

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

Reading for a class a few weeks ago I was struck by a concept that jumped out at me from the NJHD #123. The passage was explaining that piety does not in itself lead to a spiritual life. But a truly

spiritual life does lead to piety. This is important, and worth some quality reflection time.

I guess we can all see the problem with piety apart from a spiritual life: it can be nothing more than empty ritual. At best it may lead to a false sense of security but at its worst it can be downright hypocritical. So for many people piety has become almost a dirty word! And THAT is unfortunate.

Piety can of course be taken to extremes, as when people renounce the world, or spend so much time in their devotions that they compromise their ability to be useful in this world. But rightly practiced it is



indispensable for spiritual life. Here's the deal:

"Piety is thinking and speaking reverently, giving ample time to prayer, having a humble attitude when praying, attending church regularly and listening attentively to what is preached, observing the sacrament of the Supper several times a year, and performing the other ceremonial acts the church prescribes."

"The life of charity," on the other hand, "consists of willing and doing good to the neighbor, acting from a principle of what is just and fair, and good and true, in every work and in every duty. In a word, the life of charity consists in being useful" (NJHD #124).

The point is, neither one of these practices is personally beneficial without the other. BOTH are needed. AC #1618 lists five reasons why this is so:

"... for it is by external worship that internal things are aroused, and by means of external worship external things are kept holy so as to enable internals to flow in. Furthermore a person is endowed with insights by this means, and is made ready to receive celestial things, and also has states of holiness conferred on him, though he is not conscious of this. These states of holiness are preserved by the Lord for his use in eternal life...."

People often say they feel closer to God when they are out in the world of nature than they do in church. Fair enough, but nature doesn't teach us about God, it only confirms what we learn from revelation and from self-discipline based on that revelation. And piety (going to church) is part of that discipline. It takes time, commitment, and resolve, especially if you don't particularly *like* the format or the hymns. But it's still important.

Lastly – and I promise, this is the last time I will say this as your pastor: going to church should *not* be all about what *we* get out of it. The other big reason for attending is to support *others* in *their* devotional life. We just had a most wonderful Easter service attended by 126 people, well over double our average attendance, and one of the things that made it so rewarding was the fact that we were sharing that experience with so many friends and family members. The room was alive, the atmosphere was bright, and the singing was amazing. In short, *we helped each other* enjoy it.

This, I submit, is part of the life of charity that can't be separated from the life of piety.

Things to Watch For in May

First in order (though it is last on the calendar), please take note of the church's annual society meeting on **Friday**, **May 31**st, beginning at 8:00 PM. As you know this involves annual reports and the election of officers. Please see the special notice on page 4.

First in time, please remember – and see if you can help with – the annual church YARD SALE on **Saturday, the 4th**. Again, see the notice elsewhere in this issue.

And on **Sunday, the 19th**, there will be a special community-building BBQ on the church grounds, where you are invited to share food and friendship with our amazing and wonderfully diverse school families – beginning at 4:00 PM. See page 11.

Looking ahead to **Saturday, June 1st**, we have again reserved a spot at **the annual Bowie-Fest down at Allen Pond Park**. This is a prime venue to promote both the church and the school, and I want to remind you all that regardless of whether *anyone* responds

to our promotions by visiting the church or school it is a tremendous opportunity to *practice sharing* both our faith and our work. In effect, we need it more than "they" do, and I would welcome volunteers to help. In any case, it increases our visibility in the community, which helps reinforce other advertising.

Have a great spring, everyone!

Kich Gladish

Sermon Topics for May, 2019

the 5th: Aiming for Heaven. How much fun is it to aim for ideals in a cynical time? Drawing on the Jacob story we will explore the tension of working practically at a lower level while still holding the highest goals of heaven in our sight. References include *Genesis* 29:15-30 & *AC* 3854. ~ BDS

the 12th: The 12 Sons of Israel and what they represent in our own spiritual lives, including a little about each of the 12 tribes formed of their offspring. ~ MDG

the 19th: The 12 Disciples of the New Testament and what they represent in our spiritual lives, including some of the parallels with the 12 sons of Israel. ~ MDG

the 26th: The 12 gates of the Holy City, New Jerusalem in Revelation 21, and what they represent in our spiritual lives, including consideration of the north, south, east and west orientations of the gates. ~ MDG (Memorial Day Weekend)

June 2nd: The Last Judgment in the Spiritual World and the Revelation of the Spiritual Sense of the Word. Which came first, how and why, and what this has to do with us some 260 years later. ~ MDG

Notice: The annual Society meeting will be held on May 31st at 8:00pm (preceded by pot luck supper at 7pm). Elections for Board of Trustees and School Board, as well as reports from committees, boards, and staff members will be on the agenda.

