

October 2018

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to report that our new school year is off to a very positive start. There is an especially nice atmosphere in the school so far. Yes, we have some restless, rowdy kids, but they are

all charming and bring a certain innocence which makes it easy and fun to work with them.

In addition, in a turn of events that is becoming almost normal, we have had two new student applications since school resumed, and even if only one applicant is successful we will have achieved our revised goal of 35 students. It's not where we had hoped to be in our 5 year plan, but after last year's high rate of attrition we feel it is a very positive sign.

As for the church itself, it's been a slow start with persistently low attendances, but still, good "vibes" and a real spirit of anticipation as we prepare for a pastoral change next summer.

The Time Line for Leadership Decisions

I'd like to share a little about how this will work. Any decisions we make here will depend to a greater or lesser degree on decisions made concerning overall church leadership. We expect that the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss will be affirmed as our new executive Bishop in mid-October. Then, by around November 5th he will send out his nomination of one or two new assistant bishops to the Council of the Clergy for approval. Clergy will complete that process by the end of November and the General Church Board will be asked for its affirmation by the first week of December.

Once all this is done we will know who is available to receive a call from our society, and our committee can begin deliberation on specific candidates. At that point it may be useful to invite one or more men to come and visit us, but realistically we shouldn't expect that to happen until January at the earliest. Meanwhile your committee will keep you posted in the Echo about their progress.

Featured Events in October & November

Besides our regular calendar listings you may be interested to know that one of the parents who was involved in the summer camp program at the church has contacted us to rent the supper room for a baby shower on October 27th. I mention this just to illustrate the ripple effect of our willingness to host "outside" community members in our building.

Two other special events you may like to consider are the Yoga group's crystal bowl "sound bath" on Friday night, October 5th, and the "Coffee House" talent night being hosted on Friday, the 19th as a very low-key fundraiser for the 7th – 8th grade class trip next spring. In addition there is a private baby shower for one of our members here on the 20th.

And here's a fun thing to watch out for: beginning on Monday, October 22nd, many of the shopping carts at our local Fairview Safeway grocery store will feature brand new ads for our school!

In November we begin the month with our now annual men's retreat over the weekend of the 2nd – 4th, and then on Friday, the 9th we will have our fall society business meeting, with special guests, Mark Wyncoll and Dave Frazier, representing the General Church. Space is still available at the men's retreat, so if you haven't signed up yet, better jump on it. The full deposit is \$120.

Reading New Church Doctrine

Many people mistake doctrine for dogma, or for an unthinking set of beliefs or teachings. But in fact doctrine is a word that means a way of *understanding* or *interpreting* information. In America at one time there was a doctrine of "manifest destiny" and in 1823 we had "the Monroe Doctrine," which was a statement of government *policy* concerning our relationship with other nations.

Religious doctrine, then, is not just a set of teachings but a systematic way of interpreting those teachings so that they fit together and make sense.

In the New Church we often talk about "the heavenly doctrine," meaning the heavenly *perspective* or the heavenly organization of ideas that allows us to understand specific, individual teachings in a larger, spiritual context.

For example, there are Scripture passages that suggest God is angry and vengeful, but there are also passages that say He is pure love. So which is it? A sensible doctrine of the church can reconcile these statements by shining the light of heaven on them, showing that the "angry" passages are written from a human point of view, while the "loving" passages express a deeper truth.

There are, I would say, two fundamental ways to read the doctrines of the New Church, as expounded in “the Writings.” One is to read slowly and carefully in any given book or chapter so that you can try to integrate all the details in your understanding. The other is to read quickly, skimming for an overview so that you can get a feeling for the broad sweep of ideas. Both ways can be useful, but one advantage of the second way is that you may be able to get a better sense of the emotional content of the reading and so find yourself more *affected* by the general message.

Try it! If something especially piques your particular interest you can always dive in more deeply.

Happy Reading!



Money Matters

Speaking just for myself this time, I'd like to ask everyone to consider the significance of the Lord's teachings on tithing – NOT the literal sense, but the spiritual sense. What is a tenth of one's income in spiritual terms, and how can we dedicate that to the Lord?

Well, broadly speaking a tenth in the Word signifies *all*, and specifically an acknowledgment that *everything* we have is thanks to the Lord. Income, then, is what we receive from Him, whether it is life itself or any aspect of life, including love, wisdom, power *and, yes, things*: cars, boats, homes, computers, appliances, big screen TV's – you name it. We don't need to think of a tithe literally in order to see that our gratitude for even the simple luxuries of this life ought to be acknowledged with a corresponding response to the Lord.

