

October 2021

ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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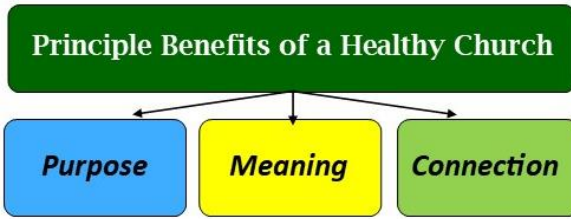
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### ***From the Pastor: Get Involved!***

Two years ago, I preached a five-part series, titled, *Our Challenge*. In it I laid out my best understanding, from the Word, of the three principle benefits a healthy church society provides to the world: **purpose, meaning, and connection**. You can find these sermons on our website, and at NewChurchAudio.org. If you want an insight into the decisions I make as a pastor, you can go back and

listen to those sermons; everything I plan and do here is informed by this model. Just as a reminder, here is the general outline:



Everything in the universe relates to three things: **love**, **wisdom**, and **use**. The church is no different. The reason churches exist

is so that we can use **truths** from the Word to grow our **faith** in the Lord, accept the Lord's **goodness** into our lives by becoming more **charitable**, and by **marrying good and truth** together and actually applying it in our daily lives as **works** of charity, and be transformed by the Lord into angels. So, a properly functioning church has a role in your life to help with all three of these things: purpose, meaning and connection. So, this is why we have worship gatherings. It's why we study the Word together in small groups. It's why we have social gatherings and activities. And it's why we organize to help one another and our neighbors in need.

Over the past year and a half, a literal plague has impinged on our ability to perform many of our functions. But it has not outright stopped us. We continue to look for ways to provide purpose, meaning and connection despite limitations on our ability to gather publicly in large groups. And over time those limitations have evolved and become more manageable.

I mention all this because I want you to think about your response to two questions:

First, **where do you feel the biggest need right now in your life?** Of the three categories of purpose, meaning and connection, where do you currently experience the most lack?

Second, **how are you most prepared to serve others' needs right now?** Which of the three fundamental needs do you most feel called to help satisfy in others?

After you think about those two questions, here is what I have to offer, and what I am looking for:

Consider volunteering at the church. We are looking for **ushers, video operators, chancel attendants**, and people to handle **refreshments and coffee**. Or **volunteer at the school**. See a local need in our surrounding community? Help organize a **service project** to help them.

Join us for **worship** or watch our **online services** to learn from the Lord's Word. Join our **Monday night** or **Wednesday morning reading groups** to read and discuss the Word with a pastor and with your neighbors. Come see me for a recommendation for what to **read on your own**, or for help starting up a **new group**.

Come **worship** with us, not only to hear sermons and learn from the Word, but to gather in community with others. Hang out with friends at our **Wednesday night fire circle**. Join a **marriage support group** we are about to launch and connect with other couples to support and celebrate true married love. Make friends and get some exercise at our **weekly volleyball** games. Or start something of your own!

And all that is just what we do in a typical week. We also have special events like the **Men's Weekend** (described elsewhere in this issue), special **holiday** celebrations, **work parties** (again, more on those in this issue of the *Echo*), and other periodic opportunities. Despite COVID and other challenges churches and communities face these days, we have a lot going on. So I invite you to get more involved! **Help us to fulfill our mission, and help yourself to become a happier, more spiritually healthy person.**

I hope you all have a great October!

Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2021-09-29



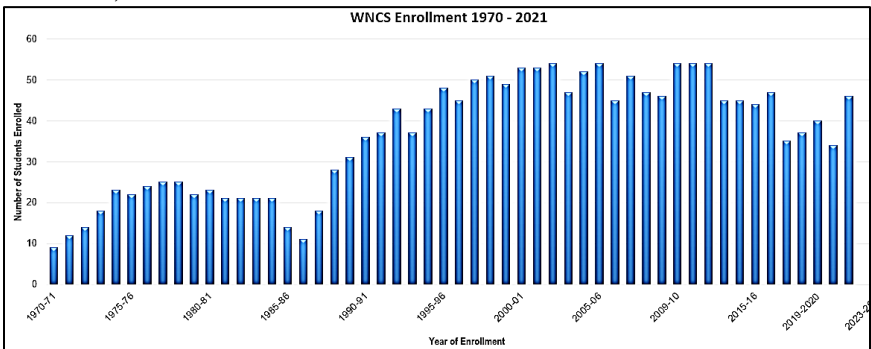
*From the Principal,*

**School is going great!** I'm thinking especially of comparisons with last October (2020). At that point we were wrestling our way through distance education over MS Teams. The teachers did learn a lot from that experience AND the students kept learning

too (as shown by the progress recorded in their IOWA testing). However, we are *thrilled* to be back in the classrooms.

