

June 2021

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## **From the Pastor: Get Ready for New Church Day!**

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

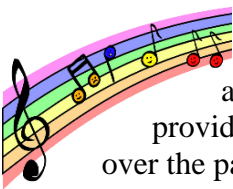
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations. (*Psalms* 100)

Last June we were still in the early days of the pandemic. Sunday worship was still an online-only event, which meant that our celebration of New Church Day (June 19th) was decidedly light in the festivities department. Now, a year has gone by, and we are still operating under COVID restrictions, but those restrictions are less severe than they once were. What's more, there has so far, recently, been a good trend in the various measures of our worldwide fight against the novel coronavirus. Infection rates are down, immunization is moving along, and as I write this the State of Maryland is approaching the vaccination percentage threshold that will trigger an official change in our mask-wearing policies, among other things.

In light of these trends, while recognizing the essential unknowability of the future, I have been talking with trustees, pastor's council members, and other individuals in the church, and looking to what neighboring churches as well as other General Church societies are doing and have begun to make plans for a couple of things. First of all, I am planning for an outdoor celebration of New Church Day to follow the indoor worship service on June 20th. The specifics of how it will work are still a little fluid and will be determined by how pandemic conditions continue to evolve over the next three weeks, so watch for email announcements with more details. But the general plan as it stands right now will be to have a picnic/barbecue along with outdoor activities (volleyball, perhaps).

What's more, I am tentatively looking to that day (June 20th) as the day we reintroduce congregational singing as part of our worship ritual. Music is a vital part of how we express reverence for and gratitude to the Lord. I am deeply grateful to the musicians who have provided us music as part of our worship experience over the past fifteen months of this plague. But worship is also meant to be something we all contribute to, not just



witness. And so, I have been eagerly looking forward to when we can responsibly reintroduce singing for the entire congregation.

But as I said, this is tentative, and will depend on the ongoing evolution of the whole situation. What's more, anyone who is in a high-risk condition (immunocompromised, not yet vaccinated, etc.) is encouraged to continue to use prudence when it comes to attending church events. We will continue to live stream our indoor worship services, so if June 20th is too soon for you to attend events like this in person, you will still have other means of participating.

It is my hope that we can continue to take steps to return to “normal”, full operations as a church community. It has certainly been a long ride so far. But as eager as I am to do so, I am also not going to force things that go against prudence and the ongoing changing circumstances we find ourselves in. We will get there eventually, sooner or later. But I'm praying for sooner, as I imagine you are as well.

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

*Sorry...* In the last Echo, in the school report, I included a poorly formed joke about encouraging faculty members to inform on each other with regard to COVID safety protocol infractions. I compared this to Stalinist Russia. My aim was to make light of the frustrations of getting through these protocols and the stress of the year. However, I want to apologize. COVID has been a dominant, stressful, and upsetting feature of the last year and of course, Stalinist Russia was an awful disaster. I don't want to trivialize or minimize either of these things, so I regret if the joke landed badly for any of the Echo readers.





## New Mask Policy

**Starting Friday, May 28th we are adjusting our policy regarding mask wearing.** Recently, the CDC updated its guidance on COVID-19 safety protocols for the United States. Following that, the State of Maryland updated official regulations along somewhat similar lines. And just this last Wednesday, Prince George's County announced that they, too, would be relaxing some restrictions starting later today. At the Washington New Church, we have looked to these three sources, with PG County being our primary source, when developing our own policies regarding health and safety at the church during this pandemic. And so, we are adjusting our policy.

**What's changing: If you are vaccinated, you are no longer asked to wear a mask when inside the church, during church (not school) related events.** Will anyone be "policing" non-masked people to check on vaccination status? No. I am trusting each person here to use common sense along with a spirit of charity and wisdom to do what is safest for themselves and for the people they come into contact with. In addition, we are **no longer requiring social distancing during church events.** But see below for more details on this...

