

November 2016

# ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the  
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

Mercifully, our national election will soon be over! Of course that doesn't make the issues go away, but it lets us get on with the business of compromise – and hopefully civil government (pun intended). In that connection there is a lovely teaching in *The*

*Doctrine of Charity* that lays out 8 things that are necessary for the common good in “a well constituted commonwealth.” Among them are that there should be (1) what is Divine among us, (2) what is just among us, (3) what is moral among us, and (4) diligence, skill and uprightness among us. Check the passage (#130) for the others, which include “sufficient wealth.” (*The Doctrine of Charity* is one of the posthumous works.)

I have colleagues in the ministry who sincerely believe that the states of our nation are directly related to (and caused by) the states of the church. This is based primarily on the teaching in Divine Providence #251:3, which speaks directly to the correspondence of civil matters to the states of the church. Could this apply to the New Church specifically, or do you think it is talking about the universal church? Either way, it suggests a tremendous responsibility among us all to maintain the highest possible levels of integrity in our application of the truths of the Word, in both our private and our public (civil) life.

Looking a little (but not much) further into November, please note that the school will engage in a commemoration of Veterans’ Day – at 11:00 am on Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> – outdoors, weather permitting. Members and friends of all persuasions are most welcome to attend. Then, that same day, the women’s retreat in downtown Foggy Bottom gets underway and continues through the weekend. See page 11 for more information about this.

Then, of course, we have Thanksgiving weekend, with WNCS closing on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, to accommodate those who travel to fetch students for the holidays. I’d like to offer just a few thoughts about Thanksgiving as we start to think about this time so famous for family gatherings.

First, although this is a secular holiday, first proclaimed as such by President George Washington on October 3, 1789, and fixed annually for the nation as the last Thursday of November by Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863, it is deeply rooted in the Old Testament where three annual feasts were proclaimed (Exodus 23:14-16). Two of these feasts were tied directly to the harvest, one to the harvest of the “first-fruits,” typically the early crops such as

barley and wheat, the other to the “ingathering” of all the other crops at the end of the season. It is this last feast that we associate particularly with our Thanksgiving holiday.

But when we look at the three Old Testament feasts together we see a powerful symbolism in what was being celebrated. First was the feast of unleavened bread, representing the removal of falsities from our spiritual lives. After that the grain harvest represented the truths that replace the falsities. It is only after we have enjoyed these first two blessings that we can celebrate the harvest of spiritual good in our lives (AC 9285).

So as we celebrate our Thanksgiving feasts this year, enjoying the good food, good friends and good times we may have with our families, let’s take at least a moment to reflect on what provides for our *spiritual* good, namely, the removal of falsity and the harvest of truths from the Word. One very pleasant way to do this might be to include a little unleavened bread at your feast, and at least some reference to the grains that symbolize the seeds of truth. Then that pumpkin pie will taste even better!

### **From the Principal**



November: the month of unambiguous fall weather, Thanksgiving and the build up to Christmas! It’s also the month when, fingers crossed; we hope that Kim Maxwell can begin transitioning back into the classroom. That would certainly be something to be thankful for! We’re also grateful for the folks who came or will come out to support our Texas Roadhouse fundraiser and our parent Seminar on November 1<sup>st</sup>!

In case, you happen to be reading prior to November 1, I would invite you to join us Tuesday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> for a parenting seminar led by Dr. Saul Fisher and Scott Daum. Many of you will know Scott Daum who spent years teaching, then principalling at the ANC boys school before taking his current job at General Church Education. Dr. Saul Fisher has worked for over 40 years supporting families through counseling and education. Through much of his career he has been on retainer as an advisor and counselor for the General

Church and Bryn Athyn schools. These two will share their experience on successful parenting strategies. This event has been advertised to the surrounding community as well as WNCS parents. We're hoping that young parents will find this to be valuable support to their parenting work. Please join us and bring your friends.

