

September 2021

ECHO
ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

As I write this, summer break is coming to an end, although summer weather is still very much with us. Teachers are getting classrooms ready, we are having meetings to prepare for the new school year, preaching calendars are being drawn up, and plans for the coming year are being made.

On the church side of things, plans include having Calvin Heinrichs working and training here as practicum portion of the priest candidate's program of our church's theological school in Bryn Athyn. Calvin will be teaching religion in our schools, as well as

providing school chapels, and performing other functions, under the guidance of both Brian Smith and myself. He will also be occasionally preaching and leading worship on Sundays, participating in our existing doctrinal discussion groups and classes, and may offer a class or two of his own, under my supervision. I hope that you all provide a warm welcome for Calvin, along with his wife Liza and their young son, Siegfried.

In other news, the Council of the Clergy was meant to have full meetings for its entire international membership this year, but due to That Big Thing Everyone's Thinking About this was not possible. So instead, we have been meeting in slightly smaller groups. In North America, we are meeting in two groups, one in August and one in September. Brian and I attended the August meetings which occurred a week ago.

These meetings were a little unusual. Normally the agenda of the meetings is driven largely by whatever doctrinal considerations individual priests prepare to present, sometimes guided loosely by a theme set by the Secretary of the Council. This year, however, discussions primarily focused around an agenda presented by the Executive Bishop, Pete Buss, and his two Assistant Bishops, Brad Heinrichs and Dave Lindrooth. This is the first set of meetings we've had since those three took on their current offices, and the Bishops felt that it would be a good idea to take some time to talk about their points of focus as leaders of the church and of the priesthood. Also some of you may know, there are some thorny issues that the church is wrestling with in some areas these days, and the Bishops felt (and I agree) that we need some careful leadership now more than ever.

So the bishops presented on four subjects throughout the week. Pete led a session on the core doctrines that spell out in particular what it means to live a heavenly life. Second, Pete presented items from the General Church's strategic plan with an emphasis on the upcoming year's specific focus areas of communicating a vision, improving how we are organized, and employee development. Brad Heinrichs led the second day's focus on doctrines related to marriage and how we understand and deal with disorders while

supporting the ideals of marriage. After this, Dave Lindrooth led the third day's focus on improved communication and trust within the clergy, especially when dealing with the many difficult challenges being faced by pastors and teachers these days.

Now, despite the agenda being broken up this way, with each bishop taking a different focus, I have to report that one of the biggest takeaways for me at the end of the meetings was how well our three bishops really are operating as a fully integrated team. I never felt, when listening to one bishop speak, anything other than that they were speaking for all three. This is not something I necessarily expected this early on in their time in these new roles, but I certainly welcome it. We have never before had a system of three bishops working quite like this, and I am extremely pleased to see them coordinating with one another and working as a real team, and not just as three siloed leaders, each with their own portfolios.

In addition to the episcopally led main sessions and discussions, we also had doctrinal presentations from the brothers Prescott Rogers (on Systematic Theology) and Bruce Rogers (on Divine Providence and the question of Foresight). And along with these academic presentations we also had a practical discussion group led by my own brother Pearse Frazier, along with Chuck Blair, on the challenges of bringing people together for real worship in a world reshaped by COVID. Finally, every day included multiple breakout discussions in which each bishop sat and listened as smaller groups of clergy discussed the topic at hand.

I could say more, but I've already gone on long enough for now. I welcome any questions people have about these proceedings, or about the general direction and future of the church in light of all the pressures and challenges we are facing. For now, I will just say that good work was done at the meetings I attended, and more will need to be done going forward.

Glenn "Mac" Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church  
2021-08-24

## *From the Board of Trustees*

The BoT will hold their first meeting of the new fiscal year on Sept. 14, at 7:30pm via Zoom. Topics will include welcome of newly elected members, election of Board officers, and planning for the upcoming year. If you have topics you wish the Board to consider this year, please reach out to any member of the Board or the Pastoral team.

~ Sharon Cooper, Board Secretary

PS: The newly elected & re-elected members of the board are Steve Ball - chairperson, Sharon Cooper Croft, Kathy Johns, John Kern, David Radcliffe, Derek Hyatt, Aubrey Hernandez, Craig Cooper, Lincoln Smith.

## **Men's Weekend – Sept 24 – 26<sup>th</sup>**

The men's weekend is Happening!

A beautiful spot in Luray on the Shenandoah River will host this year's men's weekend. With 15 men signed up, this is our biggest group in recent history. ~ Brian Smith

## **WNCS Back to School Night**



Welcome back!

The Washington New Church School & White Horse Academy are grateful to be back in school, face-to-face. Parents, former parents and board members are warmly invited to come see the exciting educational opportunities your children will be having this year. Please join us at

7:00 PM on Thursday, September 16.

