

December 2022

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

“Gladness of heart is especially expressed by a song, because in a song gladness breaks forth, as it were of itself, into sound....Those who sang and those who listened to songs experienced heavenly gladness as a result of the holy and blissful influence from heaven, gladness in which it

seemed to them as though they were transported into heaven. Such was the effect the songs of the Church had among the ancients. Such also is the effect they have at the present day, for the affections of spiritual angels are especially stirred by songs which refer to the Lord, His kingdom, and His Church. ” (AC 8261:2, 3)

It’s hard to imagine Christmas without Christmas music. What’s



your favorite genre of holiday song? Are you a fan of traditional carols? Or are the jazz standards what gets you into the Christmas spirit? Are you a fan of the Christmas songs recorded by rock artists of the 1980’s? (And if not—what’s wrong with you?)

The webcomic, *XKCD* (“Tradition”, [www.xkcd.com/988](http://www.xkcd.com/988)) once pointed out that a shockingly high percentage of the Christmas music that gets played on the radio was written between 1940 and 1960. As the artist, Randall Munroe, puts it: “Every year American culture embarks on a massive project to carefully recreate the Christmases of Baby Boomers’ childhoods.” Which, given the demographic weight of that generation, makes sense. Music, memory, and emotion are all intricately entangled with one another.

So, it’s not surprising that music is such an integral part of our worship experiences. In fact, I sometimes think maybe it should be a larger portion of our Sunday morning service than it traditionally has been. We have made the sermon the centerpiece of our worship service, but I don’t think our doctrines support that emphasis. Worship is meant to include instruction, yes, but also prayer, praise, humility, and inspiration. Nowhere are we told what ratio these

elements are to occur in, and I have a growing suspicion that our generations-long tradition of making the sermon the primary focus is a result of our founders inadvertently accepting and adopting a practice that grew directly out of the Protestant revolution's emphasis on salvation by faith alone.

Worship is meant to be both personal and communal, instructive, and inspirational, reflective, and responsive, intellectual, and affectionate. The Word itself is not written purely in the form of direct doctrine, and the Lord taught by means of narrative as much as He did by lecture. So even instruction is meant to include things that touch the heart as well as the head.

In the early days of the General Church, Bishop W. F. Pendleton mused that perhaps we should sometimes have services dedicated to just music and prayer, to balance out services that were sermon focused. Not much came of that, besides an occasional special service, plus annual events some congregations have, like the "Carols Sunday" held by the Glenview New Church, for instance. If this interests enough people, we could explore different modes of worship some time, if not in our regular Sunday morning gathering, then in an additional, experimental worship service, perhaps. Maybe something to think about in the new year.



In the meantime, I am delighted to let you all know that this year's Christmas Tableaux will be a particularly musical affair. After two years outdoors, we will be bringing it back inside this time. I hope to see you all there at 5:00 p.m. on December 18th, as well as at the potluck and family sing to be held directly afterwards.

I hope you have a heart-warming, reflective, and merry Christmas!

"Sing praises to the Jehovah, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

~ Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2022-11-30

## DECEMBER EVENTS

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- Dec. 3 – TAG Christmas Program and Sing – 7:30pm  
Dec. 4 – Sunday Worship – 11:00am  
Dec. 5 – Christmas Reading Group – Zoom – 7:00pm  
Dec. 11 – Sunday Worship – 11:00am “Souper” Sunday  
Dec. 12 - Christmas Reading Group – Zoom – 7:00pm  
Dec. 15 – WNCS Christmas Program – 7:00pm  
Dec. 16 - Jan 2 – WNCS Closed for Christmas Holiday -  
Dec. 17 – Tableaux Dress Rehearsal – afternoon  
Dec. 18 – Tableaux – *All Invited!* – 5:00pm  
Christmas Sing-Potluck - *following immediately* ☆  
Dec. 19 - Christmas Reading Group – Zoom – 7:00pm  
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7pm  
Dec. 25 – Christmas Morning Worship – 11:00am  
Dec. 31 – Quintero’s New Year’s Eve Open House –  
8:00pm

