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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

Periodically, I get asked a question along the lines of, “How should I research things in the Word?” Or “How do I find that in the Word?” And also, “What does the Word say about such and such?” Often, I am able to just provide a direct answer to what the person is curious about. Sometimes I have to do some light research myself before answering. But in the spirit of “teaching a person to

fish” being better than merely “giving them a fish”, I think it’s a good idea, when there’s time, to go into the various ways of finding this information on your own without the aid of a religious professional.

With that in mind, here are some really useful tools you should know about.

### Reading the Writings

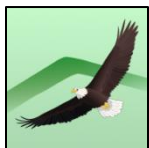
First, a good all-around online tool is **NewChristianBibleStudy.org**.

This website, created by members of the General Church, includes digital versions, in various translations, of every book of the Heavenly Doctrines, as well as the Bible. (To look up a specific passage in the Heavenly Doctrines, go to the “Theology” section.) There are also numerous articles on various topics here, written from a New Church perspective. A nice feature of this website is the ability, while reading one part of the Word, to find a list of cross-references and related articles elsewhere on the site. You do this by clicking the handy “Study” button at the top right of any page of the Bible or Theology sections. Much of what the rest of the resources I’m about to recommend provide things that can also be found on New Christian Bible Study, so if you’re looking for a one-stop-shop, this is it. But some of the tools that now follow go into more depth in some ways than what is available on this website for now.



### Connecting the Writings with the Bible

So speaking of cross-references, my go-to tool for finding every reference in the Heavenly Doctrines to a specific chapter or even verse of the Bible is



**KemptonProject.org**. This New Church website gives you access to the Kempton Translation of the Old and New Testaments, and if you are reading via

the “Study” button, it also lists a table of clickable links to every passage of the Writings that quotes or even cites the portion of the Bible that you are looking at. And if you prefer physically printed

reference works, you can do the same thing using a book called **Searle's Index to Swedenborg's Scripture Quotations**. These days I more often use the Kempton Project site, but I still also often use Searle's for certain searches.

### Studying the Literal Sense of the Bible

For additional insight into the Bible that does not involve the spiritual sense, a good study bible is handy to have. Two I recommend are the **ESV Study Bible, English Standard Version** published by Crossway, and the **Harper Collins Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version**. Both are single-volume study Bibles that go into some depth with notes and explanations of the historical, linguistic, and cultural context of the literal sense of the Word.

Two good online sources for the same kind of material are



**BibleGateway.com** and **ESV.org**. Keep in mind when using any such Bible study tool that even the most denominationally “neutral” scholarship has some sort of a theological bias, and so any *doctrinal* points made by a study Bible ought to be checked against New Church doctrines before being taken at face value.

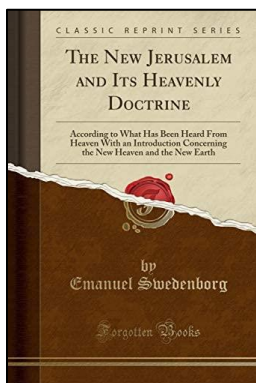
And here I am tempted to get into dictionaries, interlinear Bibles, Latin texts, NeoSearch, and various original language concordances, because I love getting into the root Hebrew, Greek and Latin of the texts when doing a deep study. However, I don't think that is quite in the spirit of this general starter guide. If you are interested in going deeper on the language study side of things, though, please see me.

### Studying the Writings

Now, for studying the Heavenly Doctrines themselves, a good online resource is **HeavenlyDoctrines.org**. Here you can perform text searches using key words and phrases, not only of the Heavenly Doctrines, but also of past issues of *New Church Life* and a whole library of books written by New Church scholars on the topics in the Word. If you want a more powerful version of this search tool, you can get hold of a copy of a windows application called **New Search** and install it on your home computer. There is

