

October 2022

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Well, summer is over, and the school year has resumed. I hope that the change of seasons has been a smooth one for you. As you settle into any new routines that arise at this time of year, I hope you can make room to connect with your neighbors at the church in some new way. Some of you, I know, are deeply involved in many areas of the life of the church already. But many more just have one or

maybe two points of connection right now, but possibly would benefit from a little more. So here are some ways you can become more involved.



First off, as you know, we operate a **school**. In addition to enrolling your children, there are other ways to get involved. We always welcome volunteers to help out in various ways. Maybe you'd enjoy being an occasional substitute teacher. Or sharing your passion for sports and fitness by helping with our PE program.

But of course, we are way more than a school. We are a church, first and foremost, and a central part of the life of the church is our weekly worship gatherings on Sundays. You can watch them online at our **YouTube** channel at [www.youtube.com/c/WashingtonNewChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/WashingtonNewChurch). We are regularly improving our online offering, but there will always be an aspect of the congregational **worship** experience that can only really be fully enjoyed in person; so, if you have been mainly an online worshiper, maybe make a plan to come in person some time soon.

And beyond listening to sermons online and participating in worship in person, you can connect more deeply by volunteering to help make those things happen. I am always looking for more people to join the **worship team** that includes **video** operators, **chancel** attendants, **ushers**, and **food** or **coffee** volunteers. Don't worry if you have no idea how to do any of these jobs, because all of them—even operating the video system—are very easy to learn.

In addition to those jobs, I am also looking for people who want to contribute to our worship as part of the **music team**. Over the summer, we began putting together a musical program to enrich your worship experience, with a group of musicians meeting regularly to work on musical arrangements, to rehearse pieces, and to make plans for an expanded music program, and now we are ready to start rolling out the early fruits of those efforts. In fact, this coming Sunday as I write, we will have a special musical offering at the end of the service, featuring a beautiful rendition of Psalm 23, set to music by New Church member Tony Rose.

We have much more planned. Consider being a part of this. In addition to singers and instrumentalists, we also could really use some volunteers to help with setting up, balancing, and monitoring our **sound** using the new mixer and sound equipment we are installing.

Besides Sunday morning worship gatherings, we also have various learning groups that meet throughout the month for the purpose of studying the Word, learning from one another, and connecting more as a church community. Every other Monday night, our **book reading group** meets online to discuss a book we've been reading. Currently, the topic is the book, *Apocalypse Revealed*, which is all about the deeper meaning behind the *Book of Revelation*.

During the upcoming holiday season, we will have a **Christmas Story group** where we get together to read through one of the accounts of the first Christmas. Then, as we approach **Easter**, we will do the same but with one of the various Gospel accounts of the events surrounding Lord's crucifixion and resurrection. Unlike the regular book reading group, there is no homework for these holiday groups.

In addition to those groups, we are starting a new kind of group in October for **married couples**. The purpose of the group is to create a supportive environment for couples to think and talk about what it means to be married, and how to enjoy true married love. There won't be any homework for this group, and it is not a marriage therapy group. Rather, couples will get together to share stories, discuss interesting questions, and celebrate one another. To begin with, we will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, but the schedule and frequency may change in response to people's desires once the group gets going.

We also have groups that get together purely to have fun with one another. Our **volleyball** group has been going strong for some time now. During the warmer months, they play outdoors by the church on Wednesdays. When things get colder (think November), they often move indoors. Last year, the winter indoor volleyball happened on Mondays, but this year that might change. Because of

the shifting schedule, contact Assistant Pastor Brian Smith if you're interested in playing.

Also on Wednesdays, there's a group that gathers outdoors around a **fire** to hang out together and enjoy conversations, both serious and silly. No agenda, no plan, everyone just shows up and has a good time.