In October, we hosted a school dinner at which Rev. Dr. Bernita Babb gave a talk about her journey as a religious seeker. She describes a special personal prayer which has guided her life – expressing her desire to know the Lord and from that knowledge to serve Him. This was an uplifting and encouraging talk for all who attended.

Also in October Sharon Kunkle and I attended a school expo hosted by Mocha Moms. We will also be attending one in January put on by the Bowie Mom's group. The fall season is the lead up to next years' enrollment. I mention these simple events because these are great opportunities to get our name out into the local community. This is an area where more hands significantly extend our reach. I would love to build a team of volunteers who can make events and promotions happen as we continue to develop and fine-tune our yearly calendar of events.

We struggle with enrollment in the high school which presents an ongoing concern. But we do get a steady flow of inquiries in the younger school – which is starting to fill up. But even as we reach capacity in certain classrooms, we can still improve our enrollment process by attracting more high quality applicants early in the year so that we don't have people scrambling at the end of the summer.

We're excited to see the progress on the grounds! A parking lot has been newly paved and painted for basketball. Mike Gladish build a board for bouncing balls off and Wynne Hyatt has assembled a new, basketball hoop. The high school woodworking class has been working on building a bridge in the woods which will allow the creation of a new path through the Acton Park woods. The next major effort on the grounds project will be to assemble playground equipment. Volunteers welcome!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. B.', located at the bottom right of the page.

## **Theta Alpha Guild**



September's TAG meeting was jolly and well-attended! Twelve women came to the Simons's house, some new faces and some old friends. Our business was promptly accomplished, thanks to Pres. Becca Smith's able leadership, which left time for visiting and to taste the pumpkin pie.

November 6<sup>th</sup> starts *Souper Sundays*, which last year contributed heavily to the \$971 raised by TAG. November 20th is our *Bake Sale with Raffle Basket*, volunteers still needed. Thanks to Toni Federici who has stepped up to head refreshments for school and church events, to Dorothy Radcliffe who heads *Sunshine*, and to Amanda Hyatt who handles *Meals on Wheels* – all of these ladies have been busy lately sending out love into the church community!

For our **November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting** at the home of Mary Cooper, you can look forward to gingerbread and warm spiced cider, (with or without rum and whipped cream), and learning more about plans for a beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas season! Come connect with friends, toast to a happy holiday season ahead – and to thank the Lord for the warmth of women working together as one, for church and school.

Wystan Simons – TAG Vice President

## **New Classes on the Acts & Epistles**

Many of you have heard the Rev. Bernita Babb share her inspiring testimony about her journey into the New Church. Now she is ready and anxious to “give back” and to serve the New Church in some special way in keeping with her abilities.

One thing she knows better than any of us is the content and meaning of the Biblical Epistles. *And that is something we need to know*, especially if we want to appreciate the background of other Christians who discover and come to the New Church.

So now, at my suggestion, Bernita has agreed to lead a series of classes on these important books – books often quoted and affirmed in the *True Christian Religion* among other books of the Writings.

The big question is WHEN? I surveyed a few members suggesting Sunday mornings before worship, but that was not popular. So now I'm thinking about *a Wednesday or Friday evening series, maybe every other week*. What do YOU think? If you're interested what would work best for YOU?

Please let Mike, Bonnie or Bernita know. We would like to begin soon, or if not before Christmas, definitely in the New Year! Bernita's email is [bernsie11@yahoo.com](mailto:bernsie11@yahoo.com).

### Greetings!

*A monthly note about welcoming people at church*

### Sermon Topics

Do you remember why we publish our sermon topics in the ECHO each month? There are at least three reasons: -

1. If you know someone who is interested in a particular topic, you can invite that person to attend a service where that topic will be featured.
2. If you wish to prepare in a focused way you can read up on the topic before you come (or prepare for Sunday school).
3. If you are struggling in some area and feel that attending would be especially helpful or especially difficult, you can make a wise attendance decision for that day.

On several occasions in my 43 year ministry I have tried to designate specific Sundays as being “especially for newcomers.” It doesn't work. They always show up on other Sundays! So now I try to write **all** my sermons for newcomers as well as “the regulars,” in the hope that everybody can benefit every Sunday.

