August 21, 2020



Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

Well, summer is almost over. I hope these past few months have been good for you and yours. It's been one of the stranger summers I can remember, for sure. Everyone is wearing a mask. Except the ones who aren't. We're having the usual meetings to plan out the new year at the school, except we don't even know how long we will be teaching online before students actually return to

the classroom, so many of our plans have uncomfortable question marks on them. Likewise, as I look at the church calendar for the coming year, there is a much greater fog of uncertainty over everything compared to years past.

All this would be enough to process, but we also have as a background to our local concerns the cause of this uncertainty: a viral pandemic. I am extremely glad that, all things considered, COVID-19 is pretty mild compared to the kinds of plagues that have struck humanity in the past. Still, it has made some people very sick and it has taken lives.

Simultaneous to all this, of course, is a rise of civil unrest triggered by a reaction against social injustice and racism. Protests and demonstrations are happening on a level not seen in a long time. Hard conversations about race and important discussions of police policy and procedure are happening, all of which I am happy are happening. But with all this we are also seeing violence and destruction happen, which I cannot condone. And now we are about to head into a presidential election season, with all that that brings.

And here we are, a small church community, trying to do our best. Personally, I have to admit I am sometimes quite frustrated by the way necessary health precautions are disrupting our ability to follow our mission. I spent most of my first year as the new pastor here leading in the direction of reimagining the mission of the church as something community-focused, built on face to face, personal interaction and cooperation, and now a lot of the obvious ways of following that mission have been temporarily taken away.

But I am also optimistic. We are continuing to learn and develop as a group. Our online capabilities are growing rapidly in response to new needs. Individuals and groups are stepping up to find ways of serving others that do not require large in-person gatherings. In the school, our faculty are heroically stepping up to challenge after challenge, finding new ways of delivering New Church Education to the students in our care. As a group we have been reading, thinking and talking about race and how America's racial history impacts modern society in general and our young students in particular.

And, in the end, I trust the Lord. As He teaches in Lamentations 3:34-36, "To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth, to deny

a man justice in the presence of the Most High, to subvert a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve." And I agree with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," at least when one looks toward spiritual eternity. Or as it says in Divine Providence:

"... The entire future is present to the Lord, and the entire present is to Him eternal.
(DP 333:3)

If a spearman or musketeer should aim at a target, and a straight line were to be drawn from the target to a point a mile on beyond it, then if the spearman or musketeer should be off in his aim by only a fingernail, on reaching the end of the mile the missile or ball would be far wide of the line drawn on beyond the target. So it would be if the Lord did not every moment, indeed every least moment, regard eternity in foreseeing and providing each person's place after death. But this the Lord does, because the entire future is present to Him, and the entire present is to Him eternal. (DP 333:3)

Who knows what the world will bring us tomorrow, or in the coming weeks. But I completely trust that whatever it is, the Lord will continually and subtly bend it all toward the benefit of each one of us in that long arc of His eternal providence. We just need to do our part, cooperate with Him, and continue to love and care for one another, in His name.

Rev. Mac Frazier - August 14th, 2020

From the Principal

Last time you heard from me in June, I wished the teachers and everyone else a happy summer. I'm not sure if that has come about. I still hope that there have been good moments, but I know that it has not been a restful summer for the teachers.

Our early efforts to set safety protocols and re-open our classrooms in the fall were halted, leading us to start the year offering only distance-learning. This decision is a great disappointment to several of our families who were very eager to have their kids taught in the classrooms again. Most of our families express understanding along with their disappointment. We don't yet know how many will opt out, but losing connection without our valued school community has been a significant concern on my mind.

Meanwhile, the concern on the minds of the teachers and returning students is: how do we make the best of distance-learning? This fall we have the advantage of coming into it with a little experience and also a little lead time to design for this situation. However, unlike in the spring, the teachers and students can't draw on the rapport building which happened earlier in the year. A good portion of students in each classroom are working with a new teacher for the first time and the teacher has to set up expectations and systems to make the best of the situation, without the personal connections with the students to draw on. Hopefully there are some less obvious benefits which accompany this situation. The students are getting a crash course education in the use of technology tools, and with more control and responsibility for managing their work, they are being challenged to learn time management and organizational skills, which will be valuable for their whole lives.