**What's not changing yet: During school hours and events, everyone inside the building must continue to follow the mask policy as it has existed for many months, now. (i.e., **everyone must wear a mask**).** Again, this is in line with current PG County regulations, in this case as they particularly apply to schools. Also, for the time being, **we are still asking that all people practice "social distancing" when gathered in the sanctuary for worship.** Accordingly, about half of the seating in the sanctuary will remain closed.

**What won't change:** Church services will of course continue to be offered online as well as in person. **Online church as an offering of the Washington New Church is here to stay.** That will not go away as an option, even after the pandemic is gone.

**What might change soon:** For now, we will still be worshipping with only performed (not congregationally sung) music. However,

unless the local status of the pandemic takes a severe turn for the worse, we will reintroduce **congregational singing** as a part of our worship practice on **Sunday, June 20th**.

With these changes, **I am asking everyone to take into consideration the concerns and needs of your neighbors**. You may be ready to roar back into "normal" life, but there may be those around you who are taking a more cautious approach to re-entry, for a variety of reasons. This is why, for instance, we are keeping half of the pews closed for now, and why we are going slow with reintroducing singing, and also why we will be holding this year's annual society meeting online via Zoom. Also, if someone chooses to wear a mask when not strictly required to, I fully support that decision and expect that you will be open-minded about it as well.

Pandemics stink. But they are also great opportunities to practice love for our neighbors! I look forward to seeing the lower half of your faces soon! ~ Rev. Mac Frazier

### *From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board of Trustees met on May 11, 2021. Reports and discussions included the FY22 Budget to be presented to the Society for vote, and an update on School operations and planning for next year. There was a discussion on the current grounds maintenance contract which requires further discussion with the Landscape committee. Rev. Frazier provided plans to pick up where the pandemic cut off his initiatives for programming and uses, including service, outreach, worship, and community building.

There will be a virtual Annual Society Meeting, on the Zoom platform, on **June 18 at 7:30pm**. An agenda and meeting details were provided to all members of the congregation via email, on or about May 28, from the Church Secretary, Bonnie Cowley, containing reports from various committees and the FY22 proposed Budget. In addition, the slate of nominees for Board of Trustees and School Board were provided. Approval of the budget and elections will be held by way of Absentee Ballots. Please return your ballots to the Church or by email to the WCNJ Secretary at the email below, NO

LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 17. If you have questions or did not receive the reports, please contact the Church office.

~ Sharon Cooper

WCNJ, Inc. Secretary - [Wcnjinc.sec@gmail.com](mailto:Wcnjinc.sec@gmail.com)

### **WCNJ Annual Meeting – June 18, 2021, 7:30pm Zoom Link**

Mac Frazier is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Society Meeting

Time: Jun 18, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

Click: <https://zoom.us/j/93903212731?pwd=cWYxcURoNXVG-SURiSE9sRFBjSTJ3UT09>

Or dial by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 939 0321 2731

Passcode: 297386

### **From the White Horse Academy (WHA)**

Well, I get to add one more name to our list of 2020-2021 career speakers. Lucky for me, and my students, **Sara Undeutsch**, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force and information analyst, shared her experiences with us on our final speaker day, Friday, May 21st. She took us through three exercises demonstrating strategic thinking, analysis, and personal biases. We had fun discussing the processes and hearing about the ups and downs of being part of the Air Force.

A huge shout out goes to all of the wonderful people who may have broadened their waistlines in support of our fundraising efforts for our first Junior Journey! Also deserving many thanks are those who supported us without adding to their hips - Thank you! In case you missed it, Sohaila Smith and Sophie Hyatt ran a bake sale after church on Sunday, May 23rd, after spending many (I do mean many) hours baking during the days leading up to it. The girls chose 12



different baked goods to create and sell and then worked hard to meet our deadline. In total, they worked for almost 40 hours to get it done. The sale was a huge success thanks to our wonderful supporters. Once everyone has paid up (ahem!), the girls will have raised just over \$640 towards our mighty goal of \$10,000. If you missed this fundraiser, fear not! There will be more. More bake sales, perhaps some car washes, or yard work, or digitizing of photos. Let us know what you need, and maybe we can fill a use and earn something towards our trip.

