

June 2022

# ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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*[The following articles are excerpts from some of the reports prepared for the society annual meeting. These are just brief overviews, and the meat of the reports have been emailed to you.]*

## From the Pastor

In the book *Good to Great*, business writer Jim Collins uses the analogy of a flywheel to explain how big things are accomplished through consistent small efforts. Here's how he describes it:

*Picture a huge, heavy flywheel—a massive metal disk mounted horizontally on an axle, about 30 feet in*

*diameter, 2 feet thick, and weighing about 5,000 pounds. Now imagine that your task is to get the flywheel rotating on the axle as fast and long as possible. Pushing with great effort, you get the flywheel to inch forward, moving almost imperceptibly at first. You keep pushing and, after two or three hours of persistent effort, you get the flywheel to complete one entire turn. You keep pushing, and the flywheel begins to move a bit faster, and with continued great effort, you move it around a second rotation. You keep pushing in a consistent direction....*

Over time, with each shove, the wheel's rotation gets just a little bit faster, until one day you realize that it's now spinning at a really high rate. Now, if you were to think back and ask yourself, "Which shove got it going this fast?" you wouldn't have an answer. The current momentum is a result of *all* the small shoves against the wheel, all added together. No one push was key, but they all contributed.

Friends, that's what we are experiencing now. Online streaming. New hires at the school. Our first successful community service day. The beginnings of the music team. The recent school choir performance at church, and the online talent show. These are just some of the pushes against that flywheel. Each of them took a good bit of effort, and each of them only contributed a little momentum. But *together* they're beginning to add up. Things are moving. And if we continue to show up, continue to work together, continue to put in strong efforts to try new things and to repeat recent successes, we will get things moving even more.

As part of my annual review process, recently, the question was put to me: "How can the congregation best support you, Mac, in your work." I've been thinking about how best to answer this for some time, now, and I think I have at least one piece of that answer for you now:

### **Show up.**

The future of this congregation is not up to me as a pastor. Our health and usefulness come down to *you*, and your *participation*.

And by “show up,” sure, I mean as volunteers. And as lay leaders who take some initiative and step up to help make things happen. But really, more fundamental than that, this church needs you to



show up as a participant. To worship. To celebrate. To partake in all the programs, we are offering and working on offering in the future. When you come to church, you are benefitting from the experience, but you are also making the experience better *for others* there just because you came. When you show up at social events, you are not just having a good time, you are helping to create an environment in which others around you will be able to be rejuvenated and restored. Just by regularly showing up and participating, you are helping build the social and spiritual infrastructure that makes the church effective, and that creates opportunities for people to get the support they need. And that draws us closer to one another, and so closer to the Lord, in love.

And folks, you *have* been showing up, and I am extremely grateful. If you weren't showing up, none of my work would have had any value or purpose. So that's how you can support your pastor.

And each other And your neighbors, too. Be generous with your presence and time. *Be the church.*

Things are happening because of you. Let's keep building on the momentum and see where, under the Lord's providence, it takes us in the coming year.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church - 2022-05-25

### **School Headlines:**

Another year of hard work for teachers, students, and parents. Are times harder or easier than in the past? Who knows? But I *do* know that once again, the WNCS community put in a year of hard work, facing down everything from the global pandemic to the completely invisible individual challenges that face each one of us. Good work everyone!

Our programming returned mostly to normal this year, with just a few COVID safety protocols and a few weeks disrupted. Our enrollment reached 47, which is nearing the high-water marks of our history (at 55). It is likely to retrench somewhat in the coming year due some families moving and a larger than usual graduating group. The ebb and flow continue, but we continue to hope for about 12 per classroom to provide a balance of social environment and sustainably affordable classrooms.

Our re-invented high school program, the White Horse Academy, is now serving grades 9 – 12. Though we remain excited by the opportunities for developing the program, the enrollment numbers remain small. More on WHA below and in Jana’s full report in the Society mailing.

This year is Kim Maxwell’s final year, so we are wishing her a fond farewell (and keeping her on speed dial if she wants to pick up substitute teaching). She has served in New Church education for 29 years. That’s a lot of students.

We are also losing our part-time language arts help from Brenna Sweeney, who has done an excellent job.

