

May 2021

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Who in your life doesn't have any personal agenda whatsoever? Who of them doesn't have a personal bias? Even the most noble among us cannot escape at least having an inclination toward self-fulfillment. Love of self is an inescapable component of the human experience.

It has its uses. Love of self is the hidden root of all instincts toward self-preservation and self-improvement. When an infant cries to let a parent know that they are hungry, or tired, or uncomfortable, it is self-love that cries out; and it's a good thing that it does.

But as we try to rise above our earthborn nature, to become the more spiritual beings we are meant to be, we need to work to subordinate our love for ourselves below a desire to serve the good in other people. (Ironically, the very impetus to work on our own spiritual growth is itself initially sparked using our love for ourselves.) But the goal is to become focused first on love for the Lord and for our neighbors, such that our desires for self-satisfaction—along with our desires for material delight—cease to inhibit our regeneration. But this is a lifelong process, and in the end, the love of self does not go away, it merely becomes less strident.

All this means, among other things, that every person you encounter in your life, no matter how spiritually evolved, still has within them the instinct toward self-satisfaction. They can love you, serve you, advise you, and help you, but there is never absent at least a small tug towards self. This is true of everyone in your life—except one.

In the 50th Psalm, the Lord chastises His people a little for thinking that ritual sacrifices were to be done because He somehow needed them for himself:

“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine. Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”  
(Psa. 50:12-15)

The one and only person in all of the universe who literally has no way of benefitting from you at your expense is the Lord. So, when He tells you something, there can be no mixed motive, and no personal agenda. If He tells you to do something, it is purely for your benefit.

So, trust the Lord. Have faith in Him and in His Word. Listen to Him. His Commandments are for your benefit.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church  
2021-04-27

## From the Principal

...and lumbering through this odd year, we now find ourselves within a month of the end...of the school year...and COVID-19? Maybe too much to ask.

I’m grateful that we had the opportunity to fully re-open our classrooms before the year ended. This allows us to brush out the cobwebs and learn how to do things (more) normally again. Infection rates are dropping, vaccination rates are climbing, and Maryland is now requiring that public schools offer five in-person school days next school year. It’s good to be working back towards this goal.

By and large, our very cautious approach to COVID safety protocols has been going well. I’m surprised, frankly, at how well most of the kids do at wearing their masks and maintaining their distance throughout the day. To date, we have not had a confirmed COVID case while our classrooms are open (unlike each of our New Church sister schools around the USA).



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We have dealt with students showing symptoms, which would normally be dismissed as allergies. According to our plan, we must treat such cases as potentially COVID and ask the family to rule out the possibility of COVID before returning to the classroom. Fortunately, our other safety protocols allow us to continue operating the classroom because we have avoided the threshold of “close-contact” at school. Also, we have some ability to keep the

education available to students required to be at home, through the Microsoft teams and video-meetings which we have been using all year. (However, please do not mention Teams around any of the teachers while they are trying to enjoy their weekend.)

Among our faculty we are trying to recreate the neighbor-informant scenario of Stalinist Russia. I encourage everyone to report on each other for all safety plan infractions so that perpetrators can be confronted and re-educated. Of course, this is annoying, so we're trying to do it with humor. We're making good progress towards my goal of everyone having at least one opportunity to be reported on and at least one opportunity to report on someone else.

Speaking of our safety protocols, I should highlight a few parts of the plan that ***church members can help us to maintain***. During school hours, 8am-3pm, Monday – Friday, we are making a concerted effort to a) reduce visitors in the building b) ask everyone to wear a mask while in the building (regardless of immunization) c) *not* use the building's bathrooms, which are kept separate for each class cohort.

The students and teachers seem in good spirits. I see many positive, friendly interactions throughout the day, which reminds me that people are resilient.

