

June 2017

# ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the  
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

As the demographics of our congregation change we find ourselves regularly trying to re-invent ourselves. Who are we now as compared to 40 years ago, and what does our future look like? What is

the role of the school today, and where are we going to find our new members – or is it up to *them* to find *us*?

Even more importantly, what do we believe our church *should be* in light of the doctrines themselves? What standards should we expect of one another as members, and how can we share or encourage those expectations *in positive, inclusive ways*?

This is the month when we celebrate – or at least commemorate – what we call “New Church Day,” the day in 1770 when the Lord sent His original 12 disciples throughout the whole the spiritual world to proclaim the good news of His Second Coming.

Wait. What? The actual teaching is that He sent the disciples out to proclaim that “the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns...” (TCR 791). Surely this was not a new thing in 1770, for we know that when He glorified His Humanity in the first century He restored order in the heavens, subjugated all the hells and established the Christian Church on earth (TCR 86).

“*One day there appeared to me a magnificent temple.... When I drew near, I saw this writing above the door—Nunc Licet— which means that now it is permitted to enter with understanding into the mysteries of faith.*” TCR 508

What is different now, i.e., what is new about the *New Christian Church* is that in the years leading up to 1770 the Lord revealed new information in a rational embodiment of love and wisdom specifically calculated to (a) correct the misunderstandings that had developed throughout the history of the Christian Church, and (b) provide the logical, philosophical and experiential testimony that could convince even

those of our skeptical culture that He does indeed reign supreme.

Thus the New Church represents a new understanding of the reality that has indeed existed since the Lord rose from the tomb in Gethsemane. It represents a new appreciation of our responsibilities to the Lord and to our neighbors, not just in faith, or faith alone, but in an active life of commitment to Him through the *spiritual sense* of His Word. This, therefore is what is expected of the New

Church, that its members will be *interested* in this new understanding, committed to learning and practicing it in daily life, and dedicated to serving our neighbors by sharing it freely.

ALL THE REST – all the formalities of ritual, music, salaried or volunteer positions, programs, buildings, maintenance, contributions – all that is extra, and nothing more than a means to the end.

Yes, the means are important. Formal, external worship is important (AC 1618), doctrinal classes and discussions are important, a sense of fellowship and community is important, church buildings and even church meetings are useful; but the bottom line is our personal and group commitment to Lord as He is presented to us in the love and wisdom of the Heavenly Doctrines.

This commitment requires a commitment to our neighbors (in and out of the church – without thought of reward!) for there is no love for the Lord without love for the neighbor (Matt. 25:45, AC 2023, I John 4:20-21). This is why we gather for *all* our activities, that is, not for ourselves alone or what WE can get out of it, but for the effect on others, both in the church and in the community, so that THEY can get the support they need. Then, as the Writings say, we will also reap the benefits of that charitable action as we learn from the experience and enjoy the delights of heavenly love (HH 268 & 399).

### New Church Day Events

Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a banquet this year due to many and various conflicts, so instead all the focus will be on our Sunday worship service on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and a pot-luck PICNIC and games that will follow on the church grounds. Please watch for information about this via email and sign-up sheets, and give some thought to anything special you can contribute. Our traditional gifts for the children will be presented after the service.

### Summer Forecasts

Please note that all the ministers will be attending Council of the Clergy meetings in Bryn Athyn the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Our secretary, Bonnie, will also be away on vacation that week, so if you need to get into the building at that time make sure you know how to do so, including how to disarm the alarm system.

Our church community usually has some sort of **4<sup>th</sup> of July** celebration, but with the relatively few young children in the neighborhood these days the nature of this event is up for discussion. It is normally sponsored by the Acton Park executive, but if anyone has any great ideas please communicate them to Sharon Kunkle.

Finally note that although the deadline for new school enrollments is long past, we are still able to accept new students in some classrooms, so keep spreading the word! School will resume at the end of the summer on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, despite the new ruling for the public schools in Maryland (which will re-open after Labor Day).



