

December 2018

ECHO

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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

So, as predicted, Christmas is coming! In anticipation we have a number of special events planned, beginning with the visit of our

executive bishop-elect, the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr., this first weekend, and a doctrinal class with the pastor on Friday, the 7th.

Also for those interested, the Glenview NC Society has made its annual **Christmas reading guide** available to us, and copies are available in the church lobby or on request from the church office. The 50 page booklet provides daily readings and reflections on the whole Christmas story, centered this year on “our walk with the Lord.” It is free of charge.

Don't forget, we'll cancel the morning service on Sunday, the 16th in favor of the Tableaux service at 7:00 PM that evening. And since we will NOT have a carol sing after the tableaux we will have a simplified “sermonette” and extra Christmas hymns to enjoy at the morning service on Sunday, the 23rd.

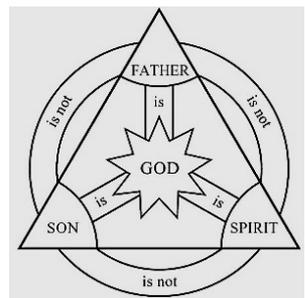
The Incredible Concept of Christmas

In the *Arcana* #2034 there is a lengthy discussion of how God created a finite humanity for Himself and then glorified that humanity in order to ensure the vital conjunction of the Infinite with the finite human race on earth. But it goes on to say that this whole idea is so preposterous to most people, especially the “learned” of the world, and so far beyond their understanding, that they can't begin to appreciate it – and so they don't really believe it.

So let's do a quick check. Are WE really clear about this, or do we have a lot of doubts and questions, too?

How CAN the Infinite become finite, anyway? And how can the Infinite God be limited by consciousness – and even suffering – in this world while yet remaining in control of the entire, limitless universe and every speck of detail in it?

In the Christian world generally this problem is “solved” by supposing two distinct and separate personalities in God, and then again, with the Holy Spirit, three of them, as shown in the diagram on the right.



But in the New Church we understand that God, being Infinite, cannot be divided into parts or persons. Rather His infinite love and wisdom, though perfectly Human, are so far beyond our comprehension as to be completely invisible to us, beyond any idea of “person.” Therefore in order to appear before people in ancient times He let angels, prophets or kings represent Him. However, when the evils and falsities of this world became so obnoxious that this representative presence was not sufficient to maintain order, God created a human body of His own through which His love and wisdom could function most perfectly in accommodation to our worldly states. So God took on a visible personality for the first and only time in the history of the world. This is what we call “the Incarnation.”

Of course this *form* of His Humanity involved limitations, but here’s the thing: His life and soul, His motivating love was always Divine, it was only His intellectual consciousness that suffered constraints *until He perfected that also* in the course of His 33 years in the flesh. But He went through this process specifically so that He could confront the evils and falsities of this world by Himself, and overcome them in such a way as to instruct, inspire and motivate rather than compel others to believe in Him.

I will have a lot more along these lines to share with you in the society class on Friday, the 7th, and I hope, too, to spark some good discussion about this Incarnation of pure love and wisdom. Got questions? Come and ask! Meanwhile remember the New Church mantra: one God in one Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, born into this world to glorify “the human” in Himself and so restore the integrity of the link between heaven and earth.

Finally, note that the **Holy Supper** will be offered at the close of the regular church service on Sunday morning, December 9th. It will be a timely opportunity to connect with the Lord in this multi-sensory way in this season of His advent.

New Pastor Selection Process

Meanwhile, the business of identifying and calling a new pastor to replace me in July will be intensifying this month as Bishop Keith

presents possible candidates for our committee to consider. This will almost certainly lead to invitations for two or three men to come and visit, interview and preach for us in the New Year. So please, watch for announcements to this effect, and be sure to attend on those occasions if you want to have a say in who is called.

Mike Gladish

Sermon Topics for December, 2018

the 2nd: **Guest preacher, the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr., on the Lord's constant calling to us in our wilderness states, with messages of comfort and guidance.**

the 9th: **Reflections on Prophecies at the Beginning and the end of the Lord's life on earth.** What do they teach us today, and what is our response? Holy Supper will be offered at the conclusion of this service. ~ MDG

the 16th: **NO MORNING SERVICE; Tableaux at 7:00 PM** – Living Pictures of the Advent story with hymns and readings to inspire you for the holiday season. ~ MDG

the 23rd: **Our regular Sunday MORNING Service** but with a special emphasis on the Christmas hymns you love, and a simpler-than-usual sermon on the contrasting fear and joy in the Advent story. ~ MDG

the 24th: **Christmas Eve – 7:00 PM.** This is a “family service” with a talk adapted to all ages about the critical need for the Lord's Advent, or why Christmas is so important. ~ MDG

the 25th: **Christmas Day – 11:00 AM** family service. ~ BDS

Church Events in December, 2018

Sat night, the 1st, the Zubers will again host the TAG Christmas party with hymn singing and a special talk by Bishop Peter Buss, Jr. Come a little early for BYO shared refreshments; the program starts at 8:00 PM.