Brian Smith, (brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

## **White Horse Academy (WHA) NOTES:**

It is exciting to see the students approaching the end of our second year with courses and projects coming to completion. I have to give a shout-out to the twenty volunteers who gave of their time to tell our students about their careers, the paths they have taken, the skills needed and the joy they get from doing their jobs. This year's list includes: **Steve Ball** Interview, lawyer; **William Kunkle**, program manager, IT design and support; **John Croft**, writer and pilot; **Andy Cooper**, environmental and chemical engineer; **Sharon Croft**, Associate Chief, Mechanical Systems Division at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center ; **Ms. LaShada Campbell**, owner of three daycare centers; **Eric Genzlinger**, electrical

engineer; **Kristin Kinsey**, movie production assistant; **Dr. Annette Miles**, professor at University of the District of Columbia; **Elizabeth Catalano**, co-owner of The Coventry School for Dogs and Their People; **Ms. Jennifer Healy**, mortgage loan officer; **Mr. Joseph E. Jenkins**, sales manager for Annapolis Athletic Club; **Mr. Derek Hyatt**, computer programmer and mathematician; **Ms. Jeanine Guthrie Federline**, museum docent and now homemaker; **Ms. Kira Zuber Jenkins**, lawyer; **Noël Klippenstein**, high school basketball coach & physical education teacher; **Christiana Kern**, immigration officer; **Alan Trimble**, paramedic; **Amy Odhner**, project manager; and **Brad Johns**, voice actor. We were truly blessed to have such a wide variety of careers represented by such a dynamic group of people. I am looking forward to contacting you, dear readers, to learn about your careers. You don't have to wait for me to contact you; feel free to email me at [jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org](mailto:jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org) if you are willing to share your experiences with our students.



Even more exciting than finishing out our second year as the White Horse Academy, is looking forward to our new experiences next year. These

will include our first experience with concurrent enrollment at Prince George's Community College. This program allows junior and senior high school students to take courses at the college for credit at half the cost, filling course requirements for both high school and college at the same time. What a good deal! We are looking towards an increased variety of real-world experiences. If you have a project (building a shed, installing faucets, making a bookshelf, etc.) and would like to share your skills with a high school student, let me know! We are also planning our first Junior Journey - a service and culture expanding experience. The high school girls, Sohaila Smith & Sophie Hyatt, have been studying Korean and have asked to go to South Korea. We will work with Habitat for Humanity - South Korea to build or repair homes and then travel to experience the culture. Once completed, the girls will present their experiences to our local audience. Be on the lookout for information on how you can help! Your first

opportunity to support our trip is coming on Sunday, May 23rd in the form of a bake sale. Come buy and consume the delicious confections provided by our high school students. ~ Coach Sprinkle

## Announcements

**Apartment wanted:** Our new teacher for next year, **Ariel Martin** will be looking for an apartment in the area. She would prefer not to share a kitchen, but shared laundry is fine. One or two bedrooms, near the school if possible. She's also flexible about when she moves in since she can stay with Brian & Janine in the meantime. She's happy to talk to any potential renters. Her email: [ariel.genzlinger martin@gmail.com](mailto:ariel.genzlinger martin@gmail.com).

**Gathering Leaves UK - Alternative Planning for 2022:** In an effort to welcome as many overseas visitors to Gathering Leaves as possible, the international retreat for Swedenborgian/New Church women has been moved forward once again, to 2022. Gathering Leaves at Purley Chase Centre in the UK will be Friday 26th to Monday 29th August 2022. The generous financial aid program is expected to be offered as originally planned. So, move your existing booking ahead to 2022, or to make a new booking, please contact:

[alison.southcombe@purleychasecentre.org.uk](mailto:alison.southcombe@purleychasecentre.org.uk)

**A message from the high school girls:** In the spring of 2022, we and Mrs. Sprinkle are planning to take a trip to South Korea. On our trip, we plan to volunteer for four days with *Habitat for Humanity Korea* and then travel to experience and learn from the culture there. After church on Sunday, May 23rd we are going to sell delicious baked goods that you won't want to miss, in order to start raising money for our plane tickets and other travel expenses. We hope to see you there! - Sophie Hyatt and Sohaila Smith

Thank you! *Jana Sprinkle, WHA Education Coach*

**Notice of GC Annual Corporation Meeting:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 @ 3:00 pm. In-person at Pendleton Hall Auditorium, 2965

College Drive, Bryn Athyn PA. (Virtual attendance information will be sent to all Corporation members prior to this meeting.)

