

November 2018

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is coming! And then, before you know it, Christmas! As these are both times for family reunions we can hope that

many of them will be home-comings and that we will be able to welcome many old friends as well as visitors for our services.

Speaking of Christmas, our very popular Tableaux service is scheduled for December 16th this year. That is only 6 weeks from the first Sunday in November, and it takes time to plan a quality program. So if any of you feels drawn in any way to help – or even direct – please contact me as soon as possible so we can start working on it.

And since Christmas is on a Tuesday this year, this means we will have three services in a row, Sunday morning, Monday evening, and again Tuesday morning. With this in mind I would like to propose that our Sunday service on Dec. 23rd be a celebration of lessons and carols, with a focus on as much special music as we can arrange, and a very short “sermonette.” What do you think?

Other Featured Events

We begin this month with our now annual men’s retreat over the weekend of the 2nd – 4th. But for those of you who do not attend the retreat we also have a special treat in that *the Rev. George McCurdy has accepted an invitation to preach here that Sunday.*

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. You can also expect an update from the pastoral search committee and discussion of their report.

The Bryn Athyn College and Theological school have a two-week break beginning on the 10th, and that first weekend we will be hosting a visit from a young student for the ministry, Zachary Odhner, whose assignment will be to attend all available functions and observe our church and school in action. If you would like to host Zachary from the 10th to the 14th please contact the church office.

Then **at the end of the month** the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. will be visiting, probably from Friday through Monday. Among other things he has agreed to attend a special board meeting on Saturday morning, he will address the annual Theta Alpha Christmas event on Saturday night, and he will preach for us on Sunday.

Pastor's Council Suspended

As it is only 8 months until my official retirement, and there is a diminished base of members willing and able to serve, I have decided to suspend further meetings of the Pastor's Council at this time. Of course my door is always open (literally) and I welcome contact from any church member about any new ideas or matters of concern. Besides, the 12 member committee to counsel the bishop on a new pastor is eager to hear from you and welcomes your input on any aspect of church work.

I would like to thank all those who have served with me over the last 9 years, giving time and thoughtful consideration to a wide range of issues affecting the congregation.

The Call to the Ministry

As our committee works toward the selection of a candidate to serve as our new pastor, one question worthy of discussion is "What constitutes a call to the ministry?" – Not that this will be an issue in the present process, but it's an important question.

Many people at one time or another in their lives feel called by the Lord to the ministry. Some feel that call persistently and others, even though they don't feel it for themselves, may want to advocate for others who do. So how can the church determine who is to be ordained – or not?

When I was in school it was explained this way. There is a "call from within" and a "call from without," that is to say, an inner sense that this is what you need to do, and an affirmation by others that you are well qualified. One can hardly doubt the inner desire to serve in the ministry, but occupational qualifications are a very different matter, and the final decision rests on a fair consideration of both things (which is why candidates are assessed in a variety of different functions and venues, including psychological testing.)

It begins with what the doctrine teaches about the use, including the representative aspects of it, and then it goes to the skills and abilities demonstrated by the candidate in life and in the disciplines of training. In that context *"ordination"* is a word that refers to *the ordering of the mind according to the doctrines for this use.*

“Ordination” is a word that refers to the ordering of the mind according to the doctrines for this use.

Once these two essential qualifications have been established and ordination has been granted there is one more thing that has to be considered, namely, where this person can best serve. Every priestly use, like every congregation in the church, is unique and different from every other. The requirements of each are unique and no one person can serve

them all. So we have our committee considering both the special needs of this congregation and the special gifts of various candidates for the job. And yet again, it's not a one sided decision. The bishop has a say from his knowledge and perspective, the congregation has a say, and the candidate himself has a say based on what he knows of himself and what he is able to learn of the congregation. When these three factors align, then we have a decision.

Meanwhile we can be thankful to all parties involved in this process and wish every candidate well no matter what the outcome.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!



From the Principal

October at The Washington New Church wrapped up with our traditional Halloween party. Kathy Johns continues to run this (and other) school events despite being in a wheel chair this year! Thanks for the ongoing support.