☆ ***Be on the lookout for potluck signups sent to you via email on “Perfect Potluck” Tableaux, Sing and Potluck are for the entire family!***



**Christmas Reading Group:** On Monday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m., We are hosting the first of three Monday Night Online Christmas Reading groups. These will be casual online get togethers that should last between an hour and ninety minutes, where we read a portion of the Christmas story together, discuss it, and also enjoy

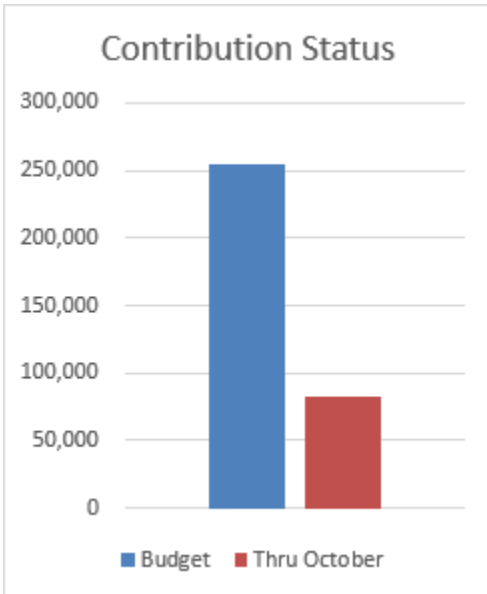
spending time checking in with one another and helping one another mentally and spiritually prepare for Christmas. The zoom link for participating is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89219889890>

A reminder email, with this link, will be sent out on Monday.

## *From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board met on November 8, 2022, and heard reports from the Pastor, Treasurer, and Principal. The Board discussed the recent Society meeting, financial statuses, the High School program, and proposed tuition rates for the 2023-24 school year. Negotiations continue related to the Summer Camp summer program. The monthly topic was on strategic planning, and Rev. Frazier provided his current activities and plans related to his 6 strategic goals for the Society and School, including ongoing upgrades to the sound system, small group discussions, and social activities for the coming year. The board discussed and ultimately approved a delegation of spending authority for our building and grounds committees, providing some guidance and authority to make purchases as needed to maintain our facilities, without prior Board approval. Steve Ball provided a summary of the recent General Church Treasurer's Meetings, which he attended virtually in early November.

**A request:** The Board is still in need of volunteers to support Contributions and Investment Committees for the Church. With the recent loss of some longtime Society members (thank you Ed and



Wystan!), we have lost leadership for these essential activities. If you feel called to support these – or any other – uses, please contact the Pastors or any member of the Board.

Finally, we would like to present the current status of our contributions. Our fiscal year runs from July through June. Our budgeted contributions income is \$255K. As you can see from the graph, we are at about 30% of our budget

and one-third through our fiscal year (end of October data). Please remember the Washington Church in your end-of-year contributions if you are able to give.

With thanks, Sharon Cooper, Secretary - Brent Hyatt, Treasurer

## **CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECES**

The Christmas Centerpieces, with fresh greens, candle, ribbon bow, and other decorations, are now available. This annual fundraiser benefits, 100%, the Washington Society operating fund.



You may order by filling out a form, located in the church lobby, and placing it in the basket. Or call Mary Cooper, at 301 390- 6292.

Small arrangements (about 6"-8" in diameter) are \$15; large (10"-12") are \$20. But due to lack of easy availability and higher prices, the arrangements with a glass chimney are now \$30.