Mon, the 3rd & 17th, the *evening Heaven & Hell class* at the home of George & Mary Cooper – 8:00pm

Wed, the 5th & 19th, the *morning classes on the Book of Revelation* continue at the Gladish home at 10:00 AM. A syllabus is available on request, and new members of the group are always welcome.

Fri, the 7th at 7:00 PM there is a potluck supper at the church followed at 8:00 PM by a doctrinal class on the Incarnation and “Personification” of Divine love and wisdom. (OK, it’s about Christmas, but what is Christmas really all about?) ~ MDG

Sat, the 8th, at 7:00 PM, Derek & Hanna Hyatt are hosting an OPEN HOUSE for members and friends at their home directly across from the church driveway.

Tues, the 11th at 7:30 the Church Board of Trustees has a joint meeting with the **School Board** at the church. One major topic will be specific proposals for inauguration of our new High School. Church members are always welcome as guests for at least a portion of these meetings.

Tues, the 18th at 7:00 PM, the WNCs Christmas Program will be presented for all members and friends of the church, parents and grandparents, etc. Come early for a good seat!

WNCs closes for the holidays at noon on Wednesday, the 19th, after its in-house Christmas party that morning.

Mon, the 31st beginning at 8:00pm, Annual New Year’s Eve Open House at the Quintero’s – details p. 16.

Money Matters

I have a neighbor who is constantly complaining about how churches are always trying to “guilt” people into giving them money. Why? – Because it’s part of their process of controlling them, keeping them mindful of their sinful nature and their need for the church to provide salvation.

I tell him it’s not that way in the New Church. Here we don’t harp on our sinfulness and we certainly don’t believe that we have – or *should* have – any control over people’s lives. But what we want to do is teach and encourage people so that they can understand and have the freedom to choose a heavenly way of life.

Unfortunately this costs money. And so we ask for it. And we feel enormously privileged when we receive it, because it allows us to continue the work. Thank you all for your support.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor

Memorial for Kyle Eugene Cole



On the evening of November 14th our dear friend Kyle Cole was killed in a terrible automobile accident. This was just days short of Kyle’s 21st birthday. He is the son of Eugene and Nancy (Needer) Cole, brother to Jason Smith, Austin & Dillon Cole.

Kyle grew up in the Mitchellville area, attended the Washington New Church School from Kindergarten through 9th grade. He then went to the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA, where he was involved in wrestling and football and won the championship and graduated high school there in 2016. In his published obituary it said, “Kyle never met a stranger. He was a big, fun-loving friend to all. He loved the outdoors, sports, and roughhousing with the guys. He worked hard, played hard, and was fiercely devoted to family and friends.”

A memorial service was held at the Washington New Church for Kyle on Saturday, November 17th. The Rev. Alan Cowley flew up from Florida to perform the service. For those who were able to

attend the service there would be no doubt that Kyle was indeed a friend to all. The church and the lobby were filled with family, neighbors, work friends, school buddies from WNCS and ANC, teachers, coaches and many others (220) who came to pay their respects and to support Kyle's family.

Alan began his address saying, "The title for my address this afternoon in honor of our beloved Kyle Eugene Cole is **BIG LOVE**. In all of the thoughts and messages that I received from the various people who know Kyle there were two main things that nearly everyone mentioned: First was his big presence, both physically and socially; and the second was his big heart."

This big heart, this love Kyle had for everyone he was acquainted with was a shared joy.

Divine Love and Wisdom #47 says, "Love consists in this, that its own should be another's; to feel the joy of another as joy in oneself, that is loving." The atmosphere of that reciprocal love for Kyle was really palpable at the service along with the grief.

Alan went on to speak about the nature of grief. "Grief is the feeling we get when what we love has been harmed or taken away from us. Grief and love are so interconnected that if God were to magically remove our grief, that love would be lost too."

Yet, love still showed itself at the service in many ways - in the thoughts and memories of those who spoke after the service, in the hugs, shared tears and even the laughter of friends and family talking of their times together with Kyle.