So what is that response? “Hey, thanks??” On one hand we know we can never “repay” the Lord for His gifts, nor does He want or need this from us, but “*it is required for our own*

sake” (AC 5957, DLW 335). One of the implications here is that we should not be giving to the church because the church needs the money, but *because we need to give*. Still, it is true that the church’s uses – and especially its outreach – can only expand in the measure that finances permit.

So again, thinking of the tithe commanded in the Word, what does it mean in practice? In the end it’s not about what we think we can afford, it’s about the fact that we all have more than we need, and yet without the Lord we’d have nothing at all.

Please remember the church in your monthly budget. Our donations acknowledge the Lord by supporting His work, and so provide for our own spiritual growth.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor

From the Principal



For an opening month of school, this September has seemed to go quite smoothly. The students are settling into the classroom routines; including quite a few who are here at WNCS for their first time. Watching the teachers get to know each student in their classrooms, calibrate expectations and learn tricks for working with each specific personality reminds me again of how much of education is nonacademic. The teachers spend loads of time and energy helping the students learn to regulate emotions, to work and play successfully with other students and to listen to and follow instructions. These efforts are easily as valuable to the student’s long-term success as well-organized content instruction.

The Back to School night was a roaring success. It was designed to be short and sweet (including ice-cream). Our primary goal was to cultivate a sense of school community. We had 97% of our students participate, each of whom was accompanied by at least one parent! I challenge you to find me another school event, or any event, which enjoys 97% of the possible population participating.

The event was further enriched by the presence of a number of school board and congregation members.

Erin Stillman, Lincoln Smith and I have continued to gather information and sketch details around the form of next year's launch of a hybrid high school. Here are some recent conclusions:

- Though we expect to use some of the tools, thinking and materials from the co-operative homeschooling model we don't expect our program to be technically structured as a co-op. As a religious-exempt school (which is what Maryland considers us) we are allowed to offer courses through 12th grade and offer a diploma. We think this model will leave us more flexibility than being structured as a cooperative homeschool.
- We are likely to strongly encourage all our students to take the GED test in addition to either the SAT or ACT. Our understanding is that these tests, when combined with our diploma and transcript, will open the most college doors for our students. (Though we are also still exploring non GED graduation pathways).
- The majority of our recommended courses will likely to be student-paced and executed with strong adult mentorship and support. This allows us to offer a four-year catalog of courses and internship experiences with a large variety of elective opportunities tailored to individual student interest. It places a large share of the responsibility squarely on the student – an effect which is very important to us in cultivating mature, college and work-ready young people. In the early years we will rely on a range of courses already available from religious and secular sources.
- AND, our strong desire remains to also build (over time) a powerfully New Church set of courses which will not only enrich our program but also be available to New Church students around the continent.

We truly welcome your questions, input, ideas and observations,

Brian Smith

From BOT:

The Board of Trustees met on Sept 11 for their first meeting of the 2018-19 year. George Cooper, Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, briefed the Board on progress and plans, and provided a summary of the survey results. The Board discussed financial status and issues arising from School and Pastor's reports. A recent resignation has left one vacancy on the Board of Trustees, which needs to be filled. Preliminary topics for the November Society meeting were discussed.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7:30pm at the Church.

Pastor Search Committee Status Report October 1, 2018

The Search Committee that was elected at the Society Annual Meeting on May 11, 2018 has met several times, and has now completed its review of the surveys that were filled out by many Society members. Thank you all for taking the time to respond, and we appreciated your comments.

For those of you who did not respond to the survey, but would still like to make your views known, please note that Committee members will be available after Church every Sunday during the search process. We are happy to talk to you in the Supper Room, in the Lobby, or private conversations in a separate room, as desired. Also, everyone is encouraged to communicate at any time with any of the Committee members by telephone, email, regular mail, casual conversation, or telepathy (if that works for you). We want to hear from you.

Currently the Committee is working on a comprehensive job description and is preparing other materials for the candidates to review prior to meeting with them for interviews. As soon as the selection of the new Executive Bishop is complete (and vote-counting is, or will soon be, in process) and he has selected his assistant, we will meet with Bishop Keith to discuss potential candidates. That meeting is likely to be in late November.

