

November 2020

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Election Day this year is November 3rd, just a few days after this issue of *The Echo* goes out. But really, with all the early and mail-in voting happening due to the pandemic, October has also been election *month*. Many of you may have already voted by the time you read this. I, myself, will be voting some time today or tomorrow, depending on how my day goes after writing this article.

So, I thought, since this year is a major election year, that it would be a good time to review some of what the Heavenly Doctrines have to say about government. Don't worry, as a pastor, I will never tell you who to vote for. But the Word does offer principles that ought to guide each person's thinking as they ponder their options.

The following are all taken from the concluding chapter of *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrines*, under the heading of "Ecclesiastical and Civil Government".

First, we read that civil government is necessary and good:

Order cannot be kept in the world without having governors to note everything that happens according or contrary to order, rewarding those who live orderly lives and punishing those who are disorderly. Failing this, the human race will inevitably perish. For everyone inherits by birth a tendency to wish to rule over others and to possess other people's goods. This leads to quarrels, envy, hatred, revenge, deceit, cruelty and many other evils. Therefore, unless people were kept under restraint by laws, and by rewards suited to their loves, (which are honors and gains) for those who do goods, and by punishments contrary to those loves (which are the loss of honors, of possessions, and of life) for those who do evils, the human race would perish.

So there must be governors to keep human societies in order. They must be learned in the law, wise and God-fearing. There must also be order among governors, to prevent any of them, out of a whim or out of ignorance, from permitting evils that are contrary to order, thus destroying it. This is guarded against by having governors of higher and lower rank, so that one is subordinate to another.

...The governors people have in charge of affairs which relate to the world, that is, affairs of state, are called magistrates. The highest of these, where such systems of government exist, is the king. (n. 312-313, 314)

Now, we do not have kings as part of our system of government, but it seems reasonable to apply teachings regarding the role of kings to other heads of state as well, such as to our President. So in the following, where we read “kings” or “royalty”, I am inclined to also include “heads of state” and “the authority and honor of the office”:

*A king (leader) who looks upon the laws as above him attributes royalty to the law, and the law is his master. For he knows that law is justice, and all justice which is truly justice is Divine.*

...Kings and magistrates are in charge of affairs concerning civil law and justice.

Since the king cannot by himself control everything, governors are needed to rule under him. Each of these has an area to control, where the king's ability or power is lacking. These governors taken together make up the total administra-

tion, headed by the king himself.

Royalty does not reside in the person but is assigned to the person. A king who believes that the royalty resides in his person, and a governor who believes that the rank of governor resides in his person, is unwise.

Royalty consists in governing in accordance with the kingdom's laws, and in judging justly in accordance with them. A king who looks upon the laws as above him is wise; one who looks upon himself as above the laws is not. A king who looks upon the laws as above him attributes royalty to the law, and the law is his master. For he knows that law is justice, and all justice which is truly justice is Divine. One, however, who regards himself as above the laws, attributes royalty to himself and either believes himself to be the law or the law which is justice to be from himself. Thus he claims for himself what is God's, when he ought to be subject to it.

The law which is justice ought to be passed by the wise and God-fearing legislators in the kingdom, and thereafter both

the king and his subjects ought to live in accordance with it. A king who lives in accordance with a law that has been passed, and in this sets his subjects an example, is truly king. (n. 319-323)

I think I will leave it at that, and let the Word speak for itself. I only ask that whenever you vote for officials of our civil government, that you take these ideas into account; and also that you keep in mind that the civil government is necessary, but also not particularly spiritual. Above the level of civil law (which government oversees), there is moral law, and above that the highest law, which is spiritual law. The government of the United States is necessary, but it is far from the government of the Lord.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church  
October 27, 2020

## **From the Principal**

We just completed the first quarter of this 2020/21 school year. This means midterm reports are going out, followed by parent-teacher conferences – held by video conference.