In his address Alan shared an open honesty of the pain such a young death causes. Yet my take-away was this - as Kyle's friends and family felt the joy of Kyle's life as their own joy, so too all those present at the service felt the family's grief and sadness as their own as well. That kind of mutual love and sharing cannot help but be an ongoing support for family and those close to them.

Let us all continue to hold this family in our thoughts and prayers.

~ Bonnie Cowley

From the Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees meeting -- Nov. 6 2018

The Board heard reports and discussed building and grounds maintenance and repair; financial status, including outcomes from the General Church Treasurer's meeting, attended by Chuck Quintero, and future needs of the Society; updates from the Pastoral search committee; and plans for the upcoming Fall Society Meeting. The Board also confirmed John Kern as a new member of the Board, with thanks, to fulfill a one-year vacancy.

Fall Society meeting - Nov. 9 2018

There were 28 members present, representing a quorum. Principal Brian Smith provided an update on the school, including status of the new High School program development. Mark Wyncoll, from the General Church Development Office, thanked and encouraged the Society for their strong fundraising. Budget and investment reports were presented. George Cooper (Chair) provided status of the Pastoral search committee, reporting that Bishop Keith will visit the committee on Nov. 29 with potential Pastoral candidate names, and asking for continued input and feedback from all in the congregation. Eric Genzlinger was recognized (in absentia) for his outstanding support of the church facilities.

Third Annual WNC Men's Retreat

We had three new recruits for this very special weekend at the beginning of November this year – even as we sorely missed three of our regulars. After a chill rain on the first night we had such gorgeous weather on Saturday and Sunday we felt as if we'd gotten away with something!

The program followed the usual pattern with doctrinal presentations followed by lots of discussion, shared cooking and cleanup responsibilities, worship and lots of great fellowship. Note, it never gets too personal, but we do get to know each other very well, and always come away with a great sense of comradeship and community.

This year's focus was on the specific qualities of masculine wisdom, and included some insightful research on the nature of forensic and domestic duties in the history of western culture. We also discussed the various ways that men confront the temptations we face in this world.

We're already thinking about next year's retreat, which we hope to hold at the end of September, and we're considering a theme of government (spiritual, natural, ecclesiastical and so on). Meanwhile, we hope to get together now and then throughout the year, so watch for announcements as we always welcome newcomers to all these occasions.

~ Mike



Report of Pastor Search Committee

By the time you read this, the Committee will have met with Bishop Brian Keith (on Nov. 29th) to discuss details of the search process, and more particularly to discuss possible and potential candidates for replacing our retiring pastor next June. Although the committee members are always receptive to your comments and observations, they are now officially in “quiet mode” and will not

be able to discuss further proceedings. So please don't ask them to do that.

The committee will consider the names of possible candidates and will then begin the interview process, with the task of working with the Bishop to find a person who will best meet the needs of the Society. When that person is identified, the Bishop will nominate a candidate for the position of Pastor, and the Board of Trustees and the Society will have opportunities to vote on the nominee. That vote should take place in mid-winter.

In the meantime, continue to talk to committee members, but don't expect them to reply; they are in listening mode now. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 13th.

George Cooper, Committee Chair.

Announcements

2019 Directory has been printed and now available in the lobby on the table just under the monitor. Please take the time to look it over and let me know if I made any mistakes with your listings.

Please feel free to take one for your office or car as well. If you find it difficult to come pick one up I can mail it upon request. I also can email out a PDF copy to those who like to have an electronic copy. ~ Bonnie

From TAG International - Laws of Life Essay Contest: All High School Sophomore (or 15-16-year-old) girls world-wide are eligible to enter this contest. This essay is an opportunity to write about what YOU think is important in life. This is your chance to be heard – to write from the heart about one, or more, of your personal laws of life. Essays are to be in English (Google Translate can be used for this purpose) No name or identification can be on the paper itself to keep judging impartial but have your name and address in the envelope or email. You can see last year's winning essays printed in our Journal. Winners receive a certificate and a check: 1st Place: \$100 USD, 2nd Place \$75 USD, and 3rd Place \$50

USD. Essays are printed in the Journal with writers' permission and as room permits. The essay guidelines are:

“The Laws of Life” are a set of rules, ideals or principles by which one should live:

What do you value most in life? What is important to you? What ideals do you hold deep in your heart? Think about the people and experiences that have helped you form these laws...

Pick a topic to write about: a personal experience/lesson learned that affects how you live/view your life now. An aphorism or quote that inspires or guides you. You can use an analogy, a quotation or a story or parable. No personal romantic relationships!!

