

September 2019

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Hello, friends! I hope you all had a great summer, and are looking forward to the coming change of seasons. For myself, it has been a summer full of moving in, setting up and planning, with a break in the middle for some important down time at the beach.

As a part of my planning and also my down time, I have been reflecting on the state of the Washington New Church, and also of the world at large around us. When I look at this congregation, here's what I see:

We have a lot of really good people who care about the health and success of our church community and school. This shows up in many ways, including volunteering to get all sorts of jobs done, providing financial donations, and actively participating in our worship services and social gatherings. What's more, we have some participation from representatives of multiple age groups, which is not always true in many church communities. And we have a lot of people who are serious and dedicated when it comes to living the life of religion as defined for the New Church.

We also have declining numbers in both our worship participation and our school enrollment. And while we do have some younger adults engaged in the life of the church, we don't really have so many from that age group that one could confidently predict the continued existence of this group forty years from now.

*Basically, I believe we are a healthy yet fragile, society. And I believe that there is a path for us to follow that will build on our strengths while shoring up our weaknesses.*

So far I don't think I've said anything here that most people didn't already know. Basically, I believe we are a healthy yet fragile, society. And I believe that there is a path for us to follow that will build on our strengths while shoring up our weaknesses. Right now we have an excellent foundation from which to grow in new ways, and I am excited by the possibilities that are before us. Our task now is to confirm our commitment to the core elements that are our strengths, and then look at everything else with an open mind. Changes will need to be made if we want the Washington New Church to continue to serve people in the next generation, but that doesn't mean we have to lose anything essential.

What we do need to lose, however, is complacency. Complacency comes from success, and in the long arc of this congregation's his-

tory, there has been a lot of success. From its founding, this community has done a great deal of good in the world. So it could be easy for us to rest on our past a little longer, to coast along doing what has always been done, and to take a wait and see approach toward the future. To do so would be wasting an opportunity.

Right now, we are in a strong enough position that we can afford to experiment a little--to try new ideas and new approaches toward accomplishing the mission we've always had. But that window of opportunity is slowly closing. In another ten years, if nothing changes, we will be a little bit smaller, and so a little less resilient. With fewer people around, we will have fewer options for change.

There is no reason for panic or anxiety today. Today we are still a healthy, useful part of the Lord's larger kingdom. But let's not waste this opportunity. If we can be willing to adapt to the needs of our surrounding community and of our own younger generations, then we will set the stage for another half century of fruitful service as a church.

And this is not just about "survival". Surviving in some form isn't that hard. What I'm asking for is a commitment to thriving. Because the world around us desperately needs us. It's a topic for another time, but in brief I see a lot of needless suffering in our surrounding culture, and a lot of it is directly addressable by healthy church communities. In today's world people are increasingly feeling a lack of three things: meaning, purpose and connection. This leads to despair, addiction, violence, suicide, and other forms of human suffering. But the Washington New Church can play a powerful local role in countering those evils.

That's the opportunity I see before us. I want to see what we can do to strengthen the church because I think we have a role to play in how the Lord relieves suffering. But only if we decide to step up to the opportunity while it is here.

More on this in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I want to hear from you: what do you consider the essence of what is good about the Washington New Church? Write, call, or drop by and tell me

what's important to you about what we do and who we are. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mac Frazier - August 27, 2019

### **From the Principal**

Welcome to the Washington New Church School's **49<sup>th</sup>** year of operation!

This year our theme recitation is Psalm 47:2, "For the Lord Most High *is* awesome; *He is* a great King over all the earth." The more we can look to the Lord as a "great King" the more we can find peace, confidence and trust because all of these qualities come out of trusting an "all-wise" ruler. Parents and teachers need to go back to this awareness daily, as we let go of the concerns and stresses we might carry from taking on too much responsibility for the students in our care. And the students themselves can be guided through their stressful challenges of learning and growing up as they gradually see that His rule is "over all the earth."

This summer has seen several exciting (and busy) changes. Most importantly we've added new staff: A new pastor, Rev. Mac Frazier and a new high school director, Rev. Judah Synnestvedt. We're also thrilled to have Jenny Smith taking over the aftercare program and Brenna Sweeney offering a variety of part-time teaching and school support functions (while working on her Masters). We're also grateful to have Ian Lee on call for tech support issues.