Your participation is appreciated. If you are paying by check, please make it out to WCNJ, but give it to me, so I can keep track.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays! ~ Mary Cooper

## **TAG Corner:**

Theta Alpha had a great meeting at the church on November 14<sup>th</sup> with at least 12 members present which included 2 of our new school parents. After some tea and cookies, the ladies got right down to planning out the holidays – Theta Alpha does a great deal behind the scenes that we all enjoy. A quick cruise past the topic of Thanksgiving and how to handle the food donations and we were on to Christmas. Janna Zuber offered to host the TAG Christmas program and sing at her house once again. Mary Cooper and several others began planning for church decorating – If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas,

show up **Thursday, Dec. 22 at 9:30** and they will put you to work. Mary Cooper is making her beautiful candle and greens centerpieces to sell to benefit the church. If you would like to help, please contact Mary. School Christmas program, Tableaux and Tableaux refreshments were discussed and so much more.

Our meeting ended with a book exchange. Many members brought books they were willing to lend... shared a review about the book and books were exchanged. All in all, a great meeting.

Want to join this exclusive club? Just show up at the next meeting, which is **Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, place to be determined.



*Potluck signup will be sent to you via email using “Perfect Potluck” Questions? Contact [Bonnie.cowley@wash-newchurch](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@wash-newchurch) • 201-518-3628*

# NEWS NOTES

## Was there Any News?

The answer is.... Probably. So read on. As you will soon see, November was a busy month in the school, starting out with well-sugared trick or treaters working off all that excess energy. No wonder the kids have to go on so many field trips and hikes. We know of a few folks who could use a bit of that energy to help them deal with that precursor of things to come... freezing cold and wind. Are you prepared? But more importantly, are you ready for the celebrations of both the Lord's advent and the opportunity to start anew in 2023 all those resolutions you made in January as well as to get started on that regeneration you have been hearing about? There's a lot to do this month.

### *Actual Social Events:*

The fall Society potluck supper and business meeting was well attended and was a great opportunity to catch up with people who have been sequestered for too long. We have had enough of the viral disease stuff, thank you very much, so even a business meeting had its charms.

In addition, on a beautiful, autumnal, November, Saturday, morning, three or four crowds of people showed up at the church for a sumptuous breakfast followed by climbing on roofs (volun-



tarily) to clean gutters, mulching around in gardens, and providing manual labor for use in cleaning out the tractor shed of





material accumulated during the years-ago building renovation, getting rid of other miscellaneous stuff, and firing burnable junk. The shed has become usable once more, the gardens look great, there are no more trees growing in the gutters, and workers are well-fed and feeling good. Thanks, all; it was a good day's work.

That same weekend it was nice to see and hear **Calvin (now Reverend) Heinrichs** and family (increased by a new addition) once again. Since we last saw them a year ago, Calvin has completed his studies at the Theological School, and now awaits appropriate visas to enable them to move to his assignment in Durban, South Africa. In the meantime, he was available for climbing on the Church roof during the work party. Thanks, Calvin!

And be sure to check the calendar carefully for more social type events; there are lots of things going on sooner than you thought. We look forward to seeing you all many times at the many events. Bring your friends (which, by the way, includes your family.)

### ***Energetic News:***

New LED lights have appeared on the light pole at the main entrance to ensure we can all make our way into the building safely, even in the darkness of afternoon. Thanks, **Bill**.

The solar farm plan for Acton Park has been approved by the County Council (finally!); now starts the permitting process so that construction can begin – hopefully by spring.

### ***Speaking of Energy:***

As suggested above, the school year seems to be cruising along at a faster pace than usual. The first quarter has been completed with successful parent teacher conferences, Thanksgiving break has come and gone and by the time this Echo is published the building will be decorated for Christmas!

The two days of school the week of Thanksgiving were dedicated to "**Project Days**", with the theme "Being a blessing to the planet" fitting in nicely with the year's theme of "Being a Blessing". The focus was on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which is the largest estuary in the United States. On Day 1 the school split up into 3

groups: **(1) Jr K- 2nd grade** studied about protecting our streams and waterways and the effects of trash and litter, etc.; on the animals who depend on the streams. **(2) Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>** focused on how the Chesapeake Bay is affected by rivers and streams from 6 states and the District of Columbia. **(3) Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - HS** studied water quality. They trudged down our local tributary, which is the Northeast Branch of the Western Branch of the Patuxent River and runs behind the church and school through Acton Park until it meets with the Western Branch to eventually flow into the Patuxent and then the Bay. They sampled and studied the water, looking for plankton, chemicals etc., to determine the water's health.

