

November 2017

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

One of the uses of Thanksgiving – both the event and the spirit of it – is consolidation. It is a time or state of in-gathering and storing up the results of our labors, and recognizing the Lord's providence in making it all possible. The Lord requires states of thanksgiving

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits.”

(Psalm 103)

from us not for His own sake (He is in need of nothing) but for our own sakes, that we may feel His blessing.

At this time of political, social and spiritual turmoil in our country, it is perhaps especially important for us to take some real time to reflect on the good that the Lord continues to provide, and to

take stock, and to consolidate that good for use in our daily lives.

The more specific we can be the better it will be for everyone. If we can just think of one benefit, even in the midst of all the turmoil, and then try to expand on that, seeing the implications, it can open positive pathways for even greater benefits.

Take for example the incredible impact of the Internet in our lives today. On one hand it provides opportunities for some of the most destructive influences on earth; on the other hand it is a HUGE blessing for connecting people in positive, useful ways. So like everything else in life it offers us freedom, and as we all know, true, heavenly freedom is to receive, think and do what is good. For the rest, the delete or unsubscribe button is pretty handy.

Some Positive Things on the Internet

No doubt you all have your favorite sites for inspiration. Some go for music, some for podcasts like the famous TED talks, and some for special causes. But are you really aware of all the amazing *New Church content* you can now find on the Web? Even our own sermons in Mitchellville are now available as print or audio files on our website at www.theWNC.org. But if you want to explore other options you can also see *video* recordings of services in Bryn Athyn, Ivyland, Boynton Beach and other societies. For the former just go to www.BrynAthynChurch.org and search the index. For the latter two just go to Facebook and search for “The Ivyland New Church,” or “The New Church at Boynton Beach.” If you

can't make it to Mitchellville on any given Sunday you may even find these broadcasting live at 10, 10:30 or 11 Sunday morning.

But even more amazing are the videos can find on the Swedenborg Foundation website, www.Swedenborg.com.

“Swedenborg and Life” is an hour long weekly class with the Rev. Jonathan Rose and “Off the Left Eye” is another hour long illustrated presentation on key doctrinal concepts from the Writings. Truly amazing stuff.



But for research probably nothing beats the comprehensive site, www.NewChristianBibleStudy.org. It just goes and goes and goes with everything from searchable translations of the Bible and the Heavenly Doctrines to expository essays and videos. Last month alone over 140,000 people visited this site (and bear in mind, the New Church worldwide probably has fewer than 10,000 members).

This is exciting stuff, and you can use it in all sorts of creative ways to make a positive difference in your life and in the lives of others within your sphere.

Finally, remember, you can make a positive difference in the world yourself by only posting and sharing useful, positive things on your networks and social media platforms. In a way the Internet actually emulates the spiritual world, amplifying our voices exponentially beyond the normal limitations of space and time! So let's be careful with it, and take full advantage of it for good.

Society Meeting on Nov. 17th

Note, this is the meeting we postponed last month. The new date is Friday, November 17th, at 8:00 pm, preceded by a prepared dinner (not a potluck) at 7:00 pm.

The Pastor's Report is ready in case anyone wants a copy, but I will present it with PowerPoint slides at the meeting. Principal Smith will also have a very important presentation to make about the school, and is hoping for your response. In addition you will hear all the usual reports and be invited to contribute in any way that you feel will be helpful. Members and non-members are welcome to attend, but of course only members can vote.

Pastor's Council on Nov. 21st, at 7:30 PM

Once again our Council members for this year are:

Mary Cooper	Amy D Glenn	Cynthia Harvey
Aubrey Hernandez	Kim Maxwell	Curt Moore
John Kern	Joe Sprinkle	Lincoln Smith
	Patrick Sweeney	

Please contact them if you have ideas or opinions you would like represented in church planning.

Our guest this month will be Principal, Brian Smith, to follow up and/or respond to any questions you may have about his presentation to the society meeting *about planning for our school*.

