

The Clergy Connection

for the Spiritual Episcopal Church

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Ritual Manual

Since there were few submitted changes to the *SEC Minister's Ritual Manual*, I will not be resending the entire manual to each church. I will make note of the changes and email them to each auxiliary. Let me know if you want the corrected manual emailed to you in its entirety (68 pages). Clergy approval for the manual will be sought at the May 5th Annual Clergy Meeting in Owosso. We will also discuss details such as size and layout of the manual. Please bring your church copies to the meeting. For those who cannot be in attendance, please feel free to email or snail mail me a hard copy of your comments and concerns and I will make sure they are presented at the meeting for discussion. I will inform you of what action was taken on your suggestion/s.

Education Program

At this time, no one has applied for August clergy testing. If you are interested, please contact me, Appellate Clergy Rev. Marilyn Brown, as soon as possible. The requirements for each level have changed requiring more study and a closer relationship with the clergy sponsor. You were sent a copy of the changes with the first copy of *The Clergy Connection*. Please review them and contact education members Rev. Brown, Rev. Charlton, or Rev. Powell with your suggestions. Bring the program copies to the May meeting, as approval for all program levels will be sought. If you need, I will email the program files or snail mail a hard copy to you.

Clergy Certificate Renewals for 2006-2007

All SEC clergy papers expire on May 5, 2007. Please renew before then. You should have received a form to fill out and a list of the renewal fees. If you need a form, please contact me. We have 9 ministers, 1 associate minister, 6 missionaries and 8 healers. You will receive your certificate/s snail mail after the May 5th deadline.

Favorite Spiritual/Metaphysical Websites

Do you have a favorite website? If so, please share the web address. Some of my favorites are: www.susanboulet.com
www.astralsociety.com www.mastersinthemaking.com www.lighthousespiritualcentre.ca/churches.html
www.facade.com/tarot/

Spotlight on a Clergy

A new feature to the *Clergy Connection*!! In an effort to get to know each other a bit more, each issue will spotlight one of our SEC clergy members. March's 2007 issue will feature our newest Missionary, Anna Bolinger, from the Mt. Morris, Michigan auxiliary.

Anna comes from a family of Spiritualists. Quoting Anna from her application form, "I was raised in this religion. My grandparents were both members of the SEC; my grandmother was an associate minister. My mother was a minister and pastor of the Mt. Morris church for many years. My father is a missionary and an outstanding healer. They all taught me to have great faith... I feel that I have come a long way but what good is it if I don't share it with others?" Anna plans to continue her spiritual studies under the guidance of her good friend and pastor Rev. Audrey Charlton.

Anna has worked the Mt. Morris SEC platform as chairperson, sermon giver, and message bearer. She actively participates in the Mt. Morris church social functions and fundraising events. We are proud to welcome her to the clergy!

Anna also is currently the SEC Executive Board secretary so auxiliaries will be hearing from her with board minutes after the Executive Board meeting of March 31st in Owosso.

On a personal note, Anna has a great sense of humor and is a very sweet person. One of her hobbies is bowling. She may have an unfair advantage over the rest of us though, since she works at a bowling alley dealing with the computer scoring system. She and her father, Healer/Missionary Bob Verbeck, bowl on leagues and in tournaments.

Good luck Anna!



Book Reviews

Thanks to Rev. Jay Powell for the following two book reviews for this issue of *The Clergy Connection*. Neither book is “an easy read” but both are well worth the effort as they expand our personal paradigms to include information on how science and spirituality really “do mix”.

Rev. Jay has also agreed to write an pamphlet for our education program on how quantum physics can help explain physical phenomenon. Rev. Jay is currently writing a book that expands on the material exemplified by the two books reviewed this issue. He will have his book finished sometime in May with publication thereafter. More information will follow when it is available.

McTaggart, Lynne. (2002) *The Field: The quest for the secret force of the universe*. New York, Harper Collins.

Science reporter, Lynne McTaggart, reviews published work from the field of quantum physics. The Field is the “empty” space within and between atoms and molecules. The physics of events that occur in this domain are very different from the physics we learned in high school.

A tremendous amount of power is available in the Field once we learn how to tap it. Everything in this domain exists outside space and time as we know it. At this level of existence, everything is connected instantaneously to everything else, everywhere in the Universe.

The events we know as “spirit phenomena” are a natural part of the Field. Matter pops into and out of existence, thoughts travel instantaneously to their destination without reduction in their potency, and our conscious intentions influence the outcome of events.