also, of course, Potts' *Swedenborg Concordance*, an amazing work compiled in the late 1800s that I still find uniquely useful today. Even though tools like New Search, HeavenlyDoctrines.org, the Kempton Project and the New Christian Bible Study all offer ways to search the Writings, there is something uniquely useful, I find, in the way *The Swedenborg Concordance* excerpts relevant text around the search terms and lays it all out on the page. If I want to do a deep study on a topic in the Heavenly Doctrines, I will often start by opening to the entry in the *Concordance* and just reading, start to finish, all the passages presented there. Often, in a single sitting, this gives me 80% of everything I need to know on the topic without having to do any further digging. As much as I love and promote digital tools, I am still highly enthusiastic about people continuing to use this six volume (seven, with the short Addendum produced by Don Rose) masterpiece.

Finally, there are some “reference works” Emanuel Swedenborg



himself produced. One is full on a book of the Writings itself: *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine*. Not only is this small work (often published as part of a larger collection under the title *Miscellaneous Works*), a great primer on the very basic ideas of the New Church, but it also concludes each short chapter with an organized index of passages from *Secrets of Heaven* that go into more depth on the topic. The other one is Swedenborg's personal index of *Secrets of*

*Heaven*, which he appears to have compiled for his own use in making references as he wrote later books of the Writings. You can get ahold of it as published by the Swedenborg Society under the title, *Index of Words, Names, and Subjects in the Heavenly Arcana*. Not only is this a handy index of a major portion of the Heavenly Doctrines, but it is also done by Swedenborg himself. This gives us a unique insight into what he himself understood as the main points of the passages he is citing, since each citation includes a terse summary of the passage as it relates to the index term.

## And There's More

And at that, I'd better cut myself off, as we're getting a touch beyond New Church Reference Works 101, and into 102 or 201 territory. I'd love to go on more about commentaries, dictionaries, and other secondary works that you can find online and in printed form, but for now, this list is sufficient to get anyone started on some basic studying of how the Lord speaks to us through revelation.

I hope this has been helpful, and I happily invite any further questions or conversation you might want to engage in on this topic. I find great pleasure and value in digging deeper into the Word using tools like these and am always happy to help others do the same.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2023-02-28

### *From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board of Trustees met on February 14, 2023. Eric Genzlinger and Bill Kunkle joined the meeting to provide additional insight and assessment of the proposed front bathroom renovation project. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to move forward with the full scope of recommended upgrades. The next step is to finalize engineering and drawings, and then seek bids based on the final design. Pastors and School reports were presented, including discussion about school staffing for next year. Analysis and recommendations for hosting a summer camp program were presented by the committee and discussed; based on the likelihood of disruptions due to bathroom construction this summer, it was agreed that we will not host the summer camp program this year. The next Board meeting will be on March 14, 2023. The monthly special topic to be discussed is the grounds.

~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

**Theta Alpha Guild Banquet**  
**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

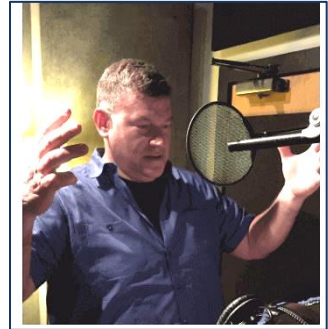
**Come join us for our annual TAG Banquet** – Wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a delicious dinner (menu to be determined)..

**Guest Speaker:** *The Soon to be Famous* – **Brad Johns! A Voice Over professional.**

***From grass cutter to full time voice actor, yeah...it's a thing!***  
Job, Occupation, Career, Passion... and the magic when they come together!

How many people are lucky enough to know what they want to do with their lives right out of High School?  
A life of use is a core belief, but how do you love being useful, if you don't follow your passion?

Brad will ***"voice"*** his story...and share the fears, joys and triumphs of being an entrepreneur after 35 years in business working for others.



**PLANT SALE**

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, will be here soon, and we already have a double match in play for the first \$1,000 we make at the sale (for a total of \$3,000). Let's make this a successful fundraiser!