Money Matters

Despite the changes in the U.S. tax code some of us will receive or may already have received a tax refund. While this is not a reason to donate to the church it can certainly make it easier to give a little extra. Even if you simply applied "the principle of the tithe" and dedicated a percentage of that refund to the church it would be a welcome and much appreciated gift.

Pastor Mac will be here one day this month to complete the deal on his new home, and, so you know, the church board has committed a special, one time "bonus" for Mac out of next year's budget, to help him with some much needed renovations. So if you would like to think of your donation as contributing to this use, it would help the budget. This is *not* a special fund, though, so just make your donations as usual to the Washington New Church.

Beyond this we don't have a lot to add this month except to say, "Keep up the good work!"

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

Face Book Post (excerpts) from our Pastor Elect, Rev. Mac Frazier:

(This post was mainly aimed at his friends in Glenview where Mac has served for the last 3 years. There are some interesting notes for us as well).

"I am very excited to be taking on this new role (*as pastor of the Washington Society*), but I will also miss the many friends I've come to know in my three years serving Glenview New Church here in Chicagoland.

When I had to close New Way Church in Austin, TX, I finished my ministry there worn down a bit and needing to rebuild my mental and emotional reserves. Church planting is an intense crucible for the soul, to say the least; I loved pastoring in Austin, and love all the people I met there, but trying to build a church from the ground up and maintain it took absolutely everything I had. I live to learn. I am an expert beginner and an avid explorer of new experiences and competencies. So this is going to be a great adventure. And now I've recharged, and I've learned a ton from serving this group, and it's about time to step back into a primary leadership role.... Anyone who knows me really well knows that I live to learn. I am an expert beginner and an avid explorer of new experiences and competencies. So this is going to be a great adventure.

The plan at this point: Michael Gladish, the current Pastor there, officially retires

on June 30th, and I become the new Pastor on July 1st. In mid-June moving trucks will pull up to the house my family is currently renting and haul everything off, probably sometime between June 17th and June 20th Then I, my wife, and my kids will drive to Maryland, to our new home... Before all that, though, we need somewhere to move TO, right? Well, on May 10th I will be flying out to close on a house Gillian and I are purchasing, and to coordinate with contractors on some work we want to get done there before we move in.

One final thing: I am looking at this as an all-in, long-term, heartand-soul move for me. When I came to Glenview, I had no idea how long or short my stay was here, and could really make no commitment beyond a couple of years. Likewise, when I served in Pittsburgh and in Bryn Athyn, I knew I was signing up for a likely short stay. But this move is different: churches need senior pastors that aren't looking around for something "better", and deserve leadership that is all-in. And there are a lot of studies that show lead pastors tend to become most effective in their roles after seven or more years with a group. My aim is to stay with this group as long as I am useful, so long as they will have me. How long is that? I have no idea. I'm not thinking in those terms. Basically, I'm not leaving until either I've led them to a place where they need a different style of leadership, or until I annoy the heck out of them and they ask me to go. The former could easily take a decade; the latter...well, that's for them to decide I guess. ~ GMF

Church Events in May, 2019

Sat, the 4th is YARD SALE Day, with prep on Friday afternoon. See page 16 for details.

Tues, the 7th at 7:30 PM the WNC School Board has its regular monthly meeting at the church. Remember, guests are always welcome for the first part of each meeting.

Mondays, the 13th & 27th at 8:00 PM the study group reviewing the summary doctrinal book, "The New Jerusalem," will meet again at the Coopers' to review passage #141 and on.

