

February 2017

ECHO

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Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

What *is* a pastoral visit? This question came up at last month's Pastor's Council meeting and I have to admit it had never occurred to me to attempt a description. This is my response.

Of course a pastoral visit is a visit by a pastor with a church member. But why? And what happens at such an event?

For a start, it does *not* necessarily involve a crisis! The word, pastor, means shepherd, and like any good shepherd a pastor has a sincere interest in the welfare of his flock. As it says in John 10:14 he knows them and is known by them. Otherwise he can't lead them. For example, it is hard for a pastor to know what subjects may be of special interest to the members in sermons or classes unless he is aware of what those interests are. It is hard for him to be sensitive to the needs of church members unless he knows what those needs are.

The word, pastor, means shepherd, and like any good shepherd a pastor has a sincere interest in the welfare of his flock.

A pastoral visit may be initiated by the pastor or by the church member. It may be a *very casual* interaction or it may have some formal aspects. I had one couple in Canada who honestly didn't feel as if they'd had a proper visit unless I prayed with them. But that was an excep-

tion to the general norm. I am always happy to do that, of course, but I have no expectations about it, nor does a visit have to involve any reading or doctrinal reflection – though again, it could.

In general a pastoral visit serves the use of helping both parties get to know each other, to provide for mutual understanding and affection in regard to anything that matters in life, especially the life of the church.

When and how should a pastoral visit take place? The simple answer is “anywhere” and “anyhow.” As I have the luxury of some time away from the school this year (and possibly next) I may well call you and ask to spend an hour with you – whether at home, at work, or at some restaurant or coffee shop. I love learning about your work, your hobbies, and of course your church or spiritual concerns if you have any. I am very happy to travel, even long distances, to meet you, and I am often available in the daytime, on weekends, or in the evenings.

You may wonder about confidentiality. This is important. Sometimes there are things you just want to sort through, and you don't want those things to influence anyone's perception of you. So here's the rule: if you say it's confidential it's confidential; end of story. The ONLY time I may be obliged to break that confidence is if you threaten to take your own or someone else's life. But even then, that is not something I would discuss with anyone but a professional service provider.

Setting up a pastoral visit may feel awkward, even a little contrived at first, after all, just because I'm a pastor doesn't mean I'm your friend. On the other hand, the better we know each other the more we can appreciate each other – personally and professionally.

I have now been the senior pastor at this church for 7 ½ years. In that time I've had many delightful and rewarding visits with many of you. I've helped some of you prepare for baptisms, weddings and memorial services. I've also felt a very natural (and normal) distance from many of you. One study I read years ago suggested that it takes about 7 years for any pastor to build real rapport with his congregation. Well, time's up! Let's keep at it.

I look forward to visiting anyone who can spare me the time, on whatever terms and conditions suit you best.



From the WNCs Principal

Please Join the Effort to Promote Washington New Church School:

Without a designated marketing and admissions person, everything we do moves somewhat slowly. But, through various staff members and volunteers we are continuously improving our marketing and admissions processes.

The core of our effort is based around word-of-mouth referrals. Leading up to our Open House On March 21 is a great time to think about mentioning the school to friends and colleagues. You can stop by the office and ask Bonnie for a couple of our newly

designed postcards to keep in your car. Please also like and comment on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-New-Church-School-824297264293899>

If you have any willingness to play a slightly more formal role please join in!

1. We have some enthusiastic volunteers who have enjoyed *standing at cross streets* handing out postcards. They keep doing it (so it must be fun) and we've received several calls as a result.
2. Join Sharon Kunkle and me on our yearly rotation of showing up at *fairs and school expos*. It is surprisingly fun to meet folks in the community and chat about the school if someone has questions. This is not a pressure sales position, just giving a person a chance to learn more if they need a school.
3. *Attend our open house March 21*. The more people, the more sense of community and the better impression we make for the families that show up to learn more.
4. Help make *visits to our list of 30 local, related businesses* to say "hi" to the person at the desk and set out pamphlets. Again, this is more fun than it may sound at first. It's a little intimidating to knock on the door and introduce yourself, but it ends up being an opportunity to build a feeling of connectedness with the people we live and work around.

