

April 2019

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

Congratulations to one and all! We have a new pastor to lead the Washington New Church into the future – beginning July 1st. Just in case you missed it, the news is that by a unanimous vote of all

the members gathered for that purpose on March 8th, the Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier was officially called and will be moving here with his wife, Gillian and their four children for that start time.



Mac will not finish in Glenview until June and so will need at least a *little* vacation time, not to mention time to settle in, so I have agreed to preach at least once more in July or August (or both), but then “we’re off and running” with your new leadership!

Palm Sunday, Good Friday & Easter

Thinking about various complications on the church calendar this month, I have decided to **combine two things on Good Friday** evening. Rather than hold our annual Easter CLASS on another night I have scheduled it for that same night, starting at 7:30, **with the Holy Supper to follow immediately at 8:30.**

It seems to me that this will provide a really nice sphere for the sacrament, as well as reducing the number of nights you will be called out to attend something at the church. It will also have the advantage of confining my class to about 45 minutes – a real challenge for me, but probably a good change for everyone. We will offer light refreshments as you come into the class.

On **Palm Sunday**, remember that we hold regular Sunday School classes that day; apart from the palm procession it is a “regular” service with a children’s talk followed by an adult sermon.

The Easter Sunday service is a family service and will as usual include a floral offering during the opening hymns. Children are invited to stay throughout and there will be no Sunday School.

About the Lord’s Resurrection

There is as you may know an ongoing controversy in the church as to just exactly **what body** the Lord glorified at His resurrection. Was it the material body, or the inner, spiritual body? The Gospels say He rose with His *whole* body, unlike any other man, but what exactly does this mean?

In one sense it doesn't matter! The fact is, His dead material body disappeared and He revealed Himself in a living spiritual body on Easter morning. How that happened is not nearly as important as the fact that it did happen, that the disciples knew Him, and that He was able to reassure them and enlighten them *more than ever* as a result of this continuing presence.

It is exactly the same today. We do not see the Lord with our natural eyes any more than the disciples did when He appeared and disappeared, passing through closed doors, moving from place to place without the limitations of time. We see Him just as the disciples did, with our spiritual eyes, that is, the eyes of our understanding when after years of "following" Him and reflecting on His life and works we finally come to appreciate **His Divine Humanity**, His omniscience, His omnipotence, His omnipresence, and most of all **His infinite love and wisdom**. We really, truly see Him when we finally realize how His foresight, patience, providence and forgiveness actually *work* in our lives and in the lives of those around us, so that we can fully co-operate with Him and enjoy the blessings of heaven.

For the disciples this was not possible until He allowed His natural, material body to be crucified and His spiritual body to be revealed especially in the love and understanding they felt in His post-resurrection presence. Remember, it was in the breaking of bread that they finally knew Him (Luke 24:31), even though he had spent the whole day "expounding to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Surely the teaching was necessary, but the breaking of bread stirred their affections and THAT was what finally triggered their recognition.

Again, it is the same for us today. We can spend years with the Lord in His Word, reading, reflecting, observing and analyzing, but it is only when we "get" the love within the wisdom, and see how the Lord is preparing us for eternal life, that we can come at last to "see" Him for who and what He really is, the infinite God in Human form encouraging, uplifting and showing us the way to a beautiful spiritual life "created" in His image and likeness.

The process isn't easy, but the plan is perfect. We simply have to work through our worldly challenges and disappointments knowing that there is more – much more and much better – yet to be revealed in the clouds of heaven with great glory and power.

May this Easter season be a special blessing to you all as you consider the miracle of His resurrection and how He can inspire you just as He inspired the disciples in the closing chapters of each of the four Gospels.



Money Matters

Self-sacrifice is not very popular these days. Perhaps it never was. But is it key to understanding everything that the Lord teaches.

Certainly one of the things you may have noticed over the years is that most of us want what we want *when we want it*, and not much later. So it's hard for us to see things in the perspective of *eternal* life. But really, what could be more important than that very perspective? And what could be more important for helping us to maintain it than the church?

OK, so here's the pitch! We all know the church can't do what it does without our financial support, but it's also true that we can't benefit from giving that support unless we are willing to let go of some other, short-term objectives in order to provide for it. In other words, it is important to *prioritize* our giving so that we feel the impact of it in the postponement or actual denial of some *other things* that are less important.

