

February 2021

# ECHO

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## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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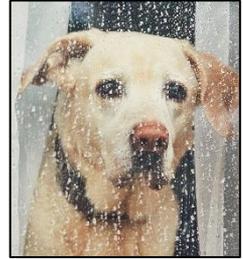
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From the Pastor

Man, I hate February. I'm honestly not a fan of winter in general, but at least Christmas is nice. And that first snowfall is pretty. And I have to say that I enjoy the feeling of being warm indoors with nowhere to go when it is cold and inhospitable outdoors. It makes me feel like a very successful caveman.

But by the time February rolls around, the novelty of snow has worn off. The weeks upon weeks of cold have worn me down. And the luster of Christmas has worn off and is now not even a super recent memory. Heck, by February, even my New Years' resolution (if I make one and if it goes the way most do) has already hit some serious snags.

Sure, March can be pretty nasty, too, but by the time we get into March, the end is in sight. Spring Break is just around the corner for students everywhere, Easter is, more or less, coming up over the horizon, and there are steady signs that soon spring will arrive, and with it the promise of my favorite season of early summer.



But February? Bleh. If it were not for the fact that one of my children was born during February, I'd say let's just strike it from the calendar altogether. Just skip it.

If you agree with me, then you might find it galling to discover that angels experience winter, too. Their seasons, however, are not due to the passage of time and the orbit of a planet, but rather are externalized representations of cycles of change that go on inside each one of them. Luckily for the angels, winter in heaven is mild:

When heat and light are united in heaven, the climate to angels is like that in springtime. But when they are not united, the climate is either like that in summer, or like that in winter, though not like winter in the colder zones, but like winter in the warmer zones. For the reception of love and wisdom in equal measure is the essence of what it is to be an angel, and an angel is an angel therefore according to the union of love and wisdom in him. (*Divine Love and Wisdom* 102)

As you can see, even in heaven, we have some learning and growth to do. As angels, we will have times when our love exceeds our capacity for wisdom, and things might get a bit warmer than perfect. (Although, I can take a lot of heat...just saying.) And at other times we will find that our understanding of what's true gets ahead of our

inclination to do what's good, leading to cloudy days that are cooler than we would ideally choose.

None of it will be *bad*--once in heaven anything truly evil and false within us is put away where it won't cause us real trouble anymore. But as part of our process of getting ever more loving and wiser, we will go through cycles of first one and then the other growing out of sync with its partner.

So, seasons have their place. And I suppose even February has its purpose. Maybe. At any rate, the inventor of February at least had the sense to make it shorter than any other month.

So, I hope you have a healthy, not-too-cold, appropriately short February!

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church, 2021-01-26  
*From the Board of Trustees:*

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

Happy New Year! The BoT met on January 12, 2021 for our regular monthly meeting via Zoom. Discussions focused on COVID impacts to church and school operations, financial reports, and school status including budget, enrollment, and staffing outlooks. Plans for eventual reopening are still in progress, although local county COVID rates are high, and we need to consider vaccination status, cleaning protocols, and input from parents and staff.

The monthly topic was building and facilities which included expressions of deep appreciation for Bill Kunkle and Eric Genzlinger who have been personally on-site on a regular basis, handling multiple tasks around the building, from setting up the video system for on-line worship services, to fixing the leaking boiler, a rattling air handler, and assessing roof repairs. Kathy Johns volunteered to begin research and solicitation of bids for refurbishment of the front restrooms. In addition, Sharon Kunkle, Tim Radcliffe, and Carl Martin recently cleaned up a large cache of video monitors and other equipment which had been dumped on Acton Park property. Appreciation was also given to Mary Cooper, for raising

nearly \$1000 for the church with her hand-made Christmas centerpieces, and for taking care of the chancel throughout the holidays.

Although we are not able to do many activities as a group, the Board is extremely grateful to these and many other volunteers who quietly do their part to keep our Society moving forward. Thank you all. ~ Sharon Croft – BoT secretary

The next BoT meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9.

**Let's Read:** The Easter Story According to Luke

For six Wednesdays leading up to Easter, The Rev. Mac Frazier will lead in reading and discussing the Gospel of Luke's account of the Lord's final week on earth. A lot happened between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Let's read about it, share our impressions with one another, and talk about what it means to us in our current lives. This group will meet online and is open to interested people everywhere through the Grand Human Project. To participate, use the zoom link (below) when the time comes for the online meeting. Speaking of which, here are the times:

**February 24 through March 31, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. EST**  
**Zoom link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/97119273897?pwd=NG9HSzhhUTN6dWV2QVJDOVZVMHZPZz09>

**From the Principal**

The school year continues in odd and unpredictable ways. But we have now completed half of it. I think teachers and students are better for the struggle. We've learned some of the content in the curriculum and some about adapting and facing adversity. And trying to be patient with one another.