Patuxent Nursery will also be selling us plants at a discount, so the profits can be ours. If you are planning any plant purchase, let us get them for you!! We will have an order form coming out soon.

**What else do we need?**

**We need plants.**



Plant some seeds or divide some of your garden plants.  
Sponsor some for the sale  
Help care for donated plants at the school.  
Buy or order plants you want.

**We need concessions and crafts.**

Cook or make something.

Buy something for concessions (drinks, paper goods, etc.)

Staff the concessions for a time at the sale – **Contact Yolanda**  
([yolandacarbal714](mailto:yolandacarbal714))

Make DIY row markers or painted pots.

**You can also...**



Place an order for plants.

Order a pre planted planter.

Order a birdhouse.

Buy some raffle tickets.

Help us advertise.



All items are available at the sale until gone. If you want a guarantee, then ***please preorder***. There are plant labels, special pots etc. that the students are working on for the sale.

**QUESTIONS? Contact Erin Stillman (text) 301-801-3905, (email) [barryvanderin@verizon.net](mailto:barryvanderin@verizon.net)**

## **Announcements**

**Acton Park Corporation Meeting:** Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm

**SE District Scholarship Fund:** Southeastern District Scholarship Funds are available to anyone who lives in the SE district who would like assistance with paying for education at the Academy High School, the Bryn Athyn College or the Theological School.

**Note** - these grants are also now available for students attending the **WNCS high school**.

Applications should include the name of the student, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than May 31, 2023, for those hoping to attend in the 2023-2024 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

**Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund:** Levi Cowley Scholarship Funds are available to graduates of the Washington New Church School who would like assistance with paying for education or books at any school of higher education (college).

Applications should include the name of the student, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they plan to attend. Applications are due no later than May 31, 2023, for those hoping to attend in 2023-2024. Please send your application to:

Washington Church of the New Jerusalem,  
Attn.: Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund; 11914 Chantilly Lane,  
Bowie, MD 20721.

**ANC Summer Camps:** Summer camps in Bryn Athyn are happening again! Here is a short description of each of the 3 camps. **More information will be on the lobby bulletin board.**

**Performing Arts Camp:** When? June 20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. For whom? 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Learn all about theatre and production and culminate in a performance of the Lion King, Jr. on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Apply – [\*\*ancss.org/pacamp\*\*](http://ancss.org/pacamp).

**Tools 4 Life Summer Camp:** When? June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>. For whom? College age. This camp offers opportunities from exploring college campuses, to onsite job experience, to learning what it means to have healthy, happy relationships. Apply – [\*\*ancsss.org/tools\*\*](http://ancsss.org/tools).

**ANC Summer Camp:** When? July 9<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup>. For whom? Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. This residential camp will feature classes during the day: your choice of sports, visual arts, performing arts and other activities. Evening social activities include a trip to the roller rink, camp Olympics and an end-of-camp dance party. Apply – [\*\*ancss.org/summercamp\*\*](http://ancss.org/summercamp).

**More Camps?** When I get the dates for other church camps like Laurel Camp or Glencairn Medieval camp, I will publish in next newsletter.



## *News Notes:*

### **What? News?**

How can it be almost spring already when we haven't even had winter? Daffodils and cherry blossoms in the middle of February in the midst of 70 - 80° weather? We can't be sure what time of year it is. Such uncertainty can lead to, well even more, according to Ogden Nash:

The camel has a single hump;  
The dromedary, two;  
Or else the other way around.  
I'm never sure. Are you?

One thing we can be sure of is that March is upon us, with the joys of cherry blossoms, and all that allergy stuff that comes with pollen floating in the air. But on to some good news.

### **Welcomes:**

It was great to see a former resident of the Society, visiting in the form of **Bishop Brad Heinrichs**, here, with his wife **Cathy**, to preach on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of us recall his earlier sojourn here as an active student in our school. Very active.