The school also participated at the Baysox stadium Trunk-or-Treat event for our second year in a row. Erin Stillman dressed Smith's van as a medic transport tank while Nurse Sharon Kunkle and field medic Brian Smith handed candy to 500+ children (and WNCS postcards to their parents.) Please let me know about any similar events that provide us opportunities for face-to-face contact with parents in the area. Also, if you like to meet people in a low-pressure setting like this, I'd love to have more volunteers on my list for getting out to these community events.



Another October highlight was the Talent night hosted by the 7/8th. They use the event to fundraise for field trips, but it also serves as the perfect mix of a friendly, home-audience with a somewhat intimidating performance venue. We may not be ready for Broadway yet but we get

to see several brave students get a taste of performing, supported after each performance with vigorous hugs and back-slaps from their peers. (See more in Jana Sprinkle's write up).

In October we had the privilege and opportunity to accept a new student who had been attending school in Cameroon. Cameroon has been having a difficult time politically which is resulting in quite negative impacts on their English schools. We were pleased to include a Darian Ndombe and wish her the best as she works through the demands of cultural adaptation in multiple areas.

Our November calendar includes several of our teachers traveling to offer teacher-support observations in sister schools or to work with a team on curriculum development. Last year we received several of these visits ourselves, so this is our chance to give back – even though we miss our regular staff when they have to travel.

Congratulations to students, teachers and parents for one quarter finished. Well done!

Pastor Search Committee Status Report November 1, 2018

The Search Committee that was elected at the Society Annual Meeting on May 11, 2018 met in late October to complete comprehensive job descriptions and to prepare other materials for use in the candidate review process. The next step will be the committee's scheduled meeting with Bishop Keith on November 29th to discuss potential candidates. Then in December the selection process will start in earnest.

For those of you who did not respond to last summer’s survey but would still like to make your views about the selection process known, please note that Committee members are 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.

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;

Email: CooperPatents@verizon.net

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

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

Money Matters



Writing again on my own as pastor, I’d like to ask you all to consider the relative monetary value of the church compared to just about anything else.

But wait, you may say, can we really put a monetary value on spiritual things? My answer is YES, and here’s why. Our money is nothing but paper and shiny metal tokens, a promise to pay, a sophisticated medium for trading in real goods and services. But what we spend in one place we can’t spend in another, and so it is also a measure of our priorities.

When King David went to purchase a threshing floor from Araunah, the Jebusite, in order to offer a sacrifice to the Lord, Araunah offered it to him for free. But David said, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing” (2 Sam 24:24).

Why not? – Because he wanted this offering to reflect a real priority – more important than anything else he might have purchased with that money.

Now you might say, being spiritual, reading the Word, praying, repenting and living a good life doesn't cost any money. And that's true – for ourselves. But a critical use of the church is that we help and support *others* on the path to heaven, and apart from limited conversations we may have with friends and associates *that costs money!* It involves buildings, books, dedicated leadership and a host of other goods and services including advertising (which, right now, due to budget constraints, we do far too little of).

As I've written before, there's no other institution on earth that does what the church can do to promote and support a spiritual life. Please remember it in *your* priority list.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor

Talent Night at WNCs: A Big **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended our Talent Night. Students and parents played, sang and danced together. If you weren't there, you missed some amazing talent! Mr. Lincoln Smith kicked off the evening playing the piano while singing "The Circle of Life." His son, first-grader, Marcellus Smith, sang and played "Oh, I Just Can't Wait to Be King." Wow! Between them, if they get a few more songs down, we could do "The Lion King" for the play next year.

