

May 2018

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

In my 45 years in the ministry of the New Church it has seemed to me that one of the most difficult things we can ask people to do is share their faith. We have *so much* to share we find it hard even to

know where to start. And we're afraid of messing up, or of alienating people who might not appreciate what we say. Plus, for some, religion is a very personal thing, and no one wants to impose or get caught up in unfavorable comparisons with others' views.

Unfortunately, since word-of-mouth is by far the most effective form of advertising, our reluctance to do it has had a negative effect on our ability to grow as a congregation of the church.

Of course, it goes without saying that most people are not ready for the New Church. There are even indications in the Writings that as few as 5% of the population at any given time may be truly, deeply interested in spiritual things. Still, that is no reason to be discouraged. There are over 6 million people in the DC metropolitan area and 5% of that is over 300,000. Just imagine if even 1% of those people could see the value of the New Church teachings: that would be 3,000. *And if just 1% of those people were to join us our congregation would grow by 30%.* As someone said years ago, in outreach we are dealing in the laws of large numbers.

### Practice Makes Perfect

I remember when I first starting sharing my NC faith with others; I said some dumb things, and in retrospect made some pretty silly mistakes. But the important thing is that I learned from those mistakes and was able to do a little better each time until I developed a fairly "standard" way of answering questions. I still don't like sharing these important concepts with people who are just making conversation, but quite often I find that a casual question *can* lead to a really meaningful conversation – and a lot of positive interest.

So with this by way of background I want to invite ALL of you to come on out and practice *with me* at this year's **Bowie-Fest, at Allen Pond Park on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, anytime from 8 AM until closing time around 5 PM. We'll have pamphlets and other literature, trinkets and even bottled water to hand out to people walking past our booth, and really, all you have to do is smile a lot and engage with people so they know you care. If someone asks you a question you can't answer, one of the ministers will be there to

back you up – but really, if you just tell people why the NC is important to YOU, you’ve done your job!

Of course we’ll be promoting the school as well as the church, but we’ll have literature for both, and we know from previous years’ experience that we will meet a lot of very nice and interesting people. We will also get an opportunity to see how other churches present *themselves*, and so learn what other people in our community think is important in a church.

Please give your serious consideration to helping with this. Even a one hour stint would be great, and the more volunteers we have the more fun it will be. Contact Mike, Michael or Bonnie to sign up!

### Church and School “Community” Barbecue

As you know, a lot of people become familiar with the church through their involvement in the school. But until we get to know them (and *vice versa*) we can’t expect them to feel at home in the church. This is why we are hosting a second annual barbecue event at the church where we can mix and mingle and build this sense of community. Please save Sunday afternoon, May 20<sup>th</sup>, for this and be sure to join us. See the ad on page 16.

### So what is the doctrine of the month?

Communication! In *Heaven & Hell* we read,

“How great is the wisdom of angels can be confirmed from the fact that in the heavens there is a communication of all things. Intelligence and wisdom are communicated from one to another, and heaven is a communion of all goods. The reason is that heavenly love is such that it wills what is its own to be another’s. *Consequently, no one in heaven perceives his own good in himself to be good unless it is also in another; and this is the source of the happiness of heaven.*” (#268)

“It is the delight of everyone in heaven to share his delights and blessings with others.” (#399)

And in the Arcana we are taught,

“The angelic state is such that everyone communicates his own blessedness and happiness to others, for in the next life all affections and thoughts are communicated and perceived faultlessly. *Each individual therefore communicates his own joy to all others, and so do all to each individual.* Consequently each individual is so to speak the focal point of all. This is the heavenly form. The more there are to constitute the Lord’s kingdom therefore, the greater the happiness, for this grows in proportion to the increase in numbers. This is why heavenly happiness is indescribable.” (#549)

To think that we, like angels, could communicate “faultlessly” is of course a stretch. But again, we’ll never learn if we don’t practice. So let’s practice. Our spiritual lives may depend on it.

Best wishes,

*Nike Gladish*

## CHURCH YARD SALE

Saturday, MAY 5th 8 am ~ 2 pm



Rain or SHINE at the church.

**Vendors Welcome** - \$15 a space  
**BYO table.** (Half price for sellers  
under 18). Decent Donations  
gladly accepted NOW through Fri-  
day, May 5th. Get your spring

cleaning done and move out everything you haven't used in the last 5 years!