McTaggart’s presentation indicates science has not yet gone far enough to prove the existence of God or our Immortal Souls, but we can infer these connections from the properties of the events she describes.

Science is close to developing a technology that taps the Field. This will be “The Second Coming” that will transform humanity in the general direction that Spiritualism has projected.

Hawkins, David R. (2002) *Power vs. force; the hidden determinants of human behavior*. Carlsbad, CA Hay House.

David Hawkins presents a case that by using kinesiology, which he argues is a procedure that assures Truth, he can paint a picture of a new science for Life.

He has developed an exponential scale from 0 to 1000 that describes the power of the emanations from or through individuals. He suggests there is a turning point at a scale value of 200. People who sit at levels below 200 draw more power from the Universe than they give back. For them to make things happen the way they want them to, requires Force because they lack the Power to accomplish their goals. These people live in fear and feel the need to control others to keep their sense of integrity and personal identity.

Those who sit above 200 on this scale give more power to the Universe than they draw from it. These people can afford to be gentle and persuasive because they do not feel the need to control others to keep their sense of integrity and personal identity. A very few people at the higher levels can balance the “negativity” of millions of people at lower levels.

Hawkins suggests the Constitution of the United States operates at the 450 level. He also suggests that humanity as a whole passed above the 200 level in 1985.

His message is very positive in that he is suggesting humanity has grown beyond the need to use Force to resolve problems. Negativity is impermanent because it is the product of the misdirection of Divine Power toward self-serving ends. The true nature of each Soul is Divine. It is only ignorance of our true nature makes us behave differently.

I infer the ideas in this book support the trend we can observe in life and the underlying principles of Spiritualism. The “Second Coming” is the time when the consciousness of humanity disavows Force and begins to live in the Power of the Universe.

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Future Book Reviews

If you have a book you would like to review for our next edition of *The Clergy Connection* please let Rev. Brown know!

Golden Rays Article

The following is from an undated hard copy of a *Golden Rays* article written for the publication many years ago.

The Presentation of the Oracle by Maree Chaney

“When I designed and painted the original emblem of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church in the spring of 1939, the Church had not even been organized.

I intended it for an entirely different purpose, and I had not the slightest idea of the meaning of the design, nor that I was painting a story of Divine Symbology.

This was to be discovered later, nearly two years later. Just how the meaning was disclosed is the theme of this article which the editor of the *Golden Rays* has asked me to prepare for this Anniversary Issue.

It is the story of a strange sequence of events culminating in what I am sure is one of the most remarkable trumpet séances of all time.

To start with, I seemed inspired to paint a picture to hang in “Bob’s” healing room at Chesterfield Camp. I asked my artist guide, Madame Bouche, to direct me. I started work and scarcely knew from one minute to the next just what I was doing or why. Instead of a picture on a canvas, it turned out to be a gesso plaque. When the Spiritualist Episcopal Church was in its infancy, the plaque, as everyone called it, was selected to be the emblem of the Church.

Rev. Robert Chaney and his father seemed to feel that there was a definite symbology in the plaque, but just what it was they were unable to determine.

They asked me what it meant. I did not know other than that it was something for the healing room. They asked Rev. John Bunker what it meant. He did not know. Someone suggested we ask Madame Bouche.

We went to the séance room and Madame Bouche spoke to us through the trumpet. She assured us that the emblem had a deep and beautiful significance but said she had not as yet been given its meaning.

Dr. Gonzales and Thistle, guides of Rev. Bunker, confirmed what the Madame had told us. Dr. Gonzales said that the design has been given to Madame Bouche from a higher plane in much the same manner that she in turn had passed it on to me by mediumistic impression.

Impatient, of course, and anxious to learn more, we demanded to speak with someone on that higher plane who might know the secret. Dr. Gonzales explained that this was impossible. “Give me a couple of days,” he promised, “and I will endeavor to find out for you.”

Too impatient to wait “a couple of days” we entered the séance room the next morning in great excitement and anticipation, hoping against hope Dr. Gonzales might, by this time, have received the information.

As soon as the room was darkened we all sensed something very unusual, very special, and holy. The air seemed charged with something unexplainable; something none of us had ever experienced before and the room seemed to be enveloped in a deep blue color.

All at once I saw many points of light. I spoke of it and Rev. Bunker said he was watching them too. They came singly, in pairs, in large and small groups, and they seemed to settle down all around us.

