

June 2023

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

The reason why 'an aroma' means that which is pleasing and acceptable, and so why in the Jewish Church an aroma was also representative of that which is pleasing and is ascribed to Jehovah or the Lord, is that good stemming from charity,

and the truth of faith deriving from charity, correspond to sweet and pleasant aromas. (*Secrets of Heaven* 925)

As we mark our calendars for the month of June, we approach a day of significance to our spiritual community - New Church Day. This year we will celebrate on Sunday, June 18th. New Church Day commemorates the inception of the New Christian movement that began on June 19, 1770. This year, as we did last year, we will be celebrating the occasion with a blend of worship, community, and great food!

Following our New Church Day family festival service at 11:00 a.m., we will be gathering together at 4:00 p.m. for a potluck picnic. A time to gather as a community, to share in the warmth of fellowship, and to have fun together as a community. And yes, I will be providing an abundance of smoked barbecue. You are also encouraged to bring a food offering. Vegetable dishes, sides, drinks, and desserts are especially welcome, but more meat entrees are good, too! But if you came to the barbecue the school hosted last month and noticed that my ribs went away alarmingly quickly, just know that my plans for June 18th are considerably scaled up. Sign up for what you will bring here:

**<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/KTLN3438>**

Now, some of you might ask, "Is Mac secretly working on a plan to stop pastoring so he can become a full-time pitmaster?" Do not fear! No retirement plan nor side-gig is in the works. In fact, I believe smoking ribs, pulled pork and brisket are quite complementary with the work of a religious professional! Looked at in a certain light, the art of barbecue shares some interesting parallels with

the process of regeneration as described in the Word.

In barbecuing, we start with raw, tough cuts of meat that historically have been considered the "cheap" cuts. Using normal cooking methods, they tend to produce not



so great food, in large part because of all the tough connective tissue they contain. But through the patient application of low heat and smoke, the meat's collagen gradually breaks down into gelatins and water, making the meat tender, and when combined with smoke, rendered fat and seasonings (mainly salt), quite flavorful. This transformative process mirrors the slow yet profound processes of spiritual reformation and regeneration, where our inner selves gradually evolve to become more loving and wise, through a combination of separating out evils and falsities and then marrying goods and truths to one another.

And all the elements of barbecue are quite Biblical, of course...

In the Word, smoke is often associated with worship (especially in the burning of incense, but also in the meat offerings at the Tabernacle and Temple). Smoke itself can represent something bad (like certain kinds of false beliefs) and also something good (primarily a perception that comes with prayer). Perhaps when cooking with smoke, it can be seen as akin to divine influx in our lives that heightens our perception of spiritual things. Much like smoke subtly imbues the meat with character and depth, the Lord flows into us with His Wisdom subtly yet continuously, shaping us, molding us, and adding depth to our perception of the truths we learn externally.

Traditional barbecue cooks and flavors using wood smoke, specifically. Wood is a symbol of natural good. And in barbecue, not all woods are created equal. Some will impart a bitter taste. Others will burn too hot and too quickly. Likewise, not all natural good is effective in our regeneration. But if we use the proper wood—natural good from a spiritual origin—the Lord brings about wonderful results.

Most of the work of barbecuing isn't done by the smoke itself, but by the slow, gentle heat. Heat and fire are, of course, symbols of love. Just as the Lord's love is patient and gentle, aiming at transforming, not destroying us, to make us into something new, the tough cuts of meat we barbecue need cooking at much lower temperatures and over considerably longer times than one would use, for instance, to grill a steak. Personally, when I think of my

spiritual journey, I'm much more interested in being smoked than being grilled.

There are even many places in the Word which describe a "sweet aroma" that is "pleasing to the Lord", in connection with various sacrifices, primarily the burning of incense, and the burnt offerings of meat. Meat offerings in the Old Testament were animal sacrifices—symbols of handing over our own base affections and desires to the Lord so that He could transform them into something holy and spiritual. This spiritual work is a form of worship and is indeed pleasing to the Lord.

I could go on, but I'm getting hungry.

Anyway, as we gather this New Church Day, let's celebrate not only the historic founding of the New Christian era but also our ongoing participation with one another in our little New Church society here in Mitchellville. Let's embrace the symbolic parallels of our barbecue, savoring the taste of community, patience, and transformation. I look forward to seeing you all on June 18th, at our worship service and our picnic. Until then, may your days be filled with love, wisdom, and perhaps a touch of pleasing aroma from a loaded smoker.