PGC is working through phase 1B of its vaccine distribution plan and several of our teachers have already received their first shot. Others secured appointments and are awaiting a call. As Maryland

works to make vaccines available to all teachers, Governor Hogan is pressuring all public schools to re-open by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The prospect of returning to the classrooms could be good news. However, for teachers, students and parents who are already worn out by transitions the prospect of yet another transition may be daunting. As of this writing we have yet to hear how our county will respond to the pressure from the governor's office.

WNCS, continues to prepare for re-opening the classrooms but re-opening is still likely to include several hard questions. In addition to masks, hand washing and temperature taking protocols, we must carefully consider whether we are capable of still serving families who do not feel comfortable returning to in-person classrooms. It is challenging to offer an online program. It is much, much more challenging to simultaneously offer an online program while managing an in-person classroom (with COVID protocols).

So, the year continues in odd and unpredictable ways.

On the positive side of the ledger, we are benefiting from the support of Jordan Kinsey, Charlotte Radcliffe and Jenny Smith who are providing tutoring support for several of our students.

The board has chosen to freeze the normal increase in tuition for next year, to help families who may have been hard hit by economic conditions. The base rate for 2021/22 is still \$7,775.

As we enter enrollment season, I encourage you to keep WNCS in mind and recommend us to friends and family with children. Our small, nurturing classrooms will be a good space for students returning to a normal classroom from the online school world.

Looking towards next year, we have posted a part time job opening, looking for a "floating teacher" with an interest in enrichment activities, especially art and music. This person will work with a range of age groups and assignments. We need about 50% of a full-time teacher. If you, or anyone you know, have an interest, or leads for a strong New Church teacher looking for this type of position, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Brian (brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

## The Benefits of Our Envelope System



The new envelopes for your donations have now arrived. You can get yours from the church lobby OR ask that they be delivered to you. Here's why we think they are so useful.

**First**, they encourage weekly giving and serve as reminders in case you miss a Sunday. **Second**, they are a handy way to get your tax credit even for a cash donation, since the numbers in the corner of the envelope are assigned to specific individuals for that purpose. **Third**, they provide for your anonymity (or in any case, discretion) as you place your offering in the offertory bowl.

If you're a regular user of these envelopes you will find yours with your name on the box in the church lobby. If you'd like to try them for the first time, just pick a numbered box and sign the register that is on a clipboard next to them in the corresponding space.

|                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                    | JAN 24 2021 |       |
| <i>"Freely you have received, freely give."</i><br>Matthew 10:8                                                                                                                      |             |       |
| Offering (Budget support)                                                                                                                                                            | \$          | _____ |
| Pastoral Assistance Fund                                                                                                                                                             | \$          | _____ |
| Other (Please specify)                                                                                                                                                               | \$          | _____ |
| _____                                                                                                                                                                                |             |       |
| Phone: (301) 464-5602                                                                                                                                                                |             |       |
| <br>The Washington News Church<br>11914 Chantilly Lane<br>Mitchellville, MD 20721<br>www.theWNC.org |             |       |

Then again, if you're staying home for safety's sake, please remember the online donation option, which is explained on our website – in the lower right corner of the home page at [www.theWNC.org](http://www.theWNC.org).

Please note, tax receipts and a thank-you note for all your church donations in 2020 will be issued sometime in February. Special donations in someone's memory are usually acknowledged within a week or two of their receipt.

Your contributions committee, along with the Board of Trustees, would like to thank you again for your generous support of the church, especially in these strange times when we continue to need every penny for extra COVID and online communication expenses.