General Church Corporation members are invited to attend this meeting to hear about the state of the worldwide New Church and related matters and participate in the election of directors. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Anita Halterman ([anita.halterman@newchurch.org](mailto:anita.halterman@newchurch.org)) or Kelly Treacy ([kelly.treacy@newchurch.org](mailto:kelly.treacy@newchurch.org)).

**Wanted:** Rocks, any shape or size wanted. Gardeners, you know how when you dig into the ground and you find rocks that you pull out? Well, I will gladly pick up these rocks that you do not want. My Covid natural pond project needs more rocks, and I will be grateful for any that you do not want. I would also be happy to recycle any 2 or more-gallon planting pots for you as well." Thank you, Janna Z. (H) 301-262-6394 (C) 240-393-1043



## **WASHINGTON NEW CHURCH**

**YARD SALE:** Back in Business - Saturday, May 8, 2021, 9 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.  
**NO RAIN DATE**



Your donations to the sale are needed. Household, yard, and other decent quality items are welcome. DO NOT donate old TVs, broken furniture, or worn out/dirty clothing. If it's broken, don't make *us* throw it out. Drop off your boxes at the church during the week prior to the sale. That is SUNDAY May 2 to Friday by 3:00 p.m. please. We need to borrow tarps & could use bags for purchases. Wear masks when entering the building. If you have nice, large items that require pickup, we can try to arrange that.

Consider coming out in the world again. Wouldn't it be great to talk face to face with people?! We need VOLUNTEERS to help sort, sell & cleanup both Friday and Saturday. Please contact Kathy Johns to volunteer or if you have any questions. Spread the word! [kcjswim@aol.com](mailto:kcjswim@aol.com) or 240-476-5058

## It's More than Just Money



When we think of giving to the church we often focus on the money and then wonder how much is enough, or perhaps too much, or too little. But giving to the church is not just about the money! It's about contributing yourself, your ideas, your talents, and most of all your presence so that other members and visitors can feel your support and find something in common with you at the church.

It has been a bleak year in terms of physical gathering during the pandemic, but now that vaccinations are available to almost everyone, it should be possible to gather once again, albeit with care and at safe social distances. The church as presently configured will seat 175 people comfortably. With every other pew closed off it will still seat about 80, or if families spread out, probably 50 without any concerns for the spread of contagion. And wouldn't it be great to have up to 50 of your church friends together at last, worshiping and learning and sharing an uplifting message? (Attendance until now has been in the low 20's – rather discouraging at best.)

Even during the pandemic, a small group of committed younger members has been meeting on Wednesday nights at a fireplace in the grass near the old green bench, to share and commiserate, and promote the sense of community. All are welcome to that event, but now that there's light at the end of the tunnel, maybe other outdoor events could be organized as well – like an occasional picnic after church, summer volleyball, or even collaboration on some church maintenance projects.

And don't forget the annual YARD SALE coming up on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Donations of useful, quality items are being accepted now, and help before and on the day is much needed. (*see ad P. 7*)

Your contributions committee would like to thank you again for all your support, financial and otherwise, throughout this past year, as we look forward to a MUCH better year to come!

Sincerely,  
Jean, Bob and Mike

## **House for Sale In Mitchellville, Maryland**

Right next door to the Washington New Church & School



Mike Gladish, former pastor

at the WNC, and his wife, Ginny, have decided to move to Bryn Athyn for their remaining retirement years, and so are offering their home, the former manse, for sale, hopefully to a New Church buyer.