Wednesdays, the 8th & the 22nd at 10:00 AM the *Revelation* study group will meet at the Gladish's to discuss chapter 20 & 21 as expounded in the *Apocalypse Explained* and *Revealed*.

Tues, the 14th, at 7:30 PM the Church Board of Trustees has its regular meeting with perhaps a special focus on preparation for the annual meeting at the end of the month.

Sun, the 19th at 4:00 PM the school will be hosting a community BBQ for all church and school families. Please see p. 11

Fri, the 31st at 7:00 PM we will have a pot-luck supper at the church **followed at 8:00 PM by the society annual meeting**. *Please watch for a mailing around mid-month* with various reports for you to preview and an absentee ballot for the board elections in case you will need it.

June 1^{st} – Don't forget, we need all the help we can get to man our church and school booth at the annual **Bowie-Fest**.

A Grave Matter

Many years ago those in charge determined that gravestones should lie flat on the ground in WNC cemetery. This allows the park to be more easily maintained – the tractor mower can pass right over the grave stones. But this uber-practical approach brings up a series of concern. First, running a huge machine over top of a burial spots of beloved family members and friends, doesn't seem very respectful to the memories of those interred.

Second, our uber-practical approach precludes any planting of flowers or gardens or leaving remembrances at the gravesites. Not allowing people to express and process their grief in such physical ways seems overly practical and unkind. Third, because we lay our stones flat it can be hard to find anyone in our cemetery. The oldest stones have sunk down into until invisible under the encroaching grass, until uncovered a few weeks ago. I have searched in vain to locate the stones of old friends there.

Dr Radcliffe (with his team) deserves real thanks for his work with the cemetery maintenance – getting trees trimmed and the rotting fence removed. Dr. Radcliffe reports that soon a new split rail fence will be in place along Sondberg Lane. In this writer's opin-



ion, the best thing he has done is to hire Eugene Cole as caretaker. Eugene has taken this project on with real love, the grounds have never looked better. I walk through about every day, so I would know. The wall of brambles he hacked back has made space

for pink flowering trees for a spring display. (Eugene is now enclosing these to protect from deer). Thanks to both of you for making this corner of our church property look so well-groomed. Our memorial park is becoming a happy, peaceful place to walk and meditate.

PROPOSED: at the next Society Meeting we vote to permit those burying their loved ones' bodies with us to choose between a stone that stands up or one that lays down flat. Our new caretaker may well be willing to deal with the additional upkeep involved. But there are probably also other ways to manage it. The point is that because a method is easier, this does not make it the *best* solution. The trick is to find the sweet spot between good and truth, right?

~ Wystan Simons

7th & 8th Grade Trip to Historic Bryn Athyn and Historic New York Sites

I'd like to give a big shout out to all who participated in our fundraisers for the 7th and 8th grade WNCS field trip this year! Many people bought, ate and enjoyed Gertrude Hawks chocolate, while others simply made wonderful donations from the kindness of their hearts. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

On this year's field trip, the 7th and 8th graders spent two nights and



two days away from home and school in order to visit some historic and interesting places. We started with three buildings in the Bryn Athyn Historic District, a part of the National Register of Historic Places and located in Bryn Athyn, PA. One of them was "Cairnwood", a lovely example of Gilded

Age architecture built by one of the founding couples of the Bryn Athyn community, John & Gertrude Pitcairn. Following that tour, the students visited a second historic building, the Glencairn Museum, which is a part of the Bryn Athyn College, and after lunch they had a brief tour of a third building, the Bryn Athyn Cathedral. This visit included a climb up the narrow, winding stairs of the Cathedral tower for a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside.

We then filled up the cars with gas and snacks from Wawa before continuing our journey to Jersey City, NJ, where we spent the night in an apartment with room for all. Most dined on Domino's pizza, but two of the chaperones, Mrs. Cowley and I, and one of the students opted for pizza from a local pizzeria and it was delicious! Friday morning dawned all too soon, but we were out of the rental by 7:50 a.m. and went to a local coffee shop - The Grind for breakfast. If nothing else, we ate very well. For our next historic places visit, we made the trip to our ride on the ferry to Liberty State Park with time to spare and had time to chill before we toured Ellis Island followed by the Statue of Liberty. It was a whirlwind tour of immigration information and beautiful sites before we headed home.