Other than that, primary topics for this meeting include the following, besides any others from you or other church members: -

- Your response to the new orders of service for worship: we've used five different ones now, over 10 weeks. What do you think so far?
- Use of our sanctuary for non-religious music recitals? I've had a request, and said I would discuss it with you.
- If we had an extra \$50,000 for any capital expense at WNC what would YOU like to see it used for? Grant applications are due to the Glencairn Foundation in early January.
- Counsel about a new bishop for the church. Pastors throughout the church have been asked to take counsel about this as we prepare to elect a successor to Brian Keith starting in July of 2019. So what are the qualities YOU feel are most important in the man who will take this on?



Church Events in November

Mondays:

the 13th & 27th the *evening* Heaven and Hell study group will meet at the Cooper home at 8:00 pm with Rev. Ferrell.

Tuesdays:

the 7th the WNC School board will meet at 7:30 pm and on **the 14th** the WNC Trustees will meet at 7:30 pm also.

Wednesdays:

the 1st, 15th and 29th, the *morning* Heaven and Hell study group will meet at the Gladish house at 10:00 am, following a syllabus of readings available on request.

the 8th & 22nd at 8:00 pm the new study group discussing the history and spiritual meaning of the PROPHETS of the Old Testament will meet at the church. All are welcome!

Fridays:

The 2nd annual Men's Retreat begins on the 3rd, with arrivals and supper at the Cambridge venue any time after 4:00 pm

The 10th, starting at 7:30 pm there is a “**coffee house**” talent night sponsored by the WNCs 7th – 10th graders – for all ages, *parents must accompany children*. See p. 10 for details.

The 17th at 8:00 pm we'll have our **semi-annual society meeting** to hear reports and give counsel, especially on the school – but Mike also has a report on church outreach. Remember, this is the meeting we postponed from last month.

NOTE, *WNCs will be closed for Thanksgiving* from Wednesday, the 22nd thru Friday, the 24th.

Saturday:

The 18th there is a volunteer WORK PARTY at the church, the first one in over a year, and we have LOTS of fun jobs for people of all ages and abilities. Come on out for breakfast (\$3) at 8:00 am and projects from 8:30 on.

From the Principal

In November the school looks forward to our Thanksgiving break and right before that our “project days.” We use the two days just prior to the break to work as a whole school on themed projects. This can include field trips, service work and special curriculum and it provides the opportunity to work together as a community.

But first we start the month on November 1st with a harvest festival organized especially by Mrs. Q. This event (rotating with a Halloween party in alternate years) involves a variety of different indoor and outdoor stations where students enjoy a range of crafts and activities and (perhaps) the last of the great weather!

The final event I’ll highlight is our work-party and pancake breakfast scheduled for November 18th (*see p.15*). I’d like to emphasize the “party” side of this event. Many useful things are accomplished for maintaining and beautifying our facility but perhaps even more important is the opportunity to connect church and school communities working together on common projects. I challenge you to find a more satisfying way to connect with other people and to feel a sense of ownership in your church. Come join the party!

Due to low anticipated participation, the October 6 society meeting was moved to November 17th. Along with other business, this will be an opportunity for the School Board, Board of Trustees and school administration to report on some of our early findings and planning with regard to high school programing. We welcome the opportunity to hear live feedback from people at the meeting and/or in written form afterwards.

Brian Smith (brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

From the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees and School Board held a joint meeting on October 3, 2017 to discuss future school plans and budget challenges, in preparation for the Society Meeting scheduled for October 6. However, due to many people out of town or unavailable, the Society Meeting was subsequently rescheduled for Nov.17. Please plan to come at that time to hear and discuss our future.

The BoT also voted to appoint David Radcliffe to a 3-year term, as he has agreed to fill a vacant position on the Board.