Both time and space are given to us in this life for the specific purpose of forcing decisions. We can't do everything, and we can't have everything we want, so we have to make choices, and the choices define our character. Will we have a bigger, better, much more expensive car, or will we cut back in that area and devote a little more to the church? Will we spend more time in sports and entertainment or will we cut back a little in that area and attend some church functions?

The same might be said for community service, or charities providing world-wide relief of human suffering. How much do we need for ourselves when so many millions are even needier than we are?

The point is that the choices we make force the issue of what we truly care about, and every choice in the end is based on a commitment to what we truly value.

Thank you again for your generous consideration.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

Church Events in April, 2019

Mondays, the 1st, 15th & 29th at 8:00 PM the study group reviewing the summary doctrinal book, "The New Jerusalem," will meet again at the Coopers' to review passage #64 and on.

Tues, the 2nd, at 7:30 PM the WNC School Board has its regular monthly meeting at the church. Remember, guests are always welcome, and this could be an especially informative meeting concerning our innovative new high school.

Wednesdays, the 3rd & 17th at 10:00 AM the *Revelation* study group will meet at the Gladish's to discuss chapter 17 & 18 as expounded in the *Apocalypse Explained* and *Revealed*. Note the change in the dates from the original syllabus.

Tues, the 9th, at 7:30 PM the Church Board of Trustees has its regular meeting with perhaps a special focus on preparation for the new head pastor.

At a later than usual time, **the WNC Spring Break** will begin on Friday after school the 12th, and run through Easter Monday, the 22nd. Please check to be sure someone is there if you need to get into the church or school that week.

Please NOTE, the EASTER CLASS this year will be presented at 7:30 on **Good Friday Evening**, to be followed immediately at 8:30 by the sacrament of the Holy Supper. We hope you enjoy this change, which should make a nice combination.

From the Principal

Our hiring committee for the high school has recommended, and received board approval, to hire Rev. Judah Synnestvedt to take the lead in launching our new high school program. In addition to an M.Div. and a range of other academic interests and skills, Judah's experience includes working with coaching methodologies and participating in a cooperative homeschooling model for his own high school education. Judah has a love for teaching and developing tools to help people use religious truth to meet their practical needs in life. This love has led him to work with General Church Outreach in the development of a multi-media platform for online

ministry starting with a podcast as the first feature.

This means he has already been thinking about coaching and online education platforms, which is part of the reason our high school program appealed to him. However, it also means that we will only have half his time, as General Church Outreach retains the other half. Judah, his



wife Lydia, and their three children will be moving to the area in June of 2019 so that he can be an onsite presence for the fledgling years of the high school.

I should also mention two further aspects of our conversation with Judah. At present, the family is quite committed to homeschooling, so we don't expect their children to join the school. Also, our current shared understanding is that Judah will be here 2-3 years to help us with a strong launch of the high school. I hope that it turns into a successful longer-term placement, but 2-3 years is the commitment for now.

We are very excited to have Judah's time, passion and skills AND we continue to look for more help in the school, full-time or part-

time (given that we have a few classes to cover that Erin Stillman had previously taught).

We had a small but successful open house gathering. It's always difficult for me to put an exact threshold on how many families we need to see at the open house to call it a success, but we did see some, as well as a strong turn out from current parents. Our early enrollment projections are positive, and among other things, having the open house on the calendar is a great deadline to help us kick off the marketing season. Some of our classrooms are reaching capacity, but others would still welcome more students. All tours you refer will be gratefully honored with chocolate (and with cash if they go on to successfully enroll).

Before this Echo goes to print, most of the WNCS staff will travel to Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania to participate in some teachers professional development meetings alongside faculties from Kempton, Pittsburgh and Bryn Athyn. We wish these meetings hadn't coincided with a major grading weekend but look forward just the same to the chance to talk shop with colleagues.



What's Next for Acton Park? – A potential solar land lease



A great deal has been going on with the Acton Park Board the past few years. The board has been entertaining some new ideas as to how to use some of our land.

The primary reason for these new ideas is that Acton Park needs to make ends meet. We have regular bills to pay – taxes, insurance and loan payments and we are running out of liquid assets to pay them. At this time we are looking very seriously at leasing some of our farmed land to a solar developer.

But before I give you the specifics of this idea I would like to share with you a report that Acton Park president, Sharon Kunkle gave at the recent Acton Park Corporation meeting.