– MDG

## Money Matters

### A Friendly Focus on Finances

Last month we mentioned the principle of tithing, that is, giving 10% of one's net income to the church. And we noted it's a *principle*, not a literal mandate, signifying *all*, that is, the recognition that *all we have* is from the Lord. Here, now, is a perspective on this that arose out of a recent sermon by Brian Smith about natural and spiritual poverty.

If we start with the acknowledgement that everything we have is from the Lord we can think of our whole salary as His, and that He is simply letting us use it according to our freedom and rationality. He knows what we *should* do with it, but He encourages us to think about it and decide “as if of ourselves.”

So here's the insight that came from the sermon: we all know how to get by on whatever we get paid, and when our pay goes up so do our expenses – naturally! But if we thought of every penny as the Lord's and not really our own, we could adjust our expectations to a certain percentage of the total and just “let the Lord keep the rest,” which is really His anyway. So if your whole family income is, say, \$80,000, you could think of the portion *you* use as \$75,000, and direct the rest to the uses of the church. You could also work up to this by committing a portion of every raise to that goal until you reach it. Most likely you would never miss the difference, and you would make do without the raise at all *if you had to*.

No doubt we all think we need every dollar we earn, but the truth is we are paid according to the work we do, and dedicating some of that pay to the Lord is a simple, practical way of saying “Thank You” to the One who has provided and does provide *everything we really need* – every time, without fail, one way or another.

### Giving to Specific Church Uses

On reflection, it seemed best to postpone this topic to a future article, but you can ask anytime about how to ensure your contributions go to support the church uses that mean the most to you.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, Treasurer

## Pastor's Council November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

Pastor's Council meets again this month to discuss regular programming, pastoral initiatives, your responses and YOUR ideas. Members of this year's council are: -

Mary Cooper	Cynthia Harvey	Carina Heinrichs
Marie Kazeem	John Kern	Kim Maxwell
Lincoln Smith	Stewart Smith	Joseph Sprinkle
	Patrick Sweeney	

Council members are no longer responsible for calling you to get your opinions on the issues, but YOU should contact one of them if you would like to be heard on any particular church concern.

Topics for the November meeting – in addition to any that YOU may suggest – are as follows: -

- Issues and concerns raised in my pastor's report to the semi-annual society meeting – things like volunteerism, scheduling and financial support of church uses.
- Consolidating: what duties can we eliminate or do more efficiently for the health and welfare of the society?
- Church music & ritual: did you know that even the B.A. Cathedral service has a greatly simplified order of service? What are the implications, if any, for us?
- What are we **willing** and **able** to do in this new era of ambivalence about organized religion to serve people, especially young people, more effectively?
- The future of our high school. It's complicated, but changing demographics in the school suggest the need for new resolve – or new ideas (continued from last meeting).
- Learning what the doctrines teach: people say they don't want a *class* for a sermon. Fair enough, but then, in this post-Friday Supper era, what do YOU think is the best way to grow **together** as a congregation in the knowledge of the doctrines?



## **Sermon Topics for November, 2016**

All services begin at 11:00 AM.

**6<sup>th</sup>: Mourning: Prerequisite for Thanksgiving.** There are plenty of reasons to mourn. The children of Israel seemed to lose at battle more often than they won. Let's look at the details of one particularly painful defeat to learn something about how mourning a loss can prepare us for joy. I Sam. 4.12-18; AC 4763.2, 8426.2 ~ BDS

**13<sup>th</sup>: FAMILY SERVICE: Preparing for Marriage.** Children are never too young to start preparing for marriage, even if it's the farthest thing from their mind. In fact they are watching us all the time, subconsciously evaluating the whole institution. In this service we will review some of the basic principles of marriage and show what kids can do to prepare for it. ~ MDG

**20<sup>th</sup>: Principles of Marriage for Adults.** Following up on the 13<sup>th</sup>, today we will review some of the key teachings that provide for happy marriage relationships in this life **and the next**, expounding on Matthew 19:1-12 and 22:23-33. ~ MDG

**24<sup>th</sup>: THANKSGIVING DAY** service with a procession during the first hymns to present "harvest" offerings to donate to the needy. Children stay in church; no Sunday School.

