

October 2016

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

The program for this month is varied and interesting, including the Charter Day weekend in Bryn Athyn from the 14th to the 16th, a

newcomers' event featuring the Rev. Bernita Babb on the 18th, a dining out fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse on the 26th, and our fall church business meeting on the 28th (postponed from the 7th). Check for details in this newsletter.

Of *special interest* however are some of the conclusions drawn from last month's Pastor's Council meeting about our worship services. Seeking counsel, I had asked about the monthly family services, and also about possible simplification of our ritual generally, with a stronger emphasis on acknowledgment and praise of the Lord rather than our own needs in the early parts of our services.

In regard to the family services we agreed that they are not working very well in the sanctuary – for a bunch of reasons, including the difficulty of accommodating to all ages in that venue. *So I have agreed to go back to the “supper room” for this less formal service*, at least until Christmas, and to strive with renewed effort to include and engage all ages in my messages. These services will be on the second Sundays of each month, Oct. 9th, Nov. 13th and Dec. 11th. We will re-evaluate for the New Year.

As for simplifying the ritual and focusing more joyfully on the Lord in services, the Council was affirmative to some judicious experimentation with the hope that those who attend will candidly share their responses – affirmative or negative – as we proceed. We are not talking about huge changes, just enough to allow our affections to flow more naturally in the services. This may also include the occasional introduction of recorded music before, during or after the services. Suggestions are welcome!

To put all this in a doctrinal context you should know that our worship ritual was designed in the early 20th century with two key things in mind: first was the principle that we cannot do anything really good until we repent, reform and shun evils as sins against the Lord. In worship this translated to the concept of acknowledging our weaknesses and failings at the beginning, then accepting instruction from the Word to address those conditions, and finally rising to a “crescendo” of praise at the end of the service. Second was the principle that the Lord bends but does not break our affections, including the affections we have for forms of worship that

are familiar to us. What this meant to the founders of our church was that we should use an adapted form of the Liturgy and hymns found in the “old church” (predominantly Anglican) but try to infill them with new meaning, so that people coming INTO the New Church from the old would be comfortable.

But in regard to the first point there are balancing teachings that clearly show our need to look to the Lord FIRST so that our hearts can be open to Him during the instruction and self-examination that follow. By acknowledging HIM, His love, His wisdom and His power first, we put ourselves in a position to benefit far more than we can by focusing on ourselves, our needs and our failures first. In any case, there is a place for both approaches, and we agreed that it is time to put a greater focus on the second approach.

As for making use of accepted forms of worship so that new members will be comfortable, well, in case you hadn’t noticed times have changed, and very few people in OUR community worship now as they did 100 years ago. To some the differences can be really welcome, but to others they can just seem old and stilted. All I’m saying is that if we still believe in the original principle of adapting what we find in the church culture around us, then we should not be afraid to make use of at least *some* of the customs that are current here in Baptist, Reformed or Evangelical churches.

The same thing might be said of church music and songs. There is great dignity and solemnity in many of our hymns, and four-part harmony is a pleasure for some, but a real challenge for others. Think about it: all true worship flows from the heart and *not* just the understanding. Is our singing really joyful? I personally like many of our hymns, *but I’m used to them*. Many whom we would like to welcome into our church are not. How can we make this easier for them?

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Gladish". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'G'.

From the Principal

Mostly, we’ve had a great start to the school year. This great start was typified for me at our back to school night for which almost all of our new families showed up. We have some great new families

who are joining the school community this year. These are thoughtful, engaged (though busy) people who are actively working on the task of raising their children. This makes them natural partners with the school. Many of them have experience at other schools and/or had been looking at other schools before settling on WNCS. All have gone through our lengthy application process. And all have chosen to entrust their children to the care of WNCS and to pay the tuition – which for most, takes a real effort.

The same can be said for our returning families who are also engaged with WNCS in this important work of providing for the children's religious and academic education. The work is difficult but very rewarding. I'm grateful for the students the Lord has sent our way.

If you would like opportunities to meet and form relationships with our school community, come out to some of our fall events designed for that purpose. We start with a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Bernita Babb, who gave a superb presentation to church members in September.

October 18: Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Bernita Babb sharing a fresh perspective on the New Church from the eyes of a newcomer.

- Dinner at 6pm (bacon wrapped pork loin and dessert) provided by WNCS teachers.
- Pizza and childcare provided for children. \$5 for everyone eating to offset food costs.
- RSVP - planning the meal will be much easier if we know who to expect.

October 26: Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser (Bowie). 4pm-10pm. We will provide invitations in the next couple of weeks. Invite all your friends and co-workers. Enjoy a meal with old and new friends AND raise money to support your children's education!

