

September 2023

ECHO

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**Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem**

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## From the Pastor

“Some idea of love as being a person's life may be had from the warmth of the sun in the world. People know that that warmth is, so to speak, the common life of all plant growth of the earth, for whenever it increases, as it

does in springtime, plants of every kind rise up from the ground, are adorned with leaves, then flowers, and finally fruits, and so become in a way alive. On the other hand, when the warmth wanes, as it does in autumn and winter, the plants are divested of these signs of life and wither. The same is the case with love in a person, for love and warmth correspond to each other.”  
(*Divine Love and Wisdom* 3)

(I'm feeling grumpy, so buckle up...)

Ah, September. The month that has the audacity to stand between the sun-soaked days of August and the spooky festivities of October. If months were siblings, September would be that middle child, always trying to steal the limelight with its "back to school" jingles and pumpkin-spiced everything. But let's be honest, September is just the universe's way of reminding us that all good things must come to an end. By "good things," I mean summer.

First off, let's address the elephant in the room: autumn. Or as I like to call it, the death of summer. Remember those long days of lounging by the pool, sipping on a cold beverage, and forgetting what day of the week it was? Well, September is here to rudely awaken you from that dream with the shrill sound of an alarm clock. Gone are the days of summer vacation. Instead, we're thrust into the world of school buses, homework, and a parade of never-ending deadlines.

And speaking of school, can we talk about those "back to school sale" ads? As a child, they were the bane of my existence. Just when I was getting into the groove of summer, these ads would pop up, taunting me with their cheerful jingles and images of kids looking way too happy to be holding a backpack. It's like they were saying, "Hey kid, remember that big project you barely finished on time last year? Get ready to do it again!" I mean, who decided that the end of freedom deserved a sale?

But it's not just the end of summer that gets my goat. It's the fact that everything starts to die. Trees shed their leaves, flowers wilt, and even the grass seems to give up on life. It's like nature's way of saying, "I'm done. Wake me up when it's spring." And while some might argue that the changing colors of the leaves are beautiful, I can't help but see them as a reminder of the impending doom that is winter.

Speaking of colors, let's talk about the palette of the seasons. Winter is white, with its snow-covered landscapes and frosty mornings. Spring and summer are vibrant shades of green, bursting with life and energy. But fall? Fall is brown. Brown, like the mud that gets tracked into your house. Brown like the color of that old couch you've been meaning to replace. Brown like... well, you get the picture.

And then there's pumpkin spice. Oh, pumpkin spice: the flavor that has somehow managed to infiltrate every food and drink item known to man. From lattes to cereals to candles, there's no escaping the pumpkin spice invasion. And while I'll acknowledge that as a flavor, it's perfectly fine for people to enjoy it, but do we really need pumpkin spice toothpaste? (Yes, that's a real thing.)

In conclusion, September is a month of endings. The end of summer, the end of freedom, and the end of my patience for pumpkin spice. So, while some might welcome the arrival of fall with open arms, I'll be over here, mourning the loss of summer and counting down the days until it returns. But hey, at least there's Halloween to look forward to, right?

Okay, autumn isn't completely terrible, I suppose. But it feels nice to get this out of my system, and since I get a monthly article here, why not use the space for some self-therapy, right?



"VACCINATIONS SOAR AS PFIZER RELEASES THEIR SEASONAL PUMPKIN SPICE FLAVOR."

In all seriousness, though, I think we are going to have a really good year in the school this year, and I just greeted the incoming kindergarten class, and—well, fall isn't ALL bad. I guess.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2023-08-30

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

The Annual Meeting of the Washington Society was held on June 9, 2023, at the Church. 25 members were in attendance, constituting a quorum. Reports were presented by Rev. Mac Frazier and Principal Rev. Brian Smith, with acknowledgement and thanks to many volunteers, and special recognition of Jana Sprinkle for her many years of service and teaching in the school, and of Brent Hyatt, winner of the Service Award, for his years of support to the School as Treasurer. Mac provided an overview of the uses offered by the Church and plans for changes to the music program under the guidance of Ariel Martin. The Investment Committee chair, George Cooper, provided a report and distributed the latest numbers. The proposed budget was presented to the audience and after some discussion, a motion to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was seconded and approved unanimously. Nominations for Board of Trustees and School Board were presented, and a motion to elect the slate of nominees as presented was seconded and passed unanimously, thereby electing the following: For Board of Trustees, for 3-year terms, incumbents Sharon Cooper, Aubrey Hernandez, and David Radcliffe were elected. For the School Board, for 3-year terms, Kathy Johns (incumbent) and Kim Maxwell were elected. Thanks, and congratulations to all.