**27<sup>th</sup>: Gratitude and Property.** Have you read the story of Job recently? What about Achan? How about the actions of the disciples after Jesus rose? We'll explore these stories looking at the connections between our sense of property and our ability to live gratefully. ~ BDS

**"Souper" Sundays:** For the last 2 years TAG has been running this ongoing fundraiser during the cold fall and winter months. It has been a great success netting in substantial additional money half of which TAG donates directly to the church.

It works like this: Once or twice a month women of the society make homemade soup and homemade bread to sell after church.

The soups will vary with each week's offerings and we'll have a vegetarian and a non-vegetarian soup to buy. These will be quality homemade soups and the cooks can be reimbursed for their ingredients, thus the cost of the soup will be more than if you bought a



can of Progresso from the store (more comparable to Panera's soup in cost). Remember, this will be a fundraiser so will be worth the extra cost. **Our first "Souper" Sunday will be November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Looking for Work:** Chelsea Quintero is available for almost any jobs you need doing! She is experienced in housecleaning, organization, pet care, and child care. Call [301 875 5127](tel:3018755127)

**Thank You:** Barry and I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of messages, food, and flowers and above all love.

Mom Stillman (Barry's Mother who recently passed away at the age of 94) was the most patient, loving, easy person on the planet. Now who would say, "Oh, that was beautiful!" every time I plunk through "Nearer My God to Thee" on the piano?! I am so glad that she really is "Nearer to God". She earned it. ~ Erin Stillman



**Donations for WNCs Woodshop:** Please consider donating to the WNCs Wood Shop bridge fund. To support the Landscaping Committee and the development of the trail that will go from the "new" playground to the soccer field, the high school woodshop is

building a bridge that crosses over the stream. This stream gouges about 5 feet deep and since the water storm debris) can fill the gorge, we are making a very sturdy 5 feet wide by 16 feet long bridge all out of pressure treated lumber. The materials will cost around \$300-\$400.

Lincoln Smith is helping the class whenever he can and we hope that with his expertise, once the bridge is built, he will help us build rustic posts and railings. It should then be useful and pretty!

~ Bonnie Cowley

### **Special Events in November, 2016**

**Tues, the 1<sup>st</sup> there is NO School** for WNCs but a professional development day for the teachers.

**Tues, the 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM there is a special event at the school about parenting strategies.** See p. 3 for details.

**Wed's, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM the NJHD Study Group** will meet at the Gladish's to continue on love in general, self-love and then charity toward the neighbor.

**Thurs, the 3<sup>rd</sup>** the school board meets instead of their regular Tuesday night, on account of the above special event.

**Tues, the 8<sup>th</sup>** is our national **election day** and so **the Board of Trustees meeting has been moved to Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**On Fri, the 11<sup>th</sup> shortly before 11 AM** please join us at the school for the commemoration of Veterans' Day – outside, weather permitting, inside if not.

**Tues, the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm** there is a Pastor's Council Meeting. Please see page 8 for details.

**Wed, the 16<sup>th</sup> our school will close at noon** for parent-teacher conferences all afternoon.

**Wed, the 23<sup>rd</sup> School will be closed for WNCs** in preparation for the Thanksgiving weekend.

**Women's Gathering Luncheon:** Ladies, come and join us for the ***Saturday Lunch & Program, Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>*** hosted by the gals attending November's *Women's Gathering* event in DC. Join us at the River Inn, in the historic Foggy Bottom, DC. We will provide a lovely lunch, a program to listen to together and discuss, and a seasonal craft activity – something to decorate your home. Your contribution of \$15 is appreciated, though not required. The best way to get to the River Inn is metro, but you can drive and Wystan can assist with parking locations nearby (call or text - 301-237-1283)

If you are interested in staying overnight for this *Women's Gathering*, please contact Wystan because there is still some space. Note that another Women's Gathering or Retreat is planned for the spring. Please let me know your preferences or suggestions, or if you know a home we could use.