Some of the obvious modifications we've been forced to adopt are to pause our Parent Service Program and cancel all field trips and large in-person gatherings. Even once we (hopefully) re-open the classrooms, many of these things will remain paused for the year. That said, we do want to make use of occasional outdoor gatherings to give the students opportunities to see each other and do active movement.

We are not in a position to commit to a specific measure of the conditions under which we would re-open the classrooms. Our county has declared their classrooms closed through the entire first semester and this is one influence on our thinking. If infection rates continue to decline (as they are at the time of this writing) we hope

to be in a position to open well before the start of the next semester. That said, minimizing disruption to an already disrupted school year has become an important goal and we don't want to be opening and closing the classrooms throughout the year.

So if you bump into a teacher or parents of school aged children, please say something nice. ©

Questing for Knowledge

The White Horse Academy (our new high school here at WNC) is entering its second year and we are very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. A favorite component of our alternative high school is experiential learning. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are a little limited in what we can do at the moment. So, I need your help. I would like the students to learn about a variety of career options from people in any field now or who were in any field. If you can give us an hour of your time for a Zoom or MS Teams meeting, I would greatly appreciate it. We can be somewhat flexible on the day, but this would most likely need to take place between 1:00 and 4:30. Please contact me at jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org as soon as you are able. Don't worry, if I don't hear from you, I will call - we don't want to miss your expertise! Thank you, in advance, for your time and knowledge.

Jana Sprinkle

p.s. This is not to be confused with the NCCN (see P. 8) - that is for older students/graduates, but never fear, the knowledge I gain will be used there too:)

From the Board of Trustees

Thank you to all members of the WCNJ, Inc. who responded to our mail-in voting during June. We received votes from a quorum of members (35 responded, 23 required for quorum), and the "ayes" carried, approving our final FY21 budget and the full slate of nominees - 3 for Board or Trustees, and one for School Board. There were no write-in nominees for the SB vacancy. We still hope to

hold a fall meeting for discussion of budgets, updates on the school, and reports on other business. We hope to have information on that after our September meeting. Please contact either of the Pastors or any member of the Boards if you have questions or concerns. If you wish to become a member of the WCNJ, Inc., please contact the Church Secretary, Bonnie Cowley and she will give you the forms to fill out.

Membership of Boards: <u>Board of Trustees</u>: Steve Ball, Sharon Cooper, David Glenn, Derek Hyatt, Kathy Johns, John Kern, Curt Moore, David Radcliffe, Sara Smith

<u>School Board:</u> Gillian Frazier, Amanda Hyatt, Brad Johns, Kathy Johns, Erin Stillman and one *vacancy*.

Announcements

As summer is drawing to a close, we have a couple quick updates for you.

Worship Indoors at 11 a.m. Sundays

First, we are going back to holding **worship indoors**, starting **August 16**th. With this return to "normal", we are also going back to our traditional **11:00 am start time**.

Now, things won't quite be truly normal, of course. We ask that everyone attending **continue to wear masks and practice proper social distancing protocols**. When you arrive, you will see that about half of the pews are marked off as "closed", to help facilitate this. Also, we will not be having food and coffee at the church afterwards. Also, all music will be instrumental-only. Sorry. I don't like these limitations, either, but this is what we have to do.

Now, I realize that there are some for whom worshiping indoors will not work, just as there are people for whom our summer outdoor worship gatherings did not work. Right now it is really tough to adequately serve everyone in our community, but we are trying to do our best. The good news is we are making progress on getting **live streaming video** set up in the

sanctuary, so that we can have one service that hopefully serves all the various groups, including those who were worshiping with us back when we did online-only but who previously had not been coming to church. We don't have it all set up yet, but it is coming soon.