The next BoT meeting will be on November 14 at 7:30pm at the Church. ~ Sharon Croft – BoT Secretary

Sermon Topics for November, 2017

the 5th: Guest preacher, Rev. Lawson Smith, pastor at WNC from 1983 ‘til 1993. Lawson will provide this service while the 3 resident pastors are all away for the 2nd annual Men’s Retreat this weekend. Please make a special effort to come out and welcome Lawson.

the 12th: Bible Trivia – only it’s not really trivial. Our topic today is Old Testament laws and customs that *seem* to have no meaning in our lives today, but in fact have deep meaning when we “get” the correspondences involved. ~ MDG

the 19th: Alone. Our school year is focused on the theme of “Community.” Where does “being alone” fit into community? Is it a good or bad thing? We’ll explore these questions looking at the story of Jonah. ~ BDS

Thanksgiving, Thursday, the 23rd: Bring an offering of fresh or canned items to help the needy, and celebrate the love and wisdom of the Lord, who provides everything we need. ~ MDG

the 26th: Our Daily Bread. Following up on Thanksgiving, this sermon will explore the spiritual meaning of this section of the Lord’s Prayer and how we can be content with the dispensations of providence *each day*. ~ MDG

Money Matters

In the spirit of thanksgiving for ALL your donations to the Washington New Church, this month we would like to acknowledge one special donation from a sister congregation!

The members of the Baltimore Group, who still meet about 10 times a year for Sunday services, have for several years now very generously given our society some of the benefits of their own endowment – mainly to support our school. This year is no different in that they recently sent a \$2,000 donation in recognition of this work – the only New Church School in the southeast USA.

This isn't the only support we receive from “friends” outside of our immediate congregation. Several individuals in several states with special interest in what we are doing here contribute annually. One anonymous donor in Bryn Athyn has been extremely generous over a number of years with help for both our Pastoral Assistance Fund and our school endowment. Yet another in Canada recently sent a special donation in thanks for the sermon mailings she receives from us almost every week.¹ And nearly every year we benefit tremendously from grants from New Church family Foundations – like the Asplundh and Glencairn Foundations – for all sorts of capital improvement projects.

So you see both our impact and our support base extend far beyond Mitchellville. And it is important for us to be aware of this larger network, and to recognize that though our attendance on occasion may be small we are far from alone: the Lord is working with us through many “unseen” helpers.

To all, therefore, who are reading this near and far, we thank you! We appreciate you! We couldn't do what we do without you!

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer



From the Theta Alpha Guild

October at TAG has been first and foremost about caring! Kind volunteers helped set up a website to ensure that Edward & Wystan and family get the support they need during Wystan's recovery from surgery. More

¹ Since I am one of the few ministers in the GC still writing out all my sermons many of the 80 or so people around the world who get them by email find they are a convenient resource for personal or small group services. – MDG

opportunities to help the Simonses are coming up in November, log in at <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/wystans-care-and-concern-team>. Meanwhile, we are standing ready to support the Zubers following Phil's accident (*details p. 14*)

With your help, we collected pantry items for two housewarming baskets and organized upcoming gifts for some special people! We held a successful heart cookie fundraiser to expand access to our February 9-11 Women's Respite Weekend to more women. We have secured the beach house! Email (lovinchickens@gmail.com) if you haven't signed up.



One of our current fundraisers, a holiday basket PACKED with goodies and gifts will help us continue TAG activities supporting our teachers, students, and community members! \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 6. In addition, Mary Cooper is leading a team of people creating stunning centerpieces for the holidays (*see below to order*). Finally, we will hold our annual bake sale on November 19, also the last day to buy raffle tickets. The raffle drawing and a special presentation will take place on Thanksgiving Day following the service. Thanks for your continued generous support! ~ Becca Smith – TAG President

Mary Cooper has stepped in to host our next planning meeting on Wednesday November 8 at 7:30 pm. Thanks, Mary!

TAG Centerpieces for Sale:

For your decorating or gift giving: candle-and-greens centerpieces will be available for purchase after Thanksgiving. All proceeds raised will benefit the Church Operating Fund. Price range: \$10-\$25. Look for order forms and some samples in the church lobby, or call Mary Cooper to order ([301 390-6292](tel:3013906292)).



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, November 10, 2017
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
At the Church & School

Everyone is welcome, but parents must accompany their children!

Please RSVP by November 1, 2017

janasprinkle@aol.com

Description: Come show us your talents! Sign up to perform by e-mailing Jana Sprinkle at janasprinkle@aol.com by Wednesday, November 8th.

Free coffee, tea, and crudités will be provided. Between acts, delicious deserts will be auctioned off!