Also, if you like to tempt fate or simply like to support worthy causes, we are looking for donors willing to match funds for specific fundraising projects. If you are interested in supporting our service trip to South Korea, please let me know! You can email me at [jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org](mailto:jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org).

Thank you in advance for your support!

If you want more details on the doings of the White Horse Academy, see the special reports for the society meeting this June. We are looking forward to very productive year next year. Thank you for supporting us by volunteering, hiring, and donating! We appreciate everything you do for our success.

*Jana Sprinkle - Education Coach*

## **WNC YARD SALE**

We braved the uncooperative weather and held a successful yard sale on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a great effort from beginning to end. Wonderful donations, fabulous sorting and sales crew, and decent community traffic earned us over \$1400. More money is still trickling in. Many thanks to Derek & Hanna who stored a massive amount of donations for over a year, Sharon K. who worked tirelessly in prep, sales, and disposal AND all the wonderful kids who pitched in. It was truly satisfying to participate in a normal fund-raising event once again. Thanks everyone! ~ Kathy Johns

## **Bathroom Remodeling Project**

The church is moving forward with a renovation of the lobby restrooms. These rooms have not had a major upgrade since they

were built. Stewart Smith will be designing the plans and then we will have estimates submitted to choose a contractor to complete the job – hopefully over the summer. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. ~ Kathy Johns.

## **Announcements**

**Help Wanted:** Now that the COVID numbers are down, mask mandates relaxed and the hope of more folks returning to our in-person church services; the need to assist our pastor in actually running the service has increased. If you are considering coming back in person, consider joining the **incredibly small group** of people who support our service, music, flowers, ushers, chancel & video operators. The pastor can't do it all and needs your support!

If you are already a volunteer on one of these... *please* note when you are “on duty” and show up!

**Wednesday Morning Arcana Class** --Last AC class, finishing volume 2, is this coming Wed., June 2nd, via Zoom only. We may or may not have a morning social in person to wrap up the year on June 16th.

Mike Gladish has comprehensive written notes on the whole of volume 2 and could send them in print or digital form to anyone who is interested.

### **Read All of the Writings - A Centralized Effort & Invitation:**

Dear Friends Across the New Church,

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to be part of a centralized project/goal of reading all of the Writings from start to finish.

The way it works is simple. You sign up for the project, and just before June 19 of this year you receive an email which signals you to start reading *Secrets of Heaven*, vol. 1—whichever translation you wish. You read 3 pages a day (possibly more, depending on which translation you're using), and you receive weekly/occasional e-mail updates telling you where you should be in your reading. 4,710 days later you're finished (= 12 years, 10 months, and 23 days)!



This is a project that was recently completed by a group from the United States and South Africa. The group started on June 19, 2008 and finished on May 12, 2021. That group is now circling back and starting again and issuing this church-wide invitation to join.

People who join this effort are free to start or stop at any time. They can also drop in and out along the way. There's no obligation on anyone's part. People who wish to toss ideas, thoughts, or reflections into the mix via email are welcome to do so. But basically, this is an opportunity for people to read individually through all of the Writings (in chronological order) with weekly reminders as a support to personal discipline.

If you are interested in being a part of this project & goal, simply e-mail the Rev. Mark Pendleton and let him know. He will add your name and e-mail address to an e-mail distribution list, and then contact you closer to June 19<sup>th</sup> with final instructions.

The participants who have signed up so far are looking forward to getting started!

Mark Pendleton - [markp@glenviewnewchurch.org](mailto:markp@glenviewnewchurch.org)

**Gladish House in Acton Park to go on the Market Soon:** Mike



and Ginny will be pre-listing their house with other agents for sale through our agent, Hanna's stepdad, Damon Covert, in the second week of June, with a public listing at the end of the month, so if anyone

is interested before then, it is time to speak up. They are willing to consider all reasonable offers.

### **Summer Camps**

**ANC & Tools for Life Camps:** Due to the uncertainty of the ever-changing pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to

cancel ANC Summer Camp and Tools 4 Life Camp for 2021. Our plan is to resume all of our summer programs in 2022 as they are a very important part of the ANC experience for our current and future students.