The major physical changes around the building (still underway) are MUCH needed renovations to the hallway bathrooms and Library. These (along with the kitchen) were two of the most tired, worn out (and in the case of the bathroom, stinky) places in the building. It feels great to have them refreshed and their functionality improved. A generous grant from the Asplundh foundation made the library changes possible; especially when combined by *heroic* volunteer and paid efforts from a bunch of different people. If you get the chance, please express your thanks to any of the following: Eric Genzlinger, Bonnie and Dave Cowley, Aubrey, Avi, Ariela, Hailey, Elias, Elio, Lina, Bryan Hernandez, Eugene Cole, Sharon Kunkle and Amanda Hyatt.

While we're thanking people, many of you may not be aware that the Baltimore New Church group has continued their tradition of giving annual financial gifts to the school. It's very encouraging to receive the money *and* the love and support which it represents.

We're also launching the *White Horse Academy* high school, under the leadership of Judah Synnestvedt and the brave inaugural students, Sohaila Smith and Siobhan Frazier. The name "White Horse Academy" was coined separately in two different conversations at about the same half hour. Credit goes to Judah and Bonnie who apparently independently thought of the idea and then both received support from their interlocutors. The name draws heavily on WNC history and symbolism, but also gives the program a little distinction. Keeping this distinct vision is important as we continue to aim toward the ability to serve New Church distance students in addition to local students.

The faculty has continued to work hard over the summer (never ask a teacher if they are "enjoying their summer **off**" unless you want to risk getting punched in the face). We've been revising our discipline and anti-bullying procedures while also reading a book on practical approaches to reduce bullying. This topic will continue as a focus of our professional development work this year. And we look forward to a fall visit and professional development meeting with Brad Heinrichs, one of our new assistant bishops who has special responsibility supporting GC Education.

I'm never quite sure who reads the Echo, but if you *are* one of those people who reads this section, I'm going to assume that you have some kind of history, affection or interest in the WNCS. If so, I would love to hear a brief word from you that I can pass along to our faculty and students. Just one sentence; a reflection, a memory, a hope, etc. would be fun to share with the folks embarking on the school year.

And please don't be a stranger. I hope that we can get a team together who will take leadership in planning a great celebration next year for WNCS's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Maybe you have some good ideas... [Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

## Welcome to the New Pastor

*by the former pastor, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (revised)*

There once was a pastor named Mac  
Who had a particular knack  
For preaching the truth with affection  
Which is why he became our selection  
To teach us and give us direction.

Compared with the previous pastor  
We know he will be a true master,  
At keeping his people on track  
To prevent any doctrinal lack,  
And support us when evils attack.

We trust he'll inspire us and guide us,  
And lead us in all ways felicitous.  
He's a church vision-caster  
And he'll watch for disaster  
As he helps us regenerate faster.

So we welcome you, Glenn (Mac) and Gill,  
And we offer you all our goodwill,  
Trusting you'll readily see  
How responsible we can all be,  
At working the truth – to be free.

## On Freedom through Structure

**I'm Mr. Synnestvedt.** Or “Judah,” to my wife and other adults. My kids call me “Papa Judah” (“PJ”); nephews and nieces, “Uncle Judah” (“UJ”). Also a Reverend; my main job is leading the White Horse Academy, a new high school based at the Washington New Church.

If you asked me to sum up W.H.A., I'd have a hard time giving you a pithy answer. There's simply too much to say.

And, too little (how can I sum up a program that only exists on paper? Ask me in a month or two). While you're waiting, though, here's something to chew on: at White Horse Academy, we strive to create an environment that draws out the “as-if-of-self” (More commonly known as the “as-of-self”).

“The as-if-of-self” (hereafter AIOS) may be a made-up noun that's awkward to say and more awkward to type, but it's one of the most vital ideas in General Church-speak, capturing a deep concept that's spread across many doctrinal terms.

The AIOS is a key ingredient in all salvation.

And it's been operating since the creation of the human race. In a real sense, the AIOS *is* the church; it's the Bride saying, “Yes” to

the Lord (For one example of this teaching, see AC 252 in reference to the *proprium*).

And so when we step back and ask ourselves, “What is New Church education?” The AIOS hits us squarely in the forehead. Our goal at W.H.A. is not merely to expose students to New Church ideas, but rather to teach them how to respond to the Lord *as if of themselves* (see TCR 3).

The essence of the AIOS is *freedom*, because *love is the life of man* (DLW 1), and love and freedom are inseparable: “In all freedom there is man's life, because there is his love. Whatever a person does from love appears to him free” (Arcana Coelestia 1937:6).