“Then Aaron’s sons shall burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering, which is on the wood on the fire; it is a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.” (*Leviticus* 3:5)

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2023-05-25

*From the Board of Trustees:*

The Board of Trustees met for our monthly meeting on May 9, 2023. Topics included the usual reporting from the Pastor and Principal, as well as a discussion about the financial status and proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The budget was approved for presentation to the Society for vote. The special topic of discussion was a review of uses, and the Pastor laid out the state of and future plans for the core uses of worship, school, group and classes, service, and community. Business topics discussed included the

bathroom renovation, nominations for the boards, contributions/fundraising, and outreach/community. The next Board meeting will be on June 13.

The Annual Meeting of the Washington Society will be held on Friday, June 9 at 8:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend to hear reports on the Church and School. Members of the Society will discuss and vote on the annual budget, and elections for the Board of Trustees and School Board will be held.

~ Sharon Cooper  
Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.



## School Report

Thus ends another year of school. This one had a full and positive end. We had our first ever plant sale which launched a multi-year fundraising campaign for playground improvements. It was a successful community event and likely to be repeated. Our talent night (hosted by the high school) and our community BBQ each also drew large numbers of friendly participants.

As I write, we are headed into the last week of school and looking forward to our school closing ceremony and 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade musical. At school closing we will recognize Brent Hyatt as our long-term service award winner. He has given countless hours to the vitally important, though almost invisible task, of managing, interpreting, and explaining our budget and finances. He is careful, thoughtful, and clear – all things one needs in a treasurer. But Brent is also efficient and brief in his remarks, which makes him deeply appreciated during otherwise long board meetings.

We awarded Faculty appreciation awards to Kai Smith, Shaunti Smith and Anelka Anderson and our Levi Cowley Sportsmanship award to Bryce Assan. We also recognized Shaunti's excellent scholarship with a Justin D. Zuber award. Further, we recognized the following students with service awards: James Frazier (organized school-wide ping pong tournament), Marcellus Smith (accompanied chapel) Kai and Shaunti (organized and hosted the school talent night) and Alana Rhone for Spirit Week.

I am very grateful to all the efforts of parents, students, and teachers to stay focussed and working through the year. At this stage, the fatigue is palpable, but the successes are also clear. Our student body has been generally positive and friendly with each other this year and this kindness and decency is a blessing for the whole school community. Indeed, our theme for the year is to “be a blessing” as the Lord promised to Abraham in Genesis 26.4.

This was our final year of a WNCS high school (at least in the short term). Started in 1972, it has run successfully for 5 decades! To meet the changing needs from our families we made the shift in 2019 to a flexible, 4-year program, rather than the previous 2-year program which prepared students to head to the Academy of the New Church. This new approach ran into COVID complications and failed to attract sufficient students to sustain its operations into the future. However, it has still been a great pleasure to work with the students who it served in those years and to take advantage of the program’s flexibility to set up work experiences, trips, service opportunities and student choice in subject material.

Reflecting back on the 50 years of WNCS high school, I think of the fact that Mrs. Waelchli oversaw the first 10<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class in 1977 and has kept teaching until she could also serve the 2022/23 high school students in geometry and Algebra 1.

I also think of my (much shorter window) of 8 years working at WNCS. Thanks to the high school program, I had the opportunity to overlap with the tail end of Jordan Kinsey’s schooling at WNCS, and now, with the beginning of her full-time work here. We are very pleased to welcome her to join the team for the coming 2023/24 year as a “floating, multipurpose-teacher-of-many-grades-and-talents.”

And speaking of multiple talents and assignments, one further retrospective brings me to our much beloved colleague and friend, Jana Hyatt Sprinkle. I emphasize her middle “Hyatt,” because it was under this name that she began at WNCS as a student many years ago. In fact, it was her older brother who was part of the very first WNCS 10<sup>th</sup> grade class. Between college, marriage, and the raising of her own family she performed all manner of

useful work at WNCS – and sent her own children, Joe, Jennie and Jonathan to WNCS in the 2000s and 20teens. Jana’s work with WNCS culminated in 3 years of running the White Horse Academy High School program which she has done with creativity, love, and patience (while still getting enough time away to teach dance and Spanish to the kindergarten). Due to her many years dedicated to WNCS, Jana managed to teach Lincoln Smith in 1992 and has now finished her career working with his daughter in 2023. (We expect all our teachers to span at least a full generation before they can consider a career move).