### Sermon Topics for June, 2017

**4<sup>th</sup>: One Church from Seven**, John's revelation to the seven churches of Asia Minor and what it means for us personally and for the future of the New Church. The Children's Talk will be based on Revelation, chapters 2 & 3. ~ MDG

**11<sup>th</sup>: The Lord on the White Horse (Rev. 19)**. The Lord has cast the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire. Our obligation is to remain committed to the New Church, its doctrines, and the heavenly life the Lord has set before us. ~ MEF

**18<sup>th</sup>: FAMILY SERVICE: Not Adding to the Word**. Many people think that the warning in Rev. 22:18-19 about not adding to or detracting from "the words of the prophecy of this book" precludes any new revelation from the Lord. This sermon will explain why that is NOT the case. ~ MDG

**25<sup>th</sup>: Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Sr.** will be our guest, speaking on the text from Psalm 139, "If I make my Bed in Hell..." How is the Lord with us in our worst moments? How does He lead us away from destructive forces? His closeness to us at such times is beautifully described in the Writings. Come and see!

## Special Events in June, 2017

**Mon, the 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM – Dress Rehearsal for the School Play** – the “public” is invited!

**Tues, the 6<sup>th</sup> school closes at NOON** and the formal presentation of **the School Play is at 7:00 PM**. Come early for a good seat to see “The Importance of Being Ernest.”

**Wed, the 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM the NJHD study group** meets at the Gladish home to discuss the final chapters of the book.

**Wed, the 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM – WNCS graduation ceremonies**

**Mon – Tues, the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: WNCS Staff meetings all day**

**Mon, the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM School Board Mtg. at the church.**

**Tues, the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM Board of Trustees Mtg. – church.**

There will be no Banquet for New Church Day this year, so Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, is available for your other plans.

**There WILL, however, be a potluck PICNIC at the church** to commemorate New Church Day on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details in e-mails and the Sunday Whisper.

All the ministers and the church secretary will be away for the week of June 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, so please be sure to make arrangements ahead of time if you need to get into the church or school during that week.

**July 1:** the wedding of Ben Glenn and Amy Dwyer will be celebrated in Bryn Athyn. May there be MANY joyful blessings!

### **From the Principal**

Dear Washington New Church

I’m someone who, for whatever reason, has positive feelings about the past and tends to worry about the future. I worry particularly over things I care for deeply – like my children and my church. The caring is good; the worry probably is not.

Almost all North American denominations are facing steady decline in membership and participation as well as seeing their average age steadily rising. These are things I worry about and I presume many of you do as well. On my good days I remember that the Lord's care and providing has a completely different an infinitely larger perspective. Maybe it's similar to how the mountains don't worry about the sprouting and withering of the grass. Spiritual and cultural forces have a way of shifting so I really don't know what the Lord has planned for the future. And I should mention that I see many positive spiritual signs as well – both in the US and abroad – it's not all gloomy.

Worry over the things we love is normal, even if is an unregenerate state.

I wanted to mention these things as context for our ongoing work in the school. As of today we have a school with a dedicated, skillful and hardworking team. We have families who are very positive and supportive of what we're doing (both church families and non-church families), we have small but solid enrollment in the grade K-8, we recently completed a facility expansion which meets most of our needs very well, and we have contributions, tuition income and endowment all of which allows us to confidently operate for the next several years. This is a strong base.

I do worry about attracting and retaining strong replacements for our staff as they retire. And I'm concerned about the long term financial stability of the school. I am attentive to whether we can continue to find new students who are great matches for our school culture and purpose. It is very important to me that some of the new school families also become interested and involved in the church community. Our organization will need new membership in order to keep staffing our boards and other important volunteer positions.

In other words, we have something good and solid in WNCS and we have several uncertain and potential challenges in the future. This is a situation which calls for careful planning and focused efforts. In approving a deficit budget, the congregation and the board have endorsed the goal of continuing to strengthen the

school through the next 3-5 years AND have called for a detailed set of plans to consider various possible scenarios, which will allow us to responsibly provide for what unfolds in our future. This is a key task that we (the Board and Administration) have set for ourselves.

I don't like deficit budgets but over the next five years, financial shortage is not the most pressing concern for us. Many of us remain prepared to contribute time and money to see how well we can establish the school by 2022. As we go, with careful planning, we will need to adapt and re-adjust and seriously consider both adding and closing programs. This is something that can be done in a measured fashion as we discover what the Lord has planned for WNCS's future.