November 1: Parenting Workshop. Long time Child and Family Psychologist, Dr. Saul Fisher teams up with longtime educator, Scott Daum to offer a practical *How To and Why To* of parenting strategies. They hope to share a little theory and doctrinal frame-

work on childhood development while also giving very practical guidance for parents.

- Potluck Dinner for School families 5:30-7pm. (Childcare provided)
- Workshop open to the public at 7pm. (workshop and childcare free)

Finally, our biggest sadness this fall has been Kim Maxwell's bicycle accident and following absence. We're counting on her tough spirit and discipline to help her through recovery, and students and faculty are both excited for when she is well enough to visit. Also coming out of this challenging situation is the flood of people offering good wishes and tangible help. Our three primary substitutes are Carole Waelchli, Amanda Hyatt and Kathy Johns each of whom brings skill and integrity. This leaves me confident in the quality of education we're providing at WNCN. Finally, I'd like to mention Sharon Kunkle, who has been filling in the gaps and organizing 5/6th grade materials to support our subs and all the hidden-from-view volunteers (boards and treasures) who give extra time to manage the logistics and finances to support the school.

We are inviting those who are able to make a special contribution to help WNCN's budget weather this situation.

Thanks for everyone's support, patience and well wishes for the Washington New Church School.



WNCN Fall Society Meeting

The fall business meeting of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem will be held on Friday night, October 28th, 2016, at 8:00 pm at the church

This will follow a pot luck supper at 7:00 pm.

An agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, the treasurer's and pastors' reports will be circulated a week or so before the meeting

Men's Retreat, October 21st – 23rd

GUYS! Last call for the first ever men's church retreat planned for the Washington Society. 14 men are now confirmed and we can now take two more. This is going to be fun, stimulating, energizing, and spiritually rewarding, not to mention a great opportunity to get to know one another better in a relaxed setting, and just enjoy each other's company.

We will meet at THIS → lovely estate on the Chesapeake Bay, a fully-furnished eight-bedroom six-bath waterfront family-friendly house tucked away in a lush pine forest. The vacation home is on a very private cove with **2 acres of waterfront property** and a large private dock and 3 boat slips. Easy access by car, or by boat from the Bay. Check out the kitchen area! – And a typical bedroom, though there are some private rooms, too, with queen size beds.



You can see all the details at <https://www.vrbo.com/13070>

The theme will be the application of doctrine to life, i.e., spiritual, rational and moral wisdom, and we have three brief lay presentations now scheduled for Saturday, one each by John Kern, Rick Bond and David Radcliffe, not to mention the pastor's bits introducing the main doctrines and leading worship. Brian Smith will conduct an interactive Sunday service.



Over the next few weeks we will be planning for meals, starting Friday night and going through Sunday lunch. If you want to help plan the event, please call Mike Gladish at **301-461-3521**.

Special Events in October, 2016

Tues, the 4th the School Board meets at the church at 7:30. *Parents are invited for the first part of this and every meeting.*

Wed, the 5th the third morning study group for the season will meet at the Gladish home at 10:00 AM to review no's 11-27 of *The New Jerusalem & its Heavenly Doctrine*. New members are most welcome, and good, used copies of the book are available from the pastor.

Tues, the 11th the WNC Board of Trustees has its regular meeting at 7:30 at the church. Special topics will be school administration, contributions/fundraising and preliminary budget estimates for 2017-18.

Fri, the 14th is Charter Day at the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, and special events will punctuate the whole weekend. Pastor Mike is going up for his 50th class reunion!

Tues, the 18th at 6:30 pm we have a special event for all our new school parents, special guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Bernita Babb, talking about her journey into the New Church from a life-long background in the Baptist, Evangelical and Reformed Churches. *See page 4 for details.*

Wed, the 19th the new morning NJHD study group will meet again at the Gladish's at 10:00 AM to review no's 28-46.

Fri, the 21st the first ever **WNC Men's Retreat** will get under way at a shore venue near Cambridge, MD and will run all weekend. See page 6 for details.

Tues, the 28th the Acton Park Board meets at 7:30.

Wed, the 26th is our big fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant – from 4:00 – 10:00 pm. Be sure to get your admission slip to have your donation to WNC registered!

