

THEY WERE NEW CHURCH.

BY THE REV. ROBERT COLE

A gathering, which included clergy, nurses and physicians, was listening to the gentle words of a very distinguished dying Swedish Nobleman and author. "What time is it?" he asked. The date was March 29, 1772. His attending nurse replied, "5:00 o'clock" (Greenwich Time). He said, "That is good!" A Lutheran minister present for the last rites of the Christian Church asked, "Is what you have written about Religion and Theology true?" The great Swede replied (in effect) "I aver in truth that all I have written and published regarding the Lord Jesus Christ, His Coming and the New Church now being established by Him on the earth, is the truth itself and only the truth." Emanuel Swedenborg passed quietly into the spiritual world at the age of eighty-four, this time not to return. Earlier that year, John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism had received a Letter from Swedenborg, who understood from the spiritual world that Wesley had wanted to meet with him. This was true! When Wesley had suggested meeting after his return from a trip in April, Swedenborg had indicated that would be too late, as he was going to go to the spiritual world on 29 March, "never to return." Emanuel Swedenborg had been born on another twenty-ninth, that of January 29 1688!

The Founding of the General Church took place on February 6, 1897, at about 3:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon in the Library of Rt. Rev. W.F. Pendleton at 2701 Alnwick Road, then Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, now Bryn Athyn. I was there today, as also many times in the past. Five courageous and dedicated Ministers came to Bishop Pendleton at that time and asked him to form a new General Church and be its Bishop. He apparently was one of those who felt that a new religion directly from the Lord should reflect a great historical city of origin, as a reminder of

the Golden age, the Most Ancient Church, and the Celestial and Spiritual heavens, now once again achievable by all who follow the Lord Himself in their life and faith. This City was Athens, Greece. The Lord Himself spoke highly of the good Greeks, who asked Him for His help in spiritual matters. (cf. John 12:20) William Penn, (who seems to be in heaven), in encouraging settlement by Welsh British people, had apparently set apart this highest area of Montgomery County to reflect their new homes in America to resemble the highlands of Wales from which they had come to begin a new life. Bryn Athyn in "Americanized" Gaelic Welsh means—"Hill of Cohesion," or perhaps in a more general way —"Hill of Friendship."

***MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE
GENERAL CHURCH***

DAILY READINGS LIST 2008

Due to a change in personnel and duties, there has been a delay in providing the daily reading list for 2008. The list is now being prepared and will begin with readings for February 1, 2008.

If you were on the mailing list for the 2007 daily readings, we will mail you copy of the 2008 list when it is ready. Otherwise, those who wish to receive the list please contact Susan Wright at the Federal Church Database office; PO Box 711, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 (tel: 267-502-4990, e-mail: susan.wright@anc-gc.com).