

October 2019

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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### From the Pastor

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”*

Mat. 5:9

Peace comes as the result of the end of suffering. It is demonstrated for us in the Lord’s day of rest, the Sabbath, after six days

of labor. To labor is to struggle, and the six days preceding the Sabbath are on one level an illustration of the process of spiritual regeneration, which takes place primarily through temptation and spiritual conflict.

The point of creation is a heaven from the human race, and so the Lord's ultimate goal for everyone is the peace of the Sabbath. But the process of living in this creation is one full of struggle of various kinds, both because of the need to be reformed and regenerated, and also because evil is permitted in this world, which leads inevitably to suffering.

The purpose of the church is to learn the truths taught in the Lord's Word, and to use those truths as guides in the pursuit of a life of good. The truths are aids in the struggle against temptation, and in the work of repentance, and also act as beacons drawing people toward that life of good.

The Lord also leads by means of affections. This means that our suffering is at times turned to good ends by acting as a warning that we need to change, either ourselves or the world around us.

This also means that our natural inclination to pursue what we find delightful is at times used to draw us into living that life of good.

So. When I look out at the world around us today, I see a lot of suffering. Depression. Anxiety. Addiction. Suicide. Mass violence. Divisive tribalism. And these are on the rise, some of them alarmingly so, especially among the young.

“... our ritual worship, our social gatherings, and our shared uses, can provide all of these things. We can bring peace to people who suffer.”

Yes, I see a lot of good as well. But it is impossible for me to ignore all the pain. And the things I've listed as the ills of the natural world are all things I believe the New Church has a role in addressing. Because the problems are complex and often rooted in biology and psychology as well as in spirituality, I am not today claiming that the Church is *the* answer to them all. But I believe the Lord's

instantiation of communities of faith must have *some* role to play. And I think I have some intimation of what that role could be.

I believe the church has a role in terms of providing doctrinal instruction, as the Word’s teachings on repentance, forgiveness, regeneration, charity, the mind, hope, and many other subjects provide powerful tools for healing and growth. But what’s more, I believe that the social component of a church society is itself valuable as well. Participating in a church society expands one’s sense of “us”, it provides connection, support, love, and potentially the opportunity to practice simple acts of good in cooperation with others. How can we use truths and affections to cooperate with the Lord’s leading, such that we can earn the spiritual name of “peacemakers”?

People today are showing symptoms of a desperate lack of purpose, meaning, and connection. Our church society, though not only our sermons and classes and groups, but also our ritual worship, our social gatherings, and our shared uses, can provide all of these things. We can bring peace to people who suffer.

So what do you think are some concrete steps we can take to get better at doing exactly that? Where are we weak and how can we grow stronger? Please share your thoughts with me.

- Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, 2019-09-24

### **This Year's Pastor's Council**

From August 2019 to January 2020, the Pastor's Council at the Washington New Church consists of the following individuals:

|                                                                                        |                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stephen D. Ball <a href="mailto:steve@at-torney-ball.com">steve@at-torney-ball.com</a> | Sharon Kunkle <a href="mailto:sharon@wlk.name">sharon@wlk.name</a>        |
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|                                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
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| Carina Heinrichs <a href="mailto:carina.heinrichs@gmail.com">ca-<br/>rina.heinrichs@gmail.com</a> | Jana Sprinkle<br><a href="mailto:janasprinkle@aol.com">janasprinkle@aol.com</a>   |
| Hanna Hyatt<br><a href="mailto:hannaihyatt@gmail.com">hannaihyatt@gmail.com</a>                   | Pat Sweeney<br><a href="mailto:pmsweeney25@gmail.com">pmsweeney25@gmail.com</a>   |

Pastor's Council meets once a month, where we discuss the vision and direction for church operations, raise concerns, hopes and needs, and where we work out any changes or additions to our programs and events.

### ***From the Principal***

Our final September school recitation was the beautiful passage from *Arcana Coelestia* 8455, that, “peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things, and that He leads to a good end.” This is one of those teachings which can change your physiology just by thinking deeply about it for a few minutes. To deeply embrace the Lord’s guidance, care and purposeful leadership is to find peace, even in turbulent or unsettling times. This type of confidence is built on seeing of “the Lord as an awesome King” over our lives as expressed in our year’s theme.

There’s always plenty to fret about in a school (or for that matter, outside of school too). In the day-by-day and even week-by-week toil, it can seem that students are stuck, struggling with the same frustrations and limits that they have always struggled with or will always struggle with. I hear some of them saying, “I’m dumb.” But this is only the appearance of a too small a perspective on their lives. Every student has had dramatic progress over the last 5 years of his or her life, learning more skills and ideas than can possibly be counted. I have to train force myself to zoom out to a view of a few months, or even a year, and then I can see some wonderful progress, heading towards good ends. This gives me some little sense of how the Lord is watching our lives, and the opportunities and plans He has for us on the grand time scales, built out of each little moment that He carefully guides.