And speaking of gathering to have a good time, there are of course various **parties** and gatherings that happen from time to time, especially around holidays. But we don't have to wait for a special occasion to enjoy one another's company. In fact, if you would like to either host or organize a party of some kind—whether a picnic, a dinner, a celebration, a game night, or a singing contest or whatever you like—and would like some help with location or organization, let me know! Not only do I love a good party, but I have a professional, pastoral interest in helping you to help others make stronger connections with one another as a community. Just let me know what you're thinking, and we'll go from there.

Oh, and I nearly forgot! Our newest community group is a gathering of folks who go on **walks and hikes** of various kinds. They had their first outing just a couple of Sunday afternoons ago. You can read all about them in a separate article in this issue of the Echo p.9.

And speaking of outdoors, we have opportunities for outdoor **gardening and weeding**, as well as other maintenance around our church and school campus. We also have a need for volunteers for various maintenance work within the buildings, too. A great way (but not the only way) to participate in this useful work is to come to one of our **work party** days. We usually have a pancake breakfast to kick off these Saturday morning groups, and then divide off to work in teams and as individuals getting all sorts of stuff done that needs to be done so we can continue to operate.

Not an outdoors kinda person? No problem! We are also always looking for people to help serve behind the scenes on our boards and committees. Two areas we are especially looking for volunteers for right now are our **Investment Committee** and our

**Contributions Committee.** No special training is needed for either role, and you don't have to be a member of the board of trustees to serve on a committee. All you need is a willingness to help the church be financially responsible, and a willingness to learn how to contribute to that from existing committee members.

Finally, in addition to volunteering to help the church be the church, you can also volunteer alongside your church neighbors for projects that **help those outside of ourselves**. Most recently we've begun working with organizations that help set up refugees moving into our area with furniture and other household items in their new homes. If this kind of work interests you, let me know and we'll be sure to let you know of the next such opportunity that arises.

So, as you see, there are many different ways you can engage with the church, as a participant, as a volunteer, and even as a leader or organizer. Dates and times for all of them are in the calendar in the *Echo*. If you have any questions, please let me know.

In this era of increasing social disconnect, I encourage you to take a step in improving your emotional and spiritual health by trying out one of these ways of connecting with your neighbors at the church. You will be doing yourself a service, and you will also be embodying what it means to be a follower of the Lord, by serving others with your presence.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church

2022-09-27

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

The Board had its first meeting of the new fiscal year on September 13, 2022, via Zoom. New member David Glenn was welcomed back to the board, as he was elected to fill the vacancy left by the end of John Kern's term. Officers were elected as follows: Chair – Steve Ball; Vice Chair – David Radcliffe; Secretary – Sharon Cooper; Treasurer – Brent Hyatt/Co-Treasurer – Chuck Quintero. Stewart Smith joined our meeting to provide a status on the design and contracting for the bathroom renovation

project. The board heard updates from the Pastor and Assistant Pastor/Principal. Financial reporting included Fiscal Year 2022 ending with a surplus of \$38K. Thank you to all contributors. The next Board meeting will be on October 11, with monthly topics Acton Park and Fall Society Meeting planning.

***Call for volunteers!*** The Board is seeking Society members who are knowledgeable and interested in serving on the WCNJ Investment Committee. This is an important role, providing member oversight and input into how our finances are invested. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Pastor or any member of the Board.

~ Sharon Croft, BoT Secretary

### ***Thank You***

Dear Friends,

Last month the ceiling in my living room collapsed on everything below (which at the time included one of my two cats,) burying everything in a couple of feet of very dusty pink insulation and large heavy slabs of shattered drywall.

What did I do? Naturally, I called Bonnie. In a short time, she and Brian arrived with a box of very large heavy-duty trash bags, and when they had finished, what remained of the ceiling was propped up with two-by-fours and the debris was neatly stacked or bagged in the driveway. I was left staring at the roof, but at least knowing that the kitty wasn't buried and nothing more could come down.

I was told by my insurance agent that an accident of this type was not covered by my home-owner's policy. The cause of the collapse: the ceiling drywall had been installed with nails rather than screws (now required by law) and I had not maintained the ceiling properly.

