

Summer 2018

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

What is your sense of Divine Providence? Do you think of it as a sort of mechanistic thing, operating dispassionately according to

fixed laws of order, “quid pro quo” and all that? Or do you think of it as a guiding hand in human affairs?

If the former, where is the Humanity – the Divine love – in it? If the latter, where is our freedom?

We all know that there is no such thing as predestination – except that we are all created for heaven. But how does the Lord work to maintain order without imposing on our often foolish choices?

Well, I think the first principle is that He is more concerned with spiritual order than with natural order. In other words, He will permit all sorts of things in order to preserve our ability to think and reason, choosing heaven or hell for ourselves. See the book, *Divine Providence*, #71-99, also #214-220.

But I think it is also critical to recognize that He does not leave us all alone in these choices – or in our responses to the choices other people make. Rather, as we read, “The Lord is present with everyone, urgent and pressing to be received...” (TCR #766). He is, as John notes in the book of *Revelation* (3:20), standing at the door knocking. And *throughout the Word* He pleads with us to open the door by doing what He teaches.

In addition He provides very subtle influences in the form of what we call “associate spirits,” who bring us the perspectives of heaven and of hell, always in a balanced way so that we are assured of the opportunity to make good choices if we are willing. AND He has provided civic and cultural norms that encourage personal integrity (see TCR #498).

Still, we are free. Our spiritual lives depend on it. And this freedom includes the way we *respond* to problems. In short, we can look at ourselves or others and find reasons to be angry, cynical or depressed, or we can look to the Lord and find wisdom, love and the power to persevere. Seeing evil, we can usually find ways to understand it and contextualize it so that it doesn’t drive us crazy. And there will always be something we can learn from it.

This applies to the church as a whole and not just ourselves as individual members. Somehow, despite all the discouraging issues we face in the church today, we need to focus on our opportunities and

find ways to be optimistic. We need to be the salt and the light that the Lord referenced *immediately after He warned His disciples about the persecutions they would face* (Matthew 5:13-14). But what, we might ask, does this look like in practical terms?

Providence in Every Detail

As Bishop Keith said in his sermon here last April, we need to use our heads and plan, *but not worry!* The Lord can bring good out of anything that happens, and He will if we will look to Him, trust Him, and do our best to make the right decisions. As I also wrote in a recent sermon, He has ALL the power to get anything done, but He gives us the freedom and responsibility to make the decisions that open the way for His power to flow through us. (A lot of electrical metaphors come to mind but I'll spare you for now.)

"Nothing is therefore allowed to happen except to the end that something good may come out of it."

The thing is, we can't force change on other people, but everything we think and do has an influence on them whether we like it or not. It also strengthens the will – whether the new (good) will or the old (selfish) will within ourselves – so it's important to choose our words and actions carefully.

Anyway, whether you're at peace or in some kind of turmoil, whether you're comfortable or on edge, whether you feel loved or slighted try to remember AC 6489, where we read,

“...The Lord's providence is such that it is linked together with foresight; the one does not exist without the other. For evil things are foreseen, but good ones are provided.... *Nothing is therefore allowed to happen except to the end that something good may come out of it.*”

No one ever said life in this world was going to be easy. Rather it's all about patience, learning and self-discipline. It's about subordinating ourselves to others and especially to the Lord, who is the only one who knows what we really need.

Doing these things doesn't necessarily result in a more comfortable life, nor in a bigger, better church, but it provides for the most important thing of all, which is the influence of heaven on earth, the one thing that can lead *eventually* to real peace and blessing.

Of course all this may seem just a tad miserable, or at any rate martyrish, but in fact there's an unexpected benefit that accrues in the process. As we read in a critical series in *Divine Providence* (#34-44), the more nearly a person is conjoined with the Lord, the wiser and happier he becomes *AND the more distinctly he appears to be master of himself!* Really, what could be better than that?

In this way the Lord's own words are fulfilled, where He said, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). "So the last will be first, and the first last" (Matt. 20:16).

Best wishes,



Money Matters

As summer is for many a time to relax a little and take stock it seems like a good time in the church to focus financially on two things, (1) our gratitude for all that our members and friends have contributed over the year, and (2) the opportunity to do some estate planning.

