

May 2017

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

As you all know, the primary focus of our church is on education. Our sermons are designed to be educational; our small groups are almost all based on discussion of the doctrines, and of course we

run a costly elementary-high school with the critical mission of implanting “remains” of truth and good that will provide for the spiritual lives of as many children as possible.

There are of course other ways to “do” church, but this is our way, we’re pretty good at it, and we believe it is *our* best way to make a positive impact in the world. Truth, after all, is “good made visible to the understanding,” and a good understanding can empower all of us to enjoy a happy and fulfilling life.

This month we are beginning the run up to our school’s graduation, which will take place on Wednesday night, June 7th. The school play will be performed for you on Tuesday night, June 6th. In the meantime, there are many community-building events scheduled, and I would like to comment on those briefly.

Part of the process of empowering a good life is building community. We need each other – not just for support in the things we already know but for enlightenment and perspective on things we don’t yet know. Rev. Bernita Babb’s Epistles classes are a good example of this: she is not just teaching us about these biblical letters, she is helping us to understand their context in the Christian world around us. In a similar way, when we share our knowledge of New Church teachings with folks who don’t yet know them very well two things happen: *they* get new ideas, and *we* gain insight for and about our own understanding.

But it’s not all about knowledge; it’s about the application of knowledge in an atmosphere of friendship and trust.

But it’s not all about knowledge; it’s about the *application* of knowledge in an atmosphere of friendship and trust. **THIS** is what we are striving to provide for as we get to know each other better at the church and school events we host.

Our teachings are crystal clear that we are not going to be judged on the basis of what we know, but on the basis of how we live, and that means how we use our knowledge to support one another. The joy of heaven, after all, is sharing all that we have with others.

Nothing is more common in churches than for established members to look around at newcomers and visitors and think within themselves, “Who ARE these people?” Good question. But remember, *they are probably all asking the same question.* So let’s do something about that: let’s reach out, be welcoming, be encouraging, visit, and just *do stuff together.* Most of all, let’s remember that school events and even things like the annual yard sale are great opportunities for all of us to meet and get to know each other, even if we are not directly involved in the organization or focus of the events.

In the end this church will not survive if the members individually and collectively do not reach out. On the other hand when we do reach out – which always take a little extra emotional and physical effort – we have everything, individually and collectively, to gain.

Society Meeting on Friday, the 19th.

Please be advised: this is the official notice of the annual congregational meeting, with reports and elections, on the 19th at about 8:00 pm at the church. The event will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 7:00, and all are welcome to attend, whether official members or not. See the nominating committee’s report elsewhere in this Echo and watch for a pastor’s report in the mail soon.

You may think, “Ho hum, another meeting.” But they are what we make of them, and this is a special opportunity to learn and understand what is current in the church, and especially to ask questions about everything from programming to finances. Please make a special effort to attend.



From the Principal:

We’re now entering the final month of the 2016/17 school year. Our class schedule, hallways and supper room are now being buffeted by the flurry of play preparation. Students are working on final papers and projects while graduating students are beginning to think about end of year speeches. The students and teachers are

still working very hard even as we all look longingly towards a summer change in pace.

We have a few grant requests pending, hoping for support with several classroom smart boards, new chairs for the supper room and a badly needed update for our phone system. The younger grade teachers are also working with the landscape committee to develop plans for educational gardens. (Special financial support of this project is much appreciated).

The Board of Trustees, along with its committees, continues to use building funds to complete the interior decorating of the lobby and beautiful garden spaces which wrap around to the back of the building. Thanks very much to all the volunteers involved with these projects. The first drive-up impression of our lovely church and school keeps getting better. ~ Brian

Pastor's Council for Tuesday, May 16th 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	

Church members, this is your invitation to contact one of the above counselors if you would like to be heard on any particular church concern: phone, text, email or chat – whatever works for you.

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

- Discussion of the Sunday Sermons. It has been suggested that we provide a time for dialog about the sermons either during or after the service. How about this? – after the last hymn, after the minister changes out of his robes, he could come back into the church to take any questions or comments people might have. That way people who don't want to do this will

have a chance to leave as usual, and those who DO will only have to wait a few minutes to begin.