The pandemic has been unusual and burdensome, and it continues to complicate our work at the school. However, it is still just part of another cycle of life. Good and evil, planting and harvest. Everything cycles in this life. Our theme recitation this year is the ancient poetic promise made to Noah, “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8.22). Even apart from the pandemic, there is plenty of up and down in the life of the school, and in the life and any one student. Our prayer is to continue to reflect on the Lord’s care over the whole process and to learn to trust Him through the vicissitudes.

I’m grateful this year for the following new and/or repositioned staff: Brenna Sweeney has continued to cover our 1&2<sup>nd</sup> grade language arts while also serving many of our school families through her own tutoring business. This year we have also added Lauralyn Cooper, who is taking on 3&4<sup>th</sup> grade art and Calvin Heinrichs, who, for the fall term has taken on religion classes, chapels, life-skills, PE, and anything else we throw at him (such as cleaning out the gutters). Most especially, I’m grateful to have Ariel Martin making her way through her first year as 7&8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher. Notably, she is also responsible for all ages of music instruction, which she has taken on with skill and enthusiasm.



Our enrollment is the highest it has been in the 6 years I’ve been in town now at 46 students. It also comprises many great families and students. Yes, we are still dealing with real people which include

the typical academic and behavioral issues to be addressed, but we have a lot of positive and supportive people to work with. I encourage congregation members to make an effort to come out for the November work party. Caring for our facility and grounds is a shared concern for both church and school families and doing work together shoulder-to-shoulder is one of the best ways to strengthen connections.

Brian Smith

**The Brook that didn't Babble**

*By John Croft*



What happened when 18 New Churchmen walked into a mountain lodge on the Shenandoah River for a fall weekend, armed with books, barrels of food, fishing rods, cigars, and some guitars?

Nothing. Nothing at all. That's our answer, and we're sticking to it...

But what we can say however, is that by all accounts, the Fourth Annual Men's Retreat was a huge success:

1. First off, all 18 men came home, in relatively clean condition (despite hot water heaters on the fritz).

2. They were well physically fed (a big round of applause to Sharon Croft Cooper for helping the Chief Calorie Officer, John Croft, with the menu and shopping pre-work, and a huge thanks to a large cast of guest chefs at the house).
3. They were spiritually fed, thanks to thought provoking sermons and workshops from Candidate Calvin Heinrichs, Assistant Pastor Brian Smith, and Pastor Mac.
4. Conversation ebbed and flowed like the smoke from a fine Cohiba.
5. The weather was kind (beautiful for the entire weekend!).
6. And the setting was bucolic, with a river running through it, mountains to hike, volleyballs to spike, and brilliant stars at night.

Kudos to Mike Gladish for doing the initial leg work on this retreat (sorry you couldn't join us). Not in attendance but very much on

our minds were David Glenn, Pat Sweeney, and David Stebbing.



Looking forward to seeing Pat, David and David and everyone else—and even a few more—next year!

## Announcements

**Worship space Dedication:** Some of you “old timers” may remember that in the early planning of the church and community in Mitchellville, there was always a hope that the current building would eventually become just the school and that a new church building would be built up on the hill (the highest point in Acton Park) just southeast of the current campus. It has been more than 50 years and that new building has not been realized. Yet, the land



and the space are still reserved for the church – not part of the Ac-ton Park development.

Last year the White Horse Academy (WNCS HS) took on a project



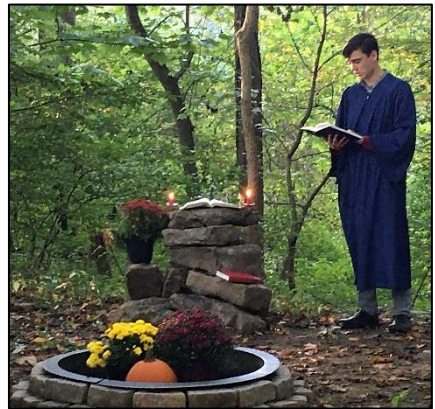
to create an outdoor worship space in those woods on top of that hill. Now there are cleared paths, benches, and an altar. It is a lovely peaceful place and since has been used by the school for worship, and classes.