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		

Proposed Women’s Respite Weekend: February 22 - 24th, 2019,



at the same lovely house as last year, on the Chesapeake, in Woolford, MD. Topic & Speaker TBD. Our challenge this year is that the owner of the property has raised his

price (hopefully he fixed his fireplace!), so the straight cost is \$150 if we get 12 women and do some fundraising/or/get contributions. So far, 8 women have committed (two of these are brand new!), and two more women are interested. Are YOU interested? Please let me know today (text 301-237-1283)! I will need to make a payment to secure this date – and so this month is “fish or cut bait” time for the WRW. - Wystan Simons

From Around the Church



Hello Everyone! **The Kempton Society** would like to invite you all to come to Kempton for some fun filled weekends this fall season. Our 23rd Annual Autumn Week-

ends Event is the perfect opportunity to catch up with all your friends out here.

Autumn Weekends runs on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm September 29th through October 28th. We have a few new things this year including, accepting credit cards, kids & family games and events on each Saturday from 1 pm to 4 pm, as well as an updated menu featuring some new items alongside the classic favorites.

For a little glimpse of the events we have lined up, we are celebrating a different theme each Saturday. The Themes are Giant Board Games Day (9/29), Farm Day (10/6), S.T.E.M. Day (10/13), Carnival Day (10/20), and Art Day (10/27).

We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it out for our fall festival.

Help Evangelize from your Computer! Spirit and Life Bible Study Needs Your Help! From 2011-2018 Rev. Dr. Jonathan Rose ran the "Spirit and Life Bible Study" every Wednesday evening in Bryn Athyn. This was a popular event, and just about every event was recorded live and broadcast on Ustream. There is an effort to take all of those videos and upload them to YouTube.

However, in order for this to be successful we need as many viewers and subscribers of these videos as we can get. You don't even have to actually watch them! Just let them play. Mute the volume if you wish, but the more views and the more minutes they are viewed the better rankings they get with YouTube. Even better is if you click the "thumbs up" icon to like the video as well. It's also helpful if you subscribe to the channel. To find the videos go to YouTube and go to the "Spirit and Life Bible Study" channel. You can just type "Spirit and Life Bible Study" into the search bar of YouTube and it should come up as the first or second listing. Once you're there, just click on a video and let it play.



Eventually if we get enough people doing this, YouTube will funnel more traffic our way which will hopefully lead to people around the world being exposed to New Church teachings. So please give it a go! Thanks!



From the Theta Alpha Guild

Despite a blinding downpour, *ten women* gathered at Kathy Johns' home Wednesday, September 26th for the first TAG Meeting of the season. The Most Impressive Award however goes out to Felicia Assan, a parent at the school, who hunted for half an hour to find the house in dark and rain, but did not give up!

Along with other business, those attending reviewed the job heads and looked at a list of uses the pastor would like addressed. Can YOU help with any of the following?

- *Christmas Tableaux Head?
- *Greeters at Church?
- *Keeping Postings Updated on Church and School website?
- *Help with ECHO and its assembly (monthly often on Saturdays).
- *Volunteer" for the church desk when secretary is away?
- *Be Housing Head? (For visitors)
- *Bake Sale head for November 18th (for this see Kathy Johns)

Remember if you have news about someone who could use some SUNSHINE – please call Dorothy Radcliffe to let her know! We are put here to support each other.

TAG is excited for its new season of uses, and hopes for an even more thrilling **2nd meeting November 14th** (at Simons' house, 11910 Progress Lane, Mitchellville), but this time not due to climactic overload!!

Respectfully submitted – Wystan Simons

YARD SALE 2019 – the WNC Yard Sale is a tradition with a long history in this congregation. Not only does it bring in money, it is a service to our community (recycling!!), a social event for the church and opportunity for connection with Mitchelville and Bowie friends. For many years now, Wystan Simons has been at the helm of its organization, but she is stepping down. If you have been itching to get involved, have ideas of how to do it better, now is your chance! Contact the Bonnie at the church office.

A Walk in the Woods

From the Editor- “25 year old Owen Simons has autism, his family has discovered Facilitated Communication and with it we may all be getting to know this young friend and neighbor for the first time.”

