

May 2022

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and

gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So, the wedding hall was filled with guests.” (*Matthew 22:8-10*)

The theme of invitations occurs frequently in the Word of the Lord. Sometimes, it is the Lord inviting His people to follow Him. At other times, it is the Lord instructing His people to go out and invite new people. One kind of invitation that happens repeatedly is an invitation to a feast.

A feast is a gathering in which people come together to eat and drink with one another, but also to enjoy one another’s company and conversation. At its best, a feast is a party in which people grow closer to one another while learning from one another’s perspectives and from one another’s wisdom from experience, while also enjoying nourishing and delightful food and drink. A perfect feast is an event that nourishes both the body and the soul of all who attend.

Feasts in the Word (as in life today) are often held to celebrate some important event, either to commemorate something important from the past (e.g., holy day feasts) or to kick off something wonderful and new (like at a wedding). The greatest of all feasts in the Word is the sharing of the last Passover meal among the disciples, which we commemorate in the church every time we celebrate Holy Supper.

Given all that can be said of feasts, it is not hard to see how a feast in the Word is also a symbol of a key function of the Lord’s kingdom—both of heaven and of the church. Whenever we gather to worship, to serve others, or to support one another, we are participating in a spiritual “feast”.

... the invitations that work the best are the personal ones. A sign, a website, an advertisement—these can’t really communicate love the way a one-on-one conversation can.

And feasts don’t work if you don’t invite anyone to come. A party without invitations is a sad affair. But whom should we invite?

Repeatedly, in the Lord’s Word, we are taught that it is not enough to just invite those we

are already close with, nor is it good to invite with the idea of benefiting oneself. Rather, we are to go out and invite people who are in need of help, who are outside of our inner circle of comfort, and to do so in a way that focuses on their benefit, not ours.

Friends, the future existence of the Washington New Church is in some part dependent on its members taking responsibility to invite new people in. We can handle some of the “inviting” through things like paid advertising, signs out on the road, and other such impersonal, institutional means. But in the end, the invitations that work the best are the personal ones. A sign, a website, an advertisement—these can’t really communicate love the way a one-on-one conversation can.

Break out of your comfort zone. Try inviting someone. Invite them to Sunday worship, but also invite them to the gatherings by the fire on Wednesday nights. Invite them to check out our school. Invite them to participate in a community service project. And invite them to participate in a small group or to come to one of our social events like the community barbecue we are having later this month.

And invite them because you believe *they* will benefit from the invitation. Because there are people out there who definitely would gain from what we have to offer. And along the way, we will also benefit from what they bring to the group. This is how the next generation of our church community will be built.

“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.” (*Luke 14:13-14*)

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church  
2022-04-28

### ***Regional Pastor Visit***

This month we will be visited by our new Regional Pastor, the Rev. Eric Carswell. He will be here to check in on the health of the society and to perform our pastor's annual review.

The Regional Pastor system is a part of how the General Church and the Office of the Bishop provide for order and subordination within the priesthood, and for support of both our pastors and our congregations. Our pastor, Mac, meets with Eric monthly online, and once a year Eric conducts a review.

For this year's visit, he will arrive from Bryn Athyn the evening of Thursday, May 5th, and will be with us until the afternoon of Sunday the 8th. While here, he will visit the school on Friday, meet with the Board of Trustees, the School Board, and the Pastor's Council at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, and lead worship on May 8th.

## **School Report**

Please continue to let your friends, family and neighbors know that there are spaces available at Washington New Church School!

Looking forward to the final week of school we have:

May 30: Memorial Day -WNCS Closed, 4pm

May 31<sup>st</sup>: School Field trips

June 2: Field Day (School closes at noon)

June 2: School Play, 7pm

June 3: Final Day (School closes at noon) Graduation at 7pm

But before we get to that final week, teachers and students have one more month of work! This work includes the standardized IOWA tests, as well as final projects, performances, and field trips. Also note the following events:

May 15: School Community BBQ

May 15: 5-8<sup>th</sup> Grade choir performs for church (11 am)

May 21: WNC Annual Yard Sale

I'd like to draw special attention to the May 15<sup>th</sup> community BBQ. This event is open to school families, church families, alumni, and friends. Bring your own picnic (grills provided) and chairs - enjoy the nice weather and the chance to be in-person again with other human beings! ~ Brian Smith - Principal

*From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board of Trustees held a joint meeting with the School Board on April 12, 2022. The Pastor reported on general status, and discussed his expectations and plans for trying new things going forward, including a new music program, sound system upgrades, etc. He reported that the Regional Pastor will be here May 5-9. The Treasurer provided a budget update, and presented a draft of the FY23 Budget, which will be finalized next month and presented at the Annual Society Meeting for vote. The principal provided a status of the school operations and staffing, and an update to the High School program. Other general business was discussed including Investment committee, Contributions committee, grounds & maintenance, and outreach/community growth.