Also note that unfortunately, due to COVID concerns and social distancing protocols, we are NOT inviting the children this year. Hopefully you will have time to make arrangements with a babysitter or grandparent so that all of you may join us for an informative evening.

We are looking forward to seeing both returning and new veterans join us in the commemoration; so please mark this event on your calendar today - Back-to-School Night, Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 PM!

Sincerely, *Jana Sprinkle - HS Education Coach*

### **Monday Night Reading Class**

Greetings Monday Night Classics:

We are back in business, as promised! Resumption date: ***Monday evening, September 13, 2021, at 8:00 PM***. This will be the last class on Conjugal Love, so you have only two weeks to finish the rest of the book - from wherever you stopped to the very end. It's a little longer than our usual number of pages, but then you probably spent the summer catching up, so it should be easy.

The current thinking is to have this class on Zoom, so you will get a reminder with the Zoom address closer to the date.

***Please consider joining this exciting group!*** Beginning with our Monday night class on September 27<sup>th</sup> we will be starting a new book (possibly Apocalypse Revealed – still to be determined.)

We are leaning toward continuing the class on Zoom, since there is still some uncertainty about the ongoing virus attacks. Also, thinking ahead to upcoming changes from summer to winter, and the need to ease night-time travel for distance travelers, we should discuss the desirability of continuing to hold these classes via Zoom. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us.

George & Mary

### **Announcements**

**Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) Meeting: Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm:** We'll be meeting at the Washington New Church and School:

Please wear a mask for the meeting. There will be plenty of space for distancing at your discretion.

At this meeting, we will discuss upcoming events and how you might help with them. Bring your ideas to help the school! The annual dues are still just \$10.00.

I hope to see you there!

Best regards, Anne Ball, TAG secretary

**New Addresses: *(please make a note)***

Mike & Ginny Gladish  
3039 Huntingdon Pike, Box 550  
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009  
cell/text: 301-461-3521

John & Jean Allen  
3 St. James Ct.  
Easton, MD 21601

Matt & Sara Smith (soon to be but not yet)  
27 Turkey Road  
Kempton, PA 19529

**CALL FOR FLOWER LADIES AND USHERS:** Even just one or two more names added to either list of helpers, would really help! If you would be willing to provide an occasional flower arrangement for our altar or serve as usher for a service now and then, please let Bonnie know, so your name can be added to the rotation schedule. You would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



**Streaming Helpers:** Do you appreciate that we are able to stream our Sunday services? We would love it if you could join our small group of “technicians” who work behind the scenes making sure the streaming is successful. Simple training available and you will only have to do a handful of Sundays. *(See Bonnie)*



**Pasture Raised Pork for Sale!** Healthy meat for your whole family raised on pasture in beautiful Kempton, PA.

No hormones, no antibiotics. Order now, ready in September. Deposit \$150 (goes toward final price of half or whole pig)

**Whole pig:** \$4.00/lb. of hanging weight + roughly \$200-\$300 butcher fees\* for whole pig

**Half pig:** \$4.25/lb. of hanging weight + roughly \$140-\$250 butcher fees for half pig If you're interested in a smaller amount, please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you. (Butcher fees depend on size of pig and choice of cuts).

Thanks! Lydia

Want to go whole-hog? Or just learn more? Contact Judah and Lydia Synnestvedt: 267-761-8085 or [lydiasynnestvedt@gmail.com](mailto:lydiasynnestvedt@gmail.com)

## Echo News Notes Sept 2021

### **Breaking News:**

Summer is over! Well, almost. And autumn activities are ramping up, so make sure you have your school supplies, as well as rakes, sweaters, and a supply of firewood. Pretty soon we will have cold weather to blame on climate change. How's that for an optimistic start to September?

### **Good News:**

OK – Then try this for optimism: School is open! As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, classes are under way with full attendance, and with mandated masks to enable everyone to learn to be charitable by thinking of how to protect other people. And to top it off, the school has welcomed 11 new families.

Volleyball is IN for the young and/or agile, with regular evening sessions drawing huge crowds every week. (We acknowledge that “huge” is a relative term.) Why not join in the fun? And be sure to visit the Wednesday night conversations around the fire pit next to the Church parking lot, where the huge volleyball crowd goes to relax and review their amazing play.

### **Breaking Hearts News:**

**Ginny and Mike Gladish** are now (as of Aug 11<sup>th</sup>) ensconced in their new digs in Cairnwood Village, in BA, PA.