Mike and I have both written a little about the concept of a four year high school. I mention it again in the context of a deficit budget and a five year look forward. I do feel genuinely excited about the possibility of a very powerful high school program which is attractive in its own right. But it is also a pragmatic response to the facts we regularly deal with in our admissions process. People are looking for a four year high school, not a two year program. If we add two more grades we may find that we gain a significant increase in 9/10 graders as well as the addition of some 11/12 graders. Still, it has to be done responsibly. In no scenario do I see this high school expansion launching if it requires an additional full time staff person or other significant cost increases. Given our current financial situation, this program could only be expanded in a relatively cost neutral manner.

Here's a final comment. We believe that the school is an important way to raise the profile of our church in the community, to make connections with people in this area, to attract some local families to join the church and to make it more likely that young New Church families from elsewhere would seriously consider locating in our area. That has been the case in the past and that's our hope going forward as many of us who love the church fervently wish to see the church organization continue and thrive in the future. That said, even as we continue to strive for an excellent and

growing school, I hope that any and all ideas and wishes for church initiatives can be pursued (beyond only the school focused efforts).

Thank you for your continued love for the church; for all the different types of actions you take in her service – both external gifts of time, money and care for others and more internal efforts in prayer, reading and repentance. There's much I don't know about how the future will unfold, but I do feel confident in placing my hope in the Lord.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Ball', written in a cursive style.

### **From the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees met on May 9, 2017, where normal reports were heard, and a draft budget for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 - June 30 2018) was approved to be presented to the Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Washington New Church was held on May 19, 2017. Memorial Resolutions were read for our recently departed friends Joel Trimble and Bill Kingdon, followed by a moment of silence. Reports were presented by the Pastoral staff, Principal, Treasurer, Investment Committee, and the Society Boards. The fiscal year 2018 budget was discussed, and approved by vote. The following members were elected to the Boards: Board of Trustees - Sara Smith and Sharon Cooper. School Board - Wanda Moore and Marie Kazeem.

There is one unfilled slot for the Board of Trustees. Anyone interested in serving should please contact Chairman, Steve Ball, or any member of the Board.

This position will be filled by the board itself pending approval at the next society meeting.

Officers of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, Inc., were appointed as follows: Vice President: Kathy Johns; Secretary: Sharon Cooper; Treasurer: Brent Hyatt; Board Chairman: Steve Ball. ~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary

The Board will next meet on June 13 at 7:30 pm.



## From the Sunday School Head

I am still looking for volunteers to oversee crafts and games for the informal summer Sunday School program. I am asking if you, and/or your high school/college/older age kids, would be willing to take a day over this summer. Please contact Sharon Croft if you are able to help, and let me know what dates you can/can't do. [croft.cooper@verizon.net](mailto:croft.cooper@verizon.net) Thanks! ~ Sharon Cooper

### “Woods Words”



Have you had a chance to walk in the Acton Park woods recently? At our last meeting of the Acton Park board we talked about what a great resource our local trail system is. A few of the local people frequent these trails, to run, walk pets or stroll through, yet there's plenty of room for more. **All** members of the WCNJ are welcome to wander the paths and enjoy nature in small or large doses! There is always something interesting to see, hear, smell or touch, and the more you visit, the more you get.

When our kids were small, my parents would always suggest a “cousins walk” when they came for a visit. The grandkids would speed ahead or hang back and talk about what they saw or had seen on previous walks. The adults would often challenge the children to notice the details. Observe the signs of the season and the variety of animal prints beside the stream. Or to notice how huge a tulip poplar tree seems when standing at the base and looking up.

The AP Board is hoping to include regular observations about our woods in future issues of the Echo. There are countless ways that the Lord blesses us through His creation, when we spend time in it.

Sharon Kunkle – AP President

## Looking for Acton Park Memories

The Acton Park board members are hoping to produce a 2018 calendar featuring photographs of the Acton Park woods and trails. Each calendar photo page will be a small anecdote or memory. If you have a favorite one about the trails, the wildlife, the woods, the forest garden or the Park in general I would love to have them.

Thanks! Bonnie Cowley [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

**New Church Day Gifts:** June 19th is approaching. If you have children and know that you will be attending the service that Sunday, please, please, please let Janna Zuber know as soon as possible. Also if you know of visiting guest with young children, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Janna Zuber. [jannazuber@verizon.net](mailto:jannazuber@verizon.net)



## News from the New Christian Bible Study Project

Have you ever wished that you could read the Word and the Writings side-by-side? Would you like to be able to look up the correspondence of words in the literal sense, as you read? Would you like to be able to see New Church commentary on the internal sense? You can do all that, and much more, on the New Christian Bible Study website.

