# Summer 2020



# Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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#### From the Pastor

I'm a pastor and a public speaker, and so you'd think I'd have a lot to say about what's going on in our country right now. But the truth is, I feel utterly inadequate. I have not experienced life as a black person in America. My first instinct right now is not to talk, but to listen. But I also realize that as someone who possesses something of a communication platform (however small it may be), and as

someone in a position of cultural and spiritual leadership (again, however so small it may be), that some might be looking to me and wondering what I have to say about it.

For now, all I have are simple truths:

Hatred is evil.

Racism is evil.

Murder is evil.

The idea that you can justly judge an individual based upon their membership of a group is a falsity--it's a lie from hell.

The desire to use one's power to control others exists within every human heart; it can often be quiet and hidden, but it is always there--in every one of us.

The selfish desire to have our own way and to have others comply with our desires has an inclination to burn hot with anger, hatred and vengeance when it is thwarted.

Everyone has love of self within them somewhere, and therefore it is especially important to hold those to whom we grant authority or power to high standards; when someone who has power over others uses that power to hurt someone, it harms their victim, it harms their own soul, and it harms the entire fabric of civilized society.

When confronting injustice, disorder, and evil in our community, our goal should be to fight against injustice, not people; the ultimate goal of a just struggle for justice is a community of mutual love, not a division into winners and losers.

I stand with the protesters; looting and destruction undermine their just cause, and I have been deeply moved by the countless videos I have seen of protesters shutting down provocateurs. And above all else, the image of George Floyd being slowly, cruelly and criminally put to death by law enforcement officers sickens me. I pray that we are able to learn from his death and the death of many others who have gone before him so that such evil does not continue unchecked in the world.

- Rev. Mac Frazier, June 5, 2020

# From the Board of Trustees:

All members of the WCNJ, Inc. should have received, by email, a letter on June 1 describing that we will be voting on our Fiscal Year 2021 budget, and electing new members of the Board of Trustees and the School Board, by mail/e-mail this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will defer our Annual Society Meeting to sometime in the Fall (TBD), when we can hopefully gather safely in person, and so will hold all reports and updates until then. However, an approved Budget and board elections are required by our Bylaws, and must be completed by the end of our Fiscal Year, June 30, 2020.

If you are not yet a registered member of the Congregation and would like to join, please contact Bonnie Cowley for the forms and process you need to join.

Please contact the Pastors or any member of the Board if you have questions or concerns or did not receive your ballot.

Respectfully,

~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

# From the Principal

Happy summer to the Teachers! (And to everyone else).

*Graduation*: We pulled off a graduation, even in the time of COVID. The graduates looked great, the chancel was decorated with flowers and the lobby with balloons. We streamed the event for the many people who were not allowed to attend in person and provided classrooms with screens for families of the graduates.

### Highlights included:

- A stirringly positive address by Nicodemus Morfaw, father of Merilyn Morfaw, graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade with honors.
- Diplomas handed with the use of salad tongs, gloves and hand-sanitizer
- General Church recognition for Kim Maxwell's 25 years of Service.

- The *Teacher Appreciation Award*, given to the entire 5&6<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- A Long Term Service award gratefully given to Edward and Wystan Simons.
- A lovely slide show which included pictures of the whole school community along with recorded messages of humor and love from the families of the graduates.
- 6 graduates of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and our first ever 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduate.
- If you missed it you can view the virtual grad recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCywS2hlWXA3Pwdho5QYt\_tA



Congratulations to another group of great students headed for their next step. We wish you satisfaction and enjoyment of the efforts you make and the blessings and care of the Lord as you move forward!

**Planning for Re-Opening:** Even as the faculty worked on wrapping up the distance-based-learning we suddenly found ourselves offering, our attention began to shift toward setting appropriate plans for how to re-open next September. The planning work is incomplete, despite lots of good work by the faculty, school board and the GC heads of schools. The primary challenge is that we cannot predict certain basic facts which will be in play come September. What will be the state of the virus and local infection

rates? What regulations and directives will be given to our county and school? We don't know. Still, laying out plans now for the many factors we expect to face, will help streamline the process as we get closer to September 2<sup>nd</sup>. All organizations are wrestling with similar questions and will likely be releasing increasingly specific plans the closer we come to the re-opening date. The key message we are communicating now is that we expect to *open for school in the building five days per week*.