The two boards and faculty were treated to the seasonal Forest Garden feast, to help us celebrate the launch of the school year and



enjoy each other's company. The food was fantastically creative, with the chef from Zaytinya seeming to dive deeply into the challenge of inventing gourmet uses for the crops from the garden. WNCS continues to be enjoying its relationship with the forest garden; by the end of September almost all of our classrooms will have taken an educational trip to the Forest Garden,

with our high school students doing weekly internship work with Forested.

September also held another very successful back to school night. It was an all-hands-on-deck event, with the non-homeroom teachers watching and feeding pizza to all the kids in the school. Turn out was extremely high, and quite positive. The teachers often have a slightly breathless response to the event because the window of opportunity is very short and there are many things that we wish to communicate to all of our parents. But even though not everything can be said in one night, we are very appreciative to have the families here, interacting and making some face-to-face connections with the teachers. I'm also always grateful to the school board and other church congregation members who take their evening time to come out and meet people.

The *White Horse Academy* high school continues to develop at a rapid clip, offering us daily questions about how to balance our aspirational goals with logistical realities. We're also walking the

line between boldly pioneering positive new approaches to high school education while also acknowledging the expectations and wisdom of the conventional models already in place. One of the many details we hope to get to soon is a regular, brief newsletter sharing anecdotes and updates. Please let me know if you would like to be included on the email list. We're hosting a Town hall style meeting for a conversation about the high school on September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to join, please come along at 7:30pm.



### **A Word from the White Horse Academy high school**



It took me more than a decade of dealing with myself before I discovered that there were prepackaged tools for making and breaking habits. What if we could give teens a head start in life by showing them that habits are something we can change?

Habits are everywhere in our lives. Some help us, some hinder us. They're an autopilot that brings a sense of stability to our chaotic lives.

How many adults want to break habits, or build new ones? The success of the self-help industry testifies to that number being very, very large.

The question is, *how do you change your habits?*

Instead of asking that question for the first time when you've already gotten into a number of bad habits, what if you could learn how to hack habits when you're still young?

That's the opportunity our students just got with WNC pastor and former business executive, Mac Frazier.

Not only did Mac teach our high schoolers *about* habits, he actually walked them through picking a new habit they'd like to implement, helping them to create incentives and structures to support them in making their intention a reality. More sleep. Mental calm.

These are some of the things there will be more of around the high school if we follow our little index card of habit-forming.

Thanks to Mac for adding another piece to the Life Skills course. And students, way to go for rising to the occasion!

~ Judah Synnestvedt, HS Coach

*Dear friends,*

*We have decided that it's time for our family to relocate to Bryn Athyn. This is where Owen wants to live, and we feel that the support of family and other local organizations there will allow us to create a diverse network for Owen's care. This move will not take place until sometime in the new year.*

*Gathered last Saturday evening with many old friends around a long table at Lincoln's Fall Forest Garden Feast, we felt intensely the warmth that we have often experienced here among you. In 28 years (33 for Edward!) of watching each other's children be born and grow, sharing the pain of our losses, and sharing our faith, we feel deeply connected to the web of human life that is the Washington New Church. Although our day to day lives may pull us apart and create isolation, it only takes an event of gathering to remind us what richness we have in each other.*

*The Simonses have a lot of things to figure out in coming months. But when the time comes to go, we will leave more than a part of our hearts here with you. The WNC always has our full support and we will do whatever is in our power to promote the growth of this center for a new Christian thought near our nation's capital.*

*~ With love, Edward, Wystan, and Owen*

## “Souper” Sunday

Starting October 20<sup>th</sup> the Theta Alpha Guild will be offering home-made soup and bread for sale after church a few Sundays a month during the winter months.



What is “Souper” Sunday, you ask? It is a fundraising idea borrowed from a suc-

cessful fundraiser the Pittsburgh society does. It’s simple. Our skillful soup and bread makers produce quarts of a variety of soups and breads to be purchased after church on a Sunday.

There are often vegetarian and meat varieties – butternut, chicken noodle, lentil and bean, sausage, tomato... we are regularly surprised by the creative (and delicious) varieties of soup. And to compliment the soup we have bakers who offer loaves and boules of white, wheat and sometime cheese or herb. Bread.

We then shake it up on Super Bowl Sunday with homemade chili and corn bread instead of soup (also available to pre-order for you Super Bowl party).