Merilyn Morfaw was jumping her way to stardom with a new rope routine. Abi Oreagba, Ariela Hernandez, Sophie Hyatt, Sohaila Smith and Elias Hernandez serenaded us with smooth, velvety voices. Aubrey Hernandez and Bonnie Cowley harmonized sublimely with each other. How often do you get hear a mother and daughter in harmony with each other? It was outstanding. We heard jokes from Kai Smith, Ariela Hernandez, Sohaila Smith and Monte Neal. The incredibly talented Mr. Reverend Doctor Explorer Extraordinaire Brian Smith - the Amazing, Singing, Dancing, and Recorder-drum Playing Principal was scheduled to play, but alas had some mishaps along the way. Maybe next time he will be up to snuff. Peggy Williams showed us her dazzling dance moves. Noor Kazeem returned to the dance stage (collecting sister

Iman, along with Abi Oreagba, Merylyn Morfaw and some audience members to form quite the chorus line) reminding us that she is still one of our own. There was sadly one sham magic act, which resulted in the reduction of several audience members' wallets - we will keep a lookout for the perpetrator, but most likely you will just have to forgive me, I mean her. The evening was concluded with a beautifully sung rendition of "Seek Ye First" by Ariela, Hailey and Elias Hernandez; we couldn't have ended on a finer note. --Jana Sprinkle

Sermon Topics for November, 2018

the 4th: Guest preacher, Rev. George McCurdy will be here to “sub” for the regular pastors, who will be away with 10 others at the annual WNC men’s retreat. Please make a special effort to welcome and support Rev. McCurdy. His topic will be the widow’s oil filling all the vessels provided (2 Kings 4).

the 11th: Doubt, Complaining and Patience. As the Children of Israel walk through the desert they are quick to blame Moses and the Lord. Are we any slower to complaint and blame when our life feels like a slog? ~ BDS

the 18th: Controlling Our Emotions. Did you know that the understanding does NOT lead the will? It is the other way around! So how can we stay centered and avoid being overly reactive to other people and things? Come and see. ~ MDG

the 22nd: Thanksgiving Day Family Service ~ MDG

the 25th: Spiritual Alchemy. In medieval times people really thought they could change baser metals into silver or gold. Of course they were wrong, but this Sunday you will see what vital truth is *represented* by this idea in *Isaiah* 60:15-18. ~ MDG

Dec. 2nd: The Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. will be our special guest this Sunday during his visit over the weekend especially to support our school. Coincidentally, Pastor Mike will be away on Regional Pastor business.

Church Events in November, 2018

Fri night, the 2nd, the WNCS Youth Group will have a belated **Halloween Party at the church**. Check with Miss Carina for details, including timing for this event.

Fri, the 2nd - Sun, the 4th ten or twelve men will attend the third annual WNC Men's Retreat at a rental home near Cambridge, MD. Both Mike and Brian will be there.

Mon, the 5th & 19th at 8:00 PM the Heaven and Hell class will meet at the Coopers' to discuss reading beginning at #470.

Tues, the 6th, at 7:30 PM in a switch from the usual routine the Board of Trustees will have its regular monthly meeting at the church, the **School Board** meeting to follow on the 13th.

Wed, the 7th & 21st, the *morning classes on the Book of Revelation* continue at the Gladish home at 10:00 AM.

Wed, the 7th & 28th, at 7:30 PM, the 2nd and 3rd in the pastoral series on "Parenting with the WNCS" will be held – for newcomers and members alike. The topic on the 7th will include special NC concepts like "remains," "mediate goods," the "as-of-self" and other key teachings related to education.

Sat, the 10th there is a Work Party for all comers at the church, preceded by a cooked breakfast for the volunteers (at a minimal cost). Eat at 8; work from 9 til noon.

Also, a new coat and sweater swap: See next page

Wed, the 14th, at 7:30 the ladies' TAG executive committee will meet at the Simons home.

Sat, Dec. 1st, the special guest speaker for the **Theta Alpha Christmas sing** will be **Bishop Peter Buss, Jr.** As it happens that is also the night of the Chesapeake Chorale's Christmas concert, where both Lincoln Smith and Amy Glenn will be performing. Sorry about the tough decision!