**The Board will hold the Annual Society meeting, in person, on Friday, June 10, 2022.** We will distribute reports ahead of time, and have limited in person discussions, as well as voting on the FY23 Budget and the election of Board members. Please plan to join us.

Respectfully,

Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

### **Announcements**

**NEW ADDRESS:** Jenny Smith has a new address – 757 Chapelgate Drive, Odenton, MD 21113. (cell) 443-510-9655.

**FOR SALE:** Our home on Enterprise Road ½ mile from the Washington New Church in Mitchellville will be listed for sale this May. The property is 1 1/3 acre with a two story 2600 square foot custom house. Open floor plan, 3 bedrooms with great master suite, attached 2 car garage, green house, and pool. Any interested buyers can contact Kathy by email at [kajs-wim@aol.com](mailto:kajs-wim@aol.com) for further information.

~ Brad & Kathy Johns

**TAG MEETING:** The Theta Alpha guild will hold it Spring meeting on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held in-person at the church.

Agenda items: Last minute needs for the Yard Sale, Field Day help, School play and graduation, Elections. (Earn your last few PSP credits for your attendance).

**YOU ARE INVITED!** Hello all! On **May 28th at 4 pm** we will be celebrating Anne and Steve Ball's 60th birthdays! We are hoping to gather lots of people who might want to come celebrate these lovely people. We'll be gathering on WNCS grounds. There will be food and drinks aplenty, and we hope to see you there. All are welcome, but please no presents and no kids. See you there!

- Justin Ball Glover

**SATURDAY MAY 21**

**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



Collectibles, glassware, plants, toys, sports equipment, books, clothing, kitchen, tools, outdoor items and more!

***This is a major community fundraiser, so please donate your gently used items!***

Drop offs - Any time after May 9<sup>th</sup>

Please Contact Sharon K. or Erin S.  
for details

***Spaces available for rent to vendors***

## ***This is The News:***

“The good we can do together surpasses the good we can do alone”

~ Benj. Franklin

## ***Good together work:***

The annual Spring-to-it work party at the Church drew a “good” crowd of people, who did wonders with and to the Church property. The day started off early – as in 7:00am - for **Glenn Frazier** (Mac & Gillian’s son), **Bonnie Cowley**, and **Adrea Coker** (Jotham Amara’s mom) who joined in making coffee, sausages, eggs, pancakes, and waffles for the hard-working crew of volunteers, who happily ate breakfast and got to work. Many pruned and weeded and mulched trees, shrubs, and gardens (not all at once), while others worked on a variety of tasks inside and outside the building, including upgrading lighting along the driveway (all the better to see you with). Of course, the kids wanted to work on the roof and a valiant crew cleaned all the gutters. The consensus was that a grand time was had working together! Thanks to all of you. And for those who missed it, there are opportunities to help whenever you feel up to it.

## ***Weather Report:***

As promised, we are happy to report that there was a lot of weather in April.

Yes, even small tornados and blizzards count as weather.

## ***People Who are Too Young to Retire:***

**Lt Col James (Craig) & Laura Cooper** are pleased to announce that Craig has started terminal leave leading up to official retirement from the U.S. Air Force effective 1 July 2022. During his 24-year career Craig served primarily as an F-15E Strike Eagle Weapon Systems Officer (WSO), and was qualified as an Instructor, Evaluator, and Mission Commander while assigned to operational squadrons at Mountain Home AFB, ID, and RAF Lakenheath, UK. He flew 354 combat missions and amassed 1,607 combat hours during nine deployments in support of Operations



SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, ODYSSEY DAWN, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, and INHERENT RESOLVE. Craig's final assignment was to the Pentagon as a Congressional Budget and Appropriations Liaison on the Secretary of the Air Force's staff. Over the years he earned numerous awards and decorations to include the Distinguished Flying Cross and was part of the 494th Fighter Squadron team that won the 2018 Raytheon Trophy (USAF's best Fighter Squadron). Craig, Laura, and the kids are all looking forward to a change of pace as Craig moves on to a new position supporting the USAF from the private sector!

We see that **Brent Hyatt** has "retired" after 9 years as Chair of the General Church Budget and Audit Committee. Also, the Gen. Ch. reports a budget surplus of \$385K. One might suppose there is a cause and effect going on there. Good work, Brent.

### *Traveling is Good for You:*

Over the Easter weekend, **Bill and Sharon Kunkle** enjoyed visits with family in the Bryn Athyn area, as well as getting to meet their new granddaughter, Eloise Grace Kunkle, born 3/2/2022. Big sister Maddie, and parents **Bryan and Kristin**, are enjoying life with their new family member!