Desperation descended.

Enter Dave Cowley, contractor extraordinaire, with equipment, a Home Depot Contractor's account, and a deep understanding of the building trade, aided and abetted by Bonnie and the Smith Brothers. Dave handled all the acquisition of necessary material,

and Bonnie, Lincoln, and Brian organized work parties. Thanks to (in alphabetical order) Jordan Brunne, Bonnie and Dave Cowley, Carina Heinrichs, Bill Kunkle, Ariel Martin, Brian Smith, Kai Smith, Lincoln Smith, Sohaila Smith, and Phil Zuber, within two



weeks the ceiling had been restored, everything had been mended and repainted, and I was left, a bit dazed, shaking my head in wonder and astonishment.

My home is whole again. And every night I thank The Lord for the working of His Divine Providence

through the kindness and generosity of spirit of the members of His Church.

With love and gratitude, Carole Waelchli

*Another Thank you:*

"Greetings friends! I want to thank everyone who contributed to the care package of kitchen items that I received in June. They have all been given homes in my kitchen and I appreciate the thoughtfulness displayed by the community. I feel very welcomed. Thank you so much!

Many thanks! ~ Jordan Brunne

### *Requests and News from Societies Around the Church*

Carmel New Church School (CNCS) in Kitchener, Ont., Canada has a job opening for the position of: **Director of CNCS Recruitment & Community Programming.**

This is a Full-Time position, starting immediately. The Director of Recruitment & Community Programming is responsible for engaging local community and making the CNCS name recognizable as a quality institution that is highly regarded. This role seeks to fulfill CNCS's mission of being the preferred faith based elementary school in the region. This role involves brainstorming and creating ideas for promoting the value of the school, and conceptualizing programming

for CNCS’s Forest Garden, advancing its presence in the community, with an aim to find candidates for student enrollment. The overarching goal of this position is to generate robust, continued enrollment in the primary school, securing its ongoing success, as well as creating a solid foundation for a thriving secondary school. This position is performed primarily remotely, with onsite presence conducting tours, establishing relationships, and immersing in the school’s culture. The role will also involve some in-person community engagement, networking, and physical placement of ads, etc.

### Key Qualifications and Requirements

- A demonstrated ability and experience in marketing and/or community-engagement and community-building preferred
- Must be a self-starter and a ‘go-getter’
- Must be highly creative with ideas and vision
- Must be able to use tech skills to produce their creative vision and maintain website
- Must be genuinely interested and able to “mine” the concepts of what CNCS is all about
- A New Church background is an advantage and is preferred

**This Full-Time position comes with an associated group benefits package.** *To receive a copy of the complete job posting, please email Val Younan at [vyounan@carmelnewchurchschool.org](mailto:vyounan@carmelnewchurchschool.org).*



### Hurstville New Church Centenary Celebrations – Nov 2022

Hurstville New Church is celebrating 100 years in Penshurst! In 1905 the Hurstville Society of the New Church, outside Sydney, Australia, was founded (*some may remember our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in*

*2005?*). In 1921 the Society went from having no permanent place of worship to purchasing a block of land and erecting a simple



building on Dudley Street. The cornerstone was laid in July 1921, and on November 27, 1921, the church building was dedicated.

Covid derailed us a bit — but we'll be celebrating the momentous anniversary of the church dedication with a weekend of centenary celebrations *this* year, and you're invited! There will be an open house with afternoon tea alongside open gardens and tennis court on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special worship service followed by a celebratory luncheon. While we don't expect many – if any – overseas visitors, you would be most welcome; do let us know if you can come! (See [www.hurstvilleneuvechurch.com/centenary.html](http://www.hurstvilleneuvechurch.com/centenary.html) for details, or contact Jenn Beiswenger: [jenn@beiswenger.net](mailto:jenn@beiswenger.net))

## Announcements

*(The much delayed)* **Echo Directory:** Due to whatever it was last year (a pandemic?) the 2021 [Purple] Directory was not updated for 2022... So, I am trying to remedy that with a 2022-2023 edition.