The original split-level home, built in 1993, is a modular building with a brick front and vinyl siding around the back and sides. It has about 2,700 square feet of living space, with 3 bedrooms upstairs and two downstairs, the larger one (25' X 11') currently being used as a sewing room. It has two full baths upstairs and a half bath with a shower downstairs. Practically the whole place has been renovated over the course of the last 9 years. For example, there's new plumbing throughout the house, a whole new kitchen, a new master bath including a Jacuzzi tub, a new roof, a new deck with a Sunsetter retractable awning and a two-car garage with a large workbench and lots of storage space. Heating is with gas and the whole house is air conditioned. Solar panels on the roof cut the electricity bill in half.

The house sits on a roughly ½ acre property which includes two garden sheds, one old, one fairly new, with plenty of gardening options, and a whole lot more.

Three online listing services estimate the market value between \$469,000 and \$497,000. The Gladishes are looking for a price in that range, or, considering all the upgrades, a little more. Taxes currently are about \$6,500 annually.

Please text Mike at 301-461-3521, or email to [mdgladish@gmail.com](mailto:mdgladish@gmail.com), or inquire by regular mail to 11910 Chantilly Lane, Bowie, MD 20721 if interested. If we can avoid real estate agents' fees, so much the better.

## What? News?

**Yes, happily:** The East Coast Zuber clan got a kind of a surprise visit from son **Devin** and his 2 daughters, **Sophia, and Catherine**. Janna reports that it was beyond wonderful, and she and Phil look forward to seeing them again in June for a week.

**Snow News:** **George and Mary Cooper** discovered why people don't vacation in the mountains of Western Maryland in April. On the 20<sup>th</sup> they basked in the 70° sunshine and on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> enjoyed an almost continuous snowfall and 30 – 35-degree (outdoor) temps while stationed within a few feet of a lovely (indoor) wood stove. It was a typical spring in Garrett County, apparently, for it didn't slow down the natives. It did increase their grumbling, though.



**Future News:** Graduation season is almost upon us. Keep us posted, please – we all want to celebrate successes; they have been few and far between these months, and graduations in the current circumstances are serious achievements to be seriously celebrated.

**Mixed News:** **Mike & Ginny Gladish** visited Bryn Athyn at the end of April to check out their new digs at Cairnwood Village and start planning their move. See their “house for Sale” notice elsewhere herein. (P. 9)



**News from The Pit:** The fire pit, that is. Wednesday evenings are afire with light, heat, and conversation (not all of these are the result of the others) – and more comfortably with the addition of seating equipment of the detachable sort. Try out the new benches, provided via the kindness of Brian & Lincoln Smith, and join the fun. 8:00 Wednesdays unless it is snowing.

**School News:** Of the high school variety: The White Horse Academy welcomed WNCS alumnus **Alan Trimble** to discuss his work as an Emergency Medical Technician & Paramedic for the D.C. Fire Department. He described the skills and training required for

this job, its inevitable stresses, and most importantly the joy of helping others in trouble. Thanks, Alan!

At least another 20 community members (WNCS alum too) have shared with WHA about their careers (see P.4).

**Acton Park News:** Hmmm. Not much there. The proposed solar farm is still going through bureaucratic maneuvers, with lawyers involved. It appears that homeowner's provisions remain to be resolved, but there is continuing progress.

**Healthy News: Jean Allen** reports that she is doing well.

**David Glenn** is continuing to improve; he spends most of his day now in his wheelchair instead of his bed, and although he still doesn't have much use of his hands and feet, he is able to slowly push himself around the halls using his arms and legs.

**Amy Glenn** has been struggling to overcome Covid which she picked up just one day before her second vaccine but is over the worst of it. To these and all the others who have been or are in and/or out of sick bay, we wish you speedy return to what we now call normal.

**Pat Sweeney** is continuing his cancer battle, with 48-hr chemotherapy infusions every two weeks, and the best news is that they are working! The side effects have been rough at times, but there are occasional good days and overall, he's tolerating the treatments well. Radiation therapy is expected to start soon, and hopefully all treatments will be completed by mid to late summer. Then the recovery starts!

Pat says that one of the hardest parts has been the isolation from the people and activities he loves, but the covid vaccines and warmer weather are starting to give that some much needed relief! He's looking forward to occasional appearances at church or the Wednesday campfire gatherings. Pat continues to welcome texts and email messages to help keep in touch with everyone.