This is not only a great fundraiser for the Theta Alpha but also for the church since we split the profits from the sale.

If you are a baker or a soup maker and want to be on the list to prepare, please contact me – [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org).

~ Bonnie

## Announcements

**Coffee Gathering** - every Wednesday morning 10-12, Wylan's house - 11910 Progress Lane, Mitchellville. EVERYONE WELCOME. BYO Starbucks or take potluck, either way it will be fun to catch up. To be added to the Weds Coffee Updates list please contact Wylan. (301-237-1283)

**WANTED:** We now have more than enough babies and toddlers to have a nursery again but we need a nursery head and people willing to be on nursery. Love little children? Would you like a baby fix every now and then? Please contact Bonnie to be put on the nursery rotation; so that some of our young moms can go attend church occasionally!

### **Veteran's Day at WNCN – Monday, November 11th:**



WNCN will honor Veterans' day beginning with a special morning chapel service at 10:40m instead of the usual 1<sup>st</sup> thing so that we can celebrate our veterans.

We would love to have our friends and neighbors join us. We especially would love some veterans to attend so that our children can see real veterans and thank them for their service.

Chapel will be followed by a moment of silence at 11:00am – (11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month remembrance all over the world), then everyone goes outside for a special flag raising ceremony.

There will also be special music by the students. Please join us!

**Boynton Beach Retreat, Jan. 26-30, 2020:** This five day convocation will gather to hear presenters Dr. Devin Zuber, Professor at the Graduate Theological School in Berkeley, CA, Chelsea Odhner, and Director of Productions for *Off the Left Eye*, Bruce Henderson, author of several books and editor of *New Church Life*, and Rev. Alan Cowley, Pastor of the Boynton Beach Society. An added attraction will be a report by Steve David on his work with the New Christian Bible Study.

You will enjoy this opportunity to socialize, to meet old friends and make new ones while attending exciting sessions from speakers respected in their fields. For information about registration costs and staying at the Duncan Center, call Bob Brickman, Director at 512-278-6037, or email him at [BBRetreat@newchurchboyntonbeach.org](mailto:BBRetreat@newchurchboyntonbeach.org).

## Men's Weekend Retreat Coming October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

The fourth annual men's weekend will take place this year on the last weekend of this month at the usual location called "Fishing Cove" on the Eastern shore near Cambridge, MD.



The photos here show the house and some of the men at previous events. We do all our

own cooking, and everyone contributes to the presentations and discussions. Our theme this year is government – in heaven and on earth, in every aspect of life. Up to 16 men hope to attend this year. See Pastor Mike if you'd like to join us; we can always make room for one more!



### *An Octoberfest of News:*

#### *Thank you all:*

Mike Gladish reports that he and Ginny have begun using the gift money that was presented to him at his retirement party. Mike found some courses in Rockville on using a wood lathe and has been enjoying them. Then he and Ginny used another chunk to help sponsor their fabulous trip to Newfoundland in August. They are most grateful.

### ***Medical Reports:***

We wish **Paige Sweeney** a speedy recovery following her medical procedure in mid-September. Also, we hear that **Bea Newkirk** is continuing her too-slow recovery from a stroke. Physical therapy continues to keep her occupied.

Likewise, we wish **Mary Cooper** all success in her upcoming surgery on Oct. 9th to repair one of her knees. Hopefully they will repair the right one.

Congratulations to **Nancy Alford** on completing her course of radiation treatments; now she is on a regimen of chemotherapy, even as she continues to look after **Edwin**, who is also battling cancer. Our prayers go out to both of them!

It is great to see **Michael Ferrell** bounding about as of old and showing signs of recovered strength after his battle with cancer.

And that's enough, already. The rest of you need to stay healthy, ya hear?

### ***Artists at Work:***

**Janna Zuber** reports that she participated in the "West River Artists" show at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. The opening reception on September 8 for the 19 participating Artists was incredibly special. It was packed with friends, family and patrons of the artists, and Grayson Zuber serenaded all. As more than one person said, "He was the star of the show." The artwork will be on display through October 13.

In the unlikely event that you missed the Quiet Waters event, you can catch a solo show of Janna's artwork which will be on display at Ahh Coffee in the Eastport shopping center in Annapolis for the month of October.

### ***Culinary artistry***

**Lincoln Smith**, who qualifies as an artist of the forest, had another fabulous Forest Feast on Saturday, Sept. 21st at the Forest Garden. He was excited to welcome more than 20 WNCS staff, board and spouses to the food forest feast last Saturday. The chef team from

Zaytinya did a wonderful job making delicious food out of unusual forest garden ingredients. A few highlights from the menu included pawpaw jalapeno punch with passionfruit leaves, mushroom consommé with a floating 'rubber ducky' made of duck eggs, sea kale fritters, blackberry ice cream, and the ever-popular acorn falafel. He also reports that it has been great to have the high school students helping at the forest garden each week and the other WNCS classes coming through for field trips.