I have emailed nearly all of you with an edited version of the 2021 directory in hopes you would all look at it and email me with any changes that you see – especially your contact info, but also check other areas where your info might be – your children [I am a year behind on new babies], the boards you may be on, etc.

I am hoping to publish very soon so please don't delay.

**Work Party:** Mark your calendar, **Sat. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>** for the fall work party. We have Two main goals for this work party. 1) clean out the tractor shed. The shed has filled up with all sorts of cast offs since it was rebuilt in 2014 yet has not been cleaned out since then. We need your help! [*no pack rats allowe*]. 2) There is lots of landscaping work to be done to prepare the property for winter... bring your garden tools. Lastly – there is always indoor work too if that suits you.

## Calling all Walkers and Hikers,

As you will read in this month's news notes, a small group from WCNJ drove to Calvert Cliffs State Park and took nice walk through

the woods and wetlands to the cliffs. It was a pleasant sunny Sunday afternoon, and we had a great time.

There were several others However, who were not able to join us due to some conflict in their schedule.

We had so much fun, we thought it would be great to do more of this. Fall is a great time to take walks/hike and we live in an area with lots of great places to enjoy.



If you would like to be on a list to be notified of a hike or walk, please email me - [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org). And let us know your interest. This will be open to anyone from children and families on up [the hike to Calvert cliffs had 7 of us from 12 yrs. to 80+]. The list of those interested will then be available to anyone who wants to plan a walk/hike. Say you want to check out

Cunninham Falls, or some Local apple orchard. Maybe some young adults can organize a hike up Rag Mountain. Just decide on a date and time and put it out to those interested.

Other possible trips – Great Falls, Watkins Park, Jug Bay, Lake Artemesia, the various Patapsco River State parks near Baltimore and any you may think of that you would love to share with others.

~ Bonnie

## *October News Notes*

### **What's Up?**

Here we are in Autumn already. How do the trees look in your neck of the woods? Did we get too much rain? – or not enough? But rain or not, we got October, with heat and humidity in the rear-view mirror and holidays in the windshield. Time to start thinking about all the things you are thankful for.

### **Things we are thankful for:**

Congratulations to **Daric and Jamie Simons** on the birth of a baby boy by the name of **Rider Scott Simons** and having September 3, 2022, as a birthday

Additional congratulations to **Kenan and Kathleen Smith** (of Acton Park origins) on the birth of their second child – Felicity May, born August 29<sup>th</sup>, 9lbs. 8 oz.



Additional, additional congratulations to **Austin Cole and Brenna Sweeney** on the birth of their 8 lb., 7 oz daughter **Regan Allison Cole**, born on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This makes **Pat and Paige Sweeney and Eugene and Nancy Cole** first-time grandparents.

### **Hospitals and ambulances.**

**Things we are not always thankful for:** People needing hospitals and ambulances.

Our condolences to **Pastor Mac Frazier** and family. His sister **Taney (Frazier) Friend** passed into the spiritual world on September 9, 2022, after a very long illness. She was 48 years old. The Fraziers received word that Taney was in hospital and unlikely to survive and were able to get to Bryn Athyn along with the rest of Mac's sisters and brothers to be with her when she passed. A memorial service will be held at Bryn Athyn Cathedral on Friday, October 21, at 2:00 pm

Also, our condolences to **Beata Kinsey**, whose mother, **Bussy Sellner** recently passed away.

On the evening of September 8<sup>th</sup> the EMT crew arrived at **Lisa Martin's** house in Acton Park because Lisa's boyfriend **Mark Jackson** was having a seizure or heart attack or something and could not breath. He was taken to Southern MD hospital where they found he had a mass of blood clots in his lungs. They immediately flew him to Washington Hospital Center where more than a dozen blood clots were surgically removed from his lungs. He is home and doing OK.