“Early in 2016, Acton Park was contacted by a company called Solar Smart, LLC, with a proposal for a 25-year lease to build a solar farm on our property along Enterprise Road.

The Board began researching the idea, and eventually signed a Letter of Intent, which allowed Solar Smart a 90-day period to make preliminary feasibility inquiries with the local utility, but did not commit us to anything further.

During this time, we contacted anyone we could think of who might be able to advise us, and Solar Smart’s president traveled to meet with us. George Cooper and Phil Zuber reviewed the lease agreement and found a number of things that concerned us, especially financial requirements that we would not be able to meet.”

(During this 90 day period we had little to no contact from Solar Smart who also did not reply to our email).

“The board had a lengthy discussion about the apparent pros and cons of the project, and decided that it was not in the best interests of Acton Park.”

(The reasons for rejecting this idea are several and space does not permit me to go into detail here.)

“Fast forward to 2018... We were contacted by a rep from Alder Energy, LLC with another proposal for a solar farm on the property along Enterprise Road. We used our previous experience to begin research again.

Four board members met with the company president and the rep, on February 20, spending 2 hours asking questions, as well as taking them out to the site.

On March 7, we signed the Letter of Intent to allow Alder Energy to do feasibility studies.”

Since the March 17th AP Corporation meeting, Board members continue to research answers to the questions and concerns the Board and the corporation have come up with. Alder Energy has been in contact with us regularly and answered many of our questions to date. At this time we plan to hire an attorney with knowledge in land leases and in the end will notify the members of the corporation about a special meeting to finalize whether we sign the lease or not.

Again, there is much too much information to fit into this publication; so for those of you who were not able to make the corporation meeting or just want some details I will happily send you the Power Point presentation we made for the corporation meeting, and appreciate your comments and questions as soon as possible. Just email me.

Before I close, let me editorialize a bit about this project.

As a fairly new member on the board I'd like to first say that I admire those members who have been on the board over many years. I admire those who fought through all the county red tape to plat the 12 lots we now have just waiting for infrastructure. But developing land and selling lots is a very difficult process. Primarily it is VERY costly and nearly any way we undertake to develop land or earn income is fraught with difficulties and ultimately risky. We need an income stream since we don't get enough to pay our bills from our tenant farmer and Forested, Inc. So what do we do? Since long before I was on the board the members have looked into other ways to generate income. None have been successful enough to do more than pay our bills.

If all goes well –and I believe the board is working hard to turn over every stone to insure success, we may have an opportunity to lease 6 acres of the Enterprise Road field for solar panels and bring in enough money to pay our bills, begin to repay our loans and have some left over to put away for developing the 12 lots. Plus we would retain the ownership of the land.

This is not without risks. Every time we give WSSC passage through our property, entertain a developer that wants sewer access

or consider selling some land we take a risk. Yet more than 50 years ago our founders took big risks (one of them even mortgaged his home) to buy the property and build out here in Mitchellville.

Though none of us on the board are savvy in leasing or solar, we are doing our best to access experts and obtain legal help. I believe that this project can make a huge difference in moving us forward while still maintaining the land for future generations. I am also confident that the careful work done by the members of the Acton Park board will mitigate the risk and assure the success of the project - for ourselves and the community around us.

~ Bonnie Cowley

THETA ALPHA GUILD

Last business meeting of the year is **Wed. April 24 - 7:30 @** Dorothy Radcliffe's home (11604 Chantilly Lane). Please come to help with plans for our pastors' retirements and welcoming our new pastor.

We stayed busy this winter with things to WARM the hearts of our friends near and far. The WNCs faculty was served a lovely Valentine's Day luncheon. Care Packages went to our students attending school in Bryn Athyn and WE CARE cards were sent to young adults in the area. It's nice to spread sunshine during the long winter months. ~ Kathy Johns

Announcements

General Church Assembly 2020: June 18-21, 2020

To the Members and Friends of the General Church: General Church Assemblies have served to gather people from around the world for a time of friendship-building and focus on the faith and life of the New Church. Those of us who get to travel to church sites around the world have the privilege of seeing the variety of ways our church is serving every day. A General Church Assembly is a time for the reverse to happen, for representatives from the many parts of the Church to come together so that all may see some of that variety. An Assembly also serves to remind us of what draws us together in the first place—the messages we have

been given in the Word, and the collective effort to live the life that flows from them.