The Board of Trustees met for their regular meeting on June 13, 2023. Officers for the Board were elected as follows: Chair – Steve Ball; Vice Chair – David Radcliffe; Secretary – Sharon Cooper; Treasurer – Brent Hyatt. Pastor's and School reports were brief and highlighted discussions from the Society Meeting. There was significant discussion regarding the budget, the fact that we are operating at a deficit, and plans to focus on addressing these concerns as a regular agenda item at future Board meetings, with specific

topics each month. The Board discussed the need for a Contributions Committee chair, as part of the solution to our deficit budget, and ways to better communicate our challenges with the congregation in the coming fiscal year, starting July 1. Volunteers to help with contributions and fundraising are greatly needed, and anyone interested should contact the Pastors or any member of the Board. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on Sept. 12, 2023.

Respectfully, Sharon Cooper – Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.



**Theta Alpha Guild (TAG):** Theta Alpha/Guild (also known as TAG) is a community of women working together to support the Washington New Church School and the local congregation. You are cordially invited to attend the Fall 2023 meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. Attendance options will be via Zoom or at Carina’s home. The agenda will include discussion of events and fundraising for the coming year plus filling a few open committee positions. We hope to see you there!

## Announcements



**Golf Equipment Needed:** This fall the WNCS 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade PE is going to Paint Branch Golf Course to start learning the game!

We need loanable clubs, bags and people who are willing to drive and chaperone (that is – keep students from hitting each other).

The Golf Classes will be on Mondays for the first full quarter of this school year from 12:15-2:45pm.

Contact Erin Stillman [barryanderin@verizon.net](mailto:barryanderin@verizon.net) or 301-801-3905 if you wish to help in some way.

**FOR SALE:** Large well-loved and maintained home in Acton Park now available. 5 plus bedrooms, 3 plus baths, custom kitchen, over 5,000 sq footage of finished home, 1,000 unfinished walkout level full basement with rough in for in law suite. One

plus acre of landscaped land and gardens, within walking distance of church and school. Please contact Phil or Janna Zuber right away if you are interested before they list the home on the open market with realtor come mid-September.

Janna D. Zuber 11906 Progress Lane Mitchellville, Maryland 20721 (H) 301-262-6394 (C) 240-393-1043

**WNCS Begins Her 53<sup>rd</sup> year!** *As always, we welcome some new faces.*



***Calendar of Additional Regular Activities:***

**Monday’s Reading Group** –Re-starts Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The group meets every other Monday on Zoom and is currently finishing up the True Christian Religion Vol. 2 and will be choosing a new book soon. Want to join a long-time successful reading group. We welcome new readers any time!

**Marriage Group** – This couples group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month beginning this September at the home of Mac & Gillian.

**Music Team** – Ariel Martin is always looking for more people who would like to try out playing or singing together. They have been meeting on Friday evenings at 7pm.

### News-ish Notes

“Knowing a lot makes no difference if we do not live by what we know.”

~ Emanuel Swedenborg, *Secrets of Heaven 1100*

*Welcome back to the start of another season of school and work and meetings and thinking about to-do lists and trying to get over the lazy days of summer vacations. How quickly we forget all those high-heat and high-humidity days that we complained about at the time and now wistfully remember while trying to decide what to do with all those photos we zestfully took, and which now overload our memory banks. So, it is time to get back to the learning mode – school for some, evening study groups for others. And maybe next month we can even get around to the Doing mode.*

### **Congratulations:**

To Bonnie and Dave Cowley and to Janna and Phil Zuber, on their acquisition of golden wedding anniversaries. Nice work, folks.

Also, congratulations to **Kira Zuber and Joseph Jenkins** who on August 16th at 11:35 a.m., finally got to greet their little baby girl Eleanor (Ellie) Grace Jenkins. The now-nearby grandparents **Phil and Janna Zuber** confirm that she is a healthy 8 lbs., 21" long beauty. Phil and Janna took Ellie's big 2 1/2-year-old brother **Justin** to visit his new little sister the next day. Janna wishes she had a video of Justin dancing down the halls wearing his big brother bracelet and telling everyone he has a new little sister. All are doing very well, and the grands are loving being only a 10 minute or

less drive away. Note: Eleanor is named after the incredible Eleanor Roosevelt, and Grace is after Joseph's favorite aunt.