If that was not enough, at 6am the very next day many in Acton Park were awakened by the EMT crew arriving once again, this

time next door at the Quintero's because **Chuck Quintero** had fallen down his stairs, hit his head and was having difficulty moving his legs and one hand. Chuck spent several days in the hospital and is slowly recuperating. He will probably need surgery for a pinched nerve.

### **Mixed Blessings:**

**Good:** Sunday before Labor Day, the Cowley's, Hernandezes and Martins put on a surprise Birthday party for **Bonnie Cowley's** 70th birthday. (Bonnie is actually only 29, but this seemed like a good excuse for a party.) Bonnie reports that she had a most wonderful day with so many Washington Society & school friends young and old and family from out of town. Great friends, great food, great games to all hours.

**Not So Good: Derek and Hanna Hyatt** and kids will be moving to Arnold, MD. Not very far, but too far. We hope we will be able to enjoy their presence once in a while. Hanna's Mom, Penny and her husband Damon will be moving into the house on Hyatt Hill.

### **On the Move:**

After a covid filled beach vacation, during which **Phil and Janna Zuber** soaked up all the vitamin D they could while snoozing on the beach, they returned home to help pack up **Kira**, husband **Joseph** and toddler **Justin** for a move into their new home in Hillsmere Shores, Annapolis at the end of September. Janna reports that they all survived living in one house for 4 months and all still love each other as much as ever. Already they are missed big time - even their dog and cat! Luckily, they are only 30 minutes away.

### **More News:**

**Kim Maxwell** has been enjoying retirement by visiting some of our nation's favorite parks during 3 separate trips. They included Zion, Bryce, Grand Canyon, Tetons, Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain National Park, Maroon Bells, and Mount Evans. The bonus part of each of these trips was seeing family and friends:

Lynn Maxwell, Kevin Guthrie, Roric, Freya , Lynn Genzlinger, Brian and Gretchen Keith, Sue Hyatt, and Cecy Umberger.



Shortly after Labor Day, **Aubrey Hernandez** sent out an email to various friends and neighbors in the society to see if anyone would be interested in joining her family for a drive to Calvert Cliffs State Park and a hike to the cliffs. Word got around and a small group was able to settle

on Sunday afternoon, Sept 18th. It was a fun group of mixed ages, and the consensus was that this kind of hiking should happen more often - especially in the cooler fall. [*see P.9 for more details on how to join this group*].

**Souper Sunday** got off to a promising start with free food for soul and body. That food for the body part caught the attention of a whole bunch of people after they had partaken of the soul part at church on the Sunday afternoon that occurred on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Tables full of people enjoyed a delicious lunch of a variety of soups and breads under a sunny autumn-like day. A sample of souper Sundays to come. Thanks to Bonnie and her many soup-and-breaders and the many table setters and chair movers for a real treat. (*next “Souper” Sunday – where you can buy the soup and bread is Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>!*)

It was great to see **Bishop Peter & Lisa Buss** for a couple of days at the end of September. They came East for a granddaughter wedding in B.A. and drive-by visits to family not seen in years due to Covid restrictions.

We hear that **Rev. Michael Ferrell** is undergoing a new treatment in his continuing battle with the big C. We wish you the best with this, Michael.

Sorry to hear that **Dorothy Radcliffe** managed to contract a fatiguing case of Covid. She seems to have overcome it, for which we are thankful, as is she.

Which reminds us: **Have you had your Covid and Flu vaccinations, yet?** Please do.



## *October Anniversaries*

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

*Emanuel Swedenborg—CL 215*



*Oct. 5th ~ Eric & Suzanne Genzlinger ~ 25yrs.*

*Oct. 7th ~ Joe & Kira Jenkins ~ 5 yrs.*

*Oct. 16th ~ Pat & Paige Sweeney ~ 29 yrs.*

*Oct. 19th ~ Eugene & Nancy Cole ~ 26 yrs.*

