

October 2023

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

With apologies up front, let me say that this is going to be a long article. Most months I shoot for around 750 words, and I like to keep things light. But today I have a somewhat complex issue to talk about. What's more, it is an important one. I hope that you read this to the end, especially if you are usually inclined to just skip to the calendar and maybe the fun news items. What I am

talking about today is part of a larger conversation that I have already begun with our Board of Trustees and with my Pastor's Council. It will continue with our School Board and will be a theme at our semi-annual and annual Society meetings, as well as in other forms of discussion throughout the year.

The topic is New Church Education, and our church's goals with regard to the school for the coming years.

From the very start, New Church Education has been an important facet of the purpose and programming at Washington New Church, much as it was at many other General Church Societies. There is more to the New Church and its doctrines, but for the General Church, the historical cultural focus on applying the truths of the new revelation to the work of educating children has been an important feature.



1<sup>st</sup> Day at WNCNS 1970

And so, we have a school here. When it was first established, its focus and purpose was the education of the children of church members, with the idea that an education grounded in the Heavenly Doctrines—not just through direct religious instruction but also by having

the Word inform our understanding of every secular subject—would in all ways that matter be superior. And so, the Washington New Church School was a New Church School at every level: its **curriculum**, its **teachers**, its **students**, and its **funding** were all drawn from the New Church in one way or another.

Occasionally, we, like other New Church Schools, would admit a **student** that was not from a society-member family, under various special circumstances. And over time, as the demographics of the church changed over generations, the number of enrolled students baptized into the New Church declined. But the need for New Church education for the remaining church families with kids



Kindergarten 2010

continued, as did the underlying belief that children raised in a New Church Educational context had unique benefits, regardless of their parents' denominational affiliation. And so, to fill out seats and keep classrooms open, enrollment of children from non-member families increased.

To my knowledge, this wasn't done with great fanfare or with any sort of society-wide decision to change the purpose of the school. Rather, it was done as a matter of expediency. And again, this same story has played out in other New Church schools across the General Church. It is a decision that just made practical sense: it is expensive to operate a full-service elementary school, including several fixed costs that varied little with how many students were in each classroom, and so why not take on students (and tuition payments) from outside of the society membership to help keep things going?



Kindergarten 2011

But as the decades rolled along, the ratio of society-sourced students to those enrolled from families that have other religious allegiances continued to shift. Today, our student body