It was great to see a large crowd at the Easter Sunday church service – it feels like it has been two years since we had that many people in the nave. Well, actually it has been two years. Are we beginning to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel? There were many visitors who traveled that weekend – almost too many



to name, so we will name at least **Duane and Liza Hyatt**, plus two of their kids and a future daughter-in-law!

**Carole Waelchli** reports that Interstate 95 remains as bad as ever (no surprise there); she drove the entire length of Delaware at 15 mph on the way to see the ANC production of “The Little Mermaid.” She reports that there was an outstanding cast, great choreography with large numbers of “Sea Creatures” (our **Ariela Hernandez** had several roles).

The Musical had beautiful singing, and unbelievable “swimming” made possible by flying apparatus. She says it was well worth the effort, and that her opinion was not at all influenced by the fact that her son **Christopher** was the director, music director, and with his stagecraft class designed and made all the sets. Carole says that “I have missed only one of Chris’s productions through the years and every year they get better! Am I bragging? Maybe a little. He and his wife **Sarah**, who is the producer, do an incredible amount of work every year to stage the ANC productions. Daughter Isabel will be in ninth grade at ANC next year and can’t wait to be part of whatever next year’s play turns out to be. And, the Good Lord willing, I’ll be there to see it (Interstate 95 notwithstanding).”

On the weekend of April 22 – 24 **Bonnie Cowley and Jeannette Roscoe** drove up to Lake Wallenpaupack in the Pocono Mountains



for an “Alden Sister Reunion”. It had been 16 years since all 8 sisters were together. Though the oldest sister – Martha Tinker - was not able to make it, the

other 7 had a grand time of visiting, hiking, cards, and great food!

The day after Easter **George and Mary Cooper** decided to drive to their cabin in the mountains of western Maryland, despite (or maybe because of) the weather forecast of snow. It was a beautiful day when they left, but halfway there it began to rain, then sleet,

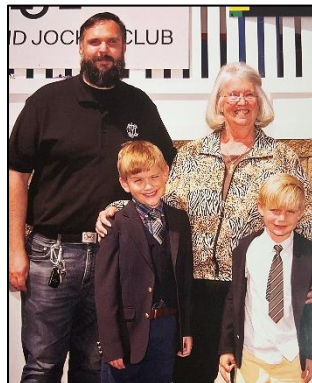
then snow, then snow really heavily with 35mph wind and no visibility. And then I 68 had just one useable lane, and then everybody stopped just west of the well-named town of Frostburg. And the snow fell, and the wind blew, and it dawned on them that they might be spending a long time in a snow and ice-covered car in the middle of a real blizzard, miles from anything but trees. In April? They had fortunately stopped next to a cross-over and were able to make a U-turn and exit to the mysteriously invisible, hilly, and snow-buried back roads of Frostburg where most cars were either already in ditches or were destined for them. The rest were stuck at uphill stop signs and stop lights with tires spinning and people pushing. It was 28° and snowing. They eventually got through the town (4-wheel drive and new tires and narrow alleys that might have been someone's side yard were the answer to "How?") onto US 40 and made it to the cabin in 8 hours of fun driving instead of the usual boring 4 hours. It snowed until Tuesday evening, with 5" accumulation at the cabin. Welcome to Garrett County!

### ***More Stuff:***

**Amy Odhner** reports that she is welcoming summer by doing some container gardening on her back deck as practice for planting some colorful perennials in the front flower bed. Everything should be ready just in time to host sister **Eva** and her family who will be making a quick trip to the DC area in May. Look for pictures next month!

**Charlotte Radcliffe** reports that she will be transferring from Washington College in Chestertown to University of Maryland College Park for her sophomore year. She wants to let people know she will be around the neighborhood if they need her.

**The Jean Allen Birthday Race:** On April 16 **Shannon and Ryan Allen** treated their mom, **Jean Allen** to a day at the Laurel races. They enjoyed lunch in the clubhouse after which Ryan took her to the paddock where the horses were saddled, and the jockeys mounted up. The



third race was named “The Jean Allen Birthday Race.” She bet on a horse named Crabs N Beer to win. After watching her horse come in first, she got her picture taken in the winner’s circle with the winning jockey along with Ryan and her two grandchildren! It was a great family fun day!

**A Final Thought:**

“People who are wrapped up in themselves make small packages.”

~ Benj. Franklin

**Community BBQ/Picnic**  
**Sun May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**4pm**

School families, church families, alumni, and friends.  
Bring your own picnic (grills provided) and chairs  
Enjoy the nice weather and the chance to be in-person again with other human beings!



*May Anniversaries*

*“Love truly conjugal is from the Lord alone  
and exists with those who join good and  
truth from the Lord.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, AE 983 ~*

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*May 9<sup>th</sup> ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 24 yrs.*

*May 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Craig & Laura Cooper ~ 16 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 18 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 46 yrs.*

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