More than 100,000 people visited our website last month. This crowd is growing quickly. Bible readers and spiritual seekers are coming from all over the world. It's one of the most exciting projects in the church today. Check it out! Look us up at [newchristianbiblestudy.org](http://newchristianbiblestudy.org).

Thank you!

Steve David ~ for the New Christian Bible Study Project

**General Church Annual Goal:** Dear New Church supporters, please consider a gift to help the General Church meet its annual giving goals as our fiscal year wraps up this June. We know that you are working hard toward self-support in Mitchellville, and we fully support that goal. Still, every donation, large or small, will help us achieve the larger mission of helping people everywhere live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord in His Second Coming. Our message is one of hope and love for all people who turn to Him in a life of service and sacrifice. Your donations matter and they make a difference. To donate to the General Church go to [www.newchurch.org/donate](http://www.newchurch.org/donate) or you can send a check payable to: General Church mailed to Advancement, PO Box 708, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009.

With gratitude, Mark Wyncoll - [Mark.wyncoll@newchurch.org](mailto:Mark.wyncoll@newchurch.org)

## COMMUNITY NEWS!

Good morning, friends! Let me lead you through the May news from your friends and family. There are lots of things to celebrate this month, as well as many things to look forward to. Summer break is almost here. ☺

**Jerry and Deena Odhner** are still working on buying a house near their daughter's family in Wilmington, NC! House buying is always a crazy and stressful process, but getting their house in Herndon, VA ready to sell is also stressful. Keep them in your thoughts as they move forward. Deena sends good wishes to everyone and says their hearts remain with us in Mitchellville. Best wishes to you both!

Speaking of best wishes, there were two engagements in May!

Bill and Sharon Kunkle are delighted to announce the engagement of their son **Bryan Kunkle**, to **Kristin Marie Hein**, of Birdsboro, PA.

Brad & Kathy Johns and Suzanne & Roch Mongeon of Beltsville, MD are happy to announce the engagement of **Brad (Bist) Jr. and Christine**. Kathy says, "A private wedding ceremony will take

place in September with a celebration to follow later in the year. After a long courtship, both families are truly ecstatic about the upcoming nuptials!”

Exciting! Who doesn't love the engagement excitement? Congratulations to the happy families! Next up is some exciting baby news...

**Emily (Ball) Maple** and her husband **Frankie** are expecting their first baby! This bundle of joy is due to arrive on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and their first baby also happens to be the first grandchild for both lucky sets of grandparents. They are very excited to meet this new person this fall! Congratulations to all the families. ☺

Kathy Johns wrote to tell me about **Brad** and his bionic knees: “Brad's bionic knees can now walk & talk with each other - 36 staples out, swelling going away, flex & extension getting there. New knees are amazing. We're ready for summer activity now!”

There's been some scholarly excitement in the Smith household, as **Becca** just graduated with an M.A. in Arab Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service! Becca says, “The title of my thesis was "Rejecting America's Cold War: Sayyid Qutb's Nationalist-Islamist Agenda and the Failure of U.S. Efforts to Win Over Egyptian Muslims following World War II." It was published on ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database, but the full text is under embargo while I work on submitting a version of it to an academic journal.”

Wystan Simons wrote in to share some exciting end-of-the-school-year news, because **Bronwyn** graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art *magna cum laude* on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Wystan said, “Her family enjoyed her senior show of sculpture pieces during the weekend before - including Aunt Ann Buss and Aunt Gillian Bedford who drove down because they are wonderful aunts.”

Wystan also wrote in, “**Oskar Simons** gave a humorous and interesting speech to conclude his Senior Project course at the Academy Boys School about his discoveries in woodworking - turning wooden bowls, walnut, cherry, and birch. His discovery is -- he

loves it and wants to do it, he says, for the rest of his life! His parents drove up to hear the speech and thoroughly enjoyed it.”

Jeannette Roscoe wrote in to share that “**Amanda** was accepted as an English teaching assistant for the French Education System. She will be moving to Lyon in September for the school year. She has recently moved home to save for the trip. **Nora** will also be moving home since Amy will no longer be an available roommate. No empty nest for us this summer! ☺”

Bonnie sent in some news about one of our Jr. Kindergarten dads. **Michael Barnes**, Jonathan’s dad, had brain surgery on May 23. Send good thoughts to the whole family for a quick recovery!