Submissions are to be sent to Theta Alpha International PO Box 154, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA. Or email ANCdaughters@gmail.com. Must be received by March 8, 2019.



We recently received our yearly check for

GoodSearch/GoodShop. A small amount but not bad for easy money. It could be *much* more if all of you who shop online (especially at Christmas time) go through **GoodShop**. There are so many stores now that participate in this fundraiser; even stores you think would not be on the GoodShop list are there. Go to: <https://www.goodsearch.com/give> and register following instructions to pick the Washington New Church and School... then **SHOP!**



Another company that gives us a portion of their proceeds when you shop is AmazonSmile. Here is how it works:

Go to AmazonSmile.com - Click on "Supporting" in the upper left hand side. Select Washington Church of the New Jerusalem. Do

your Amazon shopping on the Amazonsmile website, or if you come across something in Amazon.com, add it to your cart, open up Amazonsmile, and it will have automatically transferred.

THE BEST NEWS AVAILABLE:

Weather Report: We had the rainiest November on record – well OK, we're not talking biblical records, just relatively recent records. But it was a lot of rain, wasn't it? Now if it would just get a little bit colder . . .

Happy Days: We are happy to report that Michael Ferrell has completed his 26-week ordeal of chemotherapy and has survived with his good humor intact and is looking forward to regaining his strength. Way to go, Michael.

More of Same: As some of you might know, Catharine Smith has been having some health issues since late October. Sarah Smith reports that after a recent stint in Walter Reed Nat'l Military Medical Center, she has now moved to Hillcrest Nursing Home, a rehab facility, in order to recoup and gain strength. She is cheerful and looking forward to the day she returns home. In general, she is not up to having visitors, but thanks all those who have sent well wishes. And we add ours to those – come on home, Cathy.

Speaking of Birthdays: First of all, we should mention our friend Keith Huntley who turned 95 last month! A belated happy birthday, Keith. Some of you may not know him as he lives in Chestertown, MD and is only able to come to our services if his daughter drives him here. But that does not stop him for being involved, for he is the main reason we are able to have our audio sermons available on our website and on the General Church Audio as well. Every week, we send him our audio and he edits it and puts it on the website. He also helps with any changes or problems we may have with our website. We also learned that Keith was not doing too well for a while but recently got a pacemaker and is back helping us out. Keith, we sure appreciate what you do for us! Congrats on your BD, your pacemaker and thanks for your invaluable help.

Another happy birthday involved Bernita Babb who, with daughter Pam and goddaughter Joanie returned from a visit to New York so she could attend on her birthday (the 21st) the enjoyable, interesting and fascinating Revelation Class taught by Pastor Mike. During the afternoon and evening, the four of them (now including daughter Melanie) dined at a restaurant in Washington, then the theater at the Arena Stage's musical, "Anything Goes." Bernita reports that "I had a truly happy birthday and wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday! Indeed, life IS beautiful even in the midst of anything goes!!!"

Our next Happy Birthday wishes go to Bill Radcliffe, who celebrated his 87th birthday by running in the November 3rd Jug Bay 5K Race at the scenic Patuxent River Park. His time at 44 minutes was slow, but at his age just showing up on the course was a PB (Personal Best). He even won an award for finishing first in the men's 80 to 99 year age group. It was a sure thing because he was the only one in the group. As an aside there was an 80 year old woman who won her age group with a considerably faster time than Bill's. She collected a number of medals at an international master's track meet in Malaga, Spain in September, and set an age group world record for 400 meters. Carole Waelchli are you listening? You could give her a run for her money at next year's event!

Then there was the birthday bash for James Cooper, who took a serious run at his 50th, but fell one year short. Better luck next year, James.

Question of the Day: How many of you can run 5,000 meters in 44 minutes? Or at all?

Good-works news: On the 10th day of November, which coincidentally was a Saturday, and which was one of those rare November days when it didn't rain all day, we had our first Pancake Breakfast/Work Party of the year. It began with a hearty breakfast put on by an enthusiastic crew led by Bonnie Cowley, Lisa Martin and Aubrey Hernandez and included able assistants (and assistance) from some members of the youth group. At first it seemed as if the attendance was going to be low, but people trickled in all morning, and we ended up with a good multi-generational working

group ranging from grandparents to babies, all working together. So it turns out that trickling is good.

Lots and lots of works was done... too much to list. We can't possibly name all the people who came to help, but were glad to see several WNCs alumni, Emily (Ball) Maple & baby Weston, Carl Martin and Timmy Radcliffe, who shared their Saturday morning with us. Thanks to EVERYONE!