- Follow-up from the bishop's visit. After your meeting with him he met with me to discuss the situation. Now I will report to you on my response to his counsel, and on any changes you can expect in my work with this congregation.
- School Update. Some of you may have questions about school developments, projected enrollments, budgeting and so on. Bring your questions and I will bring some updates.
- General Church Updates. What's new in the GC lately? What's up with ministers' moves? And why does it matter to us? Again, bring questions; I'll try to answer.
- Summer and Fall Plans at WNC. Highlights of things to mark on your calendars for the next 6 months.

From the Board of Trustees: (March 2017)

The Board of Trustees met on March 22. Normal business of the board was discussed, including finances, contributions and fundraising, a report from the Pastor, and updates from the School. The School Board and Principal are planning for the upcoming school year, and hosted a very successful Open House on March 21.

Steve Ball will serve as Chair for the Nominating Committee, and will be seeking volunteers to serve on the committee, and also to serve on the School Board or Board of Trustees. Three Trustees and two members of the School Board are coming to the end of their terms. In addition, a new School Treasurer is needed (not necessarily a board position). Please consider serving in one of these roles; and all WCNJ members please plan to attend elections during the Society Annual Meeting on May 19, 2017.

Special thanks are due to Eric Genzlinger for discovering and quickly repairing a problem with a circuit box in the school wing.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be a joint meeting with the School Board on April 11, 7:30pm at the Church.

From the Board of Trustees: (April 2017)

1. The Board of Trustees held a joint meeting with the Principal and School Board on April 11, 2017, to discuss finances, enrollment, and staffing for the Washington New Church School.
2. The Annual Meeting of the Washington Society will be held on May 19, 2017. All members are encouraged to attend, as elections for Trustees and School Board will be held, we will discuss and vote on the FY18 budget, and discuss other Church and School business.

~ Sharon Croft – BoT Secretary

Sermon Topics for May, 2017

7th: **“Rest in the Lord.”** Psalm 37 urges us to “rest in the Lord,” but how, exactly, is this to be done? Fear and anxiety, after all, are not really rational states, so how can we overcome them? Come and learn with us. The children’s talk will be about the Sabbath as a “day of rest” from our labors. ~ MDG

14th: **Gideon’s Transformation.** As Judges, chapter 6 unfolds we find Gideon fearful and intimidated by the Midianites. In seeing how he gained courage and confidence we can learn important lessons for our own lives of faith. ~ MDG

21st: **Deborah and Barak and the Call to Leadership.** Just before the story of Gideon, Israel faces off against the Canaanites. What can we learn about the qualities required for good leadership such as humility, willingness, trustfulness and purpose? ~ BDS

28th: **Both Deep and Practical.** People sometimes think the doctrines of the New Church are “too deep” to be practical, but nothing could be further from the truth. The deepest truths of the *Arcana*, for example, have profound implications for how we live. 3 examples will illustrate this point and hopefully inspire you to learn more. Children’s talk TBA. ~ MDG

Special Events in May, 2017

Tues, the 2nd at 7:30 PM – School Board Mtg. at the church.

Fri, the 5th at 7:00 PM the Epistles class continues with the Epistle of JAMES. Then, on the 12th, only one week later, we will review 1st and 2nd Peter.

Sat, the 6th: YARD SALE. See notice on page 12.

Sun, the 7th, 4:00 – 8:00 PM – Family Barbeque & Games at the new lawn and playgrounds at the church.

Tues, the 9th at 7:30 PM the Board of Trustees meets at the church, mainly to decide on the church BUDGET for next year.

Wed, the 10th & 24th, at 10 AM the NJHD study group meets at the Gladish home to discuss the doctrine on Divine Providence and the Lord. Only one more class to go in June.

Fri, the 12th at 7:30 there is another Sound Meditation offered for \$20 by Jen Mullin and Ann Fleming. See the church bulletin board for details. This is NOT a church sponsored event.

Sat, the 13th there is an Acton Park Cleanup work party scheduled for the morning; see Sharon Kunkle for details.

Tues, the 16th at 7:30 PM the Pastor's Council meets at the church. Please see the information on page 4.

Fri, the 19th at 8:00 pm we have our annual society meeting and elections for the 2 Boards. See the nominating committee report CENTER INSERT of this Echo.