But as we know, the “freedom” of a selfish impulse is in reality the slavery of hell (AC 1947). And *confirming* the appearance of free and autonomous self-life is the origin of all evil (CL 444).

Counterintuitively (to the natural level of our minds), the way to *true* freedom is through constraint. Hence the seeming paradox: *compelling oneself to live according to truth is an exercise of freedom* (See Arcana Coelestia 1937, *Divine Providence*, the *Doctrine of Life*, and many other places).

While we live in an age that celebrates impulsive freedom, many people are returning to old-fashioned ideas of delayed gratification, for benefits both natural and spiritual. It's an exciting time to get moral support on the hard journey toward spiritual freedom, and many scientists, writers and thinkers have useful tips for structuring our lives to unlock a sense of inner freedom. We'll be drawing on some of these thinkers as we build this high school.

But the idea of *discipline as a route to freedom* is not just a tool for gaining competency in this world; it's also a fundamental teaching in the Word:

- The servant Hagar is told to return to her mistress Sarah and submit to her.
- Jacob labored for some 20 years under his uncle before becoming his own master.

- After a happy childhood, Jacob's own son Joseph endured decades of slavery and servitude before becoming de facto ruler of all Egypt.
- Jesus Christ Himself (who we might suppose could do anything He wanted) chose nevertheless to submit Himself to the Word of the Old Testament, and even to Mary and Joseph: "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them" (Luke 2:51).
- And as He said years later, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17).

Why submit to others? Why conform to the structure of Law? It's because we start out in bondage to all kinds of evils and falsities, and the Lord came to liberate us from the slavery of sin. Living according to Divine law *works*, because all Divine laws are true:

*"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).*

Thus, one way of summarizing the purpose of the Word: to be a mechanism for *disciples* (from the Latin word for *students*) to be set free. And there's a corresponding form of this in the world of uses. As the Writings point out, those who desire freedom often see the value in first submitting to a period of apprenticeship:

Moreover, every person wishes to be free, and to remove not freedom but slavery from himself. Every boy who is under a master wishes to be his own master, and so to be free. It is the same with every man-servant under his master and with every maid under her mistress. Every maiden wishes to leave her father's house and to marry, in order that she may act freely in a home of her own... All those who serve of their own accord by reason of their liberty compel themselves; and when they compel themselves they act from freedom according to reason, but from an interior freedom, from which *exterior* freedom [*i.e. impulsive/compulsive activity not in one's eternal interest*] is looked upon as servitude. This has been stated in order to prove



that it is not contrary to rationality and liberty to compel oneself.  
(*Divine Providence* 148)

So when you hear that the new high school is all about learning in the context of apprenticeships and real-life skills, it is because we are here to serve young people as they embark on the journey of compelling themselves—so they're equipped to love the Lord and serve the neighbor *as if of themselves*.

### *Our Deepest Thanks*

*Our family would like to express our appreciation for all the warm expressions of concern and encouragement for Bea which, we know, is helping in her recovery.*

*It matters greatly knowing our friends are thinking and praying for her.*

*~ Bob & Bea*

Thank You from the Fraziers!

Over the past few weeks, Gillian and I and our children have been made to feel extremely welcomed in many different ways. Thank you very, very much for the party, the gift basket, and all of the individual points of connection you all have given us as a family. It is wonderful to feel wanted and welcomed by such a friendly community. Thanks!

- Mac Frazier

### Announcements

**THETA ALPHA GUILD kicks off its NEW SEASON!** We have a new line up with President Carina Heinrichs under our new pastor, Mac Frazier. The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 25th at 8:00 p.m.** at Kathy Johns' home, 3110 Enterprise Rd. Topics for the year include: ongoing support of

school and society events and uses, service project ideas, beginning plans for the **50<sup>th</sup>**. Anniversary of our school.

**Senior Apartment Available in Bryn Athyn:** Cairnwood Village has a 3 bedroom apartment in D wing available. Entry fee plus monthly rent. Rent covers all utilities including cable, internet, and phone. Must be over 65, a member of the General Church or affiliate for 3 years, and ready to move by November 1. If interested, contact Bill Grubb at 215-947-7705 or [Cairnwood.village.manager@gmail.com](mailto:Cairnwood.village.manager@gmail.com) for details.