Despite classes being held at a distance, we can still assess progress in many of the core skill areas. It is more difficult to determine appropriate standards and expectations when we can’t evaluate the student’s whole-body language and conditions. (Is the student merely goofing off by switching his camera off or is he having genuine connection challenges which cost him 75% lesson?) Similarly, many of the student behaviors on which we normally provide feedback cannot be observed when we’re not working with the students in the classroom every day.

The crisis forces both teachers and students to focus in on key priorities and core skills. I don’t imagine anyone likes it, but I can see how this has a silver lining. It is a good exercise, from time to time, to be forced to re-evaluate what matters most in a given teaching day, or term or year.

Our school board and faculty have been working on setting the terms under which we will re-open the classrooms. This readiness to re-open includes necessary adaptation of the building, a robust plan, training in our protocols and buy-in from our school families. We will also establish “maximum virus” criteria which our county must drop below for an averaged over 7 days before we can open our doors. We’re hoping to have these terms of re-opening laid out and published soon, but even once all our “best laid plans” are in perfect order, we must still wait for the virus to cooperate – so we can’t predict when that re-opening will occur.

Teachers have been thinking creatively about how to incorporate occasional on-campus, outdoor lessons which gives the students



and teachers a much-needed opportunity to establish connections in person. It has also prompted the school to find more useful tie-ins with the Forest Garden, which is an incredible resource right next door. Parents have generally been appreciative; even showing patience when they pick up their son or daughter only to find them covered with mud.

I want to express gratitude to our volunteer boards for their ongoing attention and support during the crisis and to the very generous, ongoing financial support we receive from church members and friends. In good times, the financial support makes running the school possible but with the extra expenses required in adapting to COVID your support provides a tremendous relief.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

## CHURCH GIVING

### DURING THE PANDEMIC



Maybe some of you have noticed that since the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to observe new social distancing guidelines, we're not spending as much money as we might have before this in restaurants and travel.

In fact, some of us have even received refund checks from our auto insurance companies, on the assumption that we are not driving as much as we normally would.

Good grief! What are you going to do with all that extra money?

Oh, wait. Of course, if your employment has been compromised you need every penny. We sure get that. But if not, and your income hasn't been compromised, may we make a suggestion?

The work of the church continues, and the bills continue to come in – for inglorious things like salaries, heat, light and maintenance, not to mention a TON of extra equipment that has been necessary to purchase in order to provide live-streaming of school classes, church services, (coming soon!), extra cleaning supplies and services, air purification systems for the building and more. What's more, incidental income from things like room rentals, bake sales, yard sales and more has also fallen, so we could really use the injection of a little extra in donations.

Again, we totally understand if this is not realistic for you at this time. However if it IS possible, remember, you can easily change your automated online donations by going to the link on [www.theWNC.org](http://www.theWNC.org), or directly to <http://giving.ncsseries.org/-dl/?uid=ncs-2818>, and if you donate by cash or check, well, you know what to do.

Thanks again from your contributions team,

Jean, Bob and Mike

## ***From the Board of Trustees:***

The BoT met on October 13. Sharon Kunkle provided an update on Acton Park, including reporting that the solar panel farm is still progressing, but more slowly due to COVID. Financial, pastoral, and school reports focused on status and challenges during the pandemic restrictions. The BoT decided that rather than trying to hold our annual Winter Society Meeting -- either in-person with social distancing, or virtually -- we will instead distribute the usual reports to the membership by mail. There are no elections or other items that need a membership vote at this time. We would also like to invite any members of the Society who have questions or concerns to join the first 30 minutes of our next joint Board of Trustees and School Board meeting, scheduled for December 1, starting at 7:00pm. This will be a Zoom meeting, so please let any member of the boards or the Pastors know if you would like to attend, so we can be sure to send you the link. In addition, we are all available any time you have questions, so please reach out.