The 2020 Assembly falls on the 250th anniversary of the Lord sending out His twelve disciples to the whole spiritual world “to preach the Gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns” (True Christian Religion n. 791).



More information about this Assembly, its theme, and the programs that will be offered will be published in the coming months. In the meantime if you have input that you would like to offer, particularly along the lines of what would inspire you or others to attend, we would love to hear it.

Please contact: gcassembly2020@newchurch.org

The Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Jr.

The Rev. Eric H. Carswell

**General Church Corporation Annual Meeting
Election – GC Board of Directors
May 18, 2019 @ 3pm
Benade Hall Auditorium**

Members of the General Church Corporation are invited to participate in the election of General Church Board of Directors at this meeting. The preliminary report of the GC Nominating Committee, together with information on nominees and minutes from the 2018 annual meeting, was emailed and sent via USPS at the end of February 2019.

If you have recently changed your mail or email address, or if you are unsure of your membership in the General Church and/or General Church Corporation*, please contact Susan Wright at 267-502-4990 or susan.wright@anc-gc.org or Kelly Treacy 267-502-4901 or kelly.treacy@newchurch.org. Please contact Kelly Treacy for absentee ballots.

*GC Members are eligible to become Corporation members after three years of GC Membership.

Sermon Topics for April, 2019

Note: to give our assistant pastor full freedom to focus on school planning for next year all the services this month will be led by the pastor. Brian will be back in the pulpit on May 5th.

the 7th: Prophecies of the Lord's death and resurrection:

How many times did the Lord predict these events, and why didn't the disciples believe Him? What is missing in OUR lives when we don't understand what the Lord is telling us about our own future, and what can we do about it?

the 14th: PALM SUNDAY: of course the service will be about the events of that day, as described in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 21, and their spiritual meaning. You are invited to join in a procession beginning in the church lobby during the opening hymns, to present palm leaves (provided) at the chancel in remembrance of this occasion.

the 19th: "GOOD" FRIDAY: There is something NEW this year as the annual EASTER CLASS will be presented this evening beginning with light refreshments at 7:30, after which, at 8:30 we will move to the sanctuary for the commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper. We hope you enjoy this change!

the 21st: EASTER: the service will follow the events of the day of the Lord's resurrection and their meaning for us today. This is a family service (no Sunday School) and you are invited to bring a floral offering to present during the opening hymns.

the 28th: More about the Lord's post-resurrection appearances. Let's follow the Lord's movements in the days after Easter: how and where did He appear? Who saw Him? What were their reactions? And what does it all mean for us today?

Annual Yard Sale SATURDAY, MAY 4th

8:00am ~ 2:00pm



We need your stuff and your help with this annual fund raiser.

Donations: Decluttering is the new Spring Cleaning. If you haven't used it in the last five years,

donate it to the church yard sale. Special collectibles or jewelry can also be donated for consignment sales. Please bring your decent items to the church starting any time after Easter, April 21st. If you need help getting your stuff to the church please email or call Kathy Johns to arrange transport.

Yard Sale Crew: This is a fun fund raiser to work on. We have a great core crew with lots of donations to sort and sell. If you could spare any time to help with this event, you will find it's a rewarding contribution. There is a variety of jobs you could sign up to do: Sorting & set up (starts Friday 3rd), Selling, Food Concessions, Clean up, truck for pick up, signage placement & take down, General Muscle to help move things. Please email Kathy Johns to sign up. A sign up will be placed on the bulletin board at church as well. We need your help!

Renting your own space to sell will be \$20. Please sign up to reserve your space. Providing your own table would be appreciated.

Please contact Kathy Johns for info or sign up > kcjwim@aol.com or home phone 301-464-5990 leave message.

Pittsburgh Full-Time Position

Pittsburgh New Church and School is accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager position. The successful applicant will be responsible to cover basic office duties as well as more advanced duties include: website management,

desktop publishing, marketing research, database management, project management, and coordination with state and local agencies. Respect of confidentiality of student and staff records a must. Must support religious values of the church and school.

Minimum requirements for applicants are: 1) High school diploma or equivalent. 2.) Computer skills - competence in using MS Office suite software and basic publishing software. Knowledge of WordPress is a plus. 3.) Must be able to pass background checks associated with working within a school atmosphere.

All interested parties should send their resume, cover letter, and three professional references to Dr. Joseph Nocera, by April 5, to - admissions@pittsburghnewchurchschool.org

Do we have News!