**The Swedenborg Scientific Association** cordially invites you to a Theistic Science Symposium October 12, 2019, at the Bryn Athyn College, Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn, PA – “Breaking the Shell, Connecting the Spiritual Cascade to the Physical with New Church Science”. For more information see the church bulletin board or contact: [swedenborgscientific@gmail.com](mailto:swedenborgscientific@gmail.com)



#### **PAINTINGS BY THE WEST RIVER ARTISTS**

In the Willow Gallery at Quiet Waters Park  
**August 28 to October 13, 2019**

Reception Sunday, September 8, 1:30-3:30 music by Philadelphia classical guitarist **Grayson Zuber**. A book featuring the artists and their work will be available for purchase at the reception. Gallery hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 - 4:00, Sat & Sun. 10:00-4:00 (mention the reception at park entrance for free admission). Janna Zuber has been painting with this group (West River Artists) for over 15 years on a weekly basis, and is excited about this show.

Questions? Contact Janna – 240-393-1043

## **Church Events in September 2019**

**Tue, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 AM**, The Washington New Church School opens for its 49<sup>th</sup> year. *Note*, school closes at noon.

**Wed, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**, **Pastor's Council** meeting at the church.

**Monday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM**, Heavenly Doctrines Book Group @ George & Mary Cooper's.

**Tue, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** the Board of Trustees Meeting.

**Thu, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** **WNCS Back to School Night**.

**Monday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 PM**, Heavenly Doctrines Book Group @ George & Mary Cooper's.

**Tues, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – ECHO Deadline.**

**Wed, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM**, Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) first meeting of the year at the home of Kathy Johns.

## **News Notes for September 2019**

### ***This month's travelogue:***

**Mike and Ginny Gladish** report that they had a grand vacation in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary (which was on August 23rd), traveling from the east to the west coast of Newfoundland! It was their last province in Canada to visit and they learned a ton - all about the cod fishing industry, the sinking of the Titanic and other fascinating bits of history, geography and local culture, not to mention seeing some of the most gorgeous



coastlines in North America. Did you know that Cape Spear is the

most easterly point in North America, and that all of Newfoundland is 90 minutes ahead of our east coast? They finished their tour by meeting up with son, Dar and his wife, Christina, from the Toronto area to visit Gros Morne National Park together. Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

**Andy & Pam Cooper** spent a few August days in a remote cabin in the wilderness of Wyoming, east of Yellowstone Park. The occasion was a much-needed break as well as a reunion of members of the Bryn Athyn College backpacking club, founded by Rev. Dan Goodenough, which made numerous trips to that area. The reunion marked the 30-year anniversary of the passing of Dan's son on one of those trips. Andy & Pam spent time touring the area, and also hiking and reminiscing in the Absaroka Mountains with the BAC club (including Greg Coffin from the Denver area, and others from across the country).

**The Cowleys** had a reunion at the Alden Cabin (Valhalla) at Lake Wallenpaupak in July. Over a full week nearly all of Dave and Bonnie's children and grandchildren shared in the most wonderful family cabin on the lake. Missing was daughter Angela Radcliffe who had to be in Germany on business; but Charles, Spencer, Rachael & Vivian filled that family gap quite well. Alan made it from Florida, Lisa & Aubrey and their (extended) families from MD & Will & Berith along with their family from BA.



“Fishing was great”, (says Bonnie) and there was a window of about 1/2 an hour when the whole clan was together in spite of the comings and goings - and they have a photo to prove it.

**The Moore Family** attended Wanda's 45<sup>th</sup> family reunion which was held in Crystal City, VA the first weekend of August. More than 135 family members attended and had a great time fellowshiping with each other, welcoming new family members and reflecting on those who have passed away. After visits to Smithsonian Museums in DC, Saturday evening was capped off with a reception and the "Hawkes" family version of an escape room.

**George and Mary Cooper** spent several weeks at their Deep Creek Lake cabin-in-the-woods, trying to figure out how retired people manage to take vacations. From what? They plan to spend as much time as required to figure this out. No photos allowed, however.

A large number of other people also went on vacations to a large number of places, which they all completely enjoyed, it is reliably reported.