In the meantime, I encourage those of you who are not able to worship with us in person to still find ways of spending time around the Lord's Word on Sunday, whether that means just gathering in your home on your own, or connecting to something online. If you are looking for **online New Church content**, here's a list of just some of the now many New Church YouTube Channels:

- Washington New Church past sermons
- <u>Mac Frazier</u> not sermons, but a lot of New Church content
- The New Church chapel talks and other materials
- <u>Bryn Athyn Cathedral</u> the flagship of traditional New Church worship

Bed Sheet Donations

As announced after church a few Sundays ago, **Jenny Smith** has begun **collecting bed sheets** to be distributed by local police to victims of domestic abuse. Here is what Jenny has to say about this:

"The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center at PGHC, and the Police Department are working in conjunction with the police department to find supporters to donate much needed **new** bed sheets to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and sexual assault. Victims' bed sheets are gathered into evidence when there is an investigation, and they are not returned. The state believes that these victims should not have to pay for their assault/abuse in

any way, so we try to take the burden off of them in any way possible: hospital bills, housing, therapy, financial skills classes, etc. And we are now reaching out to others for the bed sheets.

There is no deadline on a collection date for the bed sheets. You can buy a set or more if and when you feel called to do so. These sheets should be new, in the package, and sealed. We are accepting sheets for any bed type or style. Sadly, we even have a need for Junior bed sizes. We do need all of them.

They will be much appreciated by everyone involved. Any donations should be dropped off at my home. Or you may text, call or email me at: jennysmith296@gmail.com, 301-466-8783 to arrange a drop-off at the church.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny directly.

In the meantime, I hope that the remainder of the summer goes well for you and I look forward to connecting more with you in the coming weeks. - Rev. Mac Frazier

New Church Career Network: Friends, The General Church is excited to announce the creation of a New Church Career Network (NCCN). Developed through the support of the General Church Outreach, the purpose of the NCCN is to provide career support for New Church young adults by connecting them with professionals in their field of interest. This initiative is geared towards young adults but is an open resource that anyone can utilize. In Mitchellville, Jana Sprinkle has agreed to be our congregation liaison. Jana will be reaching out to the community to alert interested parties to the existence of the Network, and will facilitate connections between those interested in advancing their careers and people who may be able to help.

Looking for career support? A brief questionnaire can be found at the NCCN website newchurchcareernetwork.org or you can reach out to Jana directly at jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org.

How can you help? If you are interested in helping young adults within our General Church network who are looking to advance their careers, we would love to connect with you. Ways that you could help include speaking with young adults interested in your field of work and providing mentorship, résumé help or just general networking. It can also include providing details about work opportunities, internships or other leads. A brief questionnaire to offer help can be found at the NCCN website newchurchcareernet-work.org or you can directly reach out to Jana. We are excited at the potential of the NCCN and are looking forward to your help in this new career support for our young adults. - Jana Sprinkle

For Rent: spacious, well maintained and charming 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, single family home on a nice, level lot in Bowie. One car garage, deep front porch, great closets, laundry just off the kitchen and a lovely, cathedral ceilinged and sun-filled addition/family room. \$2,500/month plus utilities. Please call Annette Baltz at (240) 305-2469 to make an appointment to view.

4th Annual WNC Men's Retreat POSTPONED: We regret to announce that this event, scheduled for the second weekend in November, has been cancelled, and has been rescheduled for September 24th – 26th - NEXT FALL.

Always a great social and spiritual recreation for the men, this year's event had promised to be extra special, at a new venue in the beautiful fall colors of the Shenandoah Valley, at a resort that features every sort of amenity from a hot tub to a billiards table, and lots of space!

We have successfully negotiated a new contract for this new date, and welcome inquiries and suggestions from all who might be interested. The cost tends to be around \$200 per person, depending on how many sign up, and we get new participants every year.

Stay tuned for more information. - Mike G.