Teaching Black History Better: It goes without saying that everything we teach, we could theoretically teach better. We have to manage this awareness and balance it with the reality of how much time is available in a given week; making improvements gradually over time. That said, one of the things we teach imperfectly is Black History. This is an area that raises particular insecurities given that we are a mostly white staff teaching in a multi-cultural school. Given the current public discourse on race in America, we've chosen the teaching of Black History as one of our areas of curriculum focus this year. Following extended conversations during our end of year faculty meetings, we formed reading discussion groups for further learning among the faculty. (I posted some brief reflections on the killing of George Floyd on our school website).

Teachers and students alike eagerly shifted into low gear for summer. I warmly hope that it is a safe and restorative summer for all!



## Announcements

Summer Church Will Be Outdoors! At least to begin, that is. Prince George's County has moved to a modified Phase Two of reopening under COVID-19 conditions. This means that we are permitted to hold gatherings inside our sanctuary provided that we keep it under 25% capacity, and follow strict social distancing guidelines. However, I know there are members of the community who are concerned about that level of public exposure at this point, so to begin with we will experiment with worshipping outdoors on Sunday mornings.

The Zubers have graciously offered their property (11906 Progress Lane, Mitchellville, MD) for this purpose. So we will be meeting there Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for family worship services. There will be a few chairs there, but we are encouraging people to bring blankets or their own chairs, as well as masks. When you arrive, please find a spot in the yard that is an appropriate distance from the other worshippers.

We will not be doing any congregational singing at first, as per the COVID-19 related guidance we have at this time. However, if any musicians would like to bring instruments and provide instrumental music at the start of our services, you are more than welcome to. Please let me know if this is something you might be interested in offering.

Should we get rain on a Sunday morning, we will move the service to inside the church building. However, we may have to ask some participants to move to the lobby or the supper room if we run into a capacity issue under current COVID-19 restrictions.



Finally, this marks the end of our online-only worship services. We will eventually begin live streaming from within the sanctuary, but in the meantime I am looking into ways of providing online versions of sermons for those who are not able to attend in person. We have quite a few people who have been joining us online who are

not regular parts of our local congregation, and I don't want to leave them hanging. However, live streaming from the Zuber yard has too many technical challenges for me to pull off at this point, so I will have to come up with an alternative solution.

These outdoor family services will continue through the end of June at least. Beyond that, we will have to see. Thank you all for staying flexible during these weird times. - Mac

Wednesday Night Socials Have Concluded: With the partial loosening of restrictions on face to face gatherings, we are making some shifts in church activities. As announced elsewhere, Sunday worship will begin happening outdoors, for instance, instead of live online. In addition to this, we will no longer be having the Wednesday night zoom social gatherings. How other church activities (board meetings, etc.) will be conducted will be decided on a case by case basis going forward. - Mac

# **WNCS 50th Anniversary Celebration Postponed**



When the school began 50 years ago no one would have imagined a pandemic hitting the US in 2020. But about 100 years ago we were in the Spanish Flu pandemic from Jan. 1918 - Dec.

1920. Strange times for us now to try to plan events and feel normal about our daily lives. Because of our uncertainty, we have decided to postpone our anniversary weekend that was scheduled for Sept. 11-13, 2020. We are looking for a date in the spring of 2021 perhaps coinciding with the 50th graduation ceremony for WNCS.

In the meantime there are projects we will be working on and you can always fill out an alumni questionnaire. Please keep this event on your radar. More details to come as the world opens up again!

Bryn Athyn College Master of Arts in Religious Studies Now available for distance learning: Are you interested in a deep engagement with a New Church theological framework? Consider taking or auditing a MARS course in the 2020-21 school year. Bryn Athyn College's Master of Arts in Religious Studies (MARS) offers students of Swedenborg's theological writings an in-depth study of the Heavenly Doctrine. The MARS program is

now fully set up for distance learning. Auditors are welcome at a reduced cost.

For further information on the program or courses offered, please contact Rev. Dr. Thane Glenn - thane.glenn@brynathyn.edu.

#### MY LITTLE SECRETS TO SUCCESS

Parent graduation speech by Nicodemus Morfaw – 6/5/2020



It is an honor for me to be here tonight. I have been here for eight years, but I never really thought I would be the one standing here to address you on a day like this. In a time like this.

Faculty Members, parents, friends, dignified guests, graduating classes of 2020: 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, congratulations.

I'm trying to learn how to deliver this, I will forget about the people watching over social media and focus on you in the room.