To replace these missing people, we are very pleased to be hiring two Jordans. Jordan Brunne is coming on full-time in the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> position and Jordan Kinsey, our recent alumna, has agreed to help us part-time with math.

We continue to be enormously grateful for all our volunteers. Bill and Sharon Kunkle, Erin Stillman, Eric Genzlinger and our librarians, Gillian Frazier and Amanda Hyatt all get special mention for their above-and-beyond level of support to keep us running. Thank you all!

Building community connections remains an important function of the school community. This spring, our community BBQ sadly got rained out.... But year-round volleyball, which serves current students, church members and new community friends continues – and has already led to new enrollment in the school. We also welcome the Sumnertime Camp back into our building. All

possibilities and opportunities expand as we integrate more fully with the community around us.

Finally, I want to mention some minor updates to our scholarships and related processes. The Waelchli fund has been updated by the Board of Trustees to include the following paragraph, “Though the funds’ primary purpose is to support the education of New Church students, the committee may apply funds to the support of non-baptized students while keeping in mind and preserving the priority purpose of the fund.” This change was made (in consultation with Carole Waelchli) to address the fact that in some years the fund produces more payout than is required by baptized students. The board has the discretion to make this change

The board is aiming to make other changes of substance to the scholarship fund and the board can make these changes but is charged to bring the proposed changes to the congregation for input before making a change. (*These are outlined in detail within the full principal’s report... coming to an inbox near you.*)

## **White Horse Academy Update – May 2022**

We have almost completed our third year as the White Horse Academy, and it has been a successful one. Our students continue their spiritual paths through instruction and practice as well as progressing in their academic endeavors.

The students have been studying *Heaven and Hell* with Pastor Frazier. I have witnessed many good discussions among the students. We continue to begin each day with devotional time, reading the Word or the Writings, or watching Off the Left Eye or recorded chapels from New Church Schools, and on Fridays we join the rest of the school in chapel.

Our students are continuing to work on the requirements for a Maryland high school diploma. Mrs. Waelchli has been teaching both algebra and geometry in person. One student has successfully navigated Prince George’s Community College taking precalculus. Mr. Smith continues to challenge the students in his Life Skills class. For Social Studies we are using the civics and economics

materials developed by Brett Buick. I continue to lead English classes with units in poetry, plays, novels and nonfiction. I also continue to teach health. Two of our students have continued their study of Korean, one student has taken on Japanese, and our fourth student has switched to computer languages, tackling Java Script first. Biology was our science subject this year provided online by Carnegie Mellon University supplemented with in-person labs by me. For physical education, students have been participating in volleyball and softball community games. As you see, the students have been very busy expanding their knowledge and skills.

Once again, our students applied to the Prince George's County Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program. All received internship offers. I am very excited for our students; they should have a very interesting and productive summer.

As the education coach and teacher, I have completed the series of courses by Quality Matters and received a "Teaching Online Certificate." I am also learning how to use different programs and apps to enhance course delivery. I feel very confident in building online and hybrid courses, as well as developing the appropriate policies needed to support these programs.

Sadly, two of our students are transferring to the Academy of the New Church. Joyfully, we have two students joining the White Horse Academy from WNCS. We also have had one or two inquiries into the school, and I am hopeful this will prove fruitful.

Ironically, our biggest obstacle to growth is size. I will be focusing on building relationships with homeschool groups and other small schools and developing opportunities for us to interact with them on a regular basis.

If you have any questions about our the White Horse Academy, or would like to help advertise, volunteer or find ways to donate, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Smith at [brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:brian.smith@washnewchurch.org) or myself, Jana Sprinkle, at [jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org](mailto:jana.sprinkle@washnewchurch.org) .

Respectfully submitted, Jana Sprinkle  
- Education Coach, White Horse Academy

## ***From the Board of Trustees:***

The Board held their May monthly meeting on May 10, 2022. Reports were presented and discussed, including by the Pastor, Principal, and Treasurer. Financial updates show that we are doing well this year, and the draft budget for FY23 was presented and approved by the Board for presentation to the Society at the annual meeting. Rev. Frazier went over his strategic planning for the upcoming year. Plans for the Annual Meeting of the Society were discussed. The meeting will be held in person at the Church on June 10 at 8pm, preceded by a potluck supper at 7.