Crossing the Half-Way Mark:

Students have just complete exams and end of first semester projects. There's not much breathing time before jumping into the second half of the year, but we did end January with a banquet (thanks Erin Stillman, Kathy Johns and Toni Federici) followed by a field trip for swimming and ice skating (thanks teachers and parent volunteers).

Looking Forward to Extending the High School Program:

We are actively exploring plans for what a four-year high school program might look like at WNCS. Our early concept aims at using the rapidly growing set of online resources now available to

combine some conventional teaching with a “choose-your-own-adventure” individual model, more akin to homeschooling. We’re still very much in the early stages, but I welcome your thoughts and comments over the coming months and years.



Tribute to Joel Trimble

Joel and Didi had been faithful members of this church since the early days. After his years of service in Navy Intelligence at the China Lake facility in California they lived in nearby Glendale and then moved to Mitchellville in the late 80's, where both their children, Alan and Belinda, attended the Washington New Church School. Famous for his gentle, unassuming manner and his wry sense of humor, few people knew how killer smart he really was, since a lot of his government related work was strictly confidential.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Joel spared no expense to provide for his family, and was also a regular supporter of church services, programs and social life. It was only in recent years that health issues kept him from participating regularly, though he maintained an active interest in all that was going on - especially the recent building renovations.

Joel passed peacefully into the other life after a heart attack on January 9th. He will be missed here, but we can rejoice in the knowledge that his full health has now been restored and his many talents fully revealed for the uses he will serve in the spiritual world. ~ MDG

Money Matters

Do You Plan How to Spend your Money?

Of course, everybody plans how to spend their money: first there's the rent or mortgage, then the utilities and the grocery bill. And then it gets interesting. We all have different ideas about how and how much to spend on almost everything else. Sometimes we plan for these things and sometimes we just take them as they come – until we run out of money.

Here I would like to suggest that contributions to the church are important enough to rank in the essential category, and that we should all have a specific plan for them. See Matthew 16:26. It is as easy to plan for this as it is to plan for your utility bills. Just go to www.e-giving.org/washingtonchurch and designate the amount you feel is right for you. Then you can relax knowing that your transactions will be automatic, whether you attend services every week or not – until or unless you decide to make a change.

This deliberate, conscientious approach to giving not only helps you but it really helps our treasurer by giving him a clear indication of what to expect, and therefore how to budget.

Estate Planning

Estate planning may be the last thing you want to do, but it, too, can be important, not just for the church but for your family's peace of mind. And it is just about the most painless way you can imagine to contribute to a cause you believe in.

Later this year we hope to host a special visit by the new director of planned giving for the General Church, Mark Wyncoll. When he comes he will be able to help all of us better understand the benefits of this exercise, and he may also be able to help individual members with practical ideas about how to achieve the mutual goals of ongoing family support and church support.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor



From the Theta Alpha Guild

TAG was very busy during the holidays and has not slowed down since. We've had two "Souper" Sundays and helped with the Swedenborg's birthday luncheon at WNCS- thanks TAG members Erin Stillman and Kathy Johns!

We have the Valentine's Day lunch for our teachers coming up. Janna Zuber and Wystan Simons are putting together a group to make "We Care" cards with \$5 Starbucks cards to send to all of our area young people and away students (not at ANC or BAC) (contact Wystan Simons at lovinchickens@gmail.com) for meeting date. And for the ANC/BAC students from Washington we are col-

lecting items for **care packages** to be sent to them February 17th. Please bring your donations and put them in the box in the lobby on or before Feb. 15th (Feb. 16th for fresh baked goods.) Any questions, contact Lisa Martin – ldm10576@verizon.net.