I grew up in a different environment in Cameroon, where there were no cars. I didn't have the privilege to attend kindergarten. I started school in first grade. We had to walk every day about 5 km or about 3 miles to school and back. We walked on foot: there were no bicycles and there were no cars in our village.

I was born to a royal family in Cameroon-Africa. My father had over 10 wives and many children, and sometimes the ages between the children were very close. It could be a problem paying tuition. God being so kind, I was able to go through school without financial difficulties. I finished elementary school and I went to a boarding school in Fontem, Cameroon. You had to leave your parents at a very young age and stay at school. It was a wonderful life anyway. It gave me a strong base to start my educational journey.

Now, when it was time to graduate, something my own daughter might not even know, I did not graduate. I failed a national exam. For some reason, I cannot tell you exactly why I failed. However, I think it was because I focused on the subjects that I was already

good at and did not evenly distribute my time. It was a disaster for me, my world was upside down. I thought that was the end of it. My mother could not read or write and neither could my father. They told me it was not the end of the world. The principal of the school at the time said, "I know you can fail all the exams, but I know you will never fail in life." That statement troubled me for a long time to understand what he meant. You see there's no virtue in failing or in failures, but when we fail or make mistakes and can realize where you are that is a great thing. At that time, I was determined never to fail an exam again. I said I'll try to find out what it means to pass an exam and I did. I never failed an exam again.

I left there after five years of middle school, ours was kind of weird. Then went to high school. I went to Youndé University for one year and because of political problems I had to leave for Germany, where I decided to study the science of education, so that I would be able to give a lot to younger children.

My wife Emmy Morfaw won the Green card lottery and in 1997. We arrived The United States of America with only our suitcases. I call her my sunshine, because she brought me here; the greatest nation on earth. For those of you who know me, you know that we gathered a lot. Not only material things, but also helping other people with their education. We were paying tuition for families and people that were struggling. That is the core of life: providing services to others.

My little secrets are many, and I will tell you. The formula has a prerequisite. This is where I really want you to pay some attention to me, because this is one of the best things you could get. If you place it on your ladder, you'll find that it will always be easier. I called this the secret not because I want to hide anything. I just want you to pay attention to it. The prerequisite to my success formula is a great foundation.

When we arrived the United States in 1997. We landed in Texas, the place was so flat; I didn't like it. We went to Chicago and it was too busy. Then when we came to Maryland, it seemed like the place to be. That's why we're here. I gathered one experience in Chicago, which I'm going to tell you. It is about the foundation.

When we were in Chicago my brother in-law took us to visit the Willis tower formerly known as the Sears Tower. When we got into the elevator, it flew into the sky. You could feel your ears locked. That's how high it is. It is almost 1,500 feet high. We got up there, I looked down into the city, and I realized something. That's why Jesus used to go to the mountains to pray, because it's beautiful up there. It's different. You see things differently and you appreciate them differently too. I was there wondering, who is the architect that planned something like this. He is close to God. One of the tour guides stood and saw me wondering. She could see me dazed and lost. She said, "Young man it's magnificent right?" I said, "Yes ma'am." When I look down to the city, I said, "How long did it take for them to build this?" She didn't actually give me an answer which I remember, but she did say, "Young man you are seeing what you are seeing from up here to down there, but guess what? The foundation is 'deeeep'." You cannot even start to imagine the concrete that was poured on the foundation. I was thinking, yes, you're right. If such a building can be here, then the foundation must be solid. Let me tell you: Washington New Church School has given you a foundation that is bigger and thicker than that foundation of the tower. You can build anything on your foundation, it will not get broken. Always remember that whatever you want to build you're building on the foundation that you got here.

# My Secret Formula:

- 1) Knowledge 96%
- 2) Hard work 98%
- 3) Attitude 100%
- 4) Love of God 101%

# 1) Knowledge: 96%

Washington New Church School has unequivocally prepared each one you to face the world head on. The class work, reading assignments, homework, organized plays, break time socialization, playground interactions, field trips and so on and so forth. It takes a disciplined effort for a caterpillar to spin into a butterfly and that is where you are heading.

Be like a sponge that soaks up water and allows it to circulate through it.

You are probably learning the difference between intelligence and wisdom.

#### 2) Hard Work: 98%

Do the work that is assigned to you and even more. Your assignment is the basic, and only the extra work called the extra mile is what will make you move from great to excellence. I am sure you see this example from your teachers and parents alike.

People say things cost too much, and this is because they cannot afford. You need to climb on a higher rung on the ladder to get that. How? Work a little harder.