**Jacob's Creek Family Retreat: July 25 – 28, 2021.** The theme this year is “Ten Blessings”.

This year's pastoral staff will be – Mac Frazier, Brett Buick & Matt Genzlinger. The camp is held at Laurelville Mennonite Church Camp in the mountains of western Pennsylvania. They are

following some strict CDC and Laurelville guidelines so check the Church bulletin board for details or ask Bonnie to send you the extensive details. Or email: [jacobscreekfamilyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:jacobscreekfamilyretreat@gmail.com)

**50 Year Jubilee Laurel Camp 2021: August 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

To register download form from: [https://laurelcamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2018\\_Paper-Registration-Form.pdf](https://laurelcamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2018_Paper-Registration-Form.pdf) and mail to: Laurel Leaf Academy; 23 West End Ave.; Merchantville, NJ 08109.

### NAVIGATING THE RAPIDS

#### IN THE STREAM OF PROVIDENCE

Free Virtual Convention of the Swedenborgian Church

Friday June 25 - Sunday June 27, 2021 (12N- 8P)

Registration is required for this free event, opening May 15

Keynote Address by Gary Lachman (Blondie guitarist & writer)

Mini courses, worship, ministry updates, socializing, games.

[www.Swedenborg.org/Convention2021](http://www.Swedenborg.org/Convention2021)

[www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention](https://www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention)

### **May-be there are News Notes:**

**Pervasive Noise:** May was apparently a quiet time for people this year; instead, nature took over with a crunch and a buzz. We shouldn't have been surprised, for it happens every 17 years. We

could do without the crunch, though; walking on exoskeletons of Cicadas in the grass and on sidewalks is not much fun, and mowing the lawn was for the stout of heart. The buzz wasn't so bad – for those of us of a certain age, buzzing sounds in the ears are a constant companion. Buzzing trees are entertaining, but the volume control was turned up too high. Wait 'til next year! It will be something else.

**ConGradulations:** Since everybody was attending school remotely this year, it seems as though graduation ceremonies – the usual staple of the June News Notes – disappeared behind closed doors. School has become a secret science. For those of you who graduated from something, or somewhere, we are glad for you and wish you great success in your future endeavors. And we hope you will tell us about it sometime so we can give you a glad hand and words of praise for your defeat of the pandemic.

We do know of at least one who successfully navigated the shoals of at-home studies, so congratulations to WNCS alumnus **Anders Croft**, who graduated from the Salisbury University Clarke Honors College, Cum Laude, on May 13 with a BS in Biology/minor in Chemistry. Anders will be starting a 6-month internship as a lab technician with Lonza Bioscience in Salisbury on June 1.

**Congratulations:** We have more Sprinkles! Not the rain. Not the tiny frosting decorations. The people kind! **Edward and Jana Sprinkle** are proud to announce the marriage of their son, **Jonathan Wynne, to Gretchen Amy Roscoe**, the daughter of John and Jane Roscoe of Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, May 1, 2021 in a beautiful outdoor ceremony led by Reverend Scott Frazier. The wedding was held in the gardens of Bryn Ellis, one of the beautiful, old homes in Bryn Athyn. After a windy start to the day, the weather cooperated and the couple was married under sunny skies in the presence of parents, grandparents and the lovely wedding party of friends and siblings. WNCS alumnus, **Oskar Simons**, was the best man. Other WNCS alumni in attendance to the bride and groom included **Joseph and Jennie Sprinkle and Emily Martin**. It is so heartwarming to see the strength of friendships built here in our community carry on even when our children move

away. We wish a long and happy marriage for Jonathan and Gretchen as they look to the Lord for guidance throughout their lives.

In a funny twist of events, because the wedding date was moved up, the wedding shower hosted by sister Amanda Roscoe at Janice Roscoe's home in Bryn Athyn, took place after the wedding on Sunday, May 23rd. Jana wanted to share this information because of Amanda Roscoe's name for the event as she posted it on Facebook: "Sprinkle Gretchen with Love." And there you have the Sprinkle family news.