Additionally, the Board held a special meeting on May 24 with Bishop Pete Buss and David Frazier to discuss the draft Statement of Relationship that is being developed, to define how the General Church and the local societies function in relation to each other.

Respectfully,

Sharon Cooper, WCNJ Inc. Secretary

## **Announcements**

**New Home:** Brad and Kathy Johns just recently bought a new house and have moved to be closer to Son Bradley and his family. (*I can't wait 'till you invite us to see your new house!*) Their new address: Brad & Kathy Johns, 7021 Mink Hollow Road; Highland, MD 20777.

**YARD SALE:** The weather actually "cooperated" this year with bright HOT sun and no rain for our annual church Yard Sale. Our skeleton crew managed to bring in \$1410.50 ~ a very respectable amount for a bit less in donations and a hot day. Thanks go to Sharon Kunkle for heading up the sale, with her right-hand woman, Erin Stillman. We had some great help sorting and setting up Friday. Special thanks to Mac and Gillian who volunteered for many hours. You can't forget the clean up afterwards. Thank goodness for Derek Hyatt, Jordan Kinsey and Tim Radcliffe who

helped to pack up, stack up and tarp the leftovers - plus carrying tables! Thanks everyone for making this sale a success!

- Kathy Johns

## **A Sweet Message from Some Old Friends**

*Hey Brent & Chuck,*

*So, you guys are sharing the job of Treasurer? We appreciate you continuing to pitch in and keep WNCS/WCNJ going! To show our family's appreciation for everything the Mitchellville society contributed to our family we offer this money in hope it will further your efforts (this letter included a nice contribution).*

*Please feel free to tell anyone/everyone about our support. We love you guys so much and want all of you, especially the teachers, to know how much we credit our years in Mitchellville to the happy situation our family finds ourselves in now.*

*Teddy is graduating (on time) this spring from Indiana University. Henry is a Sophomore at Penn State University in Architectural Engineering (5-year program), and Lucy is a freshman at Penn State Abington as an English major. They're all doing great.*

*Sending all our best wishes, love, and affection to all of you.*

*~ Annette & Greg Baltz*





## *June Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love is a spiritual love particular to human beings because they are born to become spiritual.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 48 ~*

*~ ~ ~*

*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.*

*~ ~ ~*

### **NEWS NOTES:**

#### **If it is New to You, it Counts as News:**

If it is June again, it isn't news, but we welcome it anyway, since summer can't be far behind, and we have had it with spring snow. Although summer mosquitos aren't a favorite...

*A thought for today:*

“Elephants are useful friends,  
They have handles on both ends.”

Ogden Nash

**Speaking of Friends:**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of friends/volunteers from WNC assisted in furnishing an apartment in Landover for Afghan refugees. It was long, hard work moving and assembling furniture, and setting up the apartment, but it was a rewarding experience.

**Speaking of Which:**

Hard work, that is: At the end of April **Phil and Grayson Zuber, and Kira and Joseph Jenkins** traveled all the way to the Grand Canyon (Arizona version) to go for a walk. That was the easy part. Then they decided to hike from the Kaibab trail head down to the Colorado River. (Do you know how far down that is?) Of course, once they were at the bottom, all that remained was to hike back up by way of the Bright Angel trail. (Do you know how far up that is?) They did it in one day, along with other friends and family and since all survived it was deemed a huge success! This was their 10<sup>th</sup> year doing this hike, with a 2-year interruption due to the Covid outbreak.

**Speaking of Which:**

Traveling, that is: **Phil and Janna Zuber** are fleeing the hottest days of May by flying off to Germany for a few days of visiting sabbaticalizing **Devin Zuber** and family in Berlin and wandering through displays of museum-quality art (in museums, of course) before returning to a houseful of family newly arrived in Acton Park.

**Speaking of Which:**

We hear on highest authority (Janna) that the aforementioned houseful of family will consist of **Kira and Joe Jenkins, son Justin**, and assorted four-legged friendly mammals, who will have moved in (temporarily) pending sale of their house in Annapolis.