Owen’s intro:

I bdegan to spdeell to ccommunicate in may. because i am very distracted all the time i reaquire support to do it. be very kind to my writinng. it takes a long time;.

news from owen simons - acton park is a good beautiful place. just totally green and friendly. i hope that you take the chance to take a walk there. but you have. to take a stick with you for the spider webs



Owen wrote these pieces on a computer keyboard, with one finger, supported by his mom’s hand. Owen more frequently uses a paper letter board to spell out communication, still pushing against the hand of his facilitator. When he says “it takes a long time” he isn’t kidding; the process is exhausting for

both. But so worth it. Muddy as the process is, above are Owen’s words. Owen, Edward, and I are well aware of the intimidating body of professional writing that opposes, even scorns and demonizes Facilitated Communication as way of giving non-speaking people a voice. Truly caution is warranted; best practices must always be used. But those of us who believe in a spiritual reality, the details of which we learn in the new revelation Swedenborg transcribed for the world, should not be surprised that a human being could have a mind very alive, and his body behaviors uncooperative: antic, compulsive, or dull. We are not our bodies. I hope everyone interested will look up two short books, Ido in Autismland, by Ido Kedar and The Handbook of Us by Matteo Musso written by young men who have inside information to share.

Blessings to you all. - Wystan Simons



“On a beautiful August 25th afternoon, **Nathaniel Glenn** and **Desiree Frias** were wed at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY. The ceremony—which included bridesmaids **Elizabeth Lewis**, **Amy Dwyer Glenn**, and **Sonja Kistner**, best man **Richard Glenn**, and groomsmen **Benjamin Glenn** and **Michael Lewis** -- was quite moving. Near the end of the ceremony the couple washed each other’s feet. Amy and I have never seen Nathaniel look happier. His beaming smile lit up the room. And Desiree was lovely. As best man, Richard gave a wonderful speech which had most of the audience teary eyed. A glorious day for all Nat & Desiree's family and friends.” Thanks to papa David Glenn for this beautiful description! We are so happy for David and Amy, and for the happy couple. *May they live in peace and clover!*

And while on the happy subject of marriage, **Edward and Wytan Simons** are very happy to share the news of their daughter **Freya Elizabeth’s** engagement to **Keir Sebastian Williams**, son of **Mary Heinrichs Williams** of Bryn Athyn, PA, and **Ron Williams** of Hatboro. A Bryn Athyn wedding is planned for September 1st, 2019.

This September we were lucky enough to have old friends **Deena and Jerry Odhner** back for a visit from Wilmington, VA, while escaping the wrath of Hurricane Florence. The Odhners stayed with Phil and Janna Zuber in Acton Park for about a week, and during that time those at church Sept 16th had a chance to give them a little bit of the love-filled farewell we did not manage before they moved away one year ago. The society presented them with a beautiful handmade quilted word cover (thanks to Ginny Gladish) and sang a blessing over them. The Odhners also spent a few days with daughter **Amy** before returning to Wilmington on the 23rd. They found that a tree had fallen on their home, and there was water damage to the house. But as of this writing they

have electricity and are relieved to sleep in their own beds. Now they have all those repairs to make. Let's hope no more 500 year flood/hurricanes! **Eva (Odhner) and Joe Civitello** and their three kids stayed in Wilmington during the hurricane and from the sounds of it, had a rather fun time partying with the other neighbors that opted to ride it out. We are glad you are all safe, and hope that life for all there returns to normal soon.

Heather Radcliffe has for the second year in a row won her "Employee of the Year" award, in her position as head nurse for Patient First in Laurel. She is not one to sing her own praises so we will do it for her! Way to go Heather!! Proud to know you.

If you are in Bryn Athyn, PA on Sunday October 7th you can catch **Grayson Zuber** performing at the Glencairn Museum at 3pm. Grayson will play Brazilian classical guitar and will bring Flamenco and Suspiro Flamenco to Glencairn's stage for the first time, with Blane Bostock on guitar, Donna Bostock providing rhythm, and dancer Liliana Ruiz. It should be memorable. (Alas, Grayson's biggest fan, his mama Janna, will be in San Fransico and miss the performance). Tickets can be purchased through the Glencairn Museum website in advance.

There is *good news* in the Odhner family as well, as **Amy Odhner** reports that she has just received her SAFe Program Consultant certification. This will allow her to teach classes around the world about the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), which Wikipedia tells me is a set of workflow patterns to help businesses. Amy reports that her colleague has traveled around the world to teach classes in this – hopefully she will get to do the same! Fingers and toes crossed Amy!