(1) Thanks in large measure to a few outstanding donations, but also to the deep commitment of all, this last year we received significantly more in church contributions than ever before in our history! We began the year with a \$233,000 budget for donations and by the end of May we had already received \$285,000. This is fantastic and a very hopeful sign for the future. In addition our endowment income continues to grow, thanks to the Healthy Church Match program that wraps up next year. AND we continue to receive very generous support in terms of grants from the Asplundh and Glencairn Foundations, especially for our school. We are indeed richly blessed.

Money certainly isn't everything, but it pays the bills, and we want you all to know how very grateful we can all be for one another's ongoing church support.



(2) With regard to estate planning our only suggestion apart from the fact that summer is a good time to think about these things, is this: of course we all want to leave a legacy for our children or family members; that goes without saying! But what if you were to add the church or school as if it were one of your children? If you have three children and the church makes a fourth, the difference in the inheritance is probably not huge, but could be a great benefit to the church. Just a thought!

Thanks again!

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

Sermon Topics for July & August, 2018

This summer, as in recent years, we are taking a more relaxed approach to sermon topics, and invite you to just “come and see.” However preaching *schedule* will be as follows:

July 1 st :	Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
July 8 th :	Rev. Kenneth Alden
July 15 th , 22 nd and 29 th :	Pastor Mike
Aug. 5 th :	Rev. Brian Smith
Aug. 12 th :	Pastor Mike
Aug. 19 th :	Rev. Brian Smith
Aug. 26 th :	Pastor Mike

In addition to a somewhat more relaxed summer order of service, we will also begin experimenting with just TWO verses of any hymn that has more than two on the page; *which* two verses will be announced from the chancel.

Church Events in July & August, 2018

All of our regular classes, with the possible exception of the Monday evening Heaven & Hell study, will be suspended for the summer as we re-organize for the fall. *If anyone has suggestions of meeting times, places or **topics** that you would like to study they would be most welcome over the summer.*

Don't forget, the front of the church and school will be in use on weekdays all summer from June 18th until August 24th for a children's ***summer camp***. If you need to access the building please be mindful of this use ***and wear a name tag so that the camp leaders know who you are.*** This is not just a matter of courtesy but it is really necessary for the safety and security of the program. ***Bonnie will have tags for you in the office.***

Both pastors will be away for the first two Sundays of July, but as always you can contact Mike any time via his cell phone at 301-461-3521 or by email at mdgladish@gmail.com.

Pastor Search Committee Status Report **Volume 2**

The Search Committee held a meeting with Bishop Brian Keith on June 15th and then met with Rev. Brian Smith and Rev. Mike Gladish on the 20th of the month to get started on the process of selecting a candidate for Pastor of the Society. Bishop Keith provided us with guidelines for the selection process, while Brian and Mike gave us their thoughts on Society needs and pastoral duties. The Committee plans to meet with Rev. Michael Ferrell later.

To meet its goal of ensuring that there are open lines of communication with everyone who is a part of the WCNJ congregation and/or is a part of the WNCs school community, Committee members will be available for conversation after Church services every Sunday during the search process. Please feel free to talk to them there, or to call or write to them at any time to discuss the selection

process and to provide your thoughts on Society needs. These members will make sure the entire committee is informed of your communications.

So that we can have an accurate and complete view of your views about the sort of leadership we should be seeking in the selection of a Pastor, the Committee is now preparing a short survey, and will be sending it out in early August. We hope everyone will respond to this as soon as it is received, and in any event no later than the end of August. We will contact everyone to ensure that no one is excluded from the opportunity to provide input. If you don't hear from us, please make sure we hear from you.

The Committee members are listed below. Their telephone numbers and email addresses can be found in the Echo Directory, or if you can't find your directory, you can call the Chairperson or the Secretary for that information.

George Cooper, Chair - (301) 390-6292; CooperPatents@verizon.net

Sharon Kunkle, Secretary - (301) 706-4873; sharon@wlk.name

Carina Heinrichs	Marie Kazeem	Jana Sprinkle
Steve Ball	Jeannette Roscoe	Candy Quintero
John Croft	Curt Moore	Derek Hyatt
Pat Sweeney		

From the Oak Arbor Development Committee

Dear New Church Members,

The Oak Arbor New Church in Rochester Hills Michigan has nine new premium ½ acre vacant residential lots available for sale for a discounted price to New Church members. Development of the Oak Arbor community started in the 1980s and we are now in the last phase of creating a beautiful subdivision with single family residential homes and condominiums. Oak Arbor is a diverse development consisting of approximately 50% New Church families and our church building, located within the subdivision, is a hub of activity for both Church and community events.