Dear Mitchellville Friends,

The Simonses are now installed at Meadowbrook Apartments in Abington, PA. We are just down the road from BA Cathedral, plenty close enough to keep an eye on the renovation of our soonto -be home on Quarry Road. It feels REALLY GOOD to stop cleaning, purging, and packing! We are pretty clean, pretty purged, and pretty comfortable in our little 2nd floor apartment, which looks out into branches of a huge oak. We expect to be here for at least 8 months. There are plenty of problems to address in the "new" place -- during a recent rainstorm water was jetting out of the basement wall like an Italian fountain.... We have confidence that our architect Daryl Baker, and builder, Josh Cooper, will make it right for us. (No, really, we do. Keep repeating that.) Owen has begun to work with his daily support, Justin Rose. His fall program includes piano, history, science, and religion classes. Two of his teachers know how to do supported communication. We feel very lucky to have found this kind of local support. So glad that some of our last moments in Mitchellville were spent partying with church friends in the backyard -- what a happy memory of our home there.

It is painful to think of the loss of you all, and what we left be-

hind. But each day is full of new distractions, and mysteries, such as who packed the rubber spatulas and where are they now? XOXOXOXO The Simonses



Perspective

By Bonnie Cowley

This past month Dave and I took a little time off to camp at Shenandoah National Park in the Appalachian Mountains. The park is not that far away but a world away from the



DC Metro. Primarily we just wanted some much needed time off, an escape from the oppressive heat of the DC Metro in late July (it was a full 20 degrees cooler in the mountains), but after months of COVID-19 and all the worries, stresses and disconnection from "normal" life, we needed a reset, some perspective.

Dave is not much of a hiker and my knees weren't cooperating so we spent much of our days driving the Skyline Drive pulling off at all of the panoramic views and driving up and down the mountains into the small towns in the Shenandoah River Valley. Looking from any overlook either north or south, the mountains – rolling hills, dark valley and high peaks went on as far as the eye could see. On the east and west side overlooks were the prettiest, most peaceful, pastoral valleys, dotted with farms, fields and beautiful white steepled churches. I never tire of these views. Certainly a much needed perspective that filled me with peace and the awe of the vastness of creation and the Lord's care.

I can't even imagine how life changing it would have been for our astronauts who were able to view our little blue planet from space! Yet think of the perspective the Lord has - all seeing, all knowing, omnipresent as described in the quote in the pastor's article.

I'm not saying this isn't a very difficult time for the world and continues to be. So I'm just glad I got some perspective this summer to remind me of who's in charge.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." PSA 121

Group Reading Classes:

Monday Evening Zoom Reading Group: Having just completed Swedenborg's Miscellaneous Theological Word and having taken a break for summer the group is all ready to start again and have decided to read <u>Conjugial Love</u> and we would welcome new members. We meet twice a month on Monday evenings via Zoom and will begin the first 30 pages for our Monday, August 24th class at 8pm. Please let Mac know if you would like to join so we can send you the Zoom link.

Arcana Study Group: - reading about Genesis 10 - 17

Last year the Wednesday morning study group began reading the *Arcana Caelestia* together - on a schedule of about 25 pages every two weeks, completing volume 1 in the school year. We are beginning volume 2 (a great place to start, BTW) on September 2nd, BUT since we can't meet in person we are meeting remotely with pre-circulated written notes and discussion by e-mail. *What this means is that anybody can now join the group since you do not have to leave work or other daytime obligations to "attend."* **New members are therefore welcome**, and you can get a complete syllabus of reading assignments simply by emailing me, Mike Gladish, at mdgladish@gmail.com. There are 10 of us now, but the more the merrier, and it's a great way to bring a little discipline to your reading and learning from the Word.

Weird Summer Notes:

Weird summer or weird notes – take your pick. Record heat, flooding rains, tropical storms pretending to be hurricanes, earthquakes, pestilence . . . and who knows what else lies in store. The faint of heart don't stand a chance. So be optimistic – it can't get worse so maybe it will get better.

Sad News first:

David Glenn is still hospitalized. He was moved Aug. 18th to a rehab facility in the District, After 2 days had to go back to the hospital in Baltimore for more tests and evaluation. Cards and prayers

are especially important now! You can stay up to date on his treatment and progress at: https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/da-vidbruceglenn/journal

Judy (**Boatman**) **Goetzinger** – once an active WCNJ member, passed into the spiritual world on July 24th after a long battle with cancer. Our condolences to her family.