Robert and his father saw some of the lights but not in the profusion in which I saw them. They gently floated into the room and settled here and there in orderly arrangement. Then Thistle greeted us, not in her usual laughing, bantering manner, but with great solemnity. She told us that the Great Master, Prince Nikeritis, was to speak to us.

We heard His voice—a strange, rather high-pitched voice—one that vibrated with a holiness that penetrated to our very “souls.” As He spoke we listened with a strange intensity. It was indeed a holy hour for all of us. As the beauty and truth of His words penetrated our consciousness, tears streamed down our cheeks.

They were tears of joy because we had been selected to receive such great Truths, tears of pride because we had been allowed such a privilege, and tears of humility because we felt a great responsibility had been placed upon us.

“There is a whole book of religious Truth written upon the face of this plaque,” the Prince told us. “What I have told you this morning is not all by any mean, but I cannot tell you more now.”

“As the years unfold, so will further teachings of this design be unfolded to mankind. It is a graphic voice from out of the Great Invisible speaking to men of Earth.” After He bade us farewell, none of us could speak. We sat for several moments in silence and ecstasy.

At a later séance Dr. Gonzales and Thistle described the scene as they saw it from their side of the Great Veil. They described the magnificent Oriental robes the Prince wore, and His beautiful high turban surmounted by a gorgeous jewel, and told of the great preparation on that side preceding the arrival of the Prince.

He stood on a small mound that occupied the center of a vast amphitheater whose sloping sides extended in three directions. Immediately back of Him was a huge replica of the plaque in full color, standing in all its beauty in the golden sunshine, with its weathered Cross superimposed on a gothic-shaped background, golden yellow at the top blended into brownish hues at the bottom.

Around the Cross was entwined a flowering vine bearing six blue flowers with four petals each. About the foot of the Cross was luxuriant growth of green sword-shaped leaves bearing five large yellow flowers with five petals each. One of these flowers is directly in front of the vine stem at the foot of the Cross.

Seated before and around the Prince on the beautiful green slope was a vast multitude that had gathered to hear the Prince's discourse.

Thistle told us we could never in any way know the beauty of the setting nor could we realize the sacredness of it all. It was a rare treat for the spirit people, too, to hear one of the Great Masters. She said she was honored by a seat in front beside princess Ishama, daughter of Prince Nikeritis.

I spoke of the numerous lights I had seen at the beginning of séance. "There seemed to be thousands of them," I said, "not that I actually saw that many, but there seemed there would be that many."

"Maree, there were thousands of them," replied Dr. Gonzales, "They were the spirit lights of those on this side of Life who came to hear the lecture."

You see you four were not the only ones present," said Thistle, "and you were not the only ones who shed humble tears. We wept, too."

What made this séance so remarkable was not altogether because of the beauty of the Prince's lecture, but also because it was actually a séance of two Worlds. Those thousands of spirit people and we four mortals listened together to the voice of a Man from a higher plane.

The name "oracle" was received by impression by Robert later that evening, and it was confirmed shortly afterward by Thistle. "The Prince said that the Plaque was like a voice from the Invisible," she said. "That is exactly what the Oracles of old were. So this is the modern-day Oracle."

And so it was not that long before the Spiritualist Episcopal Church was organized, its emblem and its basic teachings were planned on a higher plane in the spirit world, and brought to Earth to be ready when the need arose.

Note at the end of the Maree Chaney article reads: "In an early issue of *The Golden Rays*, we will publish an article on the lecture of Prince Nikeritis, telling more fully what He said during this séance."

Now is our time to search in the year 2007. If you have past issues of *The Golden Rays*, please look through them for the article mentioned in the previous paragraph. Rev. Bunker channeled a book of teachings of Prince Nikeritis but the original article would be of great interest. More information to follow as it becomes available.

The next edition of *The Clergy Connection* will be available in May. I will email the clergy as soon as it is posted on the website www.spiritualist-church.com. Please submit any articles for the next issue to me by May 10th.

Rev. Marilyn Brown
6805 Herron Drive
Cass City, MI 48726

mbrown@midmich.net
989-872-1898

"We, the two of us, are to fit together, your strength, my weakness, and vice versa." (*Golden Rays*, March 1961)

I would like to include articles from other *Golden Rays* in future issues of the *Clergy Connection*. If you have copies you would like to donate or lend, I will make sure they are in a separate file with your name on them. We have a fabulous history to explore in the SEC. Let's bring our predecessors' wisdom forth so it can be part in our learning in 2007.