Fri, the 28th at 8 pm is our fall society meeting. See page 5. Pot Luck supper begins at 7:00pm

Sermon Topics for October, 2016

2nd: **Getting Personal**, the power of sharing spiritual insights and struggles. How can we do this without calling undue attention to ourselves, and why should we try anyway? ~ MDG

9th: **FAMILY SERVICE: The Lord's Protection.** How exactly does the Lord protect us and from what? Are there any reasons why He might NOT protect us? We will be back in the supper room for this service and I will try very hard to accommodate the talk to all ages. ~ MDG

16th: It's been a week of other things and so I can't form a realistic picture of what my October topic will be. Instead, I'd like to use this opportunity to invite ideas. What are the topics, questions, concerns that you would like to hear about? Even if I can't use them this month it occurs to me just how valuable it would be to me to receive some responses from people about what (or how) they would like to see something addressed? ~ BDS

23rd: **A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand.** Imagine your house, a physical structure, cut in half; it could tumble over and become uninhabitable. How might this relate to our spiritual life? ~ MEF

30th: **Elijah Fed by Ravens (I Kings 17):** As ravens signify *falsities* it is remarkable that the prophet could be nourished by them. But see Luke 16:9 about "making friends of the mammon of unrighteousness." *How can we profit from things that are not right?* It's important! Come and see. ~ MDG

Money Matters

A Friendly Focus on Finances

Like it or not, money matters. We know it at home, we know it in business, and it's no different at church. It matters for two reasons. First, it is one of the important ways we show commitment. If

we're not willing to spend money on it – whatever it is – that generally means we don't value it very highly. Money forces us to prioritize. Second, it buys the things we need.

Beginning this month we want to help our members and friends focus on the financial realities of the church so that we can clearly see and understand the situation, and plan accordingly. Please watch for an article like this each month and give it your thoughtful, maybe even prayerful attention.

Let's begin with our budget. Your Board of Trustees prepares a new budget every year and submits it to the annual meeting for approval. It is designed to accommodate all the many uses we try to support, from worship services to special events and the school. This year that budget includes over \$725,000 in expenses, much of which is for teachers' salaries. With that in mind we plan for over \$280,000 in tuition income, \$180,000 in endowment income, and this year \$26,000 in General Church subsidies. That leaves about \$239,000 to cover from contributions and fundraisers. And by the way, that's pretty reasonable for a church.

So let's round up slightly and say we need \$240,000 from contributors. Breaking that down, it is about \$20,000 a month, and breaking it down even further at 4.4 weeks per month it means we need about \$4,500 PER WEEK to stay on budget.

Further dividing that by, say, 56 contributors (the number who gave in 2015-16), we end up with an ***average need of just about \$81.00 every week from every contributor (member or friend).***

Now obviously not everyone can give at that level. Some (a few?) can *and do* give a *lot* more. Some can barely make a fraction of that. This is clearly understood! The important thing is that we all do what we can. The *total* is what matters. But we won't make the total if we don't all do our best – from week to week.

Another way of calculating all this would be to subtract from the overall contributions need, say, \$100,000 given by the top 6 donors (note, these figures are hypothetical). Then drop off the 5 contributors who honestly can't afford to give much at all and that would

leave \$140,000 to be divided 45 ways, which would result in an average need of about \$60 a week from the “average” contributor.

On one hand that’s a car payment every month! On the other hand, if it were a car you needed, you’d make the payments. How much more important is the church – not just in our own lives but in the lives of those who need us to help them find the Lord in His Second Coming.

Of course just knowing all this doesn’t make it possible for anyone to give, but it does put it in perspective. If you joined a local Baptist Church you would be expected to tithe (i.e., give 10% of your net income to the church). We don’t require that here, but the fact that millions of people in economic circumstances just like ours do tithe suggests it can be done. And quite simply, ALL of our financial concerns as a church would disappear overnight if we did.

Next month we’ll focus on the specific uses we support when we give to the church, and how we can designate funds for certain uses of our choice. In anticipation, ***please note that there is a special need in our budget right now*** for extra support to pay for substitute teachers during Mrs. Maxwell’s recovery. Our insurance does not cover this, so special contributions for that purpose would be greatly appreciated.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, Treasurer

From Around the General Church



Theta Alpha Luncheon: Theta Alpha International invites New Church women interested in supporting New Church education (age 14 and up) to the annual Charter Day luncheon on Friday, October 14th, 2016, at noon in Heilman Hall, Bryn Athyn, PA. This

year’s program features A Century of Academy of the New Church Fashion, and an encore performance by the ANC dance troupe.

RSVP to reserve your seat by

ing ancdaughters@gmail.com or calling Janet Krettek at [215-938-1955](tel:215-938-1955). The cost is \$15 per person, \$7 per student. Pay at the door.