Hyland R. Johns (Father to Brad Johns) passed peacefully on August 11, 2020 in Bryn Athyn. He was 95 years old. His children and grandchildren serenaded him as he transitioned into the spiritual world. Plans for a memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Once again our thoughts are with **Martha Brannon**, our dear friend in Baltimore, as her cancer has returned. She is now seeking new treatment. We send our best wishes and prayers her way.

Get well wishes to **Becca Smith** who was in a car accident a few weeks ago and is recuperating from a bad concussion. See also a change of address for her, p. 15.

The **Simons family** did it: they moved to Bryn Athyn on August 1st. They will be living in an apartment until renovations on their house on Quarry Road have been completed. Their house on Progress Lane has been sold to a young couple named Ryan & Amanda, who are in the process of moving in now.

Good News:

The now **Reverend Richard Glenn** was ordained in Bryn Athyn on June 28th and he preached his first sermon there on August 9th. Richard moved with his wife, Sonja, to Oak Arbor, Michigan on August 1st, to serve as an assistant pastor there.



Zuber's big news is that their 5th grandchild and first grandson, came 3 weeks early and all is good. **Connor Justin** is being doted upon by his two older sisters, and of course his parents Logan and Amanda. They live in Pasadena MD. Phil and Janna look forward to

when a vaccine becomes available (as does the rest of the world) so that they may see them!

Thanks to the **Zubers** for hosting outdoor church services in July and August. Their shaded lawn served us well when indoor meetings were not permitted by the lurking Corona virus. Although the 10:00 AM starting time was a shock to many systems, and although close to 80° temperatures barely qualified as the cool of the morning, nevertheless the services were reasonably well attended and served as a relief from in-home quarantines and a chance to see some friendly half-faces.

Bill and Sharon Kunkle are extremely happy to share the news that our son John married Becca Uber (a native of Pittsburgh) on



Saturday, 11 July 2020 at the Bryn Ellis Guest House in Bryn Athyn, PA. **John and Becca** had originally planned to have a big wedding, but wisely decided to go small in wake of the pandemic. As a result, twenty-five of their closest friends and immediate family were able to share in their joy! It was fun to have time for good conversations while setting up canopies, making flower bouquets,

and all the other things that go into that special day.

They are currently planning to have a blessing on their marriage, followed by a reception at the Lord's New Church next year (July 17th) to celebrate with their many friends and relatives. We ask your kind thoughts and blessings on the new couple! Their address is 2674 South Ave, Box 953, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009.

Regular News:

Farewell and best wishes to **Judah & Lydia Synnestvedt** on their move back to Kempton, where they have bought a home. Judah has completed his agreed-on time assisting in the start-up of the WNCS high school program, which may have 4 students this fall.

Also leaving us is **Benjamin Alden**, who returned to school after a summer internship in Virginia. It was great to have him with us these last few months!

Hanna Hyatt's mom – Penny & her husband Damon with son Noah have arrived in their new home in Brian Smith's basement apartment while they search for a suitable permanent home here.

Also moving here from England, **Craig and Laura Cooper** (Craig is son of Jim Cooper) have purchased Col. Dean Smith house and will move here in October. Two of their 3 children **Garett** (2nd grade) and **Madison** (4th grade) will be attending WNCS.

On August 10th the **Academy of the New Church Secondary Schools** announced that they are cancelling their "hybrid" plans for the school year and are switching to all-virtual learning until further notice. Apparently the elementary school also followed suit. At-home schooling is becoming the new normal.

Updates on the status of the **WNCS** are provided in the Principal's report p. 3.