You might have noticed that Bishop Heinrichs was following in the footsteps of his son, **Rev. Calvin Heinrichs**, who preached on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Those with exceptional memories might have noticed that Calvin was the third generation of that family to have preached here, his grandfather (Rev. Dan Heinrichs) having been Pastor here for many years (during the aforementioned sojourn here by Bishop Heinrichs). Thanks for making history, Calvin.

Also, great to see **Linda Klippenstein**, visiting for three weeks to help sister **Nancy Alford** recover from her recent fall.

And to our stealth visitors – you are welcome, too, even though unnamed.

### **In Recovery:**

Best wishes to all of our friends who are recovering from various falls, injuries, surgeries, and assorted illnesses that, taken together,

may not qualify as an epidemic, but which are too numerous to ignore.

### **Thanks:**

To **Bill Kunkle** and **Eric Genzlinger** for their ongoing battle with various building woes and equipment failures as well as for their work installing and/or upgrading equipment to bring the sound and video systems into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We appreciate what you are doing!

Also, thanks to everyone who contributed to the culinary and financial success of Chili Sunday. We speak from personal experience when saying that it was a “good job”! And it raised almost \$300.

### **More Thanks:**

To **Bill Kunkle**, again. But this time it came from another source. Although he has been retired since January 3, 2020, his official retirement ceremony was delayed due to the pandemic. On Friday, February 17th, family & coworkers gathered at Headquarters to see him receive his retirement citation and flag, as well as the prestigious Career Intelligence Medal. So, this time our “thanks for your service” are not only heartfelt but can be official. (Wow! Not often can we be official.)

### **News from the School:**

Each year the WNCS celebrates the birthday of Emanuel Swedenborg, to honor him as ‘servant of the Lord’ for bringing the New Revelation to the world that is the core doctrine of the New Church. This year featured lunch and the favorite yellow and blue decorated cupcakes, together with a short presentation by the 5th & 6th grades to inform and to test knowledge of about amazing man who is considered to be in the top 3 most knowledgeable men in history. The school then took a field trip to Skate Zone in Crofton where a great time was in store.

### **Then struck the dragon:**

AKA – the dreaded COVID. Two staff members and the Principal came down with this still abundant virus, causing the closing of

two classrooms, some quarantining, and general messing up of people's lives during the last part of February.

The anticipated visit to the school of Theolog **Dan Calvo** from the Academy Theological School had to be cancelled, but hopefully can be rescheduled if the stars align properly. And Souper Sunday had to be cancelled (gasp!), leading to mass starvation.

### **Acton Park News:**

Progress continues to occur. Slowly, of course, since that is the nature of this kind of project where multiple agencies must approve various parts of it. The designer of the solar system has identified and signed contracts with the company who will operate it for the next 25 years or so, and Acton Park agreements are in process, to be signed by the end of March. It has been a lot of work, but its completion will assure the continuing existence of Acton Park. Come to the 3/19/23 corp. meeting for more updates!

### **Spring Travels:**

**Avi and Aubrey Hernandez** got away for an amazing two-week



trip to sunny and warm Puerto Rico. It is reliably reported (by them) that was like going on the honeymoon they never had 17 years late. They enjoyed a few tours to hike through rivers and float through caves and waterfalls, did plenty of walking in Viejo San Juan to bask in the beauty and awe of the

architecture and history, drove high into the mountains where they found terrifying roads with stunning views, toured a coffee farm complete with tastings of coffee and chocolate, snorkeled and relaxed on the beach, and tasted the most recommended local foods to include Arroz Mamposteo and mofongo with stuffed chicken breast. They are so very grateful for the chance to finally go on a trip like this together and feel very blessed.

## Other Stuff:

Spring wanders in sometime around the Ides of March, so perhaps something newsworthy will occur to you. Let us know about your adventures so we can share your celebration. See you in April!



### *March Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love comes to those who look to the Lord and love the truths of His church and do the good things it teaches.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg CL 458 ~*



*Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Bill & Dorothy Radcliffe ~ 63 yrs.*

*Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Jean Allen ~ 54 yrs.*

*Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Aaron & Eva Smith ~ 27 yrs.*