Job opening - Assistant Professor of Education: The Education Department at Bryn Athyn College invites applications for a full-time

tenure track position in education at the rank of assistant professor to begin July 1, 2017.

This position offers a unique opportunity to serve as the lead for developing and implementing an innovative Master of Science in Education.

For more information and details see the notice on our lobby bulletin board or contact: college.jobs@brynathyn.edu.

Australia Family Camp: Have you ever thought about visiting Australia? Did you know that there is a General Church society in Sydney? I bet many of you would love to see the famous Sydney Opera House or check out our weird wildlife. You could come over and pet a kangaroo, and see some koalas. Here's another reason to visit: we hold a church family camp every year, in early January. It's attended by New Church families from all across Australia - as well as visitors from Europe and North America!



Next camp is January 1-7, 2017

If you have a little niggling feeling that you might like to join us, email Todd Beiswenger, todd@hurstvillenewchurch.com, or check camp details at www.newchurch.net.au. We can help you sort out some details. Registration deadline is December 1st.



BOYNTON BEACH RETREAT

Jan. 29 – Feb.2, 2017

Don't forget to register for this year's Boynton Beach Retreat. Though Dr. Erica Goldblatt Hyatt will not be speaking, as previously advertised (she is pregnant and should not travel to

Florida). The good news is that Dr. Sonia Werner has agreed to take her place. Dr. Werner is an expert in such areas as conflict resolution and altruism from a Swedenborgian viewpoint. We are very fortunate to have her coming and look forward to her presentations.

Other speakers will be Brian Henderson, Mac Frazier and Bishop Peter Buss, Jr.

Remember -- October 15th is the last day for the early registration price. More information is on the Church lobby bulletin board.

Bryn Athyn College new Dual Certificate Program: The Pennsylvania Department of Education has approved Bryn Athyn College's application to offer a dual certification program in early childhood education, pre-kindergarten to fourth grade and special education, pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Students who complete the program will graduate with a degree in both early childhood education and special education and be prepared to take the certification tests required by the state. (See our lobby bulletin board for more details.)

Greetings!

A monthly note about welcoming people at church

Church and School Community

This church has always had education as its primary focus, and now, more than ever, we are attracting new families to the school, and through the school to the church. As a matter of interest, since school began this year we have received at least 5 new inquiries about possible enrollments, and several of these inquirers have attended services as a first step. This influx of new faces is certainly very encouraging! Now we need to develop our skills at **connecting** with them and including them in our spiritual community. How can we do this?

One way is just by showing up – at church and school functions – and engaging them in friendly conversation. Another way is by actually inviting them to *join you* in worship or some other activity and then to take special care to stay with them throughout the experience.

Good things are happening here, folks! Let's make sure they continue in a positive direction! – MDG

News Notes

*“Youth is like spring, an over praised season
more remarkable for biting winds
than genial breezes.*

Autumn is the mellower season.”

- Samuel Butler

Our love and prayers are with our friends **Bonnie Cowley, Jeanette Roscoe and Beata Kinsey** and their families as they grieve the loss of their nephew, **Karl Sellner**, a young man in the military service who passed into the spiritual world early this month. May you all feel the Lord's love in the support of those around you.

Our hearts also go out to **Edward Simons** and family whose elderly aunt, **Gwenda Acton**, also passed into the spiritual world early this month in Tampa, FL. We are glad **Edward and Wystan** were able to attend her service. May happy memories comfort you.

Our love and prayers are with our friend and WNCS teacher, **Kim Maxwell**, who is recovering from multiple injuries sustained in a bicycling crash on September 17th. She has already finished some intense physical and occupational therapy at a Rehabilitation Center, and is now continuing her healing at home. She is in good spirits and has appreciated all the love and good wishes sent her way. If you'd like to help care for Kim, please contact Anne Ball – agball@verizon.net.

New Beginnings:

Kathleen Smith (Matt and Sara's oldest daughter) recently became engaged to **Kenan Smith** of Kempton, PA. A fall 2017 wedding is planned. Congratulations Kathleen and Kenan! That is happy news!

"**William and (Isabel) Kingdon** are honored, pleased and proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Lyle Kingdon**, to **Christopher Crossman**, son of Cherie and Neil Van Malderghem of Severna Park, MD. Chris is the System Administrator for Artelye Marble and Granite Inc. in Beltsville, MD, father to **Charlotte and Samuel Crossman**. A 2017 wedding is to be planned.

Both families are thankful for the support and love they have received!" Congratulations and best wishes, Lyle and Christopher!

Our dear friend **Aurora Synnestvedt** has moved. We will surely miss her as she leaves us to take up her new life in Kempton, sporting the WCNJ logo on her car!