It raises many mixed feelings to be saying goodbye to Jana and to our high school at the end of this year. It is easy for me to think of loss and all that will be missed. However, the little time I spent looking back over WNCS history I am put more in mind of the fact that nothing that is good is ever lost. All the efforts and successes of both teacher and student over the decades serve useful purposes. These are incorporated by the Lord into the individual’s life and used to move that person forward, gradually into greater and greater uses. All of education looks to the future and must always be saying goodbye to our students. That is the purpose of a school – to serve the future usefulness of everyone who passes through the doors.

With that in mind, I have only congratulations and appreciation to offer to Jana Sprinkle and all that she has given WNCS and to the whole WNCS community and all that they have given through 50 years of a wonderful New Church high school.

### **Announcements**

**Update for your Directory: SMITH, Lincoln\* & Valerie Vaché**

Sohaila, Shaunti 📞, Clare, Violet, Marcellus 📞, Charles

840 Maple Road

Gambrills, MD 20154

Cell: Lincoln..... 202-834-9188

Cell: Valerie ..... 410-980-0696

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**New Church Day Picnic – Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm:** Following our New Church Day family festival service at 11:00 a.m., we will be gathering together at **4:00** p.m. for a potluck picnic - out behind the church (around to the right from the parking lot).

As Mac states in his article above, he will be smoking some meat, but we will need lots of other food. Please go to this link (perfect potluck) <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/KTLN3438> to fill in other meats and sides etc. that you can bring. Also, bring folding chairs & lawn games too.

## News Notes

### **MAY HAPPENINGS:**

This was a month of graduations, a few of which we are able to chronicle hereinbelow. We are proud of these accomplished students, and are reminded of the famous (now) words of Ogden Nash in their honor:

I hardly suppose I know anybody who wouldn't rather  
be a success than a failure,

Just as I suppose every piece of crabgrass in the garden  
would much rather be an azalea,

...Indeed, everybody wants to be a wow,

But not everybody knows exactly how.

Congratulations, then, grads, now you know how, so go get 'em!  
(Even those we don't know about.)



### **Graduation Time:**

**Dorothy and Bill Radcliffe** report: Our grandson **Ryan Gurney** graduated from Trinity College, Summa Cum Laude, in May.

**Angela and Charles Radcliffe** report that daughter **Rachael Fields** recently graduated from Temple University with a degree in education. Before she even graduated, Rachael was offered a job teaching English and Creative writing to HS students in an inner



Philadelphia school. Rachael spent all of her student teaching weeks in this inner-city school and loved it.

**Anne and Steve Ball** are proud and pleased to announce that on May 19, Justin graduated from medical school in Philadelphia and received an award for his “commitment to ethics and community service”. With his new diploma in hand, Dr. J will soon start his three-year post-graduate residency program in family medicine at the Jefferson Northeast hospital center not far from Bryn Athyn. Jefferson was his first-choice program, and he is looking forward to practicing medicine instead of just studying it.

**George and Mary Cooper** report that granddaughter **Zia Cooper** finished her second bachelor’s degree, this time graduating with a BS in Nursing from Drexel University and is now working as a perioperative nurse at Penn Medical in Philadelphia. They also report that granddaughter **Angie Cooper** just graduated Magna Cum Laude from the U. of Delaware with a BS in Environmental Science, Concentration in Marine Science, a Spanish minor, and an Eco-Entrepreneurship Certificate. She has accepted a two-year master’s program and research assistantship with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at the Horn Point Lab, in Cambridge MD, where she will work on “living shorelines” research to protect coastal areas from erosion and sea level rise.

**Lisa Martin** reports that daughter **Emily Martin** graduated from Arcadia University in Philadelphia with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Printmaking. She received departmental honors and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Emily is considering moving back into the Washington area as she hopes to find work as an artist and decide where she is going from here.

### **Plant Sale:**

Between a totally rain-filled Friday and a rainy Sunday, an intermediate cloudy cool Saturday provided a perfect backdrop for a very successful plant sale at the Church. Where there weren’t plants and food around the parking lot, there were cars and neighbors and new as well as old friends. It was so much fun that the sale carried over into the following week, and with matching gifts

brought in over \$4,000. Well done, ye volunteers! And special thanks to **Erin Stillman** for pulling it together.