**Clothing, Housewares, toys, Books, furniture, collectibles, Jewelry, garden/yard items, sports equipment, tools and more!** If you would like to help, come Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> to sort. If you can help with the sale, we can use even an hour of your time. The Yard Sale Team is a fun group! Parent Service Hours can be earned as well. Please contact Kathy Johns [kcjs-wim@aol.com](mailto:kcjs-wim@aol.com) with any questions. ***Big or Special Items?*** Send photos/specs to [lovinchickens@gmail.com](mailto:lovinchickens@gmail.com) and we will Craigslist them.

Pastor's Council on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

Once again our Council members for this year are:

Mary Cooper	Amy D Glenn	Cynthia Harvey
Aubrey Hernandez	Kim Maxwell	Curt Moore
John Kern	Joe Sprinkle	Lincoln Smith
	Patrick Sweeney	

Please contact them if you have ideas or opinions you would like represented in church planning. Meanwhile here are the things I have in mind:

- Suggestion for a new, short society survey about what our members want in a Sunday sermon. Copies will be distributed to the council members for discussion.
- Ideas and suggestions for congregational life with a diminishing pool of volunteers. What are your priorities and how can we manage them effectively? I'm talking about everything from doctrinal classes to committee meetings, work parties and social events.
- Church growth: does it matter? If so, what are we going to do about it? Please give this some serious thought; it is the main topic of my concern and I hope we can produce a list of manageable ideas at the meeting.
- The June Calendar of church events: WNCS graduation on the 7<sup>th</sup>, ANCSS graduation on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a NC Day banquet on the 16<sup>th</sup>, clergy meetings the last week, etc. Any questions or concerns? Also, the pastors' scheduled vacations.

Unfortunately only 5 out of ten council members attended our last meeting in March, so I'm hoping for good representation – and a good discussion at this meeting.



## **- Walks in Acton Park Woods -**

### *For the Birds!*



Have you taken a walk in the woods recently? Been serenaded by voices you have not heard in a while? Every spring, the Neo-Tropical Migrants return to our area to breed after wintering in the tropics of Central and South America and the southern United States. They are moving north, with new species arriving every day. Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds arrived a week ago – got your feeders up? Swallows are circling the local ponds, Northern Parula Warblers are chattering from the treetops, and just today I learned that the Wood Thrushes have returned to our local forests. The orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, vireos, and other warbler species are not far behind. Grab your binoculars and hit the trails! - Andy Cooper

### **Music Notes - by John Croft**



Move it on over, SMURFS, it's time for AMX (Alternative Music Experiment)

We love our organ music and our organists, but many in the church, particularly the younger generations, are hungry for alternative forms of music, sound and vision to complement the organ music as part of the service (before, during, or after).

With AMX, we aim to expand the bounds of “spiritual” music to complement our bedrock organ music.

Spiritual “music” to some may mean legacy hymns; to others it may be acoustic guitars and soft voices playing secular and modern music; to others it could be wind instruments and ensembles playing Bach, and for others, maybe it's spoken word with wind chimes as accompaniment. Some like it all.

Our job with AMX will be to have an open mind to your ideas while maintaining certain ground rules, including appropriate reverence for the church and congregation.

So with that, please feel empowered to bring us your ideas (contact info below) and let's get this experiment underway. We plan to update you on our progress in these pages every month, reviewing the previous month's music and previewing the coming month.

Thanks for listening.

AMX Boosters: John Croft. 301-814-5215, Wystan Simons 301-237-1283 & Charlotte Radcliffe 301-440-4975

## Church Summer Camps

There are many summer camps for everyone from children & teen, women, families and for all ages. Below is a list of some of the camps available in the church this summer:

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Glencairn Medieval camp #1 in Bryn Athyn. This camp is for 9 and 10 year olds.

**June 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>** – Glencairn Medieval camp #2 in Bryn Athyn, PA. This camp is for 9 and 10 year olds. [Christine.mcdonald-@glencairnmuseum.org](mailto:Christine.mcdonald@glencairnmuseum.org)

**July 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** – ANC Summer camp in Bryn Athyn, PA. This camp is for students who have completed grades 8 and 9. [Ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp](http://Ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp)

**July 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** – Laurel Family Camps in Somerset, PA at Laurel Hill State Park. This is a family camp from newborns to grandparents. [www.laurelcamp.org](http://www.laurelcamp.org)



**July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** – Jacob's Creek Family Camp – in the mountains of Western PA for families all ages. For more information see church bulletin board or go to: [jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org](http://jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org).