#### 3) Attitude: 100%

What are your ways of behavior towards others? Are you that kind of person, who says a little of something bad would not hurt? You see, cancer will infest the human body from a single cell. A single mosquito will keep you awake all night. It will bite you and play unwanted music into your ears.

Check your attitude against those you must share a common environment with.

Let me tell you the story of the Spider and the Frog.

One sunny day, came a frog swimming to the other side of a river. As Mr. Frog arrived on the banks, he met a spider. The spider asked for his help to the other side. The frog said no, for fear of being killed by the spider in the middle of the river. The spider said, "You and your 'froggy brains, how can I sting you when I don't know how to swim? I don't want to commit suicide." So then the frog without a thought said yes to the spider. As they were going the spider stung him in the middle of the river and they both drowned. The moral of the story is that if someone close to you wants to give you something that is not good don't take it. If you drink poison in a glass whether or not it was given to you by your best or worst friend it will still kill you. Do not be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Then the last and I think the most important.

#### 4) Love Of God: 101%

Keep the 1% for rainy days. The 101 is the roof; it will never be finished.

There will be little or no discrimination of race and other forms, if people have the love of God.

I have one little story to finish this off.

One Sunday morning the Lord sent an angel to deliver the formula for happiness. The angel got on his way and was still not very happy because he had not eaten breakfast. So, he said how is God going to make everyone happy? It doesn't work that way. Then he remembered that God is God and He knows what He's doing. Then he thought maybe he could tie it on a kite, so that people could see it but would be too lazy to go to it. Then he rejected that idea. He said maybe I'll tie it on a sand bag and drop it in the sea, so that not many people would find it. He rejected that too. Then he was struck with an amazing idea and said that he will deliver this message to the heart of every human being alive. He delivered that message to everyone alive. A heart is a heart so let's keep it warm. True happiness is inside and will never be found outside.

One more time: congratulations to the graduating classes of 2020 and may all be one.





#### **Introducing the Yardless Unsale**

Hi, folks, it's your relentless contributions committee again, here with another brand new and fun idea.

Since we were unable to hold our regular, spring church yard sale this year, we thought it would be fun to have an UNsale in-

stead. The idea is to save you time and energy by asking you **not** to do any sorting, hauling, organizing or selling at the church, and **not** to buy back any junk from your friends and neighbors. Instead we want you to think of this as a DAY OFF, a day of rest, if you will, and everybody just kick in \$20 as a special UNsale donation, and stay home!

Think of it as a ransom payment if you like, or the price of a ticket to do whatever else you want instead of puttering around piles of stuff.

We normally raise around \$1,000 at these events, and of course one great thing about them is that we attract at least *some* new money from outside the church membership. But this year we cannot invite the neighborhood in, so we need to adjust.

If everybody gives just \$20 it will only take 50 of us to reach the same fundraising goal. And if some choose to give a little more, we can do it with even fewer donors. Woo-hoo! How about we try to get this all done by the end of June? Just mark your check, your envelope or your e-giving donation "for the Yardless Unsale."

But, you may say, what are you going to do with all the junk – er, great pre-owned and now unneeded articles you have in storage? Well, there are lots of options. You could sell it on Craigslist or Face Book Market-place and donate the money. You could save it for another day when a regular yard sale may be possible. You could give it away to a needy or deserving family. Or you could throw it out!

Whatever you do, remember this. We count on this fundraiser every year, and since we couldn't do it this year, we're suggesting a painless way to achieve the same result by other means. Will you help? We hope so, and we thank you in advance!

- Jean, Bob and Mike

### All The News That Fits, We Print:



Are you tired of viral quarantine in your own home? Do you need some other place for quiet contemplation of the sad state of the world? Try walking through the woods in solitude, listening to the trills of birds (birds always give us a trill), the sound of wind in the willows (or maybe Tulip Poplars, but we can't be choosy), and your labored breath as you climb small inclines that

because of a lack of exercise we now label as mountains. We suggest you begin in the Acton Park Woods. It is beautiful, and non-strenuous and easy to get to, and you might even meet some friends that are not made up of pixels on your computer or phone.

#### Here's a start:

David & Tim Radcliffe have extended their new trail from the area of the tractor shed, adding a short trail that leads south from the soccer field access road (Chantilly Lane beyond the barrier) and extends through the woods to the old picnic area. This takes you right to the entrance to the trails that circle the Acton Park woods to provide the above-mentioned peaceful space. Note: If you go north on the trail from the access road you can either cross the student-built bridge to the playground area or can go all the way to the tractor shed – and then to the playground area. You won't get lost...