Meanwhile, down in Austin, Texas, Mike and Ginny's youngest daughter, **Evie, and her husband, Cedric Synnestvedt** had their first baby on May 6th, a perfectly healthy boy named Linus Wilder. **Ginny** spent the week of May 19th - 26th doing Nana duties while Mike held down the fort. He (Linus) is the Gladish's 11th grandchild.

Wystan sent in one last piece of news: “You may have noticed paintings hanging in the church foyer. These works are on loan from the artist **Gillian Bedford** of PA, and display Gillian's visualization of the transition from earthly life to the afterlife as a window. Be sure to check them out - they will be up until the end of June, in honor of New Church Day. One of Gillian's paintings in this series has been hanging in our foyer for a year. Do people like these? Would people like to display others?”

**Phil Zuber, Kira Zuber and Joseph Jenkins** successfully hike the Grand Canyon - 17 miles in one day with some family and friends at the end of April, either the 5th or sixth year running for Phil. **Janna** just returned from a 5 day art retreat with 9 other painters nestled in the mountains of Orkney Springs, VA - Shrine Mont. Very successful and energizing, and Janna highly recommends Shrine Mont - an Episcopal run retreat center to others looking for a place to retreat to!

Over the weekend of June 20<sup>th</sup> there was a special celebration for **Quentin Hyatt** in Bryn Athyn for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many of Quentin's family and friends helped him celebrate.

*Next month... More graduations!* (Send those honors and proud moments into me – Hanna Hyatt – [hannaihyatt@gmail.com](mailto:hannaihyatt@gmail.com) and share your news with all of us!)



## *June Anniversaries*

*“The blessings of conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, full trust and a mutual desire of mind and heart to do the other every good.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg, CB 180*



*June 10<sup>th</sup> ~ David & Heather Radcliffe ~ 22 yrs.*

*June 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Carl & Judy Goetzingler ~ 53 yrs.*

*June 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Wynne & (Marge) Hyatt ~ 60 yrs.*

*June 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Derek & Hanna Hyatt ~ 2 yr.*

*June 20<sup>th</sup> ~ (Dean) & Cathy Smith ~ 64 yrs.*

*June 21<sup>st</sup> ~ David & Amy Glenn ~ 32 yrs.*

*(From the General Church News and Updates Newsletter)*



## **New Church Spotlight: Upcoming Summer Camps**

**Maple Leaf Academy, Canada, June 30 - July 6, 2017**

Maple Leaf is a teen church camp now held in Orangeville, Ontario, Canada. The campers are mentored toward spiritual growth in a beautiful, natural environment filled with music, worship, time with friends and lots of fun. Visit: [www.maplecamp.com](http://www.maplecamp.com), [Facebook](#) or contact Steph Kuhl at [gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com](mailto:gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com) to learn more.

**British Academy Summer School, England, July 16-July 29**  
BASS is a church camp for teens and young adults. The camp allows participants to interact with other spiritually-minded young people in a relaxed and fun environment. Days at BASS are characterized by worship, learning, sports, creative activities, and outings to places of interest. Please contact Doug Reuter, [doug.reuter@ancss.org](mailto:doug.reuter@ancss.org) for more information.

**Jacob's Creek Family Camp, Mt. Pleasant, PA, July 23-26**  
This Year's Theme is: Behold I make all things new!  
In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the focus of this camp is to assist participants in building a strong foundation of doctrinal understanding for spiritual growth. Get your registration forms online, [jacobscreekcamp-.alotspace.com](http://jacobscreekcamp.alotspace.com) and like us on Facebook. Contact Jamie and Julie Uber, 412-782-2710/ [julie.uber@gmail.com](mailto:julie.uber@gmail.com)

**Laurel Family Camp, Somerset, PA, July 30-August 5th**  
The focus of this camp is to draw people together and build a true sense of spiritual community. Registration is open and will remain open until the camp is full. Visit [www.laurelcamp.org](http://www.laurelcamp.org) for more information and registration forms. Contact Cyd Knoble, 267-718-5465 / [cydknoble@gmail.com](mailto:cydknoble@gmail.com)