Sermon Topics for February, 2017

5th: Is the Sky Falling? What part of us is inclined to “catastrophize” the future? We’ll look at some ideas about end times from traditional Christianity and from the New Church. We’ll also explore how our thought about the future and our own “end times” affects the way we live. ~ BDS

12th: FAMILY SERVICE: The Delights and Pleasures of the Senses. We are created to enjoy life, but how? This is the first in a series about the importance of life in this world before we enter the spiritual world – today on the importance of our sense experience as a basis for eternal life. Note, “Family service” means adults and children, and (after taking counsel) *we will be returning to the sanctuary for this service.* ~ MDG

19th: The Purpose and Value of Life in this World. This is the second in the series on why the Lord has created us to live on earth before we enter the spiritual world. Why it is important to respect, protect and provide for your own life as well as the lives of others in this world. The children’s talk will draw on God’s promise to Solomon in 1 Kings 3:11-14. ~ MDG

26th: How Long, O Lord? There are many places throughout the Word where some person or group is asking the Lord, “How long?” Sometimes it is patient and sometimes impatient. What are we waiting for? What does waiting feel like? How do we act while we are waiting? ~ BDS

Special Events in February, 2017

Wed, the 1st at 10:00 AM the NJHD study group meets at the Gladish's to review no's 159-172 on Repentance and the Forgiveness of Sins. **We'll meet again on the 15th** to discuss no's 173-186 on Regeneration.

Fri, the 3rd at 7:30 PM the series on the Acts and Epistles with Dr. Babb continues at the church with a review of Ephesians. Please plan ahead; it's a long reading this time.

NOTE, **the next class in this series will be on Fri, the 17th**, and will focus on the Epistles to the Philippians & Colossians.

Tues, the 7th, the WNC School Board meets at 7:30 PM.

Sat, the 11th we have our annual **Desert & Hors d'oeuvres Contest**, hosted again at Brent & Amanda's house beginning around 8 pm – definitely an event not to be missed.

Wed, the 15th at 7:30 PM the Board of Trustees meets instead of Tuesday this month, which is Valentine's Day.

Mon, the 20th please note that **WNCS will be closed** for the Presidents' Day holiday.

Fri, the 24th at 8:00 pm we have our **Winter Society Meeting**, preceded by a pot-luck supper at 7. Note the pastor's report will be circulated early this month to provide plenty time for your review before the meeting.

Announcements

EBay Fund Rising: By now Christmas is probably boxed up and stored away till next year. Did you receive some gifts that replaced something that is still perfectly usable, but it's going into the garage because you have an improved version? February is a great time to purge the old and make space for the new. If you would like to donate your "extras" for church eBay fund raising, now would be a great time. It's not too soon to begin

spring cleaning either. Make two piles, one for church eBay consignment and one for the annual church yard sale on May 6th. Many generous donors have already helped with these efforts and it's great because we are able to bring in outside money.

Thanks to those who have already donated – old knives, expired printer ink, jewelry and more. Please email Kathy Johns at kcjswim@aol.com or call me [301-464-5990](tel:301-464-5990) to determine whether that old treasure just taking up space could help the church.

Thank you! ~ Kathy Johns

Medical Aids: Over the years we have acquired a variety of good quality, second-hand medical aids for our use at home, and it has occurred to us that as long as we don't need them we would be more than happy to lend them out to anyone who does. We have a foldable walker, a four-legged cane, a pair of aluminum crutches and a commode that can be used free-standing or over a toilet. All these are height-adjustable and are in addition to a wheelchair that is kept at the church. If anyone would like to borrow any of these items you are most welcome to do so. ~ Mike and Ginny

Acton Park: The Annual meeting of the Acton Park Corporation will be after church on Sunday, March 19, 2017. Anyone interested in this use of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, Inc. and its future are more than welcome at the meeting whether you are a member of the corporation or not.

2017 Echo Subscriptions: Make sure you stay informed about society events and services. Be stimulated by articles from our Pastors. Be entertained by our News Notes Editor. And *always* know when you are “On Duty”. Just send back the slip of paper included in this “Echo” along with your \$15 to: The Washington New Church, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, MD 20721.

SE District Scholarship Fund: Southeastern District Scholarship Funds are available to anyone who lives in the SE district who would like assistance with paying for education at the Academy High School, the Bryn Athyn College or the Theological School.

Note, these grants are also now available for students attending the *WNCS high school*.