Announcements

HANDS of Mitchellville/Bowie – New Support Group: Starting this November 11th, the WNC will host a monthly support group for parents/families and individuals dealing with Autism. Second Sundays from 7:30-9pm. Please share this with anyone who may be interested. Contact Simonse (lovinchickens@gmail.com)

COAT and SWEATER SWAP!! November 10 and 11: *Cold weather's comin' – are you ready??* Do you need a coat? Kids outgrown their coats? Or have the kids left you the repository of their old coats? Come to WNC with your clean old coat(s) to TRADE IN for what you need, **Saturday November 10th 9am til 3pm** after church on the 11th. *Don't have a coat to trade? We'll take two sweaters or a donation of \$5 (to the church) if you have neither.* If you have coats to DONATE to this warm enterprise, wonderful! All coats and sweaters remaining at the end will be donated to Am Vets to keep military families warm.

Women's' Respite Weekend 2019 - UPDATE – the Women's Respite Weekend is ON! We have a wonderful group of women interested, all ages. **Date:** February 22-24, same house as last year, in Woolford on the Chesapeake. **Our theme:** *“Be not afraid, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!”* Speaker TBD. Rita McAllister has agreed to create a worship service. Robin Rec-tor Krupp is designing us a collage project to enrich our experience. Your special price is \$125 plus a food contribution. Donations very welcome, a fundraiser is in the works. Fifteen spaces available, we need payment now to make the booking. Deadline November 30th. Scholarship is available, please ask. Amy is ready to take your payment via Venmo, handle @Amy-Odhner, or at her home address 12531 Misty Water Drive, Herndon, VA 20710. Registration forms available from Wzystan: lovinchicens@gmail.com.

2019 Echo Directory: I have sent out an email to everyone asking to have any changes or corrections for last year's directory. Be on the lookout for a reminder and PLEASE respond... even if it is “my listing is fine, thank you!” If you didn't get the email and want me to know of a change please email me. ~ Bonnie Cowley

Mostly Newsworthy Notes:

News for those who have not looked out a window recently: by the last week in October the trees in the neighborhood were finally shedding their greenery and were presenting a more colorful mein. This is expected to last until the next windstorm, so there is still time to look. If the orange ones are orange trees and the green ones are lime trees, what are the red ones?

Knewsworthy Knees: Kathy Johns reports that she and Brad started October visiting Kathy's birth mother in Pittsburgh where she celebrated by falling off her bicycle and fracturing her left patella. It will be a long recovery process; no bended knee for her for a while. But Brad is taking care of things beautifully and Kathy has graduated from a two-wheeled to a four-wheeled transporter, in the form of a wheelchair. They were even able to travel to Kathy's 40th Class Reunion over Charter Day, which was a great morale booster. Kathy and Brad send many thanks for the lovely meals that poured in to help them out! And we send an urgent "get well quick" to Kathy.

Kathy also reports that Brad has won an award from TIVA Television, Internet & Video Assn. of DC. for voice over. Unfortunately, they won't be able to attend the awards ceremony because they will be in Atlanta for the premiere of the new Elf on the Shelf TV movie in which Brad is the voice of Santa! Congratulations, Brad! If any of you news note readers are speechless about this, Brad can probably talk you through it.

And in other news: Bill and Sharon Kunkle traveled to Redmond, Washington for their annual visit to see Bill's mom. They report that airplanes continue to shrink customer space, but Washington (the state) is as beautiful as ever!

And still more news: Mike and Ginny Gladish had a delightful getaway to Chincoteague for 5 days (two of which were spent mostly traveling and exploring). They had lots of seafood, most of it really good. However, there was the night they learned how to dismember a lobster that turned out to be a tough old great grandfather! That was interestingly fun, if not so delicious. Ginny reports

that their first day was gorgeous! Based on the number of sore muscles, they hiked at least 7 miles on the shore and in the wetland nature trails, and at one point two bald eagles gave them a personalized air show! Then gorgeous went away; the next day it rained, so they went Christmas shopping, and the third day the winds were so strong that they couldn't be on the beach without sand stinging every exposed speck of skin and eyes and nose. On Sunday they attended the local Methodist Church, where the question of the day was why the Lord lets bad things happen to good people, but the only answer seemed to be that we need to just hold onto each other and trust that "it will be okay." Then on Monday they explored their way home. They report that it was just really nice to have that time together without constant distractions! Ginny says that Mike's impending retirement is looking good!