The church plans to dedicate this space on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

All are invited to join us for this dedication... adults, children, old and young. There is a well-defined path that leads from the school gravel lot, across a small bridge and up the hill to the site.

The hill is a bit steep for some so we plan to have a shuttle up to the corn field where there is a very short level path right to the worship center.

**Special “Souper” Sunday lunch:** To celebrate the dedi-cation and to kick off this year’s “Souper” Sunday fundraiser, the Theta Alpha Guild will be preparing a soup and bread lunch after the dedication and service.



**Plant Swap:** Let’s get together for a less formal plant swap on Saturday October 16th, 10AM at the Frazier’s back patio. If you plan to attend text or call Gillian with what you are looking for or have to offer so we don’t dig things unnecessarily. Also, if you have seeds to share, those would be welcome. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be available if you just want to socialize. ~ Gillian

**Help Wanted:** After Church Coffee has restarted! Currently, it is a cart outdoors with some drinks and snacks. PLEASE consider joining the after-church coffee crew. It's easy! Come to services a little early and prepare a cart with the drinks and snacks.

**Souper Sunday:** Once again TAG plans on running its "Souper" Sunday fundraiser through the fall and winter months. We will begin with a special Soup and Bread lunch on October 24<sup>th</sup> for the dedication (soup will not be for sale but donations will be accepted for the lunch). Our first sale/pre-order will follow on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the pandemic we plan to have soups & bread pre-ordered for pick up or local delivery and for sale after church as well.

**New Phone Number:** Jenny Smith has a new phone number - 443-510-9655 please make a note of it.

**Fall Work Party Nov. 13:** Indoor & Outdoor so there is something for everyone! Coffee, snacks provided (sorry no breakfast). Bring your tools! (See ad the inside cover).

## ***OCTOBER News Notes***

Well, it happened: the second Equinox of the year arrived with a bit of a bang, bringing with it rain, thunder, flash floods and Autumn. Even though the whole thing was kind of predictable, it was still nice to see that somebody did something about those nasty 90° humid days. Now we get to have leaf-raking blisters instead of lawn-mowing blisters.

### **Reflection Time:**

Michael Ferrell's musical prayer "Let Us Live" (Vol 1) is still available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/rrVBcwludPI> with vocals and musical accompaniment by Michael. Try it – you will like it. Nicely done, Michael.

### **Things Being Done:**

In the good weather this fall, **volleyball** will still be going strong and fire circle (a very popular Wednesday night ritual) is also



going strong and likely to continue even during the months we really need a fire. Why not attend?

**Things To Do:** (Borrowed from our sister publication *E-News*):

***Ink Cartridge Recycling:*** There is a very large pile of dead ink cartridges ready to be packed up and shipped off to a recycling company that gives us a donation for each cartridge. Bonnie could use a person to take them off my hands and package them to ship to Planet Green. Good for the environment and every penny for WNCS helps

***Plant Swap*** – October 16th, 10am: Are you thinning out some of your perennials... bulbs even shrubs? Bring your plants to Gillian Frazier's home – 11801 Chantilly Lane, Bowie, MD (across Enterprise Road from the school just a few houses down) to swap plants with other gardeners who might just have cast offs you would like.

**Things already done:**

Helping **Bill Radcliffe** tick an item off his bucket list, sons Edward and Charles accompanied him to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for several days of hiking and touring. The mid-September weather was ideal, and the countryside and scenery were gorgeous.

Welcome to **Sylvia and Doris**, newly arrived in the former Mike & Ginny Gladish home on Chantilly Lane. We look forward to getting to know them.

**Brad Johns** attended the One Voice Conference in Dallas in August. He was one of the presenters there giving a seminar on "Growing Your Voice-Over Business from Scratch". He received three awards, two for voice over work last year, and the BIG award called the "Inspiration Award" voted on by the global voiceover community for inspiring and helping others with their voice-over careers. Congratulations, Brad.



**Brenna Sweeney** recently moved from her parental home to her own apt. in Edgewater, MD. The next day, brother Bryan moved back home. (Pat & Paige were finally empty nesters...for a day.)

Also, congratulations to **Andy Cooper**, an Associate at Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP (WRA) in Baltimore, for being awarded the Carl John Lauter Award at the 2021 Tri-Association Conference of the American Waterworks Association. It is given each year to a member of the Chesapeake Section of the Association who has given outstanding service through higher work as an officer, committee chair or committee member. Andy has been a volunteer with Chesapeake AWWA for over 10 years. He led the Distribution System Committee for many years where he helped spearhead many well-attended seminars. He has also served as a Trustee, Secretary-Treasurer, Chair-Elect, Chair and Past Chair of the Section.