Sincerely,  
Jean, Bob and Mike

**New Church Career Network News:** I, Jana Sprinkle, your friendly neighborhood NCCN liaison, am slowly but surely making my way through our Echo Directory to find people who would be willing to volunteer to speak with or mentor someone who is looking for a job in their field. In the meantime, the NCCN has had success in making connections and helping those in search of a job or career change. You can find the NCCN on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and [newchurchcareernetwork.org](http://newchurchcareernetwork.org). Go to the website and volunteer. It's a great way to give back to the community. I will leave you with a quote recently posted by NCCN: "Unless one is active there is no happiness in life. Angelic life consists in use, and in good deeds of charity." (AC 454)

**White Horse Academy News:** Our outdoor worship center is coming along! (To find it, take the path from the school playground, follow the path to the new curved bridge, continue up the hill and take the wider path up to your left to the new clearing for the worship center) The students have been clearing, planing, sanding and staining. A huge shout out goes to Andy Cooper for donating a lot of beautiful wood for our benches. I can't wait to see you all sitting on them! There is still lots to do - more clearing, planning, sanding, and staining (I think we have finished the planing) as well as designing and building an altar, assembling, and fixing the benches and various and sundry other details. Our goal is to finish the worship area by the end of the school year. Other experiential learning has included crocheting hats, a course in singing, learning piano and one student is in the process of building his own computer.

In academic ventures, we have a wonderful volunteer, Raina, who is helping two of my students learn Korean. She is originally from South Korea and is the sister of HyunJin Yang, a theology student at Bryn Athyn College. Our sophomore is busy planning her junior journey; look for more information on that soon! Our freshmen are studying hard and beginning to get used to the level or work required in high school. The WHA students have all been doing a good job of progressing in their studies!

*~ Jana Sprinkle*

**Seeking Students with Inquiring Minds** (included in newsletters around the General Church.)

The Washington New Church School is pleased to announce our young and growing new high school – The White Horse Academy. Our vision is to serve students near and far who would like to have an individualized, New Church, high school education. We are harnessing the power of the internet to connect our students with both live and recorded classes and, just as important, with each other.

When accepted into the program, students and parents meet with their education coach to formulate their individualized plan of study which will include the necessary courses to earn a high school diploma, as well as a plan for experiential learning and the development of a portfolio showcasing the student’s skills, knowledge, and service to community.

If you are or have a rising high schooler, please contact us. We would love to share more details about our program with you.

We are excited to build a network around our vision of individualized, New Church education for our students. If you are someone who loves creative education and raising children in the New Church, we would be thrilled to be in touch with you, even if your high school years are long behind you. If you have a talent that you love sharing with others and are familiar with tools such as Zoom or Office 365, or are willing to learn new skills, contact us. We want to make you part of our team. Call or email us. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Education Coach, [Jana.Sprinkle@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Jana.Sprinkle@washnewchurch.org) ; 410-220-9003*  
*Principal, [Brian.Smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Brian.Smith@washnewchurch.org) ; 301-850-3029*

**WANTED**

**Sunday service support** could use some more help! We are desperately low on ushers and could use more video operators. Call the office if you are willing to usher, and Mac if you’d like to be trained on the new video streaming equipment.

## Dear Friends of Acton Park,

The annual meeting of the members of the Acton Park Corporation will take place via Zoom: on Monday, February 22 at 7:00 pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/94650781119?pwd=cFRjcUZGajNlMlF0bEg-wemdWTGpzZz09>

Please plan to join us. We have updates regarding the solar farm project. In addition, we have our usual annual meeting business to discuss, including the minutes of the last corporation meeting, the treasurer's annual report, the president's report on the year's activities, and the election of directors/officers for the next year.

Hope to see you there.

Andy Cooper, Secretary

**SENIOR LIVING IN RURAL KEMPTON, PA:** Old School Village, our 12 one- and two-bedroom apartments designed for New Church seniors (65+) able to live independently, is near completion. Only a five-minute drive from the Kempton New Church (and ten minutes from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Appalachian Trail, and Leaser Lake). We'd love to hear from you if you have an interest. Getting oneself onto our official priority list would be the first step in the process. Contact Tom Kerr, who can provide more details, at 484-436-1014, [tjkerr3@gmail.com](mailto:tjkerr3@gmail.com), or 82 Pine Creek Road, Kempton, PA 19529.

## Part-time Job posting:



Job Description: Part-Time “Floating” Teacher.

Washington New Church School (WNCS) is seeking applications for a teaching position in our K-12 school. This position will include duties in multiple different subjects and grade levels. Floating positions can be challenging to manage but also a rewarding way to build relationships with students across the school and they are critical in helping us meet our changing staffing needs. This first-year “floating” position offers an opportunity for the candidate to become oriented to the many

different duties in a small school; allowing him or her to develop skills and identify areas of love and interest to target in his/her career.