Please note, Monday, the 29th is a school holiday for WNCS.

Money Matters

Financial planning involves much more than day-to-day budgeting. It also involves the long term, including planning for retirement and beyond that for the people you love after you transition to the

other life. This is often referred to as “estate planning,” and unfortunately many people neglect this until it’s too late.

We put it off when we’re young because we have so little in our estates; we put it off when we’re older because we’re busy, and maybe don’t want to pay an estate planner. Some just leave everything to a spouse or the children, leaving them also with tough decisions and costs of their own to negotiate a plan.

Do your families know how you want your estate to be handled? Do they know what to do with you if you suffer a debilitating injury? Do they know where all your records and files are kept? Are they in a fire safe place? These notes are not intended to make you worry, in fact just the opposite: when you lay out a plan you don’t need to worry; you will have done what you can.

In fact you might be surprised to know how generous you can be when you don’t need to provide for yourself anymore. So here’s an idea. You love the church, right? You’ve done what you can to support it during your life. What about leaving a little to help sustain it after you pass on?

Let’s say you have 4 children and a \$100,000 estate, net of all taxes and obligations. Obviously you want to provide for the children, and so you could leave each of them \$25,000. But you also love the church! So why not split your estate 5 ways instead of 4 and leave the church \$20,000? \$5,000 less for each of the children wouldn’t be missed by them; in fact they might really appreciate the commitment it represents, and it would certainly keep things simple for your executors.

Above all, though, do give some serious thought to making a will. You’re never too young for that, and if you’re older it can be really important.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

COMMUNITY NEWS!

Good morning, friends! I’m imagining that everyone is reading this little community newsletter while sitting in the sun and drinking a

cup of tea/coffee (rather than the real life option, which probably means you're not even sitting down—that's ok. We don't judge. ☺) If you go all the way to the end of the notes, I introduce myself and say a little something about my life, as your new host for the News Notes. You people have been making the most of the spring-time weather! Thank you for sharing all your news!

Ready... set... start cheering for the accomplishments below—we all know some awesome people. Keep those that are going through stressful times in your mind and send some extra good thoughts their way. The tour through the community life begins...

Beata Kinsey shared some exciting news: “**Kristin** was inducted into the Tau Sigma National Honors Society for her outstanding academic accomplishments since enrolling at Towson! AND more news! My son **Matthew Kinsey** was awarded the Kari Beims Memorial Art Student Award during the PGCC Honors Convocation tonight! He also has 12 pieces of artwork on display right now at PGCC in Marlboro hall. They will be up for a few more weeks if anyone wants to see his work. Seven pieces won awards!”

Becca Smith had two pieces of news: She successfully defended her master's degree thesis on April 10, and then spent April 11-12 on jury duty!

Receiving Honorable Mention from ANC Secondary Schools for the 2nd Term were **Emily Martin** and (former WNCS students) **Teddy & Henry Baltz**. Good work!

Deena Odhner, who is currently living in Virginia, shared some exciting news: “We celebrated **Jerry's retirement** from work protecting our nation for almost 40 years, and also celebrated his 70th birthday. He was joined by his brothers - Greg from Bryn Athyn, PA and Richard from Chesapeake, VA and all his children - Amy, Eva, and Mark - and his grandchildren (Nic, Madeline, Tommy, Max, Amelia, and Hilel) and assorted friends and relatives.”

Jana Sprinkle said, “The Sprinkle Family Zoo enjoyed a single visitor over Easter, **Ashley Walsh**. Puppies, bunnies and humans

enjoyed the extra attention. The reptiles (iguana and turtle) seemed indifferent, being the cold-blooded creatures that they are.”

A little birdy told me that **Lincoln Smith** has a lengthy article about his Forest Garden in a Magazine call "Acres -The Voice of Eco-Agriculture" It is hanging on the bulletin board for all to read... and it is very inspiring!