And here's the fit: (We know, fits usually come before starts. But we are unusual) Thanks to all of you who have been contributing to the Foods and Snacks collection for the volunteers at the emergency room at the Prince Georges County Hospital. You did marvelously, and the volunteers were/are grateful. Thanks to Jenny Smith for organizing this.

Added thanks to you all who have contributed to the matching fund for the school's 50th anniversary celebration. And special

thanks to the Glencairn Foundation for its grant, <u>and</u>: it's not too late to participate in the matching fund campaign.

# **Upgrading news:**

We are really happy to recognize the following students who after years of work have managed to upgrade their status in the academic community by passing (not bypassing) innumerable courses of varying degrees of difficulty. Heartiest congratulations to the following students and equally to their parental units. They are rightfully proud of each other.

**Richard Glenn** has graduated from the Academy of the New Church Theological School in Bryn Athyn. He is scheduled to be ordained into the first degree of the ministry of the General Church on Sunday, June 28 at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, at which time he will deliver his first sermon as an ordained minister. The hope is that the family and perhaps a few close friends will be able to attend while social distancing. The service will be live-streamed.

Marybeth Bond has received her Masters of Education from George Mason University. She has been student teaching in Fairfax County and hopes to teach in Northern VA in the fall (once the schools are open).

Michael Bond has graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland – Baltimore Campus (UMBC). He majored in English and has a job working for CACI (a government contractor) as a technical writer. His graduation ceremony was online, and he had a Zoom party with family and friends. His brother Charlie surprised him with a video from Ray Lewis of the Ravens offering personal congratulations.

**Ivy Radcliffe** has graduated from the University of Maryland with a double major in government and philosophy and is seeking work opportunities. Ivy would like to work in the legal field and advocate for those who do not have a voice, but because of the current economic climate any opportunities that would pay the bills and help to build a resume are welcome. Ivy hopes to stay in the College Park area for now.

**Jennie Sprinkle** has graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Savannah College of Art and Design on May 30th with a degree in Sequential Art.

Meghan Cooper has graduated summa cum laude from the International Baccalaureate program (IB diploma) at Annapolis High School, and will be attending Washington College in Chestertown, MD in the fall. She was selected to be a participant in the College's Presidential Fellows program.

**Siobhan Frazier** was the first senior class high school graduate of the White Horse Academy of the Washington New Church School. (See more on the virtual graduation in the Principal' report P. 4)

**Ryan Cooper** was the only sophomore player on the boys Varsity Soccer team at Annapolis High School last season. He was excited to get a lot of playing time and was a key component in AHS winning the County Championship title. His parents were pleased that even with that distraction, he earned straight A's for the third and fourth marking periods. He is anxiously waiting to hear when he will be able to play soccer again with his travel soccer team.

James Frazier, Ariela Hernandez, Sophie Hyatt (with honors), Merilyn Morfaw (with honors), Malik Muhammad and Darian Ndombe graduated from the Eighth Grade of the Washington New Church School.

#### And In Other School News . . .

Special congratulations to the entire 5th & 6th grades of the Washington New Church School - **Shaunti Smith, Jovan Makutchang,** 

Serah Oladapo, Gabrielle Rhone & Kai

**Smith** – who were jointly awarded the school's Faculty Appreciation award.

Congratulations and multitudinous thanks were awarded to **Wystan and Edward Simons** by way of the Long Time Service award for their many years of support. *Just in*, Edward's mom



Berith Simons passed away. Our condolences to the family.



Also, we add our congratulations to **Kim Maxwell** for her 25 years of service to the General Church educational system. She received a lovely pendant and recognition of this milestone from Bishop Peter Buss, Jr. and the General Church.

#### **More Other News:**

Are you interested in moving to Acton Park? Here's an opportunity to join a great neighborhood close to Church and School: the **Simons' house** has a "for sale" sign in front of it, signifying its availability to some lucky person. Is it you?

## And in Still Other, Other News:

Melissa Cooper has completed her final chemo treatment, amidst much family fanfare. During that ordeal she was keeping herself busy being an online educator to 6th grade students. It has been quite the whirlwind, but survivable with James, like many of us, working from home for NASA, leaving him a lot of formerly-commuting-time free to take care of projects around the house/yard. Installing an additional parking space to accommodate having teenage drivers comes to mind. Melissa's message: "Thank you to everyone for your kind words and delicious meals. We truly appreciated the support."