"Over the river and through the woods, Trot fast my dapple gray.  
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound  
On this Thanksgiving Day, Hey!  
Over the river and through the woods,  
Now Grandmother's face I spy.  
Hurrah for the fun, Is the pudding done?  
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie."  
- *English folksong, It's Raining, It's Pouring*

Our prayers and loving thoughts are with **Barry and Erin Stillman** since Barry's mother, **Margaret Stillman** passed into her new life in the spiritual world on October 20<sup>th</sup> after a brief illness. While her passing will no doubt be a happy thing for her, we hope you will feel the Lord's loving care in your lives as you adjust to her absence.

Our love and prayers are also with **Bill Kingdon** and his family, as Bill required brain surgery after his stroke 2 weeks ago and has been at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring ever since. The surgery went well but his future is unclear at the time of this writing. Stay tuned for more information.

**Dean Alexander Smith**, the infant son of **Nathan and Valerie Smith** and grandson of **Stewart and Patti Smith** has had trouble keeping milk down. In the third week of October, he (then 3 weeks old) had surgery for pyloric stenosis, which they had hoped would solve the problem. It did improve things but not enough for him to go home as of October 26th. They expect to keep him in the

hospital at least 2-3 more days. Our love and prayers are with little Dean and his whole family. We hope he heals quickly.

Early this month **Sara Smith** had surgery on her foot. The recovery is still in progress because after her stitches were removed the incision popped open again so her healing regressed quite a bit. But she says she is now slowly but surely finally healing. We're so sorry about the set-back, Sara. How frustrating! But glad you are on the way to recovery.

**Kim Maxwell**, (you will remember) had a serious bicycle accident in Dover, DE on September 17th. She sustained seven fractures and spent one week in the hospital in Dover and one week in acute rehab in Laurel, MD. She has needed live-in care since returning home. That has been provided through a combination of several kind people; **Brian and Gretchen Keith, Diane Fehon, Kristen Maxwell, Cecy Umberger and Lach and Kate Maxwell**. She is grateful for the meals, rides to doctors, and visits provided by the **members of the Washington New Church**. Healing is progressing well and she hopes to resume her normal activities as soon as possible. We miss you, Kim!

Happy News: **Matthew David Scott**, the first child of **Connor and Jenna Maxwell Scott** was born on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:35 p.m. weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces. Matthew is the fourth grandchild and second grandson for **Kim Maxwell**. Welcome to the world, little Matthew, and congratulations to all of you!

On Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>, **Phil and Kira Zuber** along with **Joseph Eugene Jenkins** completed the almost 24 miles of trail from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to the South Rim. The day was beautiful and not beastly hot at the bottom. As they finished the hike just at sunset, Joseph knelt down to adjust his boots and on bended knee proposed to Kira. Everyone but Kira knew this was going to happen. Needless to say, it did not take her long to say, "Yes!" So, **Phil and Janna are quite happy to announce Kira and Joseph's engagement** through this "official" Echo publication. They are planning to be married exactly one year to the day later in another beautiful mountain venue, but a lot closer to home,

in Thurmont, Maryland. What delightful news – congratulations, Joe and Kira!

Most of the local members of the **Cooper family** went to Bryn Athyn on Fri, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> (Charter Day weekend) to attend the dedication of two new residence halls at the Bryn Athyn College. One building is named Cooper Hall, in honor of **Dr. Sherri Rumer Cooper (George and Mary's daughter-in-law)**, a beloved and respected teacher at the College, who passed away last year, after a long battle with cancer. Several Rumer family members were also able to attend. The other building, Goodenough Hall, is named in honor of **Rev Dan Goodenough**, a long-time instructor, and past president of the Academy of the New Church. The ceremony was held outdoors in a beautifully landscaped courtyard in the midst of the several handsome resident halls. It was a lovely ceremony, under sunny skies attended by friends and relatives of the honorees.

