelt. Quotes like: **"Notice the angels who touch you through music. Notice the angels who inspire you with good ideas. Notice the angels who are there to lift you up."** A child

will receive one of these cards, and perhaps raise his or her spirits over the years. We wrote personal prayers on the cards, like **"Love and Peace"** and **"The Lord is with you always."**

Thank you everyone for a successful and delightful time!

by Tryn Rose Seley



Tryn Rose Seley is a professional photographer and musician. She has supported the lives of young children, those with special needs, and people living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia for 30 years. All her projects and offerings are designed to empower caregivers and the one they care for, including her book, "15 Minutes of Fame, One Photo Does Wonders To Bring You Both Back to Solid Ground" and her expressive arts class, Mindful Art. She plays guitar with a lively team of musicians at the New Church of Phoenix.

2018 New Church Phoenix Community Holiday Gift Drive

At New Church of Phoenix, we believe in serving the neighbor in a useful and meaningful way. One of our key Doctrines is about Use. How can we be truly charitable and therefore useful to God and the neighbor? *Secrets of Heaven* 997 states that "The life of charity, is a life of uses. Such life pervades the whole of heaven, for the Lord's kingdom, being a kingdom of mutual love, is a kingdom of uses." Glad is our heart when we serve others.

So this year, we decided to take our charity one more step forward.

In partnership with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS), New Church of Phoenix became a Congregate Ambassador church by volunteering to collect new holiday gift items for isolated homebound aging and disabilities clients needing and deserving some holiday cheer.

To make this a success story, the New Church of Phoenix Women's guild donated \$200 to purchase new sheet sets, and church members generously donated over a dozen pajamas and nightgowns.

The delivery part is even more fun! The New Church of Phoenix Growth Team wrapped the gifts, contacted thirty LSS clients to ask which gift they would like the most, and then delivered gifts to four LSS aging and disabled clients in their homes. The experience of all these was a great blessing.

Our church donated twenty-four gifts, totaling \$437! We hope to continue our partnership with LSS to support their uses in the community in the new year.

LLS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Their mission is about showing kindness, doing justice and serving those in need. Their programs focus on serving the aging and disabled, children and families, refugees, and emergency services to families.

Thanks you all for your participation and gifts!

Love and Peace

Barbara B.



... Story Continues (See previous issue for part 1)

~An article I received from a friend just touched my heart so I wanted to share with you. She welcomes any reactions. Send comments to my email (rev.atta13@gmail.com) and I can forward, or even connect you if she is willing to have a direct conversation. ~ Jean Atta

Part 2 of: My connection with God

... We took our seats and the cool man went up on stage, I remember him TALKING like THIS and BEING SO EXCITED! I didn't understand. I was even more confused when the rock band started playing. I strongly remember knowing God was not here. God was not in this place. To me, why would God come to this weird strip mall store that wasn't a store. I don't remember the rest of that day, but I never went back.

As I grew, I learned that most churches are not like that first strip mall church. I learned about religion and how the bible was our guide book from God. By then I already knew God and His teaching on a personal level. I struggle with understanding why we needed a book to tell us about God, when God is there showing us his path. Religion became an interest to me, kind of like learning about engineering, it was a subject I took in college. I saw at the most basic level all religions are similar. I saw how my Catholic Grandmother did not like my Protestant father, even though he was a wonderful husband, father and has been married to my mother for 41 years. I saw the hate people would spew and say it was God's word. I saw a young, married, religious man lusting after every pretty college girl in the class. I saw family members needing the guidance of their pastor for trouble life threw their way.

I saw that some people needed ...

(To be continued ...)



Yerdua S.

Event Photos (More in the next issue):



Visit to Sunrise Chapel – Tucson AZ 8/31/18
Left: Elise Gladish; Frank & Louise Rose
Right: Nathan Gladish; Jean & Mary Atta



Men's Breakfast.
Jean Atta; Victor Odhner; Tom Fiedler;
Peter Rosenblum. Sept. 8, 2018.



Visit to Joyce Loding. Oct 26, 2018.



Maya Baumanis. Dec. 24, 2018.
Photo by Amanda Odhner



Jean and Daniel Atta. Dec. 16, 2018.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Dec. 24, 2018.
Photo by Amanda Odhner



Putting together baby Daniel's Crib. Nov. 16, 2018
Isaac & Aviva & Victoria.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Dec. 24, 2018.
Victor Odhner; Tryn Rose seley; Chris Clark.
Photo by Amanda Odhner



Baby Shower at the Bellamy's
Nov. 3, 2018



Baby
Shower at
the
Bellamy's
Nov. 3,
2018



Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service. Dec. 24, 2018
Lois Taylor.
Photo by Amanda Odhner



Jean at Sher's Birthday Party
Dec. 6, 2018



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Dec. 24, 2018
Fiedler Clan.
Photo by Amanda Odhner

New Church of Phoenix Theta Alpha Woman's Guild

by Terry Odhner

What exactly is this group and what do they do?

Theta Alpha was originally founded in 1904 as a women's alumnae association of the Academy of the New Church Girls' School. Its mission today is to provide a forum for women for the advancement and support of New Church education in its many forms. We also support each other in our personal spiritual growth. The Woman's Guild was a separate group that took care of the social needs of the church. In a small group such as we have in Phoenix these two groups have been combined.

Some of the things we have done in the past is to have "showers" for kids that are going away to school in Bryn Athyn. These would usually be a surprise to the child and we would give them many of the things they would need for the first year away from home.

We occasionally have study groups where we would meet at a home on a Saturday morning for refreshments while we discussed a sermon or talk that was relevant to our lives. We have also had several women's weekends where members from Tucson as well as our members met for a long weekend to have time for discussions and sharing. These were very special and wonderful times.

In order to encourage our kids to be members of our church we have provided a fund to help children attend New Church camps.

Another way the Theta Alpha has served the educational needs of our group is by providing a Sunday school program and nursery for younger children. The Sunday school program reinforces stories from the Bible with activities based on the age group represented.

Recently we decided that our main focus would be as a Woman's Guild since there are very few children at the moment. Of course, we still have our Sunday school and nursery programs.

The Woman's guild provides refreshments after all church services and we arrange the social activities such as a picnic on Palm Sunday, special gifts and a swim party for June 19th and the Christmas sing in December. We filled and mailed 13 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We also decorate the church for the holidays. Recently the Woman's Guild donated \$200.00 for bedding for the Lutheran Social Services to distribute to the needy. We also send flowers and cards to those who are sick or had a death in the family or a new baby. Cards are also sent to each member for their birthdays and anniversaries.

Any woman who wants to be part of this group that serves our congregation is welcome. Just show up at the meeting and you will be part of the group.



Isaac and Aviva Sanchez, with their cousin, Jonas Clark, at Laurel Church Camp near Somerset, Pennsylvania, July 2018. Isaac's and Aviva's participation was supported, in part, by a grant from the New Church of Phoenix chapter of Theta Alpha.
Photo: Jenny Stein.



Terry Odhner and her husband Victor moved to Phoenix in 1980 with their five children. They have been active members of the New Church of Phoenix for the last 38 years.

Please visit:

<http://newchurchphoenix.org/news/calendar/>

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Please email thoughts or questions to:

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