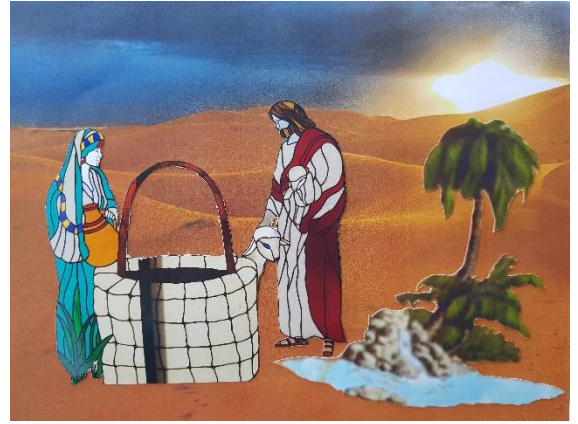


The Oasis



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

Sept. – Oct. 2018

Bimonthly Newsletter of New Church of Phoenix – Contacts: *Rev. Jean Atta*, Pastor
Office: 480-991-0048. Facebook: [fb.me/NewChurchofPhoenix](https://www.facebook.com/NewChurchofPhoenix) Web Page: <http://newchurchphoenix.org/>
Email: newchurchofphoenix@gmail.com Issue #1

The Lord's Word

The Lord has shown you what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy, and **to walk humbly with your God?**
Micah 6:8

Being humble also consists in the acknowledgement that everything living and everything good come from the Lord. The more we acknowledge these things not just with the lips but in our heart, the more humility we have; and consequently the more adoration - which is true worship - and the more love and charity, and the more happiness...
Secrets of Heaven 1153

Open House

You are invited to a Open House at the home of Jean & Mary Atta on Friday, November 16th from 3 to 5p.m..
Come enjoy good food and fun time.

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

Holy Supper Service

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper during the worship service on Nov. 25th and Dec. 30th. All adults are invited to partake--You do not have to be a member of the New Church or this congregation to receive the Lord's supper.

✓ November 7th – **Guest Speaker: Neil Simonetti** will present about the exciting things going on at Bryn Athyn College – Event starts at 7PM

✓ Dubliner Irish Pub - **Sip & Shop** – Nov. 10.
From 12 to 3 PM.

Church Reminders/Info

Here are some reminders:

Sunday, October 28th

- We end our series on Repentance. Part 5: **Begin a New Life**
 - ✓ Holy Supper – October 28
 - ✓ Birthday Sunday – October 28
 - ✓ **Annual Society Meeting: October 28, 2018**

Mondays

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

Wednesdays

- *Bible - Deeper Study*. 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.

Also:

- ✓ Christmas Holiday Donated Gift Drive- Started on Sept 23,
we would appreciate your contribution.
- ✓ Baby Shower for Mary Atta (**Baby Daniel!**) – November 3.
- ✓ November 4th: Sunday School Operation Christmas Child boxes, please bring 3 sets of gifts for the boxes.
- ✓ November 7th – **Guest Speaker: Neil Simonetti** will talk/present to us about the exciting things going on at Bryn Athyn College – Event starts at 7PM at the church.
- ✓ Dubliner Irish Pub - Sip & Shop – Nov. 10. From 12 to 3 PM.
Address: 3841 E Thunderbird Rd Phoenix AZ 85032
- ✓ **Special Service** – Honoring Veterans – Nov. 11
- ✓ Friday, **Nov. 16 – 3PM-5PM: Open House** – Jean & Mary's (Come taste some African food) – Enjoy time with friends. Call 602-702-8725 for directions
- ✓ November 17th Carol's Christmas Box luncheon at Terry Odhner's house, 11:30 AM.
- ✓ **Thanksgiving Day Service** – Thursday, November 22
- ✓ Christmas Movie Night (at the church) December 6? Or 7th? at 6:30 PM? Check Church website (www.newchurchofphoenix.org) for final update.
- ✓ Sunday, December 23: Family service
- ✓ Monday December 24th - **Christmas Eve Candlelight service**
- ✓ Tuesday December 25th – **Christmas Day service**

From the Pastor

Dear members of New Church of Phoenix,

I would like to share a few things with you. I have many good things to say, but I will limit myself to just a few essentials.

I love our church and I am happy to be serving you all during my assignment here in Phoenix. Since we arrived last August, Mary and I have been privileged to witness your love and care for us. Didn't the Lord instruct us about the two great commandments? In *Matthew 22*, when a pharisee, who was a lawyer, tested the Lord saying: "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" here is what the Lord said:

"'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

What a great teaching for us to know about! I have seen many of our church members show kindness, love and care and commitment. I pray the Lord to bless you all with more heavenly influx.

As you know already, this year is filled with blessings for Mary and me. I must say that expecting a baby boy is one of the greatest gifts the Lord could have given us. Please don't get me wrong, a baby girl would have made us equally happy. So, we hope all goes well and that we welcome baby Daniel into this world sometime around December 23.