Kathy and Brad Johns spent ten days in Brigantine in September, supposedly to catch lots of fish and lounge on the beach. This summer's fickle weather changed those plans, but Kathy has never been one to complain about being at the beach, in any weather.

Johnses also report that their long time neighbor **Jay Padgett**, known to some in the WNC congregation, died unexpectedly on

September 18.th Jim didn't have a lot of family, Kathy says, so she wanted to share this remembrance of a friend gone too soon.

Many of us in the congregation have been distressed to see our dear friend **Rev. Michael Ferrell** dealing with the chemotherapy to address the cancer in his back. **Michael, we love you!** And we send you healing prayers all the time. We are also amazed and pleased that you have managed to still teach a religion course at WNCS. The children especially love to have you here 3 times a week and so do we!

The same goes for **Patrick Sweeney**, who is recovering from a successful surgery. Pat we love you! **Pat and Paige** want to let everyone know how greatly appreciate the love that's been directed at them. "Every little thing," Pat says, "all the amazing ways that the help arrives from people. It warms my heart just thinking about it."

The Forest Garden Feast at Lincoln Smith's Forested this September was fabulous, reports Bonnie Cowley. The dinner was prepared by Michael Costa, head chef of the restaurant Zaytinya, In DC and brought many visitors to the garden (and Acton Park).

This weekend **Anne and Steve Ball** are in Philadelphia, to watch the ceremonial presentation of the White Coat to son **Justin**, who has been attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathy since August. Anne tells that the cadavers that the med students have been working on will be on display, for interested parents to inspect... But first they will spend some time in New Jersey, with **Emily and Frankie Maple**, and baby **Weston**, who is celebrating his first birthday. Enjoy! And on a side note, our hearts go out to **Justin** and his brand new wife **Nicola Glover**, who are separated due to visa problems! Nicola is living in Denmark with her parents. Here's hoping the paperwork goes through REALLY soon.

Now here's some **really GOOD NEWS** from our pastor. "For years **Mr. & Mrs. George Miller**, of Salisbury, MD, contributed significantly to the WNC despite living too far away to attend service. (This was something he arranged with his friend Bill Kingdon, when Bill was treasurer here.) So when George passed into

the other world late last year we thought we would not hear from him again. But last month we received notice from the executors of his estate that he had left a legacy of \$100,000 for the church. That money has now been added to our endowment and will continue to earn interest for us for years to come.

Thanks to George himself, to Bill Kingdon, and to George's family members who endorsed this significant contribution!"

And now, since the weather report is telling us to expect ten glorious days of sun (here an inconsistent New Churchwoman knocks on wood, *just in case* superstition holds any power over weather.... ENJOY YOURSELVES OUT SIDE as the world turns to fall!

~ Temporary News Notes Editor Wystan Simons.



October Anniversaries

"Truly conjugal love regarded in itself is a union of souls, a conjunction of minds, and of bodies ~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 179



Oct. 5th ~ Eric & Suzanne Genzlinger ~ 21 yrs.

Oct. 7th ~ Joe & Kira Jenkins ~ 1 yr.

Oct. 13th ~ Chris & Lyle Crossman ~ 1 yr.

Oct. 16th ~ Pat & Paige Sweeney ~ 24 yrs.

Oct. 19th ~ Eugene & Nancy Cole ~ 21 yrs.



Marriage Moats by Laurie Odhner

Rent a Teenager

When the twins were born we had a summer with six renters in the attic. They were college women, and the overarching effect on our family was that we behaved better with witnesses.

Recently Zack and his girlfriend have been spending more time at our house. Nothing epic, just doing homework and cooking omelets. But I am noticing their effect on me.

They have been dating for two years, and the cozy factor is still fresh. When he fries up some eggs, she parks herself on a stool near him to chat. If they watch a movie they do it on the same couch. If they are pounding out papers for English they keep the space between their laptops narrow.

I notice that John and I have drifted away from this practice. His favorite spot to plug in his Mac is at his desk, while I snuggle up under a quilt in the living room. When he makes dinner I gratefully stay out of the kitchen.

The other day when the four of us were all whipping up food at the same time the friendliness became contagious. I hugged John while he stirred the pasta. He liked that. Even Zack noticed this break from routine and smiled.

I have often touted the benefits of younger couples learning from older ones. But I am starting to appreciate the things I can learn from newbies.

Find us at: www.caringformarriage.org