## Speaking of Whom:

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU) is pleased to announce that **Dr. Devin P. Zuber**, [Associate Professor of American Studies, Religion, and Literature at the GTU and the George F. Dole Professor of Swedenborgian Studies at the Center for Swedenborgian Studies], is the recipient of the 2022 GTU Excellence in Teaching Award. The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented annually to recognize a member of the GTU's core doctoral faculty for exemplary embodiment of interreligious sensitivity and commitment, interdisciplinary approach to religious studies, and creative and effective classroom pedagogical methods and performance.

## Speaking Of Higher Education:

On Friday, May 13, 2022, **Amanda Roscoe** graduated from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with a master's degree in International Relations with an emphasis on post-conflict reconstruction

**Thomas Frazier** has graduated from Bryn Athyn college with a Bachelor's in Arts.

**Ryan Cooper** is graduating Summa Cum Laude from the International Baccalaureate program at Annapolis High School. He has committed to attend and play soccer at St Mary's College of Maryland in the Fall.



**Dr. Bill's Chess Lessons:** This spring our local chess expert, **Dr Bill Radcliffe**, went back to school; this time to coach the WNCSS third and fourth graders on chess. There's been a surge in interest in the game that's matched the increased level of play in the classroom, thanks to Dr Radcliffe's chess and teaching acumen. Look out, parents, you might need to brush up on your game!

**Colonial Fair:** This past term the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades have been studying the early settling of America – how brave families crossed the Atlantic to the new world seeking religious freedom. They learned about the new government the colonists formed, the 13 colonies that were set up and the challenges of everyday living. The students each picked a trade, studied up on what that trade might be like for the colonist. Then they put on a Colonial Fair to display what they had learned. Good work!



### **Speaking of Fairs:**

A modern version of a country fair occurred on the Church parking lot one recent 90<sup>o</sup> day, when a bunch of people convened to have a yard sale of the annual type. At 8:00 in the AM, no less, a wide variety of goods traded hands for money, and when all was said and done the Church made a nice amount of said money and a lot of people happily carried away whatever it is that people carry away from yard sales. Profound thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this day a success – and particular thanks to Yard Heads **Sharon Kunkle** and **Erin Stillman**, and to **Gillian Frazier**, **Kathy Johns**, **Mary Cooper**, and to numerous others (including school kids) who helped make the project work.

## Speaking Happily:

**Jeannette and James Roscoe** are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter **Renee** to **Robert Gardner** of Columbia, South Carolina.

## Speaking to be heard:



Recently, people wearing bright yellow vests were spotted measuring telephone poles and the like at the corner of Chantilly Lane & Enterprise Road. Upon inquiry, it turned out that one of them was the person redesigning the intersection to incorporate the stoplight that is to be installed there. The project has been delayed by Covid issues but is now underway.

The stoplight design is essentially completed and will include a single pole with one arm extending over the intersection. The designer was not, but now is, aware of the existence of a Church and School on Chantilly Lane, and just standing there for a short time became aware of the intense volume of traffic at the intersection. Hopefully that conversation will favorably impact the design of the intersection. We have been advised that the light will be installed in September. We have reason to believe that will be in 2022.

## Speaking Musically:

**Meghan Cooper** auditioned and has been accepted into the *Summer Vocal Academy* at the Johns Hopkins *Peabody Institute*. She is excited to be returning to this academy after several years of COVID shutdowns.

From the School Newsletter: **The 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir** of the Washington New Church School treated the WNC congregation during Sunday (May 15<sup>th</sup>) services with two songs: as the Prelude – “How Can I Keep from Singing”; and as the Postlude – “The Storm is Passing Over”. The students sang so beautifully that it brought tears to the eyes! Much thanks to our music teacher and choral Leader, **Ariel Martin**, who is able to bring the best out of her students; to **Carole Waelchli** for accompanying them on the

piano and of course to the many parents and grandparents who came to church to hear them sing.

**Speaking of Elephants:**

Their hearts are gold, their hides are emery,  
And they have a most tenacious memory.  
Ibid

**And Now for Some Really Good News:**

New Church Day is upon us soon, so here is a thought:

*“...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be concluded, as He declared to His servants the prophets.” (Rev. 10:7)*



***Happy New Church Day!***