**More Congratulations: Matt and Sara Smith** traveled up to the Kempton area for a special event recently. Their daughter **Savanna**, whom many of you know well, was confirmed in a lovely private ceremony on May 23rd, 2021. This took place at the home of **Kenan and Kathleen Smith**, so Matt and Sara got to spend a bit of time with them and their little daughter as well. It was a quick but happy visit. Congratulations to Savanna!

**Help Wanted: Amy Glenn** reports that they are looking forward to welcoming **David** home some time in the future so there are things they need to do in their home to get ready. Amy needs your recommendations for a contractor who you have had a good experience with for doing work such as widening the opening in their walk-in shower and removal of the step. If you know anyone who is good and available soon she would love to hear from you.

**Passing By:** A big welcome to **Barbara Fiedler**, a former denizen of the Washington Society, who made a quick visit to local family but couldn't stay long enough. Stay longer next time, won't you?

**Passing On:** A few weeks ago, **Bea Odhner Tolson** passed on after a brief illness. Bea is the mother of David Tolson (who lives in Frederick and DC and is a long-time member of WCNJ). Bea Tolson is also David Cowley's last living aunt (or uncle for that matter). Our condolences to Bea's family.

**Everything Else:** Vacation Time now starts. Enjoy your summer.



*Please note when you are “on Duty” and show up! Thank you for your help!*

| <b>DUTY</b>                 |          |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| June                        | <b>6</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | GMF      | GMF       | GMF       | GMF       |
| Chancel                     | Mary C   | Mary C    | Mary C    | Mary C    |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | Jenny S  | Carole W  | Jenny S   | Carole W  |
| <b>FLOWERS</b>              | Janna Z  | Mary C    | Erin S.   | Janna Z   |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | TBA      | Lincoln S | Brian     | Glenn F   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | Elias H  | Marcellus | ----      | Elias H   |
| <b>Video</b>                | Brian S  | Bill K.   | Glenn F   | Lincoln S |



## *June Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love in its essence is nothing else but  
the wish of two that their lives become one life.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 215 ~*

*~ ~ ~*

*June 10<sup>th</sup> ~ David & Heather Radcliffe ~ 26 yrs.*

*June 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Wynne & (Marge) Hyatt ~ 64 yrs.*

*June 21<sup>st</sup> ~ David & Amy Glenn ~ 36 yrs.*

*June 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Brian & Janine Smith ~ 15 yrs.*

*June 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Derek & Hanna Hyatt ~ 6 yrs.*

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# The Washington New Church and School Calendar

## June 2021

| Sunday                                                                                            | Monday                                     | Tuesday                       | Wednesday                                                                          | Thursday | Friday                                                                        | Saturday                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                   |                                            | 1                             | 2                                                                                  | 3        | 4                                                                             | 5                                                                |
| 6<br>11:00 am Worship (S/W/F)                                                                     | 7<br>8:00 pm<br>Monday Night Reading Group | 8<br>7:30 pm Trustees Meeting | 9<br>5:00 pm Volleyball - 13yrs and up<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering  | 10       | 11<br>Last Day for WNCSS<br>9:00 am WNCSS Graduation<br>12:00 pm WNCSS Closes | 12<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class                   |
| 13<br>11:00 am Worship (S/W/F)                                                                    | 14                                         | 15                            | 16<br>5:00 pm Volleyball - 13yrs and up<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering | 17       | 18<br>7:00 pm WNC Annual Meeting<br>Virtual on Zoom                           | 19<br>New Church Day<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 20<br>New Church Day<br>Observed<br>11:00 am Worship (S/W/F)<br>12:00pm New Church Day Picnic/BBQ | 21<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group   | 22<br>ECHO DEADLINE           | 23<br>5:00 pm Volleyball - 13yrs and up<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering | 24       | 25                                                                            | 26<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class                   |
| 27<br>11:00 am Worship (S/W/F)                                                                    | 28                                         | 29                            | 30<br>5:00 pm Volleyball - 13yrs and up<br>8:00 pm Community Fire circle gathering |          |                                                                               |                                                                  |