**Maple Leaf Academy** is a teen church camp in Ontario in Canada. The campers are mentored towards spiritual growth in an environment filled with music, worship, prayer and wholesome fun. Visit their website at [www.maplecamp.com](http://www.maplecamp.com)

## **Church Events in May, 2018**

**Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 7:30 PM** the WNC School Board has its regular monthly meeting at the church.

**Wednesdays, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>,** the Prophets Survey Course continues at the church with the pastor & Rev. Bernita.

**Fri, the 4<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 the WNCS Youth Group meets at the church w/Miss Amy.

**Saturdays** all month: “Chair Yoga” starts at 1:30 PM and regular yoga goes from 2:30 to 3:30 in the supper room.

**Sat, the 5<sup>th</sup>, all morning & thru lunch the ANNUAL YARD SALE** takes place in the church parking lot.

**Mondays, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** the *evening* Heaven and Hell study group meets at the Cooper home at 8:00 PM.

**Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 PM the Board of Trustees will meet.

**Wednesdays, the 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>,** the *morning* Heaven & Hell study group meets at the Gladish home at 11:00 AM.

**Thurs, the 10<sup>th</sup>** the Acton Park Board will meet **at 7:30.**

**Tues, the 15<sup>th</sup> the Pastor’s Council will meet at 7:30.** See page \_\_ for a list of suggested topics, and talk to one of the council members to add your own.

**Sun, the 20<sup>th</sup>, late afternoon and evening** there is a church and school community-building barbecue on the church grounds. Check with Brian or Bonnie for details.

**Sat, the 26<sup>th</sup>** is graduation day for the Bryn Athyn College, and of course Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, is a public holiday.

**Sun, the 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM** there is another excellent concert at the Church of the Holy City, downtown at 16<sup>th</sup> & R Streets. This one features two classical guitarists. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested for their organ restoration fund.



### Sermon Topics for May, 2018

#### **the 6<sup>th</sup>: What Can we Know about Our Spiritual Path?**

Genesis 35 tells of Jacob's return to his homeland. We explore this story and the stops he made along the way for clues about our own spiritual development. ~ BDS

**the 13<sup>th</sup>: Mothers' Day: Two Universal Atmospheres from the Lord** – the love of having children and the love of protecting them – and how they relate to marriage, motherhood and purpose of creation. See *Conjugal Love* #386. ~ MDG

**the 20<sup>th</sup>: He Did Not Come to Bring Peace:** Although the "earth was filled with violence" the Lord said, "do not think that I came to bring peace on earth." If the Lord is the Prince of Peace why would He say this? What shall we do? How might we understand His words? ~ MEF

**Also the 20<sup>th</sup>** – a *possible* new evening vespers service. Please call the church or watch for confirmation or details in the week leading up to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**the 27<sup>th</sup>: "And then they shall know...!"** The prophecies of Ezekiel often repeat this phrase: "...And then they shall know that I am the Lord their God." How? When? And what does this mean for US today? What does it take? ~ MDG

### Money Matters

"Time is money," as they say, and we could also call it "the currency of commitment."

Not everyone has the option of earning more by doing extra work, but one thing is for sure, if you have to hire someone to get work done, *that* will cost you money.

It's the same at the church. If you can help us get things done you will save the church money – and that is, after all, money that you give.

This coming year will be the first in our entire history in which this congregation will receive no direct financial help from the General Church. This represents quite an accomplishment and speaks highly of all who contribute and have contributed over the years. But one of the reasons we can do this is because we rely heavily on volunteers.

Please give this some thought as you plan your schedule of activities. Helping out at the church or school is a great way to contribute, even if you don't have a cent to spare. And there are always interesting, useful things to do.

Call or visit the church office to explore the opportunities.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

**New Church Day Gifts:** June 19th is right around the corner, and



as head of the gifts that we make for our children, it would be most helpful to me to know if you and your children will be attending our service on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, and ESPECIALLY if you will be having any guests with children!

