

December 2020

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
they who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, on them  
has the light given brightness. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

It's December! Which means that it's time for **Christmas** decorations, music, food, gifts, and other festivities. It is also a time for

reflecting on the miracle of the Lord's advent into the world as a human infant, His purpose in doing so, and the immense effects that came as a result of His act of love.

Every year has a Christmas. They roll on by year by year, regardless of the other events of the world, the state of humanity, or the conditions of the times. The original Christmas happened at one of the darkest times in human spiritual history. Since then, Christmas has come to people at war, in poverty, during plagues, at times of financial crisis, and when the world was seemingly turned upside down. People have celebrated Christmas in foxholes and in shelters, from hospital wards and while far from home. Christmas is not a holiday that requires peace and comfort. In fact, it is all about the bringing of peace and comfort to those who do not yet have it, at a time of cold darkness, and so it is appropriate no matter the circumstances of our time or place.

This year's Christmas is going to be easy. We merely have a **pan-demic** going on, and in the history of pandemics, even with the deaths and hardships this one has brought, it has still been a comparatively easy one for the human race. And this Christmas season, we will have to make some adjustments to how we celebrate it, but it will still be Christmastime, nevertheless.

*"...as grinchy as the coronavirus is, it cannot steal Christmas. We will still put up lights. We will still worship the Lord."*

At Washington New Church we will continue to prudently follow the health and safety recommendations (as well as the related executive orders) of our state and county. This means we won't be promoting large private gatherings. Our services will be kept under the occupancy limits we've been given. We won't feature group singing, nor will we be serving

food and beverages at our events. And when we gather, we will maintain safe social distance between people of different households and always wear a mask to protect those around us. It is what we have been asked to do by our legitimate civil authorities, as

well as by our high-risk friends and neighbors, so it is simply the charitable path to take.

But as grinchy as the latest coronavirus is, it cannot steal Christmas. We will still put up lights. We will still worship the Lord. And we will still find ways to make the holiday season a special time for reflection on the Lord's coming into the world.

First, I want to invite anyone who is interested to join in with me in a **weekly online gathering** where we will check in with one another, read portions of the Christmas story together, have fun discussions, and pray together. This is an open group that will be available **from 7pm to 8:30pm the first four Wednesdays in December**, starting on December 2nd. You can come to just one or you can participate every week; it's up to you and your schedule. Details, including a link to the Zoom online video conference, will be sent out via my weekly emails.

Second, I want to let you know that even though we will not be able to put together a traditional **Christmas tableaux** show this year, we are working on plans for a short **outdoor living nativity program** for you to enjoy. Details including date and time are still being worked out, so be on the lookout for further announcements.



Third, let me remind you that we are now streaming live **video of every worship service** we hold. Live streams as well as archived video can be found on our YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCywS2hIWXa3PwDho5QYt\\_tA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCywS2hIWXa3PwDho5QYt_tA) or by entering "Washington New Church" in the search bar at [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). As of this writing, we are still holding in-person worship gatherings in the sanctuary, provided we keep attendance to below the lesser of 25% maximum occupancy or 1 household per 200 square feet. It is entirely possible that further restrictions end up closing our indoor in-person gatherings altogether, though. If that happens, we will still be offering online

worship at 11 a.m. every Sunday, as well as on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning.

And finally, speaking of **Christmas Eve and Morning services**, we will of course be having services on those days, as well as on every Sunday in December. I am still having conversations with various people about ways to make those services special, especially in light of the fact that current health guidance says that groups singing together defeat the protection provided by social distancing and mask wearing. Christmas is a holiday with a very distinct and beloved musical tradition surrounding it, and I am looking for ways to carry that tradition on despite the lack of singing. Stay tuned for more on that in the coming days.

Friends, it's been a rough year. More so for some than others, of course, but we've all experienced unusual challenges in the past handful of months. I encourage you to remember that this world is temporary, and that its cares are powerless against the eternal arc of the Lord's loving providence. Use this holiday season to take stock of what is good in your life, to pray to the Lord for both comfort and guidance, and to then look outward and see how you can identify and then serve the good that exists within the people around you. He came into the world in order to permanently make it possible for you to do this, so use His gift wisely.