Using Talents Well:

Congratulations to **Ivan Croft** for winning 2 blue ribbons and the Champion prize for his oil painting at the Prince George's County Fair! You may have seen both of his pieces (oil and scratch pad) in the supper room last year as part of **Mrs. Stillman's** WNCS art class display. **Anders Croft** is also producing some cool art, taking high resolution photographs of bees for the USGS bee survey as part of an internship for his senior year research practicum. Wow, that's exciting! Way to go, boys!

Janna Zuber invites you to visit her solo art show at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Her art (many new works as well as a few "makeovers") will be on display for the month of October. This venue is attached to the high school. It is open from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm as well as when they are hosting events.

Rick Bond reports: "**Marybeth** has taken a job with Americorps in Georgetown Delaware . This is a one year assignment with Habitat for Humanity . She is very nearby and we are happy she is spending some weekends visiting back home." Good for you, Marybeth! - And so nice for your family too. ☺

On September 23rd, following a delicious "Friday Supper," our friend, **Rev. Bernita Babb**, who has been studying with us and attending services for a year now, blessed us with a very moving account of the fascinating spiritual journey that led her eventually to the teachings of the New Church. Bernita is an excellent speaker and her talk was full of humor and insights. I personally have appreciated being able to look at myself and my spiritual environment from Bernita's fresh perspective. We're very happy that you found us, Bernita!



A Food Forest Feast, with renowned Chef Michael Costa, the Head Chef at Zaytinya in D.C. was held in **Lincoln Smith's** Forest Garden on Sep-

tember 24th. Guests were treated to dishes made from products of the Forest Garden, including Lemongrass Aronia Berry Shrub, Shiso Leaves, Ground Cherries, Karpuzi me Feta, Tomato Salad, Smoked Purple Sweet Potatoes and Butternut Squash (Finally some items know!), Duck Egg Omeleta, Acorn Falafel and Mushrooms. Dessert was Acorn Pawpaw Cakes, Apple Sorbet, Kaymak (clotted buffalo milk), Chickasaw Plum Spoonsweet and Acorn Granola. I'm told this was an elegant, delicious and entertaining event. Congratulations, Lincoln! Who knew there were so many delicacies in our midst? But what I really want to know is where that buffalo has been hiding?

Lisa (Martin) Attiliis reports: “**Carl's** soccer team - the Bowie Boys and Girls Club won the Olney Elite Classic Labor Day tournament in the U15 boys Premier division. This is a very large tournament with teams coming from as far as Ohio and the Carolina's, etc.” That is pretty awesome, Carl! Congratulations.



Getting Around:

Phil, Janna and Kira Zuber did a seven-day hiking (Janna opted for riding a mule) and camping experience in the high Sierras in August with some other Zubers and friends. They traveled over 55 miles. Janna says the trek was truly memorable for many reasons! Hmm . . . I wonder what those reasons are?

Wanda Moore reports: “On Sunday, August 28th, **CJ** and I went to the 150th anniversary of my family church in Blackstone, VA. Each 4th Sunday in August, the church has Homecoming which is intended for family and friends who no longer live in the area to come back to their church home. This year was special in that the church was celebrating its 150th anniversary. It had been a couple of years since I had been back because it was always the weekend that Marcus moved back to school, so it was very uplifting to be able to go back this year. Needless to say every pew in the church was full, they even had to put chairs in the aisle. That was the church I was baptized in when I was 8 years old, married in, and CJ and his Dad were both baptized in, so it was very memorable for me listening to the church history.”

Wanda continues: “On September 10th, I flew down to Houston, TX to surprise my niece and her husband at their baby shower. They are expecting their first child in October. The shower was on Sunday, September 11th and we decided to meet up with them on Saturday so she wouldn’t be so overwhelmed at the shower. It was very special time and I spent a couple of days with my brother and sister-in-law before coming home. My brother and sister-in-law are coming into town on Saturday as on Sunday we are driving down to our family church to attend the ordination service of my cousin who is being ordained as a deacon. It has been 15 years since my Dad passed away and the church had a Hobbs on the deacon board, so my brother and I wanted to be there for him.” How nice for you, Wanda, to have so many special times with your family!

It was nice to see our snowbird, **Delores Soderberg**, who has returned to spend the winter with us once more. Well, okay, actually she came to be near her daughter, **Cynthia Royce**, but we benefit from that! Delores spent over six weeks this summer traveling by train to visit four of her sons and some grandchildren in WI, WA, and CO. She says train travel is a great way to go because you meet so many lovely people on trains!