This indicates that my life will get very busy soon. But it's all good. I am reminded that most of the time, "busy" is better than "being idle."

A lot has happened during the last three months since I arrived. We have regular activities such Bible class and doctrinal class. We hold regular Sunday service, despite the fact that I am completely absent at least once a month. I have heard many good things about our Lay-led worship services. We continue to improve and adjust to the needs of our congregants. Many of the volunteers are a true source of encouragement to me personally. Our lay readers for Sunday services are doing a great job. The Music team is just awesome and inspiring. We have board members who are dedicated to serving the church with their time and knowledge. I can cite many more, but I will limit it to just these few.

Though we have a long way to go, I must say that it takes one very first step and the next and so on to make things happen. I pray the Lord to continue to sustain us, as we help Him grow His church. *Psalms 127* reminds us of the following:

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

I would like to exhort all of us to focus on the beautiful teachings of our church; for surely if we practice our faith, we will get closer to the Lord. As I always say: this life can get messy at times, but when we focus our life on the Lord, we find that there is even more goodness around us than anything messy. The beautiful thing about being with the Lord is that He will protect us always. In fact, the writings state that the Lord protects us with outmost care [even] while we sleep. See *Secrets of Heaven 959*.



Rev. Jean Atta

May the Lord bless you and keep you and your loved ones.
Love & Peace.

Did You Know?

Aviva C. Sanchez is a high school freshman living in Tempe, Arizona with her mother, Victoria, brother Isaac and her grandparents, Tryn and Chris.

She joined the cross country team in grade eight and has pursued distance training and inter-scholastic competition for a little over one year. The photo above shows Aviva in the final strides toward the finish line at the Peaks Invitational XC Meet in Flagstaff, Arizona on 1 September 2018. She surprised herself and everyone else by finishing third in this 3-kilometer (2.2 mile) run, ahead of 71 other freshmen, sophomore and junior girls from around the state. A great start to the season for Aviva and her passionate fans!



Aviva Sanchez, approaching the finish line in a cross country race in Flagstaff on 1 September 2018.

by Chris Clark

TEACH ME

I am open and receptive to the guidance of Spirit.

Each new day offers me fresh opportunities to learn and grow. I am learning to know myself and my place in the world more clearly and to discern my oneness with Spirit and all of creation more deeply. As I seek Spirit's direction, my prayer is "Teach Me".

Opportunities to learn may show up in the varied disguises. If I'm facing a challenge, rather than seeing it as a burden, I accept it as an opportunity to learn. When I travel to a new city or meet someone new, I am given the chance to expand my horizons and gain a new outlook on life.

Time spent in the silence is yet another opportunity to deepen my understanding of Spirit. There is so much for me to learn in life, and I am open and receptive to the lessons I am offered.

"Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul." -Psalms 143:8

(from The Daily Word)

Shared by *Barbara Bellamy*

~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 (attaj11@yahoo.com) and I can forward, or even connect you if she is willing to have a direct conversation. ~ Jean Atta

Title: My connection with God

I'm not religious, but I have a relationship with God. My mother was raised strict Irish Catholic in Boston. To her being stuffed into her Sunday, frilly, best dress and sitting still all morning was the definition of torture. All my mother wanted was a horse. My father was a Californian thru and thru and a Protestant and he had a horse. Much to my Grandmothers dismay it was true love.

By the time I came around my parents had moved to a small town in southern California. They were building a business on five acres out in the boonies, my mother was living her dream of being a successful horse trainer. With over 15 horses, 3 dogs, chickens, a cat, a husband and two daughters to feed, clean and care for, leaving the ranch was not a priority. The nearest grocery store was about 45 minutes away. Who knows where the nearest church was?

I learned about God and stories from the bible somehow. I have a vague memory of my Catholic Grandmother making my sister and I kneel as she recited her rosary prayers. Mostly God showed Himself to me through the sunlight streaming through the rafters of the barn. God said hello to me by peeking through the downy softness of a new foal's fuzzy mane. **God taught me His teachings by showing me to care for creatures other than myself. When I climbed my favorite tree, the breeze on my face was a sweet gift I knew was from God.** In this tree is where I felt like I could talk to God, whatever it is little girls need to talk about, I knew God would take a moment for me. The whistle of a little bird was God telling me everything was okay and that He heard me. In this world of nature, I saw the lessons we need to be productive, loving, nurturing, forgiving adults.

Around eight years old I was friends with a little girl who asked me to spend Saturday night at her house and she asked if I would like to go to church in the morning. I remember her contagious excitement, this would be my first time I remember going to church. That Sunday morning, I was going to go see where God lived. With her family we walk into a large space in a strip mall, it could have been a payless shoe store in some other life.