The Lord came into the world to save the human race, which if He had not done so would have perished in eternal death. He saved it by subduing the hells which were molesting every person coming into the world and going out of it, and at the same time by glorifying His Human; for having accomplished this He is able to keep the hells in subjection for evermore. (*Secrets of Heaven* 10828)

“Have confidence, I have overcome the world.” (*John* 16:33)

Merry Christmas, everyone! I wish you a peaceful and fulfilling month.

Rev. Mac Frazier

2020-11-20

### *From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board met on November 10, 2020. Primary topics of discussion included status of finances, School update, and a Pastoral update on the strategic planning effort. Sharon Kunkle has agreed to take on a new role to provide oversight and guidance of COVID requirements for the school and church cleaning protocols, especially focused on eventual increases in on-site activities, in accordance with state and local laws, and General Church guidance.

By now, members of the WCNJ congregation should have received a series of reports from the Boards and Committees, which are in place of our normal Fall semi-annual meeting. Please check your email, and if you did not receive this important report from Bonnie Cowley (email dated November 18), please contact her. As a follow up to the written reports, members of the congregation are invited to join the upcoming joint Board of Trustees – School Board meeting on **December 1, 2020, from 7- 7:30pm via Zoom**. A link to this Zoom meeting was also included in the email. Please join us if there are items you would like to discuss, and as always, reach out to any members of the boards at any time if you have questions or concerns.

~ Sharon Cooper - Secretary, WCNJ, Inc

### CHRISTMAS TABLE ARRANGEMENTS



Christmas is coming! Candle-and-greens table centerpieces will again be offered for your decorating or gift-giving pleasure, starting Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. All proceeds go to the Washington Church operating fund.

Prices still start at \$10-\$15 for smaller sizes (6-8" in diameter). Larger sizes (about 12") are \$20; large with glass chimney, \$25. All come with one candle; natural

greens, red and/or gold or silver accents, and a ribbon bow, colors your choice. Special sizes or contents can be arranged.

To order, you can fill out an order form at the church, and deposit it in the basket in the lobby. Or call Mary Cooper at 301 390-6292. Your finished pieces may be picked up at the church, or at my home (socially distant, of course!)

If you wish to pay by check, please make it out to WCNJ (Washington Church of the New Jerusalem), but please give or send all payments to me, so that I can track them.

Thank you, and Happy Christmas! ~ Mary Cooper

## **Scholarships Available!!**

**Two** education scholarships will be offered for the 2020-21 school year. This annual award is for the purpose of supporting women attending the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church who desire to become New Church teachers and declare education as a major or minor (or Interdisciplinary Degree.)

**Three** scholarships are available to women students of Bryn Athyn College of the New Church who are studying **Religion** (major, minor, ID) **or MARS** program or are **international** students.

**Two** scholarships are available to women attending Bryn Athyn College of the New Church earning a master's degree and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Applications are due February 1, 2021.

To apply: email [ancdaughters@gmail.com](mailto:ancdaughters@gmail.com) or call Sarah Wong at BAC 267-502-6085 or see BAC website.

## **ANC Scholarships!!**

**Two** annual scholarships are now offered for the 2020-2021 for up to 2 young women who exemplify the teachings of the New Church. Applications are due March 1, 2021

To apply: email [ancdaughters@gmail.com](mailto:ancdaughters@gmail.com) for applications

*More details available upon request or on church bulletin board.*

## A New Church translation of the Sacred Scripture



Each word in the Sacred Scripture is like a precious stone given to us by the Lord, each phrase and verse is like a jewel. The words are beautifully arranged to reflect and transmit the light of heaven from within. The more a translation reflects this arrangement and beauty, the more the glory of the Lord can be seen. There

are aspects of the Letter of the Word that cannot truly be brought into what is called Standard English, but a translation faithful to the original text in the light of the Heavenly Doctrine can convey to the English reader what the Lord has revealed to man.

It is with this hope that the editors of the Kempton Project offer again a translation of the Sacred Scripture to the New Church. This translation is even more thoroughly and carefully revised, keeping in mind the fullness, holiness and power, by which the Word serves the eternal purpose of conjoining heaven and earth, together with the Lord.

This new edition of the New Church translation of the Word, which has been out of print for about eight years, should arrive in mid-November and be available as a Christmas gift.

It comes in a more comfortable size than the edition that was offered in 2011. This new edition is 1½" thick and 7" x 9", which allows us to keep the large 13-point type that many have appreciated.

The book is a red cloth hardcover volume, at the price of \$35.00 US, plus shipping. We also expect to make available a limited quantity of leather-covered volumes. Please check our website for pricing and other information. You can also order by e-mail, by phone, or by mail.