Lastly **Michael Ferrell** says that if you want to know how he is doing, just call or email him. Please check out his special message and YouTube link at the end of this Echo P.12.

And to all the rest of you, follow the rules, get vaccinated, stay well, and we will see you in non-virtual reality sooner than seemed possible not so long ago. There is a light at the end of that tunnel, you know.

***Special message from Michael Ferrell***

**Let Us Live (Vol 1)**

We live in challenging times - coronavirus, drugs, violence, cancer, bigotry - the list goes on. But the Lord is faithful, full of tender mercies toward us.

Consider the imagery of Solomon kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven, praying to the Lord, pleading with Him to "hear in heaven... hear in heaven... hear in heaven." Thousands of people, a great congregation, gathered at the Temple dedication. Solomon offered peace offerings, 22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep. He held a great feast, before the Lord our God, with all Israel with him for 7 days, and 7 more days. 1 Kings 8:22-66.

And now we may pray "... Lord hold us in Your hands... keep us from the cold stormy night... blinding darkness... lead us to Your light..." A song-prayer video is specially posted on YouTube, for you, your family, and friends, for everyone, people everywhere.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Nq40wW1IR8&authuser=0>

Thanks for listening. ~ Michael

| DUTY                  |          |         |           |         |          |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| May                   | 2        | 9       | 16        | 23      | 30       |
| Preacher*             | GMF      | GMF     | GMF       | GMF     | GMF      |
| Chancel               | Mary C   | Mary C  | Mary C    | Mary C  | Mary C   |
| ORGAN                 | Carole W | Jenny S | Carole W  | Jenny S | Carole W |
| FLOW-                 | Mary C   | Erin S  | Janna     | Mary C  | Erin S   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Usher | Brian S  | TBA     | Lincoln S | Glenn F | Brian S  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Usher | ----     | Elias H | Marcellus | Elias H | ----     |
| Video                 | Glenn F  | Brian S | Lincoln S | Bill K. | Glenn F  |

# The Washington New Church and School Calendar

**May 2021**

| Sunday                                                         | Monday                                   | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                       | Friday                                         | Saturday                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                |                                          |                                               |                                                                               |                                                |                                                | 1<br>10:30 am Plant Swap @ Frazier's<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 2<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)                                    | 3<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)              | 4<br>10:00 am Wednesday Arcana Group via Zoom | 5<br>10:00 am Wednesday Arcana Group via Zoom<br>7:30 pm Pastor's Council Mtg | 6<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering   | 7<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering   | 8<br>9:00am – 2:00pm Yard Sale<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class       |
| 9<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)                                    | 10<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 11<br>7:30 pm Trustees Meeting                | 12<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering                                 | 13<br>10:00 am Wednesday Arcana Group via Zoom | 14<br>10:00 am Wednesday Arcana Group via Zoom | 15<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class                                   |
| 16<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)<br>4:00 pm WNC/SWNC Community BBQ | 17<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 18<br>7:30 pm Trustees Meeting                | 19<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering                                 | 20<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering  | 21<br>10:00 am Wednesday Arcana Group via Zoom | 22<br>7:30 pm Joint Board & Pastor's Council Mtg (Pastor Review)                 |
| 23<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)<br><b>WHA Bake sale</b>           | 24<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 25<br>ECHO DEADLINE                           | 26<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering                                 | 27<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering  | 28<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class | 29<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class                                   |
| 30<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)                                   | 31<br>Memorial Day - WNC/SWNC Closed     |                                               |                                                                               |                                                |                                                |                                                                                  |
|                                                                |                                          |                                               |                                                                               |                                                |                                                | WNC/SWNC 2021-22 Registration due                                                |

## *May Anniversaries*

*“When married partners love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of its being terminated by death.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 216 ~*

*~ ~ ~*

*May 9<sup>th</sup> ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 23 yrs.*

*May 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Craig & Laura Cooper ~ 15 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 17 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 45 yrs.*

*~ ~ ~*