Travelogue 1: Bill and Dorothy Radcliffe took a trip to a small Island in the Bahamas where they met up with Dorothy's sister Naomi and husband Bob as well as sister Peggy and sister-in-law Margaret Gladish. Since they live in different states, and it was winter, it was a good way to get together. The weather was great and the water warm, so they were reluctant to get back to the cold. But we have warmed things up for you, so welcome back.

Travelogue 2: In case you wondered why our school was closed on Friday, the 29th (or even if you didn't wonder), our teachers all attended a special in-service program in Bryn Athyn at the end of March. We warmed things up for them, too, and even arranged for some cherry blossoms, so they came back.

Travelogue 3: David and Heather Radcliffe continue to escape to their mountain property in the Adirondacks every chance they get, so if you don't see them as much as you used to, guess what!

Travelogue 4: Brad Johns was in Atlanta again in late March for a major conference in the field of his new "voiceover" business.

Visiting: Ginny Gladish reports that one of her great pleasures in living here is the chance to visit with her sister, Kathy Simons, in Baltimore from time to time. She had one such visit overnight late

last month, to the great delight of both women. That same weekend Mike was holed up in an area hotel on a study retreat, completing a paper for this summer's clergy meetings. He reports that the weekend was productive, and the hope is that the topic, "Amnesty for Sinners," will benefit the whole church, not just the WNC.

Welcome Visitors: Mac and Gillian Frazier, with children Siobhan (8th grade) and James (7th grade) were here March 25th - 29th doing some intensive house-hunting. At this writing, they are "homing in" on a place in Enterprise Estates, but that is still a maybe. It won't be long before they will no longer be visitors – July is just around the corner, when we will be arranging more warmth - of the welcoming kind, but without cherry blossoms.

Health News: Our dear friend, Martha Brannon, in Baltimore, continues in her new regimen of cancer therapies, which seem to be going well, while Michael Ferrell continues toward "full remission" in his treatments for myeloma, and is very positive about the outcome. On April 25th it will be one year since he was diagnosed and began treatment. Bea Newkirk is sporting a new knee, after successful surgery last month, and Didi Trimble had successful cataract surgery for her "other eye" on Tuesday, March 26th.

Fun News: Speaking of warm weather - park season is back, and some WNCs families have recently spent many hours at Watkins, Fairwood, and other local parks. Try it – you will like it.

Song Fest: Amy Glenn, a long-time member of the Chesapeake Chorale, and Lincoln Smith, who joined recently, both sang in a major performance by the Chorale on the weekend of March 16th - 17th. Another concert is coming up soon; check the bulletin board at the Church for details. This is an excellent group and is highly recommended.

Keeping Face: In case you haven't noticed, Pastor Mike has been posting regularly on our WNC Face Book page and would love to see a few "likes" and comments by members to increase traffic on the site. Note the content is a shift in approach toward helping people understand some of our distinctive core doctrines.

Your Government at Work: Curt Moore likes to do canvassing for the US Census and has great information for anyone who might like to try doing some of this work - for pay! Just call Curt or ask Bonnie for an Internet link that will give you all the details you need to get started. Curt says, btw, it's *not* scary or onerous work, the hours are flexible, and it can be very interesting just talking to people in the community.

Spring has sprung: and Lincoln Smith is gearing up for his spring seminars on forest gardening and permaculture. Watch the calendar for notes about his activities making use of church spaces in the coming months - like April 27th and 28th, for example.

More Springing: The spring-cleaning work party at the church succeeded in feeding a goodly number of workers who, driven by pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage fruit and other goodies then energetically fixed and cleaned all sorts of things. One magician was observed working on a nonfunctional ceiling light fixture unsuccessfully. After half an hour he gave up and put a new lightbulb in it, restoring the fixture to functionality. He claims it was not the lightbulb that fixed it, it was the blood, sweat and tears of standing on a ladder with his head in the rafters while others stood around making suggestions - which is how electrical things often get repaired. Other things were equally well fixed and cleaned, with huge thanks to all who helped. The list of things needing repairs is smaller, but still awaits your helping hands.

Real News?: On the lighter side, Mike Gladish reports that he held on to his Bitcoin just a little too long last year but is pleased to see the value slowly creeping back up. Nothing ventured nothing gained - or lost, right? This is not an advertisement.

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