<https://kemptonproject.org/TheWord> Email: [TheWord@kncs.org](mailto:TheWord@kncs.org)  
Phone: 1-215-938-8663 OR Mail: Kempton Project, 1050 Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529.



## CHURCH GIVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

In the old days keeping track of our charitable deductions could make a significant difference in our tax liabilities for the year. Today, with a standard deduction of \$12,400 per person, unless you are giving at least \$8,000 to the church (or other registered charities) this

may not be a meaningful exercise.

***But this means our focus can be entirely on the USE itself***, rather than the personal advantage in giving. Besides, since we're getting deductions on the assumption that we have deductible expenses, it's only right that we should give accordingly.

In that vein, we have just passed the Thanksgiving holiday and are now looking ahead (and shopping?) for the next one, Christmas. We all want to give the best we can to our loved ones at this special time, to show them our love and even our wisdom in selecting the best possible gifts. How much more, then might we take this same opportunity to show our special love for the church, and our wisdom in providing whatever we can to promote its health and welfare?

Yes, these are strange times, but as we noted last month, the church's expenses continue unabated. So please, if you can give a little extra this month, in recognition of the incredible, life-changing teachings the Lord has bestowed on us through this church, this will not only help the church, but hopefully add to your sense of fulfillment throughout the holidays. *In any case, we thank you for all your regular giving, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.*

Remember, you can give by going to the link on [www.theWNC.org](http://www.theWNC.org), or by going directly to <http://giving.ncsservices.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



**“Souper” Sunday:** We had a very successful sale our first Sunday of 2020-2021. Lots of soup and bread were sold.

**Pre-order and Pickup:** I know many of you do not feel it safe to come to live services. But don’t despair! We are taking orders for soup and bread for “Souper” Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.



We already have some makers and bakers who are providing (Candy’s famous) Mushroom Soup, Janine’s Cheddar Bread, Wheat bread, ham & lentil soup and cranberry wheat muffins... and probably turkey soup 😊. P-order by contacting Bonnie: email – [bonnie.cowley@washnechurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnechurch.org), text- 301-518-2628. If you live nearby or are housebound (and don’t live too far away) I will happily deliver.

Don’t eat soup or bread? Consider buying some for an elderly, housebound or sick friend.

### **December News of Note**

*“It is wiser to find out than to suppose.”*

So said Mark Twain, and maybe he was on to something. It sounds like a good motto for the News Notes – and for a lot of other things, or even people. Therefore: we suppose we should try to work with that; we will find out if it works. So here goes.

#### **Good News first:**

**Newby News:** Congratulations to **Derek and Hanna Hyatt** on the birth of their third baby, Ruthie, on November 9th. Hanna reports that “it all started as a repeat C-section at 36 weeks because of my cholestasis (liver issues during pregnancy), but it ended in one stuck baby with a lung separation stemming from a tough delivery. This meant that she went to



the NICU (regardless of her nearly full-term status). She spent 5 days in the NICU, and then we brought her home! Since then, she has been so very snuggled and loved by Hugo and Lila (and Derek and me, when we can get our turns). Lila likes to boop/pinch Ruthie's ear and nose, and Hugo likes to sniff Ruthie's cheek. You know. Normal baby loving gestures like that. We have been so well taken care of— thank you for the good thoughts and all of the delicious food!”

***Oldie News:*** You may have heard that **Pat Sweeney** did not have surgery as planned, so he and Paige went kayaking instead! Pat is feeling good and is undergoing some initial treatment while his docs conduct further testing and diagnosis. The Sweeneys send their heartfelt thanks for the many forms of love and support they've been receiving.

***Progressing News:*** **David Glenn** is making good progress! After months of battling the byproducts of a Covid-19 infection, he is gaining some weight back and eating three meals a day of solid food after finally relearning how to swallow. Daughter Liz hopes that people would be willing to send Christmas cards to David at the facility where he is recovering. He will be there for a while, yet, and it is going to be hard for him to miss Christmas, for as long as COVID numbers continue to be high, his family will not be able to visit. We will let you know where to send cards as soon as Liz gets details from the facility.