This too is news: Bonnie and Dave Cowley took an extra day during the Charter Day weekend to finally have their summer vacation. They traveled to Lake Wallenpaupack in the Pocono Mountains where Bonnie's Grandfather, Rev. Karl Alden, and his sons built a cabin on the lake in the 1930s. As a special treat Bonnie's sister Miriam Gruber brought their 93 year old father to the cabin, and her sister Nora Cooper brought their dad's 91 year old sister Greta Odhner as well. Bonnie says that she is pretty sure her dad did not expect to ever spend time at his family cabin again with his little sister. They had a fabulous weekend!

Old news and more: Here's an update on Deena and Jerry Odhner: as if having a hurricane wreak havoc on their house wasn't enough, it seems a tornado ripped through their neighborhood 2 weeks later. A very large limb (20" in diameter) crashed through their roof causing serious damage to their home. They are in the midst of trying to repair and rebuild. We are grateful that that they have daughter Eva and family close by, and send them lots of love and hang-in-there wishes!

Also in the news: Phil and Janna Zuber are back home after almost 3 weeks in the Berkley part of California. Week one they got to babysit their granddaughters Sophia and Catherine while parents went to Spain on a business trip. Week 2, Phil returned home to

work while Janna hung out there getting in more visiting with the family as well as seeing sister Karen DeLue, who lives an hour away. Week 3 Phil returned in time to have the CA family help him celebrate his 65th birthday - a trip to Stinson Beach, wet suits and surfboards, and ending with 2 days' worth of celebrating the marriage of John and Greta Davidson's youngest daughter Erin in San Francisco. A wonderful time for all, but good to be back.

Congratulatory news: Meanwhile, Janna has 3 pieces of art hanging in the Sports and Learning Complex, an ongoing solo show at Hysteria Brewery in Columbia, and is getting ready for a solo show at Sip at C Street in Laurel with the opening reception on Nov. 9, 6 pm - 8 pm. She is also pleased to report that she had 2 miniature pieces accepted in the 85th Annual Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature an international juried show by The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington D.C. The opening reception is at the Mansion at Strathmore, Sunday, Nov. 18 from 2 - 4 pm.

More Congratulatory News: Joram and Katelyn Smith welcomed little Aunika Kay Smith into the world on October 21st. She was a few days late but once she decided to come she did it in a hurry (15 minutes after they got to the hospital)! Baby weighed in at 8 lbs. 8 oz. Everyone is doing fine. Big brother Koen is 2 years old and very happy to have a tiny sister. Grandma (Sara) went to southern IL (Scott AFB) to lend a hand. When she leaves them she'll hop on an Amtrak train to the Chicago area for a visit with her mother and other family members.

Travel news: Amy Odhner reports that she got to travel to Minneapolis for the Society of Women Engineers conference. As she says, "Minneapolis turned out to be a bustling and beautiful city with lots of great foodie places. They have an extensive Skyway that connects all the major landmarks - especially important during the winter months but it was actually in the 60s one of the days I was there. On the last day, Booz Allen demonstrated machine learning to middle and high school girls using our Art Mirror. We taught a computer to paint so that when you stand in front of a camera it will paint you in the style of one of the great artists. You

can check out <https://goo.gl/9n4giW> to learn more. It was also exciting to spend four days with so many smart and energetic women. There were seminars and workshops showcasing new technologies as well as panels on how to get into management and manage career transitions. My fingers are crossed that I get to go to the conference again next year.”

More travel news: Austin Cole joined the Army this past summer and left for boot camp at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma in August. He will be graduating from boot camp Nov. 9th and his family hopes to travel to OK to be at his graduation. Following that, Austin will remain at Ft. Sill for his further training to become a Reconnaissance Specialist.