And if you missed this event? Bonnie always has a list of easy jobs anyone can do – any time! And if you ask nicely, she can probably come up with some hard jobs to test your skills; they also need doing, so feel free to ask.

Other Work News: Jana Sprinkle reports that the FDM Group, which hired son Joe in the fall, has placed him with Morgan Stanley in New York City. Joe begins his new assignment on Thursday, December 6th, and is in the process of finding housing in order to move by about the first of December. Joe graduated from the University of Maryland in 2017 with a degree in computer science and will be programming for Morgan Stanley. Edward and Jana are very proud of him and will miss him terribly, but are also very excited about his future.

Retiree Work News: Kathy Johns reports that she and Brad traveled to Atlanta for the TV Movie premier/party for the new Elf On The Shelf holiday animated special “**ELF PETS; SANTA’S ST. BERNARDS SAVE CHRISTMAS**”. Brad is the voice of Santa in this 1/2 hour animated special. The first time it was on the air was Saturday night Nov 17th as a holiday triple feature ending with The Grinch. It will be airing again on TBS on Sunday December 9 at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like to watch. Exciting times for Brad and Kathy – Congratulations! Brad's comment: “All those years of loving the character voices on the holiday shows...and here I am the voice of a main character. As my mother always used to say...” Tooooo much happiness!”

Thanks: Brad and Kathy also thank all the kind people who sent meals and provided other kindnesses during the last two months of Kathy's fractured patella recovery. They are sorry to have to cancel

our annual Christmas party due to limited mobility. Merry Christmas to all! **And Thanksgiving:** The Cowley Family just shared their 30th consecutive year of Thanksgiving with the Roscoe clan. This year was a particularly small group, only around 33, and including Roscoe visitors from out of town - Renée, Nora and Janice Roscoe. The Cowley contingent made up most of the 33 with guests from far - Will & Berith Cowley and 4 children, Angela & Charles Radcliffe and 3 children – and near - the local Cowleys, the Martin-Attiliis and Hernandezes, and various other cousins and adopted family. A great time was had by all.

Mike and Ginny's son Dar flew down from Canada for a few days of R & R with his parents over Thanksgiving. This is turning into an annual event and is much enjoyed by all involved. Apparently a change really is as good as a vacation because he helped Mike reorganize his garage and stopped the nasty pop-ups on Ginny's computer and still returned home feeling rested!

Chuck and Candy Quintero traveled to Pittsburgh to have Thanksgiving with daughter Stefanie. In non-Thanksgiving news, Candy also traveled to do a teacher support visit and participated in the Bryn Athyn annual craft sale.

We also have it on good authority that numerous other members of the WCNJ traveled or didn't travel to near or remote locations or either entertained guests or were entertained for the Thanksgiving travel weekend but chose to keep their doings confidential and or secret. We hope you all had a most enjoyable time with family and or friends.

Visitors: Linda (sister of both John Allen and Nancy Alford – at the same time!) and Glenn Klippenstein from Maysville, Missouri visited for a few days, Bernita Babb's daughter visited her from NY, and Dave Cooper and daughters Anji and Zia visited the Crofts on the less-traveled days of the Thanksgiving weekend. George and Lois McCurdy visited the weekend of November 2nd to work the chancel while our various and sundry pastors retreated to the Eastern Shore for an enjoyable weekend of, well, retreating. Thanks, George.

Visiting: Bernita Babb spent most of November (her birthday month) in New York City - enjoying reunion with family and friends (especially her goddaughter), dining in great restaurants, and taking in a very entertaining Broadway show: The Carroll King Musical, “Beautiful.”

Rumor has it that Bob and Bea Newkirk have purchased a cottage in the lovely Adirondack Mountains of New York. And just exactly what is that address again? And when did you say the housewarming party is?

Almost Finally: As in “at last!” You could find your name here (well, not here, exactly, but sort of in this general location) in next month’s edition of the WCNJ News, but only if you will tell us what you are doing. Please note: the advantage in telling us is that you can make sure we get the story straight. Rumor is fun but can run amok unless you preempt it. So tell us your real news.

Best of All: Check your calendar carefully; there are things happening all around you in celebration of the Lord’s birth. Take part in them with joy, and have a Merry Christmas!



*You are invited to Quintero's
Annual New Year's Eve Party!*

Where: 11907 Chantilly Lane

When: December 31, 2018

8:00pm

Who: College age on up

*If you'd like, please bring food
or drink to share!*