### **Independence:**

Remember way back to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? There was a celebration of that independence stuff at **Erin Stillman's** which included sitting around, playing badminton, sitting, and talking, eating, water-sliding, sitting, 15and eating and talking, and remembering that it was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Thanks to **John Kern** for reminding us of that, and to Erin and helpers and food-suppliers for a marvelous afternoon in the shade on a warm and mostly sunny day.

A bunch of people showed their independence by traveling to distant parts to create vacation memories. Many of them displayed their independence by not telling the news notes editor about their learning experiences, while others were uncovered by intrepid reporters such as **Adelaid Smith**, who reports about the travels of **Brian, Janine, and family**, as follows:

“Several weeks ago, the **Smiths** went to the island of Martinique. It was beautiful and tropical with gorgeous beaches. They hiked a volcano and swam and tried windsurfing. (They went to celebrate their Gladish Aunt's wedding to a Martinique-born man). Later in the summer they went on a family reunion with the Smith family. This was in New York. They had a lot of fun visiting with relatives and doing all sorts of activities. Hope your summer has been great too!!”

An undercover reporter discovered that **Mac and Gillian Frazier and family** voyaged to Alaska, part of the way in a relatively small airplane to Seattle and partly on a relatively large cruise ship from Seattle to Skagway, and then back. When not looking at ocean or mountains or glaciers or bears, they spent a bunch of time bonding with brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins galore of the Frazier ilk, 28 of them in all. And a great and memorable time it was reported to be.

We hear that **Carina Heinrichs** went to France with her family this summer, that she and **Jordan Brunne** managed to get to the



Atlantic beaches for a few days with some friends, and that **Ariel Martin** and Jordan attended the Jacob's Creek Church Camp.

It is also reported that between doctors' appointments, lawn-mowing duties, pulling weeds, and moving furniture around, **George and Mary Cooper** hid themselves in a little cabin in the woods near Deep Creek Lake for a few scattered weeks, where their afternoon naps were often interrupted by the sounds of songbirds in the pine and spruce trees. Retirement is hard.

News collector **Hanna Hyatt** reported a busy summer of travel and recuperation therefrom, and sort of looks forward to kids growing up and starting – or restarting – school.

### **Mixed News:**

**Phil and Janna Zuber** make the news once again: they bit the bullet and bought a smaller home with less land in the Annapolis area to be more hands-on grandparents to the Jenkins/Zuber family which is only 10 minutes or less away. They feel that it is a home that they can age in with much less to maintain. They are very sad to be leaving the heart of Acton Park but had been realizing for a while that their property was just too big for them to manage in their later years. It served them, their family and many church events well for over 30 years. They are hoping that someone who is connected in some way to the church or school will want to make it their home and love it as much as they did. They will miss their neighbors, friends and being so close to the heart of the church, but plan on remaining connected as much as they can now that they are only 30 minutes away.

### **Condolences:**

And speaking of mixed news, our condolences to Joseph Jenkins who lost his father just a week before Ellie was born, after a long battle with cancer.

### **Other Stuff:**

We are happy to hear that after a summer full of visa renewal issues that prevented Jordan Brunne from visiting her parents in Australia (as was planned) and from even renewing her driver's

license, her visa was granted on the day school opened, so she is able to resume her teaching career. Whew!

Did you notice that the Church sign at Enterprise Road has recovered from its malaise? Its indestructible telephone-pole legs were destroyed by mere age, causing terminal listing toward the sunset (moonset?) for way too many moons, but that is now a mere memory. Thanks to those responsible for seeing to the much-needed repair.



Anyone willing to volunteer to paint the new posts?



*September Anniversaries*

*“Those in love truly conjugal are not separated by the death of one: for the spirit of the deceased continues to dwell with the spirit of the other not yet deceased.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg CL 321 ~*



*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Daric & Jamie Simons ~ 9 yrs.*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ (Edwin) & Nancy Alford ~ 67 yrs.*

*Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Steve & Anne Ball ~ 36 yrs.*

*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bill & Sharon Kunkle ~ 39 yrs.*

*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ (Fred) & Carole Waelchli ~ 59 yrs.*

*Sept 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Lachy & Kate Maxwell ~ 20 yrs.*

*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Bradley & Christine Johns ~ 6 yrs.*