The store front glass was darkened to block out the morning glare, rows of folding chairs, a portable stage at the end, drums and a keyboard off to the side and a man right smack in the middle of middle age, dressed in "cool" bowling league shirt making the rounds, my friend excitedly welcomed me to church.

We took our seats and ...

(To be continued ...)



Yerdua S.

Church News:

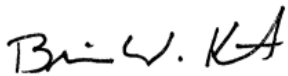


Dear Members of the General Church,

I am pleased to announce that the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss Jr. has been affirmed as the next Executive Bishop. He received 1,445 “yes” votes, to 304 “no” votes and 5 “abstain” votes for an 82.38 affirmative percentage.

Congratulations to Pete and we now look forward to his leadership, beginning July 1, 2019.

Sincerely,



Rt. Rev. Brian W. Keith
Executive Bishop

Message from the Bishop-elect:

I begin with deep gratitude for the confidence placed in me to step into the important role of Executive Bishop of the General Church. Thank you to all those who cast a vote, pro or con. It is a privilege to serve the church that I love in this significant way.

I have been doing a great deal of visiting with people since I was nominated in June. The early emphasis of these meetings has been the clergy, in an effort to hear their perspectives and consider who might assist me in the Episcopal use. I have also begun meeting with General Church and Academy Board members as well as leaders within these two institutions, with the goal of connecting with each of them before I take office in July. Several General Church members have reached out to me too.

Based on all those conversations some directions are starting to form in my mind. I see a lot that we can get excited about as a church—ways in which we can each do our part to serve in an organization that strives to reflect the faith of the New Church. I am also aware of the pressures and tensions that exist and look forward to finding constructive ways from the Word to address them.

Teresa and I have the privilege of seeing the General Church around the world. We have also just experienced another Charter Day weekend at the Academy. It warms my heart to see the many good people who are providing leadership, and the positive effect of our mission in people’s lives. With a collective trust in the Lord, and a commitment to serve in the light of the Word, there are bright days ahead for the General Church and the Academy. I look forward to working with so many of you to see it take shape. May the Lord bless our collective efforts.

With affection,



Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr.

More News:

Bishop Alfred Acton II transitioned into the Spiritual world in the night of October 24th 2018. Here is a letter send by Bishop Brian Keith.

Dear Members and Friends of the Academy Family,

The Rt. Rev. Alfred Acton II passed peacefully into the spiritual world last night. Alfie's involvement with the Academy was extensive. He taught in all the schools, including some math and science in the Secondary Schools during his time as a student in Theological School, and served as President for seven years.

Alfie was born in 1934. He graduated from the Bryn Athyn Church School in 1950 and the Boys School in 1954. He then obtained his Junior College diploma at the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church before graduating from Haverford with a major in Latin and minor in Greek. After two years of military service and marriage to Henrietta Gourdin in 1960, he graduated from the Theological School and was ordained in 1964.

Alfie began serving as pastor of the Sharon Church in Chicago and as assistant to the pastor in Glenview. He very quickly became administrator of the kindergarten through 10th grade schools there, in addition to teaching many subjects. In 1968 he moved to Glenview as a full assistant pastor and in 1973 he was called as pastor of Glenview, continuing to teach in the schools. Then, in 1976 he was elected president of the Academy. He served until 1983 when he returned to teaching at the Academy and serving various General Church uses. In 1999 he was called as Assistant to the Bishop and served in that role until his retirement in 2004.

Alfie delved into an extensive range of topics, including New Church Education. Among his subjects were "Human Development," "Education for Marriage," "Opening of the Rational," "Science and Religion," "Environment, Education and Freedom," "Education of Girls and Boys" and "Essentials of the Academy." He was also a force to be reckoned with! He willingly examined and proposed changes to organizational structures. His intellectual prowess was renowned, yet his great heart for people showed through all his presentations and academic sparings. And he always sought out directions from the Lord's three-fold Word to help people on the path to heaven.

His fundamental optimistic approach to life was seen in his 1981 report as President:

"Indeed, the underlying love all those involved with the Academy have for the fundamental principles which led our founders to establish this institution still rings loudly The fact remains that we seek guiding light in our deliberations from the one source of truth present with us, the Lord God, Jesus Christ, who speaks clearly to us in the pages of His New Word. I am confident that our dedication to this first principle of the Academy will lead each of us in a spirit of genuine charity to give of ourselves for the good we cherish."

Alfie had a tremendous impact on the Academy and we will miss his stimulating and challenging leadership and scholarship. Now the Lord has use of his talents in the eternal kingdom where I'm sure he will continue his invaluable service to the church. Our thoughts and affections are with his family and friends.

Sincerely,
Brian W. Keith

Event & Activity Calendar: Sept.-Oct. 2018

Please visit:

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

Or click here: [Calendar](#)



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<http://newchurchphoenix.org/>

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