***News from far and/or near:*** The **Simonses** are sending love from the chilly wet north to their southern brothers and sisters! They report that they are struggling along, continuing to find support for Owen, who is slowly adapting to all this change. Meanwhile, the fantastic year continues for Edward's company Safeware. They are proud of the way oldest son and former black-sheep-of-family :) Daric has begun to assume greater responsibility in the company, and to bring in fresh ideas. Congratulations on his new title Chief Officer of Operations.

***Welcoming News:*** Did you see the very long flatbed truck with dozens of empty packing crates leave Acton Park the week before Thanksgiving? **Craig and Laura Cooper** have finally received all

their household goods from England. At last they can fully settle in at their home on Progress Lane. A giant step toward normalcy.

**Rewarding News: Brad Johns** continues to win awards and land interesting contracts for his voice over narration business, the latest fun one featuring him as the voice of Santa, singing for an Elf on the Shelf Christmas video. (See the Brad Hyland Face Book page for details.)

**Constructive News:** Much thanks to **Brian Smith** for his leadership and hard work over many weeks to spruce up the façade of the church/school building. It is taking a lot of scraping, priming and painting work to fill in cracks and repaint the walls.



**In the same vein**, internal work is also being done at the building, and thanks and appreciation for this is due particularly to **Eric Genzlinger and Bill Kunkle**. Their most visible work is seen on YouTube every Sunday, for they have done yeoman's work in installing cameras and computers and bundles of wires in the walls and ceilings to provide live Church Services from us to the world at large. If you can't make it to church in person, try watching it on television. They are also doing mostly invisible work on improving church and school internet capability, which is particularly needed for remote classes for the school. Their work is invaluable, and we thank them exceedingly.



**Constructive News in the neighborhood:** Anyone wondering what's being developed on the old Turner farm at Routes 193 and 50? *It's going to be a Planned Retirement Community!!* Its name is "Traditions at Beechfield."

According to the on-line records for the Maryland Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), this development is known as Subdivision 4-17018. The records show that it will include 62 single family dwellings, 71 townhomes, and 108 condominiums. These will incorporate 100 independent living units, 60 assisted

living units, and 32 home care units. More information can be found at:

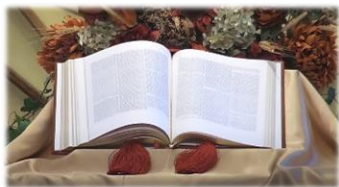
<https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/3260/SE-4785--Decision---Beechfield-2>

**Thankful News:** As announced earlier this year, **Jenny Smith** has been collecting supplies for local first responders. Jenny reports: “On behalf of the police department and DU/SAC, I wanted to thank all of you who have made donations of sheets towards this cause so far. We collected 3 boxes of multiple sizes, and I am happy to say that the Washington New Church has officially piloted this new, hopefully, on-going drive. The sheets are now being utilized and have been very much appreciated. I am hoping we can continue to keep this going. Even 1 or 2 donations a month total is enough to keep it going.”



### **Thanksgiving News:**

**Church Gatherings:** The Washington New Church had a very modest Thanksgiving service but was able to stream it online to many. It was a lovely family service by our pastor Mac. And what was his message? In all *humility* we urge you to see for yourself by viewing it on



YouTube through TheWNC.org web site. And what are we thankful for? (*this one is easy... fill in the blank*). The altars were beautifully decorated with flowers, fruits and gourds (thank you Mary Cooper!), while outside the sanctuary, boxes and baskets were (and still are) being filled with non-perishables for the needy [feel free to bring your offering by the end of Sunday's service Nov. 29 so it can be included].

**Family Gatherings:** Traditions must be maintained if at all possible, so Bonnie Cowley reports that, “totally disregarding CDC recommendations, our family of 50+ gathered from Pittsburgh to

Philadelphia, Syracuse to Boynton Beach” [But in case you were getting ready with chides, you can disregard the “disregarding” part; they gathered VIRTUALLY! Phew!] “**Charles and Angela Radcliffe** managed to get us all together via Zoom for our traditional family toasts. **James Roscoe** (toastmaster) talked about humility (one of the topics of the Thanksgiving service here in Mitchellville) then offered a toast to the Church; not just the New Church but the universal church as well and then led the family in singing "Our Glorious Church". This was followed by toasts to all of our friends around the world, then we all sang "Here's to our Friends". It really felt like Thanksgiving. As bad as this pandemic is... the virtual universe can give us a taste of heaven. To be able to "be" with those we love just because we are thinking about them”.