Please reach out to us if you have any interest in our new lots. New Church members have the exclusive right to select lots before they are put on the market for sale to the general public on July 9, 2018. There is no expiration date on the New Church member pricing.

Thank you,

Aaron de Chazal ~ Chairman, Oak Arbor Development

adechazal@sbcglobal.net

Tel: 248-961-7389

News Notes

Dearest Friends, the good news is that (drum roll!)

News notes editor **Hanna**

Hyatt and husband Derek have a new baby girl! Hanna reports on Facebook, “This little girl arrived on June 27, 2018 at 8:09 pm (also, coincidentally, on our third wedding anniversary. An anniversary present for us!) She was early— earlier than Hugo by 3 whole days— but she is sharing the love with everyone in the NICU by already squeaking and chatting up a storm. Hugo’s clearly impressed with his sister already, as he managed to touch some toes and laugh about a tiny baby nose. Her name is yet to come, but it feels like we’ve known her forever already.” Congratulations Hyatts!



The bad news is: first, not many people sent in their news (I guess no one graduated, traveled or was in need of sunshine in June). Second, you are stuck with me (Bonnie) doing the News Notes so you may get a lot of my family news☺.

Thanks, Bill Radcliffe for sending me in this news: They traveled to New Haven the weekend of June 1-3 for Bill's 60th Yale Medical School reunion. The dean and faculty members updated us on school admissions and projects, and the meeting climaxed with a

class dinner where friendships and news updates were shared with the 15 or so classmates attending. There was talk that this might be our last reunion, but we were encouraged by a small but robust group celebrating their 65th!

June 2nd we WCNJ/WNCS participated in a successful **Bowie Fest**. We had a booth at the fest complete with school and church literature, small give-a-ways, bottles of water with little cards with a message attached and of course a small band of volunteers to greet folks and talk about our church and school. Thanks to Mike for pulling it all together in spite of the absence of our Bowie Fest Champ – Michael Ferrell, to **Bruce and Bryce Assan** and **Andy Cooper** for set up and take down, for **Pat Sweeney, David Glenn, Erin Stillman, Marie Kazeem** and two of her girls (who were awesome reps for the school), myself and **Mike Gladish** who manned the booth.

That very evening (and on his birthday to boot) **Kyle Smith** celebrated his graduation from high school (not sure if he graduated that day or on an earlier day but congratulations Kyle).

June 6th the society was treated to a hilarious play by **WNCS 7th -**



10th graders, “Around the World in 8 Plays”. This play is too hard to explain in this small space but the students did a great job (even when they forgot their lines) with great comedic timing and stage presence.

June 7th - the **47th Commencement** exercises of the Washington New church School were held. It was one of the best I have ever attended in my 30 years here. Quite different from some in the past as WNCS is now embracing community and has taken on a much more diverse student body.

Graduation's theme was "Community" reflecting the school year's theme and began with our pastors opening worship and remarks, then moved on to Awards: Congratulations to **Kathy Johns** who was awarded the Special Service Award; to **Ariela Hernandez** and **Umah Kazeem** who were awarded the Levi D. Cowley Sportsmanship award and to **Cyrilyn Morfaw, Merilyn Morfaw and Sohaila Smith** each awarded the Appreciation Award.

Our Eighth Grade grads receiving diplomas were **Noor Kazeem and Paul Hannam**, followed by a speech to the Eighth Grade by **Jana Sprinkle**.



Receiving 10th grade diplomas were – **Cyrilyn Morfaw and Charlotte Radcliffe** (with honors), followed by our tenth grade speakers who spoke of their very different journeys to get to this point in their lives – (Charlotte who began at WNCS in Kindergarten – Cyrilyn, who in 9th grade, found her way to WNCS after attending school in Cameroon).

Principal Brian Smith finished off the ceremony with his response to the speeches that focused on Mike's earlier theme of how each individual perfects the whole in a community. Very moving!

(I was unable to print the speeches in the Echo due to lack of space. If you would like electronic copies of any of the speeches, please email me at Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org and I will email you a copy.)

ANC Secondary Schools Graduation was June 9th and WNCS



had three graduating seniors - **Paul Kazeem, Emily Martin & Tim Radcliffe** (OK four if you include former WNCS student **Teddy Baltz**), receiving High School diplomas.