Further: **Jean and John Allen** have sold their house and are moving their headquarters to Easton, MD to be near daughter Shannon & son-in-law Todd Wawrzeński and grandkids Mason and Hayden. They are moved but are not gone – they just have a longer commute to church on Sundays. Jean says: As of September 10, our new address will be: 3 St. James Ct. Easton, MD 21601. We will be a little over an hour away, and with bridge traffic being what it is, we won't see you as often as we would like. We will try to get back as often as we can...we're just moving, not leaving!

Another One: **Matt & Sara Smith** are in the process of preparing to move to Kempton, PA.

### **Glad Hearts News:**

We have a new teacher at WNCS. **Ariel Martin** has arrived in town and will be the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher as well as the all-around, teach everyone music teacher (Ariel's 2<sup>nd</sup> major). Thanks to an Asplundh grant there are all sorts of new instruments for the kids to learn – guitars, xylophones, drums, glockenspiels and more! Ariel is now living in the small house behind the David Stebbing's house on Glenn Dale Road – where Wynne (T) Hyatt lived for many years. Welcome, Ariel!

Speaking of which (or whom), Wynne (T) has moved into his dad's house on Worrell Avenue. It's much better when people who move don't go away.

We are also entertaining a candidate from the Theological School, **Calvin Heinrichs**, who has arrived with wife Liza and baby Siegfried. They are staying with the Balls in the basement apartment while Calvin learns how a vibrant and exciting Church society functions. Welcome!



**Summer Travels: Greta and John Davidson** left sunny California for three weeks this summer for their annual visit to the rainy east coast, visiting friends and relatives, including Greta’s sister Janna Zuber.

**Vance Genzlinger** was in town to visit Dorothy and Bill Radcliffe and to spend quality time running around the track with other 90+ year-olds at the Sports and Learning Center. All in the name of having fun.



Reportedly, this was the year for getting back on the road again for summer vacation. Among the travelers: **Lin-**

**coln Smith and kids** on an extended (in time) car trip to Seattle and places of interest between hither and yon (particularly those with electric charging stations). Lincoln reports: they had a lovely lap of the northern US. Highlights included hearing a great Sunday talk from **Alan Cowley** in Oak Arbor, exploring the Keweenaw peninsula with our big cousin Sullivan, and meeting our tiny cousin Enzo in Seattle where we stayed a while. The electric car charging network scooted us swiftly through more than 6000 miles with no issues. Coming down through the Rockies, we watched the car charge up, adding as much as 15 miles to the range on some slopes. The kids seemed to enjoy hiking in the Olympic Mountains, watching bison in Yellowstone, and riding horses in Roosevelt National Park -- but enthusiasm peaked when shopping at a Target for a few items and swimming in the hotel pool.

This proves (a) that three kids in a small car can survive three weeks together, and (b) that extension cords longer than 10 feet are not a requirement for cross-country travel in an electric car – but careful planning is. And a good supply of D-cells is a bonus.

**Dave and Bonnie Cowley** got **two** vacations this year (first one mentioned in the summer Echo). The second involved travel to a wooded lake campground in Ohio to catch son **Alan and wife Susan** (with dog Ziggy & cat Tucker) in their wanna-be "Tiny House" (now their colder climes RV) Alan moving from Boynton Beach, Florida made several stops to visit friends and family along the way, having somehow missed his parents and sister Aubrey and family. Dave and Bonnie headed them off at the pass to get a four-day visit around campfires and on the beach. Alan then headed farther north to his new pastorate in Oak Arbor, MI.

**Hear Here:**

**Mike Gladish** happily reports that the book he prepared for publication HAS BEEN PUBLISHED. It is titled, "Prayer and Providence," and will be selling for \$15.00 from the General Church and will also be available on Amazon soon. It consists of 40 sermons he wrote over the course of several decades and is 275 pages long in paperback. Hopefully before too long it will also be available as an e-book. There is one copy in the church bookroom.

**Just In:**

Matt & Sara Smith are grandparents again with the birth of Tessa Marie, born to Joram and Katelyn Smith August 27<sup>th</sup>. Sara has gone to visit them as I write this.

| <b>DUTY</b>                 |             |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>SEPT 2021</b>            | <b>5</b>    | <b>12</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>26</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | CBH         | GMF       | CBH       | GMF       |
| Chancel                     | Sohaila S   | Sophie H  | Mary C    | Madison C |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | Carole W    | Jenny S   | Carole W  | Jenny S   |
| <b>FLOWERS</b>              | Erin S      | Janna Z   | Mary C    | Mary C    |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | Lincoln S   | Elias H   | Brian S   | Glenn F   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | Marcellus S | ----      | (Kai S)   | ----      |
| <b>Video</b>                | Bill K      | Brian S   | Glenn F   | Lincoln S |