Please note that these gifts are lovingly made by just a few men and women in our society, donating their time and usually the supplies. New talents are *always* welcome to join in the creation of these treasures. I am in need of someone to help embroider the red Word markers, please contact me if interested. Thank you in advance - Janna Zuber

### **TAG Corner**



Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) elected officers for 2018-2019 season. Becca Smith will continue as President, Wystan Simons as Vice President, Kathy Johns as Treasurer, and Anne Ball will take over from Mary Cooper as Secretary. Much gratitude for your generous and expert service in this role, Mary!

TAG Spring Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Take a look for opportunities to help with the Yard Sale (May 5),

during Graduation week (June 4-7), on New Church Day (celebrated June 17), and more.

***Here's to Our Friends:*** Thanks to everyone who came out for the TAG Banquet on April 14 featuring four of our local heroes -- **Sharon Croft Cooper, Marie Kazeem, Megan Malone, and Jannine Smith** -- and a delicious meal headed by Chef Candy Quintero. Highlights included a discussion of college athletes' privilege and lack of privilege, what it feels like seeing images from Hubble in the news, coming into work on 9/11 despite the warnings in order to save lives through blood banking, and wondering as a stay at home mom if you are doing enough. Thank you, ladies, for sharing your stories and insights, and for being who you are.

**New Church Vineyard website:** General Church Education has completely remodeled the New Church Vineyard website. By popular request, the site now provides one central location for New Church educational resources, offering more than 4500 activities, projects, readings and videos for all ages. We added a “subscribe” feature to let you know about new some of our resources. Please sign up at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/subscribe/>.

## News Notes

Hi friends! We have some fun news this month— some theatrical news, some future wedding bells, and some updates on the future plans for some WNCs alumni. :)

Bill Radcliffe wrote a review of the ANC musical— this year, **Shrek the Musical** prominently featured some of our WNCs alumni. Here's his review:

“Our own **Timothy Radcliffe** and **Emily Martin** excelled in their roles, Tim as Shrek and



Emily as Dragon, in the April ANC production of “Shrek the Musical.” In an extraordinarily complex and challenging musical with a cast of 50 secondary school students and almost 20 creative scene changes, Tim caught the essence of the Shrek character and played his part with confidence and aplomb. His costume, makeup, and body language were exquisite. Timmy’s voice was loud and clear and perfect for the Shrek role.

Emily orchestrated one of the high points of the show, bursting on stage just in time to dispatch the villainous Lord Farquaad. Emily, I hope you were able to get those horns off your head; they looked tightly welded to your forehead.

One has to be deeply impressed with the audacity and professionalism of the entire production. **Chris Waelchli** and his staff of faculty, coaches and choreographers are to be commended for bringing the performing arts to such a high level at the Academy, and providing opportunities for student participation in the many varied tasks, both on and off stage, required for a successful production.”

**Lisa Martin** also shared enthusiastically about WNCS alumni in Shrek: “Tim Radcliffe and Emily Martin put on a hilarious, powerhouse show. Tim’s accent, singing and humor were a highlight. Emily sang a solo that gave me goosebumps (not just because I’m her mom). Emily also did all of the ogre and dragon prosthetics and make up. **Heather Radcliffe** and I were in tears (combination of pride and laughter), as was most of the house, I am sure.” So proud of our WNCSers. (As always.)

**Mike and Ginny Gladish** are delighted to announce the engagements of their two eldest granddaughters: **Sonja Kistner to Richard Glenn**, son of David and Amy Glenn, and **Freya Kistner to Derek Buss**, son of Rev. Erik and Ann Buss.

Mike Gladish also wrote in to help us notice some new advertising for the church and school! He said, “Some of you may have seen a light tan, single sheet publication in area restaurants, libraries or doctors' waiting rooms called "Coffee News." If you notice it any time soon pick one up! They're free. We are running a series of

ads, first for the school and then for the church, and expect to continue every week for at least a year!”

Our congregation enjoyed visits from two ministers this month, the first from **Rev. Jean Atta** (French pronunciation), native of the Ivory Coast and currently assistant pastor in Boulder, CO. Rev Atta gave presentations at WNCS on April 6th, was welcomed at an open house in the Simons’s home on Saturday evening, and preached a post Easter sermon. Jean was a delight to have with us, and get to know a little bit.