All the grades participated in locating their "Watershed Address" by interacting with a set of maps on the hall wall and a map of their home address - locating the likely stream, creek or river near their home or neighborhood and tracing it to one of the major tributaries of the Bay.

In the afternoon the classes gathered for presentations. JK - 2nd did the cutest demonstration of how trash & chemicals in our waterways affects wildlife, with a most dramatic ending of all the fish, amphibians, birds, and animals dying. You better watch what you put on your lawn and clean up after your dog!



Grades 3 - 6 built a 3D Chesapeake Bay watershed map, complete with mountains, farms, cities, roads, and factories. They then



placed various representations of fertilizer, motor oil, toxic waste, etc. all over the map and "made it rain". It was a clear demonstration of how all that washes down the mountains and hills, into our rivers and streams and then spoils the bay.

The 7th - HS were going to demonstrate with charts and graphs their water quality experiments but sadly they did not have sufficient time to complete their experiments and promised to give us a report as soon as they can.

On the second day the entire school took a field trip to Piscataway Park, which is located along the Potomac River. The students enjoyed short hikes, a scavenger hunt and picnic lunch. One group was even able to witness the tides going out and coming back in on the Potomac, one of the largest tidal estuaries to the Chesapeake Bay. A lot of energy was packed into two days; they learned a great deal and had lots of fun doing it.

### ***Thanksgiving and Other Visitations:***

We were all glad to see large numbers of weekend visitors at Thanksgiving, no doubt attracted by the opportunity to attend Church on a Thursday for a change. Also free from doubt was the opportunity to give thanks with friends and family, watch a few football games, and maybe overeat just a little bit. Our memory banks are not infallible, it seems, so we are unable to provide a complete list of said visitors, but come again anyway, y'all. From the memory banks of others:

**The Roscoe, Cowley** clan had their usual large and festive group. All the Cowley children and their children and friends, all of James and Jeannette's children and friends, and of course Janice Roscoe, gathered for fun and eating turkey!

**The Sweeney's** had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend hosting Nick and Leah Rose with extended family and friends.

The Church service on Thanksgiving Day was well attended and all were well fed even before heading home to various banquets. The service was enhanced by a beautiful postlude – you should have been there! - and the Bowie Food Bank was ecstatic with the delivery of 2 shopping carts worth of food collected during the service! Good job friends in bringing in the goods to help feed our neighbors in need. You might want to check out their website (<https://bowiefoodpantry.org/>) and see if you might be moved to continue with donations to those who have less than we do.

## ***Congratulations!***

**Rev. Michael Ferrell's** daughter Arree and her husband Regis are the proud parents of a baby girl "Harmony" born 7:00 pm, Saturday, October 22, coming in at 6 lbs., 13 oz, 19 inches. Great news, Grampa! Rejoice!

## ***Artistic Energy:***

**Janna Zuber** reports that her art retreat in early November at Orkney Springs VA was a successful and productive 5 days of nonstop painting with like-minded souls. The real treat she says was not having to think about food for that time - it is all provided for by the staff at Shrine Mont. So, if you are looking for a wonderful place for a retreat, she highly recommends checking out Shrine Mont. Great location, many houses, or beds to choose from, good food and reasonable rates and lots of trails to hike in the mountains of Virginia.

## ***A Thought for Today:***

“This I shall do because I am a conscientious man, when I throw rocks at sea birds, I leave no tern unstoned.” (Ogden Nash)

## ***Blatant Advertisement:***

Christmas centerpieces are available once again, with all income from sales going to the Church operating fund. Buy one (or more) today and enjoy a visible reminder of the Lord's Advent. Order forms are available at the Church or contact Mary Cooper (see notice elsewhere in the Echo P. 6).