### *Other News:*

While uncharacteristically perusing Face Book one day, **Bonnie Cowley** found out that her sister, Martha Tinker was visiting their dad in Pittsburgh. Martha, who lives in Oregon and has lived on the west coast since her twenties rarely has been able to travel east to visit family. So, after chastising her sisters for not letting her know that Martha was in town, Bonnie drove to Pittsburgh for the weekend. It was a great visit with her only older sister which also included a chance to spend time with her 94 year old father.

**Anders and Juliet Smith**, from Kempton, PA visited here and attended our service in the 22nd with their toddler son. As a result, there were 4 adult children of our former and long-time pastor Rev. Lawson and Shannon Smith, all with spouses and children for a total of 28% of our congregation that day. Thanks, Lawson! Your legacy lives on.

**Chuck Quintero** has been in San Francisco for his work with the Stanford Research Institute for several weeks.

**Curt Moore** has a new job as a security guard at the Smithsonian Institute. That's a pretty cool way to get free admission to the museums. Congratulations to our serial entrepreneur!

### *Happy News:*

**Freya Elizabeth Simons and Keir Sebastian Williams** were married at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral on a gorgeous sunny evening on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pretty much every member of the Simons and Williams families participated in the wedding ceremony, some singing, some playing, some arranging flowers, and Bronwyn, Owen, Oskar, Stephen, and Marlee Simons, and Brielle, Declan, and Rafe



Williams all in the bridal party! A highlight was Stephen Simons as ring bearer shepherding grinning two-year-old Marlee Simons up and down the aisle. Keir's grandfather, the Rev. Dan Heinrichs married the couple, with his son Rt. Reverend Brad Heinrichs assisting. Freya and Keir honeymooned in San Francisco.

**Derek and Hanna Hyatt** and family attended the wedding of her stepbrother in PA on the weekend of Sept

14th. Hanna reports that “our whole little family was in my stepbrother’s wedding last weekend—the happy (and brave) couple knew that having kids in the wedding would make for an interesting experience, and ....” Well, let’s just say that thankfully they had their backs turned when the experience occurred. While there they got to see a ton of family and do a lot of western PA visiting.

Congratulations also to **Alex Ball and Kylie McCulla**, who ex-



changed wedding vows in an elegant and simple ceremony before an intimate gathering of friends and family on September 21, in Holicong, PA, near New Hope. Alex and Kylie and their closest friends and family toasted, dined, and danced in a beautiful, colonial-era restored barn filled with white hydrangeas

and cream-colored poppies. The next day, the new Mr. and Mrs. Ball headed off to Atlantic City for a brief getaway before their honeymoon in France. Mom Anne Ball reports that the love and happiness in the couple's faces brought joy to everyone there and made Steve and me very grateful, yet again, that these two found each other and we have them both in our lives.

Congratulations to **Ryan Allen** who married his best friend, **Libby Pacel** in a lovely ceremony at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis on September 26th. Allen families from near and far enjoyed celebrating the happy couple. After a magical honeymoon in France, Ryan and Libby will reside in Annapolis.



***Sad News:***

Our condolences to the family of **Dolores Burnham Soderberg**, who passed into the spiritual world on at the age of 91 on Monday, September 23, 2019 after a bout with cancer. Dolores lived with her daughter, Cynthia Harvey, in Stafford, VA and both made the long trip to the church when they could and participated on Society committees. Coincidentally, her sister, Phyllis Pitcairn, just passed into the spiritual world earlier in September in Bryn Athyn, PA.

***Autumn arrives:***

We have it on good authority that some time between now and winter, summer weather will cease and desist, and we will actually get seasonable temperatures. The exact date is to be determined. Watch these pages for the news.

Offered to 7<sup>th</sup>  
Grade and up on...

October 9<sup>th</sup>  
October 16<sup>th</sup>  
November 20<sup>th</sup>  
December 18<sup>th</sup>

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## *October Anniversaries*

*“In the marriage of one man with one woman who are in conjugal love, the wife becomes more and more a wife, and the husband becomes more and more a husband.” ~*

*Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 200*



*Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Eric & Suzanne Genzlinger ~ 22 yrs.*

*Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Joe & Kira Jenkins ~ 2 yr.*

*Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Pat & Paige Sweeney ~ 25 yrs.*

*Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Eugene & Nancy Cole ~ 23 yrs.*