Funds go toward the cost of field trips for 7th-10th grades, and towards the WNCs operating fund.

NEWS FROM YOUR FAVORITE COMMUNITY! THE WASHINGTON NEW CHURCH

What a lovely day to be writing some news—I'm happy to share some news from this section of the Hyatt family. We have officially moved into the Acton Park community! We arrived with help from lots of friends and family on October 8th, and we have been feeling warmly embraced by the community. Thank you, everyone, for all the good wishes! We are so happy to be living in Acton Park. ☺

Onto all the news! This has been a big month, with lots of great news to share and some news that will require extra thought, prayers and strength in the coming months.

MISSING CONNECTION: A gold sweater has wandered away from home and into the arms of Sara Smith after Kathleen's wedding. The gold sweater is missing its owner and looking to head

back home. If you know of anyone who seems cold and sweater-less, let them know that a sweater is waiting with open arms. ;)

CHARTER DAY 2017: The Quinteros travelled to BA for Charter Day for Candy's 40th reunion. The trip was even better because “Stefanie was there for her 10th so we got to see her too!”



Dorothy Radcliffe wrote in to tell of her Charter Day travels: “Bill and I went to B.A. for the Charter Day weekend and celebrated my 70th High school reunion with some of our classmates. We stayed at Cairnwood Village in their guest suite which was very nicely appointed. Marlin Smith and Helga Childs who live there organized the affair.”

Becca and Lincoln Smith made quite the splash at the Charter Day festivities! Becca and Lincoln received the Distinguished Alumni award at the Bryn Athyn College Alumni event, alongside Curtis Childs. (Becca says, “If you haven't seen Curtis' work on YouTube, such as his "OffTheLeftEye" channel, check it out!”). So impressive!

Taking advantage of the long weekend **Dave and Bonnie Cowley** with the Aubrey, Avi Hernandez and 3 children we able to spend a very summerlike weekend in a friend’s condo - beach front - in Ocean City, MD. Arriving late Thursday night they had 3 spectacular (late October days) at the beach, making sand castles, beach combing, swimming (if you can believe it!), walking on the boardwalk and spending a day on Assateague Island.



Wanda Moore wrote in to thank everyone for the “amazing support!” She said that the Baltimore ADA walk “started out as a cool, no COLD morning but the weather warmed up for our 3 mile walk around the Canton Waterfront for the 2017 Baltimore ADA walk on Sunday, October 1st. Thanks to all of your support, my

team raised over \$9,700 with me personally raising over \$7,000. This being my 13th year walking to Stop Diabetes, it gets better each year and I am very humbled by my family, friends, and coworkers support. ADA is estimating over 2,500 walkers this year raising close to \$500K. Donations are still being accepted until November 1st for the 2017 walk. On behalf of ADA and the 30 million people living with diabetes, thank you for your support.”



Brad Johns wrote in with a bunch of great news to share: “The last 30 days has been pretty busy for us! Bist got married to a fabulous girl, Christine Mongeon. At the wedding dinner, Kathy and I told the group that if Brad Jr took any longer to marry her... we had planned to propose to her to be our daughter-in-law anyway :)”

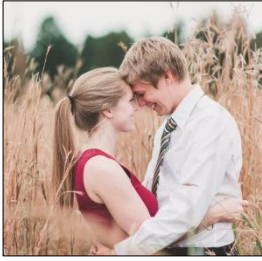
Brad says that his “still-new voiceover career gets more interesting and exciting every week. Seems I have customers all over the world now. This is so amazing to me... to be able to voice fun projects from the studio I created in Alaina’s old bedroom, and in seconds have customers listening on the other side of the globe. Last week I finalized a fun project for **Craters of the Moon National Park** in Idaho. I narrated the film that people watch at the visitor’s center upon arrival. Also, I voiced an hour long video training for a large Texas based oil company.”