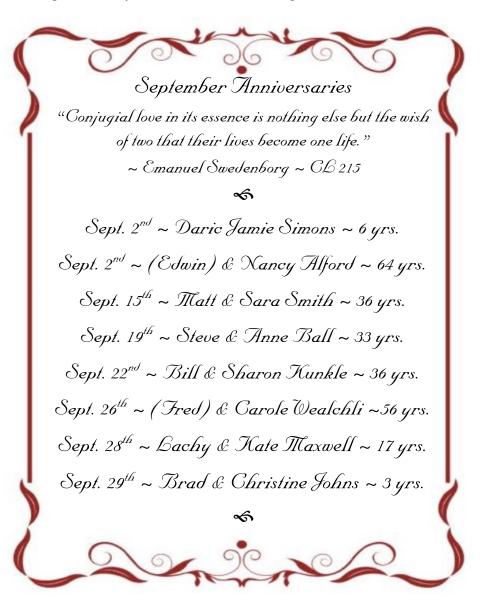
As previously announced, the WNCS 50th anniversary celebration, originally scheduled for September, has been postponed. Now the 4th annual Men's Retreat has also been postponed (*see p. 9 for more details.*)

The Quintero family had a wonderful week at Lake Wallenpaupack in early August. Stefanie, Anthony, and Emily flew in to join Chelsea, Chuck and Candy for the trip. Fortunately, they live in places with low COVID cases and were able to take precautions before and during travelling. It was a great vacation and much needed!

Just obtained... New Address for **Becca Smith:** 12119 Mackell Lane; Bowie, MD 20715 & new address for **Jeff Kinsey**: 104 monument square; Salisbury, MD 21804.

If you don't see retired **Pastor Mike** much on weekends in September or October it's because he has accepted preaching responsibilities in the Pittsburgh New Church for 6 weekends beginning

Sept. 20th. He'll be travelling back and forth a bit during that time, though, as Ginny will be at home, minding the fort.



(See next page for the Calendar and On Duty

Although our Sunday services are back in the Sanctuary at the regular time, our "**Duty Roster**" will not include coffee or Sunday school. But we do need Chancel girls, ushers, organists and flowers. Those of you who have served those duties are being assigned again... now that you have had a long break - our pastors need supporting! I have made a schedule for the next few weeks and hope that if you cannot do the duty on the Sunday you are assigned that you will look across the list and call someone to switch with you. - Bonnie

ON DUTY ~ August/September ~ ON DUTY

DUTY	AUG		SEPT			
	23	30	6	13	20	27
Preacher*	GMF	GMF	GMF	GMF	GMF	GMF
Chancel	Shaunti S	Hailey H	Sophie H	Sohaila S	Ariela H	Shaunti S
ORGAN	Jenny S	Carole W	Jenny S	Carole W	Jenny S	Carole W
FLOWERS	Janna Z	Mary C	Mary C	Erin S	Janna Z	Mary C
1st Usher	Lincoln S	Steve B	Mike G	Ian L	Glenn F	David R
2 nd Usher	Marcellus	Elias H			Elias H	

The Society calendar is also not very busy so you will find a small version to the end of this document. You can always go on our website and find the complete Google Calendar.

September 2020

• 11am Worship (GMF)	20 • 11am Worship (GMF)	13 • 11am Worship (GMF)	6 • 11am Worship (GMF)	SUN 30 • 11am Worship (GMF)
28	21 • 8pm Monday Night class	14	7 • 8pm Monday Zoom class	мои 31
29	22 ECHO DEADLINE	15	8am WNCS Open (virtually) 7:30pm Trustees Meeting	TUE Sep 1 7:30pm School Board Mtg
30 Wednesday email Accana Group	23	16 Wednesday email Arcana Group	· · ·	WED 2 Wednesday email Arcana Goup
0ct 1	24	17	10	THU 3
2	25	18	12	4 FBI
3 • 1:30pm Chair Yoga • 2:30pm Yoga Class	26 • 1:30pm Chair Yoga • 2:30pm Yoga Class	19 • 1:30pm Chair Yoga • 2:30pm Yoga Class	12 WNCS opened 50 yrs ago 1:30pm Chair Yoga 2:30pm Yoga Class	SAT 5 1.30pm Chair Yoga 2.30pm Yoga Class

10