**Responsibilities:** The exact duties will be determined through a negotiation between the applicant’s interests, abilities and WNCS specific needs. Currently, some of our specific needs include art, music, and remedial support. However, even candidates without specific qualifications in these areas are encouraged to apply because we have flexibility about how to assign this role.

*(for more information, please contact Brian Smith at: [brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:brian.smith@washnewchurch.org))*

### **“Chili” Sunday:**

To date, the TAG sponsored “Souper” Sundays have been very successful! This is thanks to my many cooks and all the soup and bread buyers.

Next Sunday is “Chili” Sunday (which coincides with Super Bowl Sunday). I already have lots of chili and cornbread being made... vegetarian, beef and bean, black bean and even venison chili.

It is best if you place a pre-order even if you are coming to church on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Again, I am happy to deliver orders to the elderly, quarantined or shut ins and to people in the local church area.

Please email me at [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org) to order.

### **All the News We Noted**

**January 2021:** If you thought 2020 was going to go away quietly, you might have had a surprise or two. Living in the Capital of the world is occasionally more interesting than one might expect.

Turns out somebody misspelled “Resolutions” on their calendar, using a “v” instead of an “s”. But February has prevailed, so maybe 2021 has a chance.

### **Minding our Ps and Qs:**

**Pandemically Speaking:** Oh – oh. Be careful out there; this Covid thing really does exist and it fails to recognize that our Society consists of good guys who do not



need to be sickened. Besides David Glenn, who suffered an attack early in the game, it now seems that somewhere along the line Brian Sweeney, Kyle Smith and Ryan Allen managed to get caught, and now the month of January has also seen the families Frazier, Sprinkle, Cowley, Martin, Hernandez, and maybe more, caught in the web of Quarantine and/or illness. Most will be negatively tested or positively recovered by the time you read this. All of you remnants: take care. And get vaccinated as soon as you can!

**Anti-Pandemically Speaking:** As of this writing, three of our teachers have successfully been administered the 1st dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Two more have appointments and the rest are on waiting lists. (So, when all the staff gets their first vaccine dose does that mean they can teach with half a mask or half the students? Or that they can inhale, but not exhale?)

**Quite** a muddle: February brings the **Quasi**-resumption of College/school for many of our young people, but there is no way to know with certainty who will be actually going to real classes, who will be following the new version of home schooling, and who will be attending hybrid classes, partly here and partly there. Anybody besides Lauren Ball go back to Bryn Athyn to resume in-person classes? A few are working completely at home; some are headed back to their dorms to be with friends but still take all their classes on-line; others have a few in-person classes and a few on-line. What a mess. What ever happened to “the best years of your life?” How will we survive another **Quarter** of this? **Quietly**.

**Just Plain Qs:** As in standing in them. Whether it is standing in a long **Q** for a COVID test or standing in an even longer **Q** for vaccinations, the cold January weather was awfully memorable for its queues.



**Queasy** goes it: We hear the tummy flu is going around. There are vaccines for that, too. More **Qs** to stand in.

**Quite** a toasting: Brian & Lincoln Smith are hosting a roasting on Wednesday evenings at the fire circle by the church parking lot to

help put some warmth in our community in the midst of a cold, dark, pandemic winter. All are invited; stop by for 10 minutes or the whole evening – whatever suits. The fire is usually lit by about 8pm. Dress for the forecast. Bring refreshments as you like.



A **Quest** for Recovery: Stewart Smith is recovering at home from hip replacement surgery that he had on January 13th, after a long wait in line behind all the Covid patients. Try telling somebody who needs a new hip that it is “elective” surgery. We know better. Isn’t Physical Therapy fun, Stewart? Best wishes for quick wellness.



**Congratulations!** We just got the news that Cindy Hernandez graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology & Anthropology from Towson University. She plans to continue her education in Criminal Justice, forensics and research. Cindy is the first person in her Hernandez family to graduate from college!!! Good going, Cindy.

**We Heard:** That David, Heather, and Charlotte were on vacation for a while in the Adirondacks where there are reportedly mountains to be climbed. In the winter. Looking for the snow.

**General (Church) News:** Rev. Eric Carswell, pastor of the Bryn Athyn Society, has offered to delay his June retirement and serve as the interim assistant pastor in Bryn Athyn for a year or two.

Meanwhile, committees continue to work in several other societies, notably Oak Arbor, Tucson and Pittsburgh, to secure new pastoral services this coming summer.