The students seemed to have a good time, and I am truly grateful they got to enjoy these experiences through your donations and their sales ability. Thanks to Bonnie for driving at the last minute (to Mike for letting her leave her post for two days) and for Aubrey Hernandez for lending her car. Be on the lookout for next year's Civil War Field Trip. --Jana Sprinkle

Announcements

Pastor Mike wants to know, did anyone borrow his **gas powered pressure washer**? It's missing and he's hoping someone didn't swipe it! Any clues, anyone? He's also missing a long-handled shovel, with a piece of black tape wrapped around the end of the handle.

MNRI Workshop: June 24 – 27, 2019. Dynamic & Postural Re-



flex Integration class. Will be held at the Washington New Church and School, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Bowie, MD. With Suzanne Amanor Wilks, a Neurodevelopmental Movement Specialist and MNRI

Reflex Integration Specialist.

See details on the society bulletin board or contact local coordinator Wystan Simons – <u>lovinchickens@gmail.com</u>.

House for Sale in Kempton: Anyone reading this newsletter want to move to Kempton, PA? Our 21 acre farm, an easy 2 miles from our New Church and K through 12 school, is for sale for summer occupancy. We're designated "Clean and Green" and therefore have low taxes. Nice neighbors and lovely views.

Phone Chris and Heather Smith 610-756-4050. (See church bulletin board for more details).



Community BBQ: Sunday, May 19th at 4:00pm WNCS will be having another community BBQ and you are <u>all</u> invited! – WNCS families, Church families, young and old. Enjoy getting to know some of the school families, share a meal together, play volleyball, soccer or basketball with the kids and other parents or just relax and enjoy an early

summer afternoon. Mark your calendars and *Look for more details* to come via email.

Church Summer Camps

There are many summer camps for everyone from children & teen, women, families and for all ages. Below is a list of some of the camps available in the church this summer:

June 17th – 21nd – Glencairn Mythology Camp #1 in Bryn Athyn. This camp is for 9 and 10 year olds.

June 24th – 28th – Glencairn Mythology camp #2 in Bryn Athyn, PA. This camp is for 9 and 10 year olds. <u>Christine.mcdonald-@glencairnmuseum.org</u>

June $23^{rd} - 28^{th}$ – Tools 4 Life Camp is a career and life skills camp designed to help teenagers who have completed grades 10 and 11 develop the tools and confidence needed to make choices about their path after high school. Visit <u>http://www.ancss.org/aca-demics-summer</u> or email <u>tools4life@ancss.org</u> to learn more.

June 27th – July 3rd – Maple Leaf Academy for teens who have completed 8th grade and any high school level. Theme – Renewal. For more information contact <u>pastor@carmelnewchurch.org</u>.

Maple Reunion Celebrating 50 Years! This year, after the regularly scheduled camp (advertised elsewhere in this issue), from Wednesday July 3 in the late afternoon to the morning of Saturday July 3, there will be a reunion for **anyone who has ever been a camper or staff member at Maple**. It will share the theme of "renewal" with the teen camp, and we expect it to be both a nostalgic and rejuvenating experience for all! For more email Chief Leaf Steph Kuhl at <u>stephkuhl@live.ca</u>.

July $7^{th} - 13^{th}$ – ANC Summer camp in Bryn Athyn, PA. This camp is for students who have completed grades 8 and 9. Ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp

July 11th – 14th – Living Waters Camp in Canada- this is a family camp for more information contact <u>pastor@carmelnew-</u> <u>church.org</u>.

July 14th – 20th – Laurel Family Camps in Somerset, PA at Laurel Hill State Park. This is a family camp for newborns to grandparents. www.laurelcamp.org



July 21^{st} - 27^{th} – Jacob's Creek Family Camp – in the mountains of

Western PA for families all ages. For more information see the church bulletin board or go to: <u>jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org.</u>

Note: worthy news

Easter greetings: The celebration of our Lord's resurrection was well attended on Easter Sunday with congregationists, including our vacationing students from ANC and various colleges, and visitors from both near and far enjoying the service and the opportunity to greet old and new friends. Among our many visitors were Ball, Simons and Glenn family members, Bill & Julia Buick from Baltimore, Hanna Hyatt's mom, Penny, and her husband, Damian, Joe Sprinkle, and Duane and Lisa Hyatt and family. We have no doubt missed listing many of you, but it was great to see all of you.