More artistic news: Bronwyn Simons has just finished her first week as an Admissions Counselor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia! She says: “I love it. I'll be covering the coldest states talking to students who might be interested in our university, reviewing portfolios, and generally helping answer questions and guide students from high school into their freshman year as painlessly as possible. If anybody needs info about the art school application process or a portfolio review I am always available, even if it isn't for UArts! I remember how scary it was and I would love to help.”

Bronwyn also is still a Work Exchange member of The Clay Studio, where she is very slowly developing a portfolio of work, she is also teaching ceramic classes two nights a week at a rec center in Philadelphia.

Good news: winter arrives soon and brings with it a joyful holiday season when we all get to practice our inclinations toward charity.

(Thanks to news collectors Ginny Gladish, Hanna Hyatt and editor George Cooper.)

A Remembrance – the Rt. Rev Alfred Acton – 1934 - 2018

This past week Bishop Alfred Acton II passed from this world into the next life. He is survived by his wife Henrietta and his son Kesneil. The Acton family is a large and boisterous one, his transition will certainly be celebrated with joy and sadness at the resurrection service November 3rd at 4pm, Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

Alfred Acton had a large impact on my life. He is a part of my earliest memories, as a very young member of the church in Glenview, Illinois, where he served as an assistant pastor to the Rev. Louis King. I remember watching the light shine across his shining forehead as, hands characteristically crossed at the chest, he emphasized his points with earnest head bobbing. Rev. Acton's nasal intonation was famous, impudently mimicked by the Academy high school students he taught.

I would never have guessed then that years later Alfred Acton would become family, my uncle by marriage. Uncle Alf baptized one of my children and dedicated the home Edward and I built in Acton Park. He stayed at our house many times, once providing great perspective on church history over a Rusty Nail in Annapolis.

As I ponder Alfred Acton's legacy as a preacher and New Church thinker, the overwhelming quality that stands out to me is his heart. Seems to me he led from the heart, embraced the world widely, and took an expansive view of the threefold Word. I would say that both his strengths and his weaknesses rose from this warmth in his nature, something that I imagine is true of most of us.

I once asked Uncle Alf's opinion about a difficult passage in Swedenborg's Writings, and his answer gave me peace. This not so much because I felt his was necessarily *the* answer, but because of the genuine caring I sensed in him regarding the topic. Alfred Acton was not a condemning man. He seem less interested in using truth to pick issues and people apart, but rather desired to extend a hand to lift people up and assist them along their way toward God.

~ Wystan Simons

Marriage Moats by Lori Soneson Odhner

Eat Your Vegetables

It seemed like a good idea at the time. The rule was that you had to eat most of your vegetables to get dessert. It sounded like something I had read in a parenting book back when I was still researching the project and not raising actual children.

The glitch was, the vegetable du jour was one of my daughter's most detestable, limas, and she was not biting. This was the barrier between her and an especially decadent lemon meringue pie. I had made it in a binge of domesticity and was dying to see her lip smacking reactions. But I could not slide a slice in front of her until the limas disappeared. I wanted to. Oh, how I wanted to. I offered a compromise.

Half of the pile would suffice. Nope.

How about two spoonfuls? Head shaking.

One Bean?

Then I realized. This is how God feels about me.

He has delicious things He wants to give me, if only I will swallow the less appetizing course first. Speaking kindly to my husband when we are late is one lima that comes to mind. Forgiveness when he loses things is another.

“Come on,” God coaxes. “Can’t you just eat two bites?”

But stubbornness and starvation somehow seem more palatable than a few beans, even with lemony pie in sight.

Being respectful to my spouse is sweeter even than dessert. God cooked up warm-heartedness in His kitchen, eagerly anticipating my face as I taste it. I have a hunch it will be worth a plateful of “I am sorrys” and “May I help you look?s” to be served that pièce de résistance.

I will let you know. For now I still have some chewing to do.

Adapted from Marriage Moats, Fountain Publishing, 2012 with permission of the author.