~ Sharon Croft – BoT Secretary

## **White Horse Academy Update:**

Our first year out the gate was a successful learning experience for all. We had our first graduate, Siobhan Frazier, who came to us entering her Senior year. While completing her high school requirements, Siobhan pursued driving, ice-skating and cooking lessons as well as shadowing the operations of Forested LLC. Her program also gave her the opportunity to try skills such as installing a toilet, wiring a socket, writing a resume and conducting an interview. She is currently attending the Bryn Athyn College. We had our first freshman, Sohaila Smith, who studied Latin on her own, took Geometry and History online, and pursued English with two mentors locally (a former WNCS teacher and a current part-time teacher). Sohaila also explored several skills from childcare and dog training to animation and sword fighting. Sohaila is currently enrolled as a Sophomore at the White Horse Academy. We have added three Freshmen to our academy, James Frazier, Malik Muhammad and Sophie Hyatt.

This year, we have up to seven in-person yet online classes: History with Mrs. Frazier, Religion with Mr. Frazier, English and Health with Mrs. Sprinkle, Algebra 2 with Mrs. Waelchli, Life skills with Mr. Smith and Art with Mrs. Stillman. Students are taking Physical Science online through Keystone Online School and have been blessed to have multiple volunteers telling us about their careers and career paths. We have explored the process of learning and learning styles and the effects of plastic on the environment and are attempting to recycle plastic bags by crocheting new bags with the aid of Mrs. Janine Smith. Next on our agenda is to make an outdoor worship space for all to enjoy.



## Thanksgiving Day Service

There will be the usual (if you can call anything usual these days) Thanksgiving service at the church at 11:00am Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

As has been the practice this fall, masks are required, and the pews will be social distanced by closing some rows. There will be overflow room in the lobby and multipurpose room.

We will also not have a procession to bring forth a thanksgiving offering; instead, there will be baskets for Non-perishable food (no fruit please) at the church entrance.

## The New Church Career Network (NCCN):

Thank you to all who have offered to give career support to New Church young adults. In the last couple of months there have been several young adults seeking guidance and at least one adult looking for a career change reaching out to the network. The job searches have ranged from electrical engineering to musical theater and a search for opportunities to work specifically to help mitigate climate change, reduce waste, and/or improve disadvantaged communities.

If you have knowledge in any of these areas that you can share, or if you would like to get involved please visit us



at <https://newchurchcareernetwork.org>. Please also feel free to reach out to me at: [jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org](mailto:jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org).

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

~ Jana Sprinkle

## From the Theta Alpha Guild

Dear Friends,

Despite Covid, Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) has some upcoming events/opportunities!

1. We will have our first meeting on November 4th over Zoom. I have sent a link for this meeting to your email. Feel free to message me if you want to familiarize yourself with zoom before that meeting.
2. We also have a few opportunities to serve our neighbors around us, and I will be sending out emails with those opportunities, so be on the look-out!
3. There will be no in-person TAG Christmas program this year, but it might still be fun to do something (possibly online?) in early December, so if you have ideas, let me know.
4. We have a few members who could use some friendly notes! TAG will be setting out some cards and pens before and around Thanksgiving for you to come and write a quick note to one or more of these people (names will be on the table with the cards). Please let me know if you are not able to come to get to the church before Thanksgiving, and I can help you figure out how to participate. Thanks for your continued support through all of this!

~ Carina Heinrichs, President of TAG

**Souper Sunday:** For the last few years TAG has been running a lucrative (and useful) fundraiser – “Souper” Sundays. We plan to continue beginning this November but perhaps with some changes due to the smaller turn-out at in-person services.



Like “Chili Sunday” where people are able to pre-order chili I will announce the weeks of soup sales and ask people

to pre-order. I hope I can get my soup & bread makers to tell me what they will make ahead of time so buyers can order the kinds they like. I might also have a “potluck” variety.

I am encouraging people to consider buying soup for an elderly, sick or needy friend or neighbor even if they don’t need soup themselves. That way we can help other as well as ourselves.

TAG has yet to decide where the proceeds will go this year. Stay tuned. ~ Bonnie Cowley

**Still Collecting:** Please remember to help support the Prince Georges County Police Department and DV/SAC in collecting new bed sheets for victims of sexual abuse and assault.