### ***Mechanical Happenings:***

In case you hadn't noticed, the Church building has been a mad-house this summer, and might still be as you read this. First the summer camp (which leases part of our building during the summer) moved in with its dozens of denizens making lively sounds in June, July and August. Then **Pastor Mike and Assistant Pastor Michael** moved out of their offices and figured out where to stash a career's worth of books and mementos. **Wystan Simons** hosted a week-long MNRI seminar, and **Lincoln Smith** hosted week-long Forest Garden classes. Then somebody totally dismantled the library, and strewed remnants all over the place. Then all the classrooms were emptied, to provide more strew so the floors in classrooms could be cleaned and waxed. And one set of the bathrooms were dismantled for upgrade. But what? Worry? Naah!

Gradually, as if by magic, the building is becoming cleaner and less strewn (thanks to declutterer extraordinaire – Sharon Kunkle and our weekly cleaners). Seminars and classes successfully concluded. Pastor Mac moved into his new office and restored order there. Judah moved into Michael's office and made himself at

home. New carpeting and new bookcases were installed in the Library. The bathrooms were completed and with any luck the building should be restored to full functionality either by now or at least soon, and calm will settle over the building, for at least a day or so. Then school opens and we head full blast into a new year!

Come see what the summer hath wrought, and be rejuvenated.

### ***People Happenings:***

A beautiful day in August provided the backdrop for a Welcome party for the **Frazier family** at the Johns' back yard pool and surroundings. Kids of almost all ages participated in splashing and sun burning in the pool, while those of wiser ages found food and conversation in the shade of umbrellas and trees. Welcome to our town, Mac and Gillian!

David Glenn reports that the big event for the family was the wedding of **Richard and Sonja Kistner** (Mike and Ginny's granddaughter). It was a lovely service (performed by Mac's brother, Scott Frazier). Among those contributing to the special music was Amy, who sang "Morning Has Broken", a song which Richard and she used to sing together when he was a boy (she did it beautifully). At the reception afterward, Richard had a surprise for his Mom: the song he chose for their dance together was a recording of her father, **Clyde Smith**, singing a song which he sang at several of Amy's sibling's weddings.

David also reports that for their Christmas present last year, daughter Liz and son-in-law Mike, along with son Nat and daughter-in-law Desiree had promised to take them to see the hit musical "Hamilton." So, the Monday after Richard and Sonja's wedding, all six of them enjoyed a rousing performance of that show at the Hippodrome in Baltimore. It was quite a treat.

After a busy summer, David has decided that some relaxation is in order and so he will retire from the University of Maryland Libraries at the end of August.

**Brent and Amanda Hyatt** celebrated the arrival of daughter Cathlin and Dallas Hendricks' baby boy on July 7! Juniper Bee was

born at home (yes, on purpose) and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. The family is doing very well. Brent and Amanda were lucky enough to get to meet the new arrival in his Colorado home when he was just over a week old, and Jared flew out the following month. Fun times for the Hyatt family!

**Kim Maxwell** pulled off a grandmother trifecta this summer. Ask her about it.

### *Visitations:*

**Phil and Janna Zuber** were so happy to have had their 2 granddaughters from California stay with them for 10 days! The time flew by too fast. Also, Janna's sister **Greta and husband John (Davidson)** visited for a few days on their way home to California from an extended trip to Europe.

### *School's Open!*

It's off to school for all you preschoolers and newly minted College students and back to school for those in between. (With possible exceptions.) **Marcus Moore** left for graduate school at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, VA. **Ivan Croft** left for Salisbury University where he will join other locals who are already there and paving the way for him. Nameless others are off to nameless Colleges and Universities. They are known only to themselves and to those who pay their bills until such time as they become named by reporting their activities and accomplishments to the News Notes Editor.

### *Condolences:*

Janna Zuber's last surviving brother, **Kent Otho Doering** passed away peacefully in a hospital in Munich, Germany on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 72.

Bill Kunkle's mother, **Anne Pendleton Kunkle**, passed away on July 14<sup>th</sup> in Redmond, Washington. Bill and Sharon flew out to Seattle for her memorial service on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences go out to these families.



## *September Anniversaries*

*Conjugal love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven - and the fundamental of all the delights and joys of heaven.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg - AE 993*



*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Daric Jamie Simons ~ 5 yrs.*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Edwin & Nancy Alford ~ 63 yrs.*

*Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Matt & Sara Smith ~ 35 yrs.*

*Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Steve & Anne Ball ~ 32 yrs.*

*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bill & Sharon Kunkle ~ 35 yrs.*

*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ (Fred) & Carole Wealchli ~ 55 yrs.*

*Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Lachy & Kate Maxwell ~ 16 yrs.*

*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Brad & Christine Johns ~ 2 yrs.*

