

# The Clergy Connection

## for the Spiritual Episcopal Church

January 2007

Volume 1 Issue 1

### Newsletter

We now have an SEC clergy newsletter! It is one of the steps the Clergy Council is using to improve communication among SEC clergy members. I will email this first issue to our clergy. Webmaster Larry Turner will put all following *Clergy Connection* issues on our website (<http://spiritualist-church.com>).

The newsletter will cover updates of clergy committee meetings, education material reviews, items of interest and other inspirational material. If you would like to submit an article, quote or idea for publication, please email it to me. We all are interested in hearing about classes and activities and happenings in your auxiliary. For those SEC clergy who live at a distance, please let us know how and what you are doing.

Please feel free to share your newsletter with all SEC members.

### Golden Rays

For upcoming *Clergy Connection* issues I will either retype or scan an article from the *Golden Rays* (SEC newsletter of years ago). Our forefathers had some interesting insights. I really would like to tap into the thinking and wisdom of Clyde Chaney, Marie Chaney, John Bunker, as well as others from our SEC past. Any copies of the *Golden Rays* you have that you would be willing to share would be appreciated. I am keeping a file with names and issue numbers, so you will be assured of getting your issues back. I did not put an article this issue because of the education attachments I included in your email. Larry Turner will be putting a 1956 *Golden Rays* tribute to Rev. John Bunker on the website for your viewing in the very near future.

### Education Committee

Rev. Audrey Charlton, Rev. Jay Powell and I completed our research and review for the Clergy requirements for each level of testing. (Rev. Loris Allen was unable to attend). Associate Minister and Minister curriculums were drafted from the 2002 education versions. Several other programs were reviewed including: Chesterfield, Lilydale (Morris Pratt), Infinite Way, NASC as well as those from past years of the SEC. I am sending a copy of the four levels to each clergy and am asking that you review the requirements before the Clergy Council meeting May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have suggestions for classes or books or comments on the content of the requirements, email them to me and I will make sure they are addressed at the clergy council meeting. These programs will be presented for acceptance at the May meeting so your input is necessary.

The Education Committee is also designing a *Clergy Sponsor Packet* to assist with preparing clergy candidates for testing. We need sponsors...so... please raise your hand and volunteer.

### Minister's Ritual Manual

At the fall conference each church was supplied with a draft of the suggested ritual manual contents and was asked to have their clergy each review the document, make suggestions or corrections and send that information to me by February 15<sup>th</sup>. I will make the suggested changes and send a corrected version with a procedure section for each ritual to each church and any other interested clergy by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The document will be presented to the clergy at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for acceptance. If approved it will be formatted into the size desired by the clergy and sent to a printing company. If it is not approved, another timeline will be formed. (Notify me if you want me to email the 68-page document to you)

### Clergy Testing

No one applied for January testing. If you want to test in August, NOW is the time to get started. Let me know your intent and I will send you the revised forms. We will be following the proposed 2007 curriculums provided by the education committee. Deadline for applying for fall testing is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sanctions will be determined by individual case and will depend on the issuing church organization, number and title of classes taken, church service and other pertinent information.

## **SEC Guides**

The Education Committee has not completed the *Spirit Guides Course* because we have not come across reference material that specifically states the SEC position on which guides form the Inner Band. If you have any information from past classes or written material that covers the inner band of spirit guides, please let me or one of the other education committee members know.

## **Fundamental of Mystic Christianity**

Rev. Jay Powell and Missionary Larry Turner are putting the final touches on the revised document. They will be sending a final copy to each church in February.

## **Book Review/s:**

I will include a book review with each edition of the *Clergy Connection*. If you read a good book, especially one that would fit nicely into our curriculums, please send me a short review. We all like our spiritual books. Let's share our ideas and suggestions!

## **The Seven Healing Chakras by Brenda Davies, M.D. (2002 Ulysses Press)**

This book is "Required Reading" at the Healer level (2007 curriculum). It is the most in-depth, yet understandable, book on the chakras I have ever read. It is excellent. I personally think it is a must read for all metaphysicians. Following is the write up from the back cover.

"Both practical and inspirational, this book is a voyage of self-discovery and healing based on an ancient spiritual tradition.

Dr. Davies leads you in a step-by-step progression through the seven chakras-our energy centers. At each stage she shows how to unlock the physical and spiritual energy that can heal you and lead to a more fulfilling life.

Through exercises and guided meditations, Dr. Davies demonstrates how to remove blockages and clear the psychological, emotional and spiritual debris that otherwise traps us in habits that have worn out their usefulness. Here are the tools to take charge of your own mental and physical well-being and more fully manifest your life's purpose."

## **The Mystery of Death and Dying by Earlyne Chaney (1988 Samuel Weiser, Inc.)**

This book is "Required Reading" at the Minister level (2007 curriculum). This book also is excellent. Earlyne Chaney's wonderful insight to preparing for the death experience can benefit every one of us. It is an extremely spiritual book and I definitely recommend everyone read it at least once. The following is an excerpt from the back cover of the book.

"Learn what mystics and initiates of mystery schools have long known: death is a part of life, that it is a moment of spiritual initiation. Chaney encourages us to make this spiritual journey using whatever symbolism is natural to us, be it teachings from East or West... Whatever your spiritual path, once you learn that death is nothing to fear, your life will take on new meaning. Death is a passage to prepare for with joy and anticipation... All of us will experience death as part of our lifetimes-either our own or the death of a loved one. Chaney prepares us for this passage by leading us through the process of dying; the hormonal changes that begin the death process; the release of kundalini; the creation of the astral body; seeing the Clear Light, the Secondary light, and the journey of the soul through the Bardo. Chaney offers practical instructions so we may know how to prepare for death; how to prepare for the baptism of the Holy Spirit; how to purify our lives to become released from karmic bondage; how to use prayer in the service of a joyful death; how to die a drugless death; how to die at home among friends and loved ones."

## **Oops**

Someone picked up Rev. Audrey Charlton's conference booklet by mistake last fall. If you attended conference, please check your booklet (purple cover) to make sure you have your own. She would really like to get hers back as it has many of her notes in it.

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The next edition of *The Clergy Connection* will be available in March. I will email the clergy as soon as it is posted on the website. Please submit any articles, announcements, etc. for next issue to me by March 10<sup>th</sup>.

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