**Nearby News, updated:** The nearby housing development for seniors (Traditions at Beechfield) just north of the Church building has entered into an arrangement with Smith Packet/Harmony Senior Services, a senior housing development company with 28 facilities in 8 states, to operate an independent living, assisted living, and memory care building which will be approximately 200,000 square feet and four stories and will house 101 independent living units, 60 assisted living units and 32 memory care units. They will

provide a spectrum of daily living support services based on the levels of care needed. There will be a central kitchen and transportation for the residents “to restaurants, Wal-Mart, grocery store, the theater, and religious activities.” Additional amenities will include “three dining rooms, ... a library, a bistro, a movie theater, walking trails, three courtyards, ... beauty/barber, ... concierge services and a medical director.” This should open in about two years. Look up “Harmony at Enterprise” for more Information.

**A Pandemic in Time:** This scourge has been with us a whole year; our time spent worrying about it seems endless. We say that this time is just crawling by without really thinking about what time really is. So, for today’s entertainment, try to define time. Philosophers have mulled this over for a long, well, time, but maybe a good definition is an easy one. The writer Ray Cummings defined it: “Time is what prevents everything from happening at once.” Seems pretty good to me – just imagine if everything we have been through in the past year had happened all at once. Fortunately, we could spread it out over a whole year. Now back to our New Year’s Resolutions.

**Warning:** The reason your name did not get in the News Notes is that you forgot to tell the editor about the famous things you have done. If you want to be in the headlines (or even the footnotes) just drop us a note of news and we will turn it into a news note. Otherwise, we will just have to make stuff up.

| <b>DUTY</b>                 | <b>FEB.</b> |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                             | <b>7</b>    | <b>14</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | GMF         | GMF       | GMF       | GMF       |
| Chancel                     | Mary C      | Mary C    | Mary C    | Mary C    |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | Jenny       | Carole    | Jenny     | Carole    |
| <b>FLOWERS</b>              | Janna       | Mary      | Erin      | Janna     |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | Lincoln S   | Steve B   | Brian S   | Glenn F   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | Marcellus S | Elias H   | ----      | ----      |
| <b>Video</b>                | Bill K      | Brian S   | Glenn F   | Lincoln   |

## *February Anniversaries*

*“In proportion as anyone shuns adultery, in the same proportion that person loves marriage. ~ Emanuel Swedenborg,*

*Doctrine of Life 75*



*Feb.12<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Mary Ellen Kern ~ 44 yrs.*



***March Issue Request:*** Many of you have taken up new hobbies or



are finally getting to spend some time creatively. I would love to publish in the Echo some stories or pictures of what you have taken up to prevent yourself from going crazy in this lock-down world. Have you been sewing, woodworking, writing, reading, remodeling, painting, gardening, hiking, sleeping? (Ok...I

don't think I want pictures of that). Share with your friends in these pages. I think we would all love to hear and see what you are doing. Send your contribution to my email.

[Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

~ Bonnie

*Please find the February Calendar on P. 15*

# The Washington New Church and School Calendar

## February 2021

|                                                          | Sunday                                              | Monday                             | Tuesday                                                                              | Wednesday                                                                            | Thursday | Friday        | Saturday                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                                          |                                                     | 1                                  | 2                                                                                    | 3                                                                                    | 4        | 5             | 6<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class  |
|                                                          |                                                     | 8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 7:30 pm School Board Mtg                                                             |                                                                                      |          |               |                                                |
| 7<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)<br>12:00 pm "Chill" Sunday   | 8                                                   |                                    | 9                                                                                    | 10                                                                                   | 11       | 12            | 13<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
|                                                          |                                                     |                                    | 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting                                                             | 7:00pm Holy Week Reading Group – Virtual<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church |          |               |                                                |
| 14<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)                             | 15                                                  | 16                                 | 17                                                                                   | 18                                                                                   | 19       | 20            | 20<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
|                                                          | Presidents' Day -<br>WNCS Closed                    |                                    | 7:00pm Holy Week Reading Group – Virtual<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church |                                                                                      |          | ECHO DEADLINE |                                                |
| 21<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)<br>12:00 pm "Souper" Sunday | 22                                                  | 23                                 | 24                                                                                   | 25                                                                                   | 26       | 27            | 27<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
|                                                          | 7:00pm Acton Park Annual Cooperation Mtg. - VIRTUAL |                                    | 7:00pm Holy Week Reading Group – Virtual<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church |                                                                                      |          |               |                                                |
| 28<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)                             |                                                     |                                    |                                                                                      |                                                                                      |          |               |                                                |