Face Book abounds with photos of our high school students who visited Bryn Athyn during the Charter Day weekend. **Jordan Kinsey, Carl Martin, Anders Croft and Charlotte Radcliffe** attended the Charter Day dance. They enjoyed getting together with their old friends who have moved to BA - **Henry Baltz and Rachael Fields**, and their friends who are now students at ANC - **Paul Kazeem and Tim Radcliffe** (both sporting ANC football uniforms and Phi Alpha tee shirts) as well as **Astri Hernandez, Emily Martin** and more! It is great for our little high school to be able to go to a big high school dance, and it's always wonderful to see old friends!

Our Pastor, **Mike Gladish** reports that the 50th reunion of his class of 1966 held over Charter Day weekend last month in Bryn Athyn was a big success, with alumni gathering from across the country. Shared meals, including an amazing dinner at Glencairn, gave them plenty of opportunities to reconnect and share old memories as they renewed acquaintances in their new, often gray or balding guises. Some dozen or so were recognized as having passed on already (!) to the next life. Thanks to matching funds from one classmate they also managed to raise over \$4,000 for the Academy scholarship fund. And being distinguished as they were, they got

to march in the Charter Day parade - all the way to front row seats in the Cathedral!

“**Bill and I (Dorothy Radcliffe)**, along with daughter **Laura Gurney**, spent a whirlwind weekend in Atlanta where we visited with granddaughter **Anna Gurney**. She is a junior at Emory and is on the varsity soccer team, so we got to see two of her games. The other reason for the visit was to see Bill's sister-in-law who is in a lovely home that seems to cater mostly to people who have some sort of dementia. Her son Chris, who lives near-by, visits her every day and makes sure she has everything she needs. He came with us and we spent a delightful hour visiting. She seemed to remember Bill in spite of her 90 plus years and her memory problems. Our time in Atlanta included two delightful dinners with Anna, and a brunch with Chris and his girlfriend.” P.S. from the editor: Those of you under 65 years of age, might want to renew your commitment to offering your seat on a moving vehicle of transportation to anyone older or more disabled than you are. Experience has shown that if you fail to do so, that person might do a header on you! Just ask Dorothy. ☺

“Over the weekend of Oct 21-23rd, 11 WNC men gathered for a very successful **first-ever WNC Men's Retreat**. Held in a comfortable waterfront home on Maryland's eastern shore, the event truly felt like a get-away, and we enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere perfect for spiritual inspiration and camaraderie. Throughout the weekend, our ministers led several discussions on thought-provoking topics such as the application of doctrine to our work, and the relationship of masculinity to marriage, parenting, and the path to heaven. We were also inspired by the personal testaments of three men on how the teachings of our church have had a positive influence on their careers. Through the various discussions, we were able to support each other both as a group and on a personal level. We spent even more “unstructured” free time in smaller groups relaxing, talking, and enjoying some fun indoor and outdoor activities.

In all, the weekend was a rewarding experience that allowed us to truly bond as a community in an atmosphere of mutual support and

encouragement. We are already looking forward to doing this next year, and hope to begin holding some occasional local events to continue strengthening our community of WNC men.” - Pat Sweeney reporting for WCNJ news



Just in! **David Radcliffe** underwent back surgery October 28<sup>th</sup> and prognosis is good. David suffered nearly all summer and is already getting some much needed relief.

We also would like to report that David was honored at the Charter day banquet as a “Distinguished Alumni” of the Academy of the New Church. A write up from the banquet program is on the lobby bulletin board. Congratulations!

## HELP MOVE +HE 2CHOOL PLAYGROUND!

Lincoln Smith is organizing a **work party** to move and re-assemble the old playground equipment to our new playground area a safer location. The plan is to also construct the “new to us” play set.



Please join us **Thanksgiving – Fri and/or Sat. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am**  
Contact Lincoln for more details: 202-834-9188.