Brad also does voicemail messaging for several businesses and individuals – contact at: www.americanvoicepower.com”

Janna Zuber reports “the marriage of **Kira and Joseph** on October 7th in Thurmont, MD... was a magical special weekend from start to finish!” The ceremony, truly a family affair, officiated by Devin Zuber, outdoors in a beautiful pine woods, decorations by Janna, with music provided by brother Grayson on guitar, and Justin represented by fellow musicians Paul Oorts and Karen



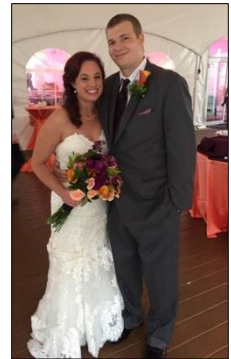
Ashbrook. Kira's 5 nieces were among the attendants, with Logan as best man. "We loved seeing the connections being made between the families and the cousins and friends that were there."



Kathleen Smith married Kenan Smith on October 13th, and they became the first couple to hold their wedding in the newly renovated church building. Neighbors brought flowers (and even some small trees) into the church, decorating it so it felt like an outdoor wedding. The reception took place in Matt and Sara's yard, and it filled Acton

Park with joyful sounds of music, speeches and some adorable home videos. All of the guests were in awe of the love that Kathleen, Kenan and their families put into every detail, and their hard work was evident. It was a beautiful wedding and reception! (Note from the editor: Kathleen displayed her incredible crafting and decorating skills through all the wedding—every bit was covered in her handiwork. It was amazing!)

And if two weddings in a row were not enough, just two hours after Kathleen and Kenan's wedding, just an hour away in Severn, MD, **Lyle (Kingdon) & Chris Crossman** had a blessing on their marriage. This beautiful wedding *was* outside overlooking the Chesapeake Bay but with only a light mist. Rev. Alan Cowley flew up from Boynton Beach to officiate and unbelievably many Washington church friends and relatives made it to both weddings that day.



Fortunately the reception was in a heated tent with a hardwood dance floor and what a great time was had by all!

Here are some updates from **Wystan Simons** about her surgery—Wystan says that she, Edward, Owen and Trum "all SO appreciative of the help that's been arriving at their on their doorstep since Wystan's surgery October 18th. It was successful bilateral surgery for breast cancer, with sentinel node dissection. The pathology report came in negative, so no further cancer is apparent in my sur-

rounding tissues. Now I'm just sore and trying to not do too much while the armpit incisions heal. Next week we meet with the oncologist and the radiologist. Ask Dorothy Radcliffe if you want to get access to a Facebook page with updates.”

Wystan and Edward's house has been filled with family since surgery—Bronwyn came to help and stay for a week, and Freya and Oskar have both been home to visit as well. Thank goodness for family, friends and neighbors. ☺

Kira Zuber sent out an announcement pertaining to her dad's (**Phil Zuber**) unfortunate accident: “As you may have seen on the news a car crashed into a local Upper Marlboro lunch spot on Tuesday, October 25th. Phil Zuber was in the building, and was one of the injured. He was discharged from the hospital today but may be facing a lengthy recovery. He is not taking any visitors at this time. If you need more information or want to help, please contact Kira *not Janna*. Feel free to call/text her cell at [301-785-7058](tel:301-785-7058) or email kezuber@gmail.com or kzuber@scblawyers.com”

Speedy wishes for healing and recovery are streaming into the Zuber household as Phil recovers from his accident and surgery!

Thank you, friends and neighbors, for all the support this month. See you next month for more updates and news!

November Anniversaries

“With people who are in a state of truly conjugal love, their union of minds increases, and with it their friendship.” Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 214



Nov. 1st ~ Dan & Jeanine Federline ~ 4 yrs.

Nov. 3rd ~ Bob & Bea Newkirk ~ 55 yrs.

Nov. 11th ~ Court & Elaine Bee ~ 45 yrs.

Nov. 19th ~ Barry & Erin Stillman ~ 23 yrs.





Pancake Breakfast & Work Party **Saturday, Nov. 18th**

- Lots of jobs for all ages and interests
- Have fun working with family and friends!
- Get to know our new school families
- Earn lots of required PSP* credits

Breakfast begins at 8:00am

\$3 for children 12 and under, \$5 for all others

Work Party begins at 9:00am

[There will be a job for any skill level]

Children welcome! – *accompanied by an adult*

**Parent Service Program*