No Longer a Visitor: Welcome to Alex Hyatt (part of the Duane Hyatt family mentioned above) who is now ensconced in an apartment in DC and starting a new job.

Recording: Did you know that the Easter Service family talks were videotaped this year? It's just another experiment but shows the potential for a well-organized routine if anyone would like to volunteer to manage this. Recorded services would make a useful addition to the Society website.

Non-field trip: Berith Cowley (Will's wife and also Bonnie's



daughter in law) and 4 children spent several days in DC for their spring break. One of those days Bonnie took the 3 Hernandez children on the metro and met them (and Au-

brey and Avi after work) at the National Zoo. After enjoying the beautiful weather at the zoo they Metro-ed again to the National Mall to take in the scene there - the Bryn Athyn grandchildren were a little disappointed by the "Mall" but a day later took an evening tour of the monuments and really enjoyed it. Bonnie reports that they had a great time but when asked what their favorite part of the day was, they responded, "The Metro rides!"

Near-field trip. Brian and Janine Smith and family enjoyed a brief get-away at Deep Creek Lake over the holidays.

Far-field trip: Brad Johns, Jr. spent 10 days in England hunting



for treasure. His metal detecting group was featured on "The One Show" a popular British current events TV program. He found some Roman artifacts and hammered coins, but the British Bureau of Antiquities has to check them out before they can be brought to the USA. If you are inter-

ested in metal detecting you can check out Brad's YouTube group, The Hoover Boys, which has almost 50,000 followers.

Health issues: Keith Huntley, who edits and manages the sermon recordings on our website, has been struggling with heart failure in Chestertown. He's still at home but spends a lot of time just resting and sleeping now. We wish him all the best as he continues to persevere through it.

Health Good News: It was great to see Michael and Janet Ferrell at Easter. Michael is looking stronger now, and very confident in his recovery. And Bea Newkirk is playing the organ with renewed vigor as well as a renewed knee (perhaps cause and effect?) Kudos to Bea on a marvelous organ accompaniment on Easter Sunday. And did we mention Didi Trimble's successful cataract surgery last month?

Home Stretch: Hopefully, Mac and Gillian Frazier will be successful in securing the house they made an offer on - just down Chantilly Lane in Enterprise Estates! See page 6.

Home Making: On a sunny Saturday afternoon on Easter week-



end, many friends and relatives gathered at Mike and Ginny's to celebrate and "shower" Richard Glenn and his lovely fiancé Sonja Kistner, with tool-centric gifts for their married life. Hosts Glenns and Gladishes supplied plenty of yummy snacks and drinks, while visiting and hilarity en-

sued, as each gift was revealed. We wish Richard and Sonja much happiness in the years ahead!

Home Building: Janna Zuber reports that by way of son Grayson's hard work in building a dam, they are pleased to have a pond again to look out on. Thanks to Grayson, the peepers certainly have gotten louder with the increased water! Also she was happy to have her sister Karen and husband Steve DeLue pass through for a few hours before they caught their flight home to Petaluma, CA on Easter Sunday. Karen was thrilled with how bright and welcoming our "new" nave and entry hall are. Janna is hoping for a longer visit next time.

Moore News: Curt & Wanda are proud to announce that Marcus



will graduate from Virginia State University with at least a 3.5 GPA on Sunday, May 19th, 2019. They ask that you continue to pray for Marcus as he enters the next phase of his life journey. Seeing Marcus march across that stage on May 19th will be the best birthday gift that he can give his Mom,

whose birthday is that Monday, May 20th.

More News: Friends Deena and Jerry Odhner report that repairs on their storm-damaged home are still in progress, with the wood floor and painting still on the to-do list. Seems to never end. They are cultivating patience.



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 do-

nated for consignment sales. Please bring your decent items to the church any time. 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: kcjswimwim@aol.com or home phone 301-464-5990 leave message.