**Bishop Brian Keith** with his wife **Gretchen** visited us April 21-22, on Saturday holding a meeting to initiate and explain the pastoral selection process. About 15 folks showed up for this, (if you missed it, Brian welcomes calls from those unable to attend).

Sunday the Bishop preached a timely sermon about why we need not have anxiety about the future.

Big and exciting news for the Smith family: **Kyle Smith** (son of



Aaron and Eva, graduating this spring from **Bishop O’Connell High School** in Arlington, VA) has been accepted into **West Point**. Kyle starts classes this summer. Rev. Michael Ferrell announced the good news at church, with congratulations and some sage advice from a retired 1st sergeant.

Meanwhile **Cathy Smith** is doing well and is home! Those who want to help out, ask Patti Smith what might be best. We all send you love Cathy!

**Janna Zuber** wrote in to share news of her art show— she “currently has an art show on display at the Bowie Branch library. The artwork is now on the second floor in the quiet room. I am also excited to have my more abstract art on display at Hysteria Brewery

in Columbia, Maryland, a very popular brewery, especially with the young professionals. And, the beer is quite good!”

Sharon Croft let us know that “**Anders Croft** attended the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference in Providence, RI over the weekend of April 13-15. He presented a poster on ‘Bees in the News: Investigating the coverage of honey bees versus native bee species in the media.’ Anders is a freshman at Salisbury University, studying Biology.”

That’s all for this month, folks! Start thinking of your news for next month. ;)

Bonnie tells of the **Roscoe's** European adventure: “**James and Jeannette** just got back from a whirlwind tour of France and Italy. They met daughter **Amanda**, currently working in Lyon, France and toured all over, visiting Rome, Pompeii, Lyon and other great locations. They enjoyed great food and awesome wine tours. Welcome back!”

Congratulations to **Emily Martin**! Lisa Martin writes, “After some tough deliberation, Emily has committed to the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore starting in the fall. She was accepted to all of her top college choices and decided that MICA was the best fit. She plans on majoring in graphics design and illustration. Emily received both presidential achievement and creative vision faculty scholarship awards! We are so happy that she will be so close.”

### **Marriage Moats – by Lori Odhner**

*“Marriage Moats is an online daily inspiration to support marriage. You can sign up for daily “Moats” by contacting Lori: [lori@caringformarriage.org](mailto:lori@caringformarriage.org). Here’s a sample:*

April 18, 2018

There are people who have security cameras in their driveways. Others aim them on their babies at night, so they can check in. When I was a chicken keeper I considered setting one up to discover what was hunting my birds. But not many people turn on the video when they argue. Living through it once is more than enough.

Still it can be entertaining, illuminating in a macabre way, to watch someone else quarrel. There is a Monty Python sketch where someone pays for the privilege of conflict. Their ping pong of dialogue is funny, but only because it is not us. When I am on one side of the dispute, it is not amusing. It is maddening.

Watching what such hammering actually looks like is one step toward choosing differently. There are more productive ways to engage with the people we share this life with.

Being able to cleanly articulate what someone else believes is one strategy to short circuit the bickering. Speak in a way that lets them feel understood. Put your own position on hold, like a blouse on the clearance rack that you can come back for later if you still want it. Ask the person you love if you got it right, and be willing to keep trying. In my experience that effort alone opens the door between me and my debating partner, or at least renders it transparent. Then sometimes I find that I am less inclined to go back for my old opinion anyway. It doesn't fit so well anymore.

### May Anniversaries

*"Love combined with friendship continues on after the wedding and is strengthened - a friendship which differs greatly from that of any other love, because it is a full one.*

*Emanuel Swedenborg, GL 214*

~ ~ ~

*May 9<sup>th</sup> ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 20 yrs.*

*May 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Frank & Babs Jackson ~ 45 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 14 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 42 yrs.*

~ ~ ~

# WNCS/WCNJ Community BBQ



*Calendar Note:*  
BBQ has been moved from May 6  
**to May 20<sup>th</sup> • 4pm**  
Please make a note of it  
***AND Join us!***

## Pot Luck Picnic

- Meet our school families
- Games for young and old
- All – (church and school) invited!