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2017, for those hoping to attend in the 2017/2018 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund: Levi Cowley Scholarship Funds are available to graduates of the Washington New Church School who would like assistance with paying for education or books at any school of higher education (college)

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2017, for those hoping to attend in 2017/2018. Please send your application to:

Attn.: Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

News Notes

“Groundhog found fog. New snows and blue toes.
Fine and dandy for Valentine candy. Snow spittin’;
if you're not mitten-smitten, you'll be frostbitten! By
jing-y feels spring-y.” — *Old Farmer's Almanac*

Our dear friend, **Joel Trimble** was called by the Lord to the spiritual world at home on Monday evening, January 9th. He was in his 90th year. A resurrection service was held for him on Saturday, January 14th, attended by family and friends from as far away as Canada and Brazil. Our sympathies and best wishes go out to Didi, Alan, Belinda and Bea at this time of their loss. Copies of the memorial address are available from the church office.

“**Margaret E. Stillman, Barry's mom**, was interred at Arlington Cemetery on Monday Jan. 23rd. It was a blustery rainy day, just like it was for Barry's Dad's service sixteen years ago. We do miss

her, but this puts a lovely closure on a sweet lady's life.” - Erin Stillman

Congratulations to **Michael Bond**, who made the Dean’s list at Anne Arundel Community College, earning a 3.75 grade point average in his first semester of college. Well done, Michael!

Janna Zuber invites you to visit a show of her art which will be hanging in the Bowie Senior Center (14900 Health Center Drive) through February.

Lyle Kingdon writes on Facebook “I married my best friend **Chris Crossman** on Friday the 13th of January 2017! It was a very private ceremony with only me, Chris and our minister. When you know, you know, and we were beyond ready!

He is my rock when I have needed him and my silly crazy class clown the next minute.” (Congratulations, Lyle and Chris!)

Becca Smith writes that on the weekend of January 21st she “traveled to Kempton, PA for **Mark Wyncoll's** retirement ceremony from nearly 30 years as a teacher and assistant principal at the Kempton New Church School. Mark taught English in 8th through 10th grade and was my 9-10 home room teacher. He was legendary for his love of Shakespeare ("Once more unto the breach, sports fans!" - Henry V), keeping his wife (affectionately called the Wender) a regular part of his stories in class, playing great tunes in his jeep on field trips, acting out parts of literature he was teaching (e.g., Paul Revere's ride), and so much more. Students and colleagues shared memories, photos, poems, songs, and a skit, sending the audience alternately into howls of laughter and looking for the tissue box.”

Sisters **Bonnie Cowley** and **Jeannette Roscoe** also traveled that weekend but to the other side of Pennsylvania, to Pittsburgh to join with other family members to celebrate their mother’s 90th Birthday. Bonnie writes, “7 of our mom’s & dad’s 12 children were there that weekend”.

Wystan Simons reports that on that same weekend: “**Ann Buss and Gillian Bedford**, along with Tania Buss Alden with her infant daughter **Leisel** came down to Mitchellville from Bryn Athyn to

see the Diebenkorn and Matisse exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art. They stayed at my house and we all had a wonderful time cooking, crafting, and looking at the gorgeous exhibit!”

Wanda Moore wanted to share some “Moore Memories” from 2016: “**Marcus** completed his freshman year at Virginia State University with a 3.7 GPA and was inducted into their honor’s program. **Curt & I celebrated 25 years of marriage.** **CJ** graduated from Kennedy Krieger High School and is now taking Videography classes at Prince George’s Community College and working in the commissary at Andrews Air Force Base. **Curt, Wanda and CJ** visited the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture! Happy New Year!!”

Amy and David Glenn are pleased to announce that **Nathaniel and Desiree Joy Frias** got engaged over the Christmas holidays. They have not yet set a date for their wedding. We are also pleased to announce that **Elizabeth and Mike Lewis** are expecting. The baby is due August 6 (and we are eagerly awaiting becoming grandparents). Finally, Amy's mother, **Audrey Smith**, went into the hospital the second week of January and received a pacemaker. Amy has spent most of the past couple of weeks in Bryn Athyn helping to care for her mom.

Thanks to **Chuck and Candy Quintero** for hosting an excellent New Year’s Eve party in their home for the virtually-young crowd, and to **John and Lisa Attiliis** (next door) for hosting an equally excellent party for the actually-young people. What a great way to usher out the old year, and welcome the new!