**We wish:** We sincerely hope that you all were able to find things to be thankful for, and about, the past year in spite of its turmoil, and that the upcoming Christmas season will help bring about healing, comfort and at least some opportunities for the joy that this time of year should bring to everyone.

#### **News of General (Church) Interest:**

**Congratulations:** to the Rev. Derek Elphic, currently pastor in Oak Arbor, Michigan, on his call to be the new head pastor of the Bryn Athyn society when the Rev. Eric Carswell retires next summer.

**Moving News:** The Rev Pearse Frazier will be moving from his pastorate in Atlanta to begin full time work for the office of outreach in Bryn Athyn. The Rev. Nathan Gladish has announced that he will be leaving the Sun Rise Chapel in Tucson and will move to the Bryn Athyn area next summer. The Rev. Lou Synnestvedt will be returning to the United States after three years of service in the Colchester Society in England, and the Rev. Ethan McCardell will also be returning to the United States after 6 years of service to the Michael Church in London, England. Finally, the Rev. Nathan Cole has announced that he will be leaving the Carmel Church society in Kitchener, Ontario, and will move to Kempton, PA. It is anticipated that there will be one graduate from the Theological School next summer, namely, Justin Schorran, from Kempton, PA.

**Bad News:**

We decided not to include any bad news this month. There's enough to go around already.

*NEXT.... Looking forward to a vaccine in...*



*December 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*



*Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> ~ George & Mary Cooper ~ 62 yrs.*

*Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Brad & Kathy Johns ~ 39 yrs.*

*Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Avi & Aubrey Hernandez ~ 15 yrs.*

*Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ (Joel) & Didi Trimble ~ 57 yrs.*



# ON DUTY ~ December 2020 ~ ON DUTY

| <b>DUTY<br/>DEC</b>         | <b>No 11am<br/>Service<br/>Evening Outdoor<br/>Nativity<br/>Time TBA</b> |           |           | <b>Candlelight<br/>Service</b> | <b>Christmas<br/>Day</b> |           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
|                             | <b>6</b>                                                                 | <b>13</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>24</b>                      | <b>25</b>                | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | GMF                                                                      | GMF       | GMF       | GMF                            | GMF                      | BDS       |
| Chancel                     | ----                                                                     | Mary C    | Mary C    | TBA                            | TBA                      | Mary C    |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | ----                                                                     | Carole W  | Jenny S   | Carole W                       | Jenny S                  | Carole W  |
| <b>FLOW-</b>                | ---                                                                      | Erin S    | Janna Z   | Mary C                         | Erin S                   | Janna Z.  |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | ----                                                                     | Glenn F   | David R   | Steve B                        | Dave C                   | Lincoln S |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | ----                                                                     | ----      | Elias H   | ----                           | ----                     | Marcellus |

***Society calendar see next page...***

# The Washington New Church and School Calendar      December 2020

| Sunday                                                                            | Monday | Tuesday                                                          | Wednesday                                 | Thursday                         | Friday                                  | Saturday                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                   |        | 1<br>7:30 pm Joint School/<br>Trustees Meeting<br>and Open House | 2<br>7:00pm Online Christmas<br>Readings  | 3                                | 4                                       | 5<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class  |
| 6<br>No 11:00am service<br><br><i>Outdoor Nativity (Time to<br/>be announced)</i> | 7      | 8                                                                | 9<br>Wednesday Email<br>Arcana Group      | 10                               | 11                                      | 12<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 13<br>11:00 am Worship (GNF)<br>12:00pm Souper Sunday                             | 14     | 15                                                               | 16<br>7:00pm Online Christmas<br>Readings | 17                               | 18 Echo Deadline                        | 19<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 20<br>11:00 am Worship (GNF)                                                      | 21     | 22                                                               | 23<br>Wednesday Email<br>Arcana Group     | 24                               | 25<br>11:00am Christmas<br>Day service? | 26<br>[WNCS Christmas Break -a]                |
| a [WNCS Christmas Break -a]                                                       |        |                                                                  | 7:00pm Online Christmas<br>Readings       | 7:00pm Christmas<br>Eve service? |                                         | [WNCS Christmas Break -a]                      |
| 27<br>11:00 am Worship (GBS)                                                      | 28     | 29                                                               | 30                                        | 31                               | [WNCS Christmas Break -a]               |                                                |
| a [WNCS Christmas Break -a]                                                       |        |                                                                  |                                           |                                  |                                         |                                                |