Sharon Croft shared about a Spring Break trip AND some exciting college news from **Anders**: “The Crofts enjoyed Spring Break the week after Easter, travelling via Dallas (with an unplanned stay involving thunderstorms and a missed connection) to Las Vegas. After spending a day taking in the sites of Vegas, including an impressive shark reef aquarium, we drove to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, enjoyed an afternoon exploring the lake by boat, and spent a night in the historic Boulder City Inn. The next day, we drove across Nevada and into California, touring Mojave National Preserve and ending up in Death Valley National Park. We spent two days touring and hiking in Death Valley, standing on salt flats at the lowest point in the Western hemisphere (282 feet below sea level) while viewing an 11,000+ foot snow-covered peak in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the distance. Wildflowers were blooming, and the dry 90 degree weather was spectacular! After returning to a chilly, wet Maryland, Anders made his final selection and will be attending Salisbury University on Maryland's eastern shore, to study marine biology, this fall.”

Bonnie Cowley shared some fun news of her own: “Bonnie Cowley, **James, Jeannette Amanda & Nora Roscoe** traveled to Pittsburgh early in the month to help their family celebrate their parents - **John & Joan Alden's** 70th wedding anniversary. YES **70th!** The afternoon tea of family and special friends was a wonderful occasion including heartfelt memories as well as a lovely letter from Rev. Kurt Asplundh (the elder who was John & Joan's which included a New Church re-write of Amazing Grace.”

Kathy Johns sent in some big “news from Johnses ~ **Brad** is getting another new knee (total right knee replacement). By the time

the ECHO comes out he should be in the depths of rehab and looking forward to walking again without the chronic pain by June. It's all worth it!"

Dorothy Radcliffe shared some fun news: "Bill and I took a flying trip to Chapel Hill N.C. to attend the 'Celebration of the life of Jim Scatliff', a former colleague of Bill's at the Medical School. The Radiology department, where Jim was the Chairman for many years, sponsored it and invited some of his former staff and associates to give a short talk about his life and his effect on them and others. They met up with some friends from their seven years in Chapel Hill, and even before that at Yale, for dinner as well as a short visit with them the next day before flying home."

Wanda Moore sent me a happy update—"In terms of years, the main thing the Moore's have is that Curt & Wanda celebrated 26 years of marriage on April 20th!!"

A good deed has been reported about "**Dolores Soderberg** who has been going by train to Bryn Athyn for one week each month to cook meals for her sister, Phyllis Pitcairn, who has been a body brace for months due to crumbling disks on the spine."

Wystan Simons said: "Ed and I are relieved to have found a renter for their garage apartment after some false starts. Exa Grubb of Texas, who is no relation to any church Grubb's as far as I know, moves in May 1st. Oh our family had a lot of fun with Mary Heinrichs Williams and her family, who came to stay with us over Easter - great times in the Asian gardens at the DC Arboretum!"

Thank you for reading, everyone! I am **Hanna (David) Hyatt**. I mostly spend my days chasing after my son Hugo, as you probably saw in my email. I will try to include an amusing Hugo anecdote whenever I send out the call for news via email. I hope this will keep you feeling connected to the community! I love to hear from everyone, so I am excited to keep on reaching out about news. I'll try and save up my more hilarious Hugo stories for the emails, but I do have to report that he has discovered the talent for taking things apart, mostly in the form of unrolling toilet paper and rip-

ping out the diaper wipes from their holder (he was doing that rather ferociously this morning, and was surrounded by a sea of wipes when I found him after a good 15 seconds alone. Seriously, I think there were about 40 of them scattered on either side of him. Crazy kid.) Until next month! ☺

May Anniversaries

“The inclination to marriage of one man to one woman is the jewel of human life.”

Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 457

~ ~ ~

May 9th ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 19 yrs.

May 19th ~ Frank & Babs Jackson ~ 44 yrs.

May 22nd ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 13 yrs.

May 22nd ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 41 yrs.

~ ~ ~

CHURCH YARD SALE is this May 6th - 8am to 2pm!

- Drop off *any time to the RED TRAILER*
- RENT A SPACE TO SELL YOUR OWN - \$15
(bring) a table!

We need help

- Friday from 3pm to sort
- Saturday at 7am set up or later to cashier
- Buy a sandwich from the grill!
- Check out the gorgeous plants for sale!
- Hang out with neighbors and shop



Then, if you are really nice, stay to PACK UP what's left!

WANTED: Bits of chicken wire, wire fencing or old tomato cages? Would you please call Janna Zuber if it is 3' x 4' or bigger, she will be happy to put it to good use no matter how rusty or bent.