Our condolences to the family of the **Rev. Kurt Ho. Asplundh**, who passed away in early May. He and Martha were great friends and supporters of our school. His memorial service was on Sun, May 10th, in Bryn Athyn.

Did you see **Candy Quintero's** Facebook post of the raccoon that's eating her bird seed? Neighbors beware. (Somebody called it the perfect pandemic mascot: it always wears a mask and is constantly washing its hands. But you can tell it is a raccoon since its mask is on upside-down.)

The **derecho** that hit Bryn Athyn in early June was reminiscent of the similar storm that hit Acton Park in June 2012. It knocked down trees, did a lot of damage and caused a power outage for many for up to three days, depending on where it hit. Some of us in Acton Park still bear the scars of our own 92-mile-an-hour storm.

Sadly, the **Boynton Beach Retreat** for 2021 has been cancelled because of the uncertainties imposed by the Corona Virus. Many of the attendees (including several from this area) have been of a "certain age" – one that makes contact with this particular virus a serious danger to their health – so people are reluctant to make travel plans until the virus is under control, making planning. It didn't help that the venue where this event has been held for many years increased its fees for next year by 225%.

# Finally:

As we go to print, <u>Prince Georges County</u> is beginning to lift its viral limitations, and we can now start the long path to recovery from our very own pandemic. Let's not repeat this through carelessness; once in a lifetime is more than enough. But won't it be nice to be able to meet and greet each other, to socialize, to attend church and school in reality? Pixelated people don't quite meet our needs. Stay well, all.

# Summer Anniversaries

"The inclination to marriage of one man to one woman is the jewel of human life." CB 457

June 10<sup>th</sup> ~ David & Heather Radcliffe ~ 25 yrs.

June 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Carl & Judy Goetzinger ~ 56 yrs.

June 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Wynne & (Marge) Hyatt ~ 63 yrs.

June 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Derek & Hanna Hyatt ~ 5 yr.

June 21<sup>st</sup> ~ David & Amy Glenn ~ 35 yrs.

June 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Brian and Janine Smith ~ 14 yrs.

# Summer Anniversaries continued ...

Fuly 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Brent & Amanda Hyatt ~ 33 yrs. Fuly 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Michael & Michelle Kappert ~ 8 yrs. Fuly 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Dave and Bonnie Cowley ~ 47 yrs. Fuly 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Michael & Fanet Ferrell ~ 16 yrs.

Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Chuck & Candy Quintero ~ 35 yrs.

Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Ed & Jana Sprinkle ~ 29 yrs.

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Royce & Cynthia Harvey ~ 41 yrs.

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Judah & Lydia Synnestvedt ~ 10 yrs.

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Edward & Wystan Simons ~ 29 yrs.

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Todd & Shannon Wawrzeniak ~ 13 yrs.

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Phil & Janna Zuber ~ 47 yrs.

Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Mac & Sillian Frazier ~ 25 yrs.

Aug. 20th ~ Casey & Fillian Collins ~ 4 yrs.

Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Mike & Sinny Sladish ~ 51 yrs.

Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ James & Jeannette Roscoe ~ 40 yrs.





# VIRTUAL CONVENTION OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH FRIDAY, JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY, JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

We are bringing people together in a virtual community from around the world to learn about Swedenborgian spirituality and to worship together.

Keynote Address by Rev. Dr. George F. Dole titled: "For Heaven's Sake"

#### Seven Mini-Courses by:

Rev. Sage Cole - Helen Keller Historian

Rev. Dr. David Fekete - Writer and Theologian

Rev. Rich Tafel – Spiritual Entrepreneur

Rev. Anna Woofenden - Church Planter and Author of This Is God's Table

As well as the three professors from the Center for Swedenborgian Studies:

Dr. Rebecca Esterson - Assistant Professor in Sacred Texts and Traditions

Dr. Devin Zuber - Associate Professor of American Studies and Literature

Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence - Dean of the Center for Swedenborgian Studies

Wonderful worship services and music by clergy and musicians from all over North America, including a special service by the teenagers in the Swedenborgian Church Youth League, will help us create community with the heavenly host.

Join us virtually from June 26-28, 2020.

All Are Welcome.

#### Follow Annual Swedenborgian Church Convention on Facebook

for the schedule and updates as they become available. <a href="www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention/">www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention/</a> Look for more information at <a href="www.swedenborg.org">www.swedenborg.org</a> and in the June 2020 issue of the Messenger.

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