### **BBQ Rules:**

It was a beautiful day for a picnic – sunny and warm and an opportunity for lots of friends to get together to enjoy great food, conversation, and games, so they did just that on an early May Day. There



were tables full of food featuring all manner of good things (even things good for you) including Pastor Mac's BBQ, swing sets full of kids, badminton and volleyball nets surrounded by people of all ages (with some exceptions), and an impromptu soccer game to give kids a chance to run around and use up some of that

energy created by chocolate chip cookies and other goodies. It was great! Thanks to all who worked so hard to provide the food, the facilities, medieval castles. A daunting task, since they were constructed of recyclable materials that were scarcely known at the time. Interestingly, they used these exotic materials to construct castilian components such as curtain walls, moats, drawbridges, portcullises, courts, keeps, crenellations, and even machicolations. If you have some doubts about what these things looked like, or even what they are, just ask a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

The Finals of the WNCS Ping Pong Tournament were played after school in front of a small but rowdy audience of teachers and students. Finalists **Brian Smith and James Frazier** played the best of three matches and Brian Smith came out on top by the skin of his teeth. The competition was fierce with nail-biting moments, and all applauded their skill and good sportsmanship. Congratulations to both, and especially to James for having initiated and organizing this month's-long tournament.



### **ANC News:**

We are happy to hear that the Academy Secondary Schools “have developed a plan that modifies how we handle housing at ANC and continues to use the existing dormitory buildings. It is not a perfect plan, and it is currently designed as a bridge plan to meet the needs of our returning students and the students currently in the admissions pipeline.” Financial issues remain for the Academy, but for those who were counting on attending, the availability of dormitories is good news. (*See further details on the lobby bulletin boards.*)

**Sophie Hyatt** was elected Factores (ANC Girls School student Council) president, and **Ariela Hernandez** was elected President of Delta Mu (ANC's Community Service organization). Congratulations to both of you.

### **Whew! Is right:**

**Janna Zuber** is pleased to report that husband **Phil** once again, for the 10th year running (actually walking), hiked 16 miles in the Grand Canyon with his brothers, and some family and friends in late April. They went down the Kaibab trail, leaving before dawn, and the fun.

### **Did You See the Talent Show?**

That was quite an evening! Singing, dancing, musical instruments (OK, drums are musical instruments), skits, slapstick, and plain fun, wrapped up by an unscheduled song by three kindergarteners that was just perfect. And food of the desert type. All for the benefit of the school playground. Well done, all.

### **WNCS Occurrences:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades had their annual Country Fair, displaying the results of their studies of various countries. A tremendous amount of work goes into their preparation of notebooks about their selected countries, typical foods, and displays relating to the culture of the countries. Congratulations to these hard-working students.

According to the WNCS E-News publication (Volume 16, Issue 14!), the lords and ladies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade have constructed and came back up the Bright Angel trail. Everyone made it - whew! Meanwhile Janna had fun visiting with sister **Karen**

**DeLue** and her husband **Steve** while taking in the sights along the rim.

**Condolences:**

On May 26<sup>th</sup> the **Rev. Robert Jungé** passed quietly into the spiritual world, to be reunited after many, many years with his dear wife Vera. Among his innumerable accomplishments, Bob was Pastor of the Baltimore Society for many years and even spent six months here in our Society while **Jim Cooper** was caring for his ailing wife. Our condolences go out to daughter **Erin Stillman** and to the rest of his family and many friends throughout the Church.

**Getting Well Soon:**

Sending love and healing prayers to **Deena Odhner** who developed a nasty blood infection and had to be hospitalized for over a week but is now at home following time in a rehab center. (Historical review: **Deena and Jerry** were the first couple to be married in our "brand new" church building over 50 years ago, lived in Glenn Dale, and their 3 children all went through WNCS. A few years back they moved to Wilmington N.C.)

And all you other folks who have been in the winter doldrums – time’s up. Get well and get out into the sunshine, for it is time to enjoy June bugs and fireflies and summer flowers.

**Predictions:**

- WNCS graduation will happen.
- Vacations will occur (tell us about them!)
- There will be a Jacob’s Creek Family Retreat 7/27-30/23.

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this camp, and if you haven’t attended you should try it. This year’s theme is “Creation: Behold I Make All Things New.” See their website at [jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org](http://jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org) if you would like to attend.

Other newsworthy stuff might happen or be imagined, so stay tuned.