Congratulations to **David Radcliffe**, who is now the Functional Program Lead for Cyber Capability Building for the Institute for Security Governance (ISG). In addition to leading ISG cyber advisory and educational efforts, he coordinates ISG cyber support to the Combatant Commands, the Department of Defense Regional Centers, and international partners. He is the lead for developing the DoD cyber security cooperation community of interest.

### **Wish We Were There:**

**Bill and Sharon Kunkle** recently enjoyed a vacation in the UK, with Monica and Keith Hyatt. Travels took them to Bath, Devon, Cardiff, Cotswold, Conwy, and Oxford. They report: “we lucked out with beautiful weather throughout, as well as great views of the countryside, lots of castle exploration and peaceful quiet locations without the sound of route 50. Our experience with Covid testing in the country results in a grade of D-, but the friendly people and great food happily left us with many fond memories!”

### **More Work Ahead:**

The Johns family also welcomed another baby! **Brad, Jr., and Christine** are the proud parents of Marianne Rose Johns born on Sept. 16, 2021. Congratulations to all the family.

### **Pastoral Visitations:**

We were inundated with visiting pastors during the last weekend of September, while being un-inundated with regular pastors the same

weekend. Three incoming, and three outgoing (in a manner of speaking) resulting in a very balanced weekend. Who knew we were a balanced Society? Maybe a bit of explanation would help. Naah!

Well, OK. We were happy to welcome **Bishop Brad Heinrichs and his wife Cathy**, who came all the way from Bryn Athyn to take the Chancel on Sunday (Bishop Brad, not Cathy) and incidentally to stay with and visit their grandson **Siegfried** and daughter-in-law **Liza**, while son **Calvin** went off to join the festivities at the Men's' Retreat – see write-up in the real part of the Echo p. 5 (That's one "in" and one "out".)

We also welcomed **Rev. Dan Heinrichs**, who traveled from BA with son Brad to visit grand-daughter Carina Heinrichs, grands Calvin and Liza and great-grandson Siegfried. Dan stayed with George & Mary Cooper and hashed over the old days – selectively, in accordance with memory capabilities, and enjoyed renewing with his former parishioners on Sunday. He served as another "in" to balance the "out" caused by the attendance of Rev. Brian Smith at the Men's' Retreat.

And we welcomed **Rev. Jim Cooper**, who traveled from Toronto via BA to visit brother and sister-in-law George & Mary Cooper, but really came to visit son Craig, daughter-in-law Laura and a passel of grandkids (when grandkids create a stir are they a passel of hassle?). Turns out Rev. Jim hadn't seen Craig for almost five years because of Craig's deployments to various parts of the world in his F-15E followed by a pandemic that made crossing the US/Canada border a bit of a problem. Jim also enjoyed renewal with former parishioners on Sunday and qualifies as an "in" to balance Pastor Mac's "out" at the Men's Retreat. And that completed our balancing act.

### **Class Act:**

Why don't you join the Monday Night Reading Group? If you are already a member, why not recruit a friend to join you and the rest

of the group which is starting to read the *Apocalypse Revealed*? You all will find it a stimulating hour every other Monday evening from 8:00 to 9:00. So why not?

We were happy to welcome back David & Amy Glenn after a long recovery and hope to see more of you soon. The next class will be on October 11, at 8:00 PM on Zoom. The reading will be the pre-chapter material for Chapter 1, which can be skimmed since it is repeated later in detail, and Numbers 1 through 32 (about 20 pages). If you don't have a copy, the "Rogers" translation is available from Amazon as well as other places online. If you want to be on the list for notices of meetings, or have any questions, call Pastor Mac (or the news notes editor if all else fails; the editor is an expert at failures).

**Daytime class more to your liking?** A new 4-week **Wednesday Morning Group** started a series of classes led by candidate Calvin Heinrichs, on the posthumously published *Doctrine of Charity*. This book is a wonderfully simple and often pragmatic approach to the subject of charity which many find refreshing. It's a fun read and has a lot to offer about the different facets of charity. The first class kicked off September 28<sup>th</sup>, but you are still very welcome to join us for the remaining 3.. The class will meet every other Wednesday, concluding on October 27th. E-mail Calvin ([CalvinBHeinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:CalvinBHeinrichs@gmail.com)) to be put on his list and he will get you more information and the Zoom link.