We are also collecting diapers and baby wipes for mothers and children who come in to the unit as victims of domestic violence. Questions? Contact Jenny Smith 301-466-8783

### ***November News Notes***

*Bonnie Cowley (guest NN editor)*

***Thoughts and Prayers:*** Let’s remember to keep Pat Sweeney and his family in our prayers for Pat’s upcoming surgery on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

***Building Community:*** Sara and David U would like to thank everyone for the physically distanced shower for Bash (their new baby boy). (They also apologize if they failed to send you a written thank you- some gifts arrived without notes) The outpouring of love and support they felt meant even more to them because of how hard it can be to build community with how often they move. They feel quite blessed and couldn’t think of a better welcome for Bash into this world. Thank you!!

***Help Wanted:*** Sara and David U are looking for a nanny to start caring for their three-month-old son in their Alexandria VA home starting in Dec for 30-40 hrs./wk. They appreciate any leads you may have for finding someone. Thank you!

***So much for retirement:*** Our itinerant pastor, Mike Gladish spent 6 very full weekends, and 3 very full weeks (in September and October) serving the Pittsburgh congregation as part of a year-long succession of visiting ministers until they can re-organize to call a new resident pastor next year. He says it felt good to be "back in the saddle" after a year of adjustment to retirement, and he's now looking forward to other pastoral travel in the coming months, including a return to Pittsburgh in January and in March.

***WNCS Alumnus helps improve the library:*** [A challenge put out by Cathlin Hyatt Hendrix this summer] "The WNCS library team (which still includes the amazing Mrs. Radcliffe!) is working to expand their collection of books about black characters and by black authors.



I got really excited to donate so they could purchase my current favorite children's book - Sulwe - and thought others might be interested in doing the same, so I've set up a fundraiser.

\$714 will fully fund the list of 53 books they've selected, but any amount you feel inspired to give will help get these books on the shelves and into students' hands sooner. Plus, you'll get your name listed inside a few book covers!

Many of the books will be coming from Mahogany Books, a black owned bookstore in DC."

In a very short time Cathlin was able to raise the entire \$714!! Thank you so much for your effort... We love our Alumni!



***Beloved pastor passes into the spiritual world:*** On October 15, 2020 Rev. Frank Rose passed into the spiritual world. He was 93 years old. A memorial service was held in Tucson, on Monday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you wanted to watch the memorial service for the Rev. Frank and missed it, here is an archived link to the recorded service.

[ <https://www.youtube.com/c/SunriseChapelLivestream> ]. Tributes

at the service amply convey how much he was loved for his decades of innovative service to the church all over the world.

There is a nice biographical sketch by son, Jonathan, beginning at about the 47th minute of the recording.

**Continuing education:** Amy Odhner just passed the PMP exam which makes her a Project Management Professional. This is big news in government contracting. She's looking forward to professionally managing lots of projects going forward.

**Wedding Bells:** Avi & Aubrey Hernandez are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Cindy to Zach Lusby son of Laura Lusby. Zach is also the son of Karl Lusby of Pasadena, MD. A wedding is being planned for September 2021. Congratulations!



**Moving up:** Ryan and Libby Allen have a new address! They moved into their new home at: 1250 Creek Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403. Best wishes in your new home!

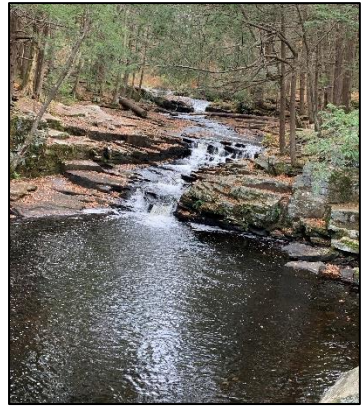
**Double visit:** Bill and Sharon report that they enjoyed a short getaway recently, joining newlyweds John and Becca at Bryan and Kristin's home near Lancaster, to celebrate first grand-daughter Maddie's first birthday! After the festivities they headed east to Bryn Athyn, where they visited Gretchen and Andrew Glover, before heading home.