During the ceremony **Tim**

and Emily, the senior class banner heads, presented their class banner. The two introduced the banner explained the meaning of the design and its quote (PSA 84 "... the Lord will give grace and glory..."). They told the audience that a *very special teacher* used to end each Friday's school day with the class reciting PSA 84. Those of us at the graduation who have had children in WNCS High School knew that the very special teacher was our own **Carole Waelchli!**



June 17th brought visiting pastor **Rev. Elmo Acton** (with wife Abbie and 2 children) who spoke to us at our New Church Day Banquet about how to talk to people about the church. A fun evening of make-your-own tacos was had by all.

Sunday the 18th, Elmo Acton was also the guest preacher. He did a lovely impromptu New Church Day pageant about the woman clothed with the sun, the dragon and the earth, with the children, followed by a short adult talk on the same topic that completed the service. And as is customary, hand-made New Church Day gifts were given to the children after the service.

On the actual New Church Day – Tuesday **June 19th** a small but fun group of adults and children held a rainy day picnic in the multipurpose room of tacos leftover from the banquet along with some

other pot luck items to celebrate that auspicious day the New Church was born.

I must apologize for ending on a sad note but I wish to thank everyone for the love and support my family has received upon hearing of the death of my granddaughter, **Margot Linnéa Cowley** (2 ½ month baby of Will Cowley and Berith Hogan Cowley). We do feel loved. ~ Bonnie



“... Everyone ought to know that without activity of life there can be no happiness of life, and that rest from this activity should be only for the sake of recreation, that one may return with more vigor to the activity of his life.” (HH 403)

Hope you all have a restful summer!

Marriage Moats – by Lori Odhner

A moat of protection around your marriage

Carrots

Carrots are humble food. They make a good show above ground, with lacy greens like a fountain springing from brown earth. But the part that feeds you is hidden away from marauding rabbits and lawn mowers.

You rarely see commercials for carrots, though they are as deserving of recognition as the latest spill-proof yogurt snack. They are versatile, showing up in salads, stir fry, soups, and cream cheese frosted cake. I like that there are usually carrots in our crisper. They do not have the snazzy packaging of a resealable zip lock bag, and there is probably even some residual dirt. But they are crunchy, and sweet, and do good things for my body. Eating them gives me keener eyesight, higher beta-carotene levels, and antioxidants. Even kids who wish I would bring them salt and vinegar potato chips accept the offering of carrot sticks, and when I come back the bowl is empty.

Marriage is nourishing too, when your soul feels hungry for the companionship of someone who has come to stay. Dating and a string of relationships can be quite an energy drain...questions and indecision... when all you want is to know. Falling in love was fun, I will admit, and as pretty as the carrot tops flirting in the breeze. But what keeps me alive, today, next year, is the part you cannot see. It is the taproot that reaches for the core, finding minerals where my eyes cannot even go, and bringing them back to me as lunch.

God hides good things in secret places, and my marriage seems to attract them. We work together to carry sleepy children in from the car, and have a conversation about our floundering son. We practice listening, when it is neither easy nor convenient to do so. Our vision gets keener, our compassion levels climb, and we are better able to ward off relationship disease. Hidden in the soil of life these experiences add vitality to a spiritual body that would atrophy on a diet of delicious self-indulgence.

We are courted by a media with a far different message, one that props narcissism as irresistibly as it does freezer pops, neither of which are even close to being food.

So, bring on the carrots. I have some cream cheese and nuts. Today, I want to make a cake.

Summer Anniversaries

“In the marriage of one man with one woman who are in conjugal love, the wife becomes more and more a wife, and the husband becomes more and more a husband.”

Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 200

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July 11th ~ Brent & Amanda Hyatt ~ 31 yrs.

July 14th ~ Michael & Michelle Kappert ~ 6 yrs.

July 21st ~ Dave and Bonnie Cowley ~ 45 yrs.

July 24th ~ Michael & Janet Ferrell ~ 14 yrs.

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*Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Chuck & Candy Quintero ~ 33 yrs.*

*Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Ed & Jana Sprinkle ~ 27 yrs.*

*Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Royce & Cynthia Harvey ~ 39 yrs.*

*Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Edward & Wystan Simons ~ 27 yrs.*

*Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Lincoln & Becca Smith ~ 15 yrs.*

*Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Todd & Shannon Wawrzeniak ~ 11 yrs.*

*Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Phil & Janna Zuber ~ 45 yrs.*

*Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Casey & Jillian Collins ~ 3 yrs.*

*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Mike & Ginny Gladish ~ 49 yrs.*

*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ James & Jeannette Roscoe ~ 38 yrs.*

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