**Remembering...** “Edwin ‘Sonny’ Alford passed into the spiritual world one year ago on November 11, 2019. This year without him has come with a lot of firsts for his family. Sonny, Ed, Uncle, grandad and Dad are forever heavily missed. Every sunset and sailboat cascades memories through his loved ones hearts. Until we can all gather and be together again, his passing will always be remembered and

mourned. On Nov.11th please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. ~ Nancy”

**Mountain Respite:** The pandemic has kept people quite isolated, including even nearby family; so late in October Bonnie and Dave Cowley and Jeannette & James Roscoe took a long weekend at their family’s cabin in the Poconos. Some moderate hiking along “Little Falls Trail”, great home cooked meals and several hand’s of bridge made for a relaxing weekend.



**Vacation Statisticians:** George and Mary have taken retirement to a new level, returning to their Deep Creek home most of October and finding new ways to be retired. George says that they go there to count leaves. George counts the leaves as they fall, and Mary keeps the tally. Keep up the good work! We expect a report in the December Echo News Notes.

**ON DUTY ~ November 2020 ~ ON DUTY**

| <b>DUTY</b>                 | <b>NOV</b> |          |           |           | <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
|                             | <b>1</b>   | <b>8</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>26</b>               | <b>29</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | GMF        | B H      | GMF       | GMF       | GMF                     | GMF       |
| Chancel                     | Shaunti    | TBA      | TBA       | TBA       | TBA                     | TBA       |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | Jenny S    | Carole W | Jenny s   | Carole W  | Jenny S                 | Carole W  |
| <b>FLOWERS</b>              | Janna Z    | Mary C   | Erin S    | Janna Z   | Mary C                  | Erin S    |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | Glenn F    | David R  | Steve B   | Lincoln S | Mike G                  | Ian L     |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | ----       | ----     | ----      | Marcellus | Elias H                 | ----      |



*November Anniversaries*

*“People are created so they can become more and more interior, and in this way can be introduced into more intimate love.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg ~ CL 238*



*Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Dan & Jeanine Federline ~ 7yrs*

*Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bob & Bea Newkirk ~ 58 yrs.*

*Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Court & Elaine Lee ~ 48 yrs.*

*Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Barry & Erin Stillman ~26yrs.*



# The Washington New Church and School Calendar

## November 2020

| Sunday                                                                      | Monday                                       | Tuesday                             | Wednesday                                        | Thursday                                 | Friday           | Saturday                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Daylight Savings Time begins (set your clocks back 1:00 am) Worship (CAF) | 2                                            | 3                                   | 4 Election Day<br>7:30 pm TAG Meeting (Zoom)     | 5 Rt. Rev. Brad Heinrichs to visit WNCNS | 6                | 7 Chair Yoga<br>1:30 pm<br>2:30 pm<br>Yoga Class  |
| 8 11:00 am Worship (Brad Heinrichs)                                         | 9 8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group (Zoom)  | 10 7:30 pm Trailside Meeting (Zoom) | 11 Veteran's Day<br>Wednesday Email Arcana Group | 12                                       | 13               | 14 Chair Yoga<br>1:30 pm<br>2:30 pm<br>Yoga Class |
| 15 11:00 am Worship (CAF)                                                   | 16                                           | 17                                  | 18                                               | 19                                       | 20 ECHO DEADLINE | 21 Chair Yoga<br>1:30 pm<br>2:30 pm<br>Yoga Class |
| 22 11:00 am Worship (CAF)                                                   | 23 8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group (Zoom) | 24                                  | 25 Wednesday Email Arcana Group<br>Break         | 26 11:00am Thanksgiving Festival Service | 27               | 28 Chair Yoga<br>1:30 pm<br>2:30 pm<br>Yoga Class |
| 29 11:00 am Worship (CAF)                                                   | 30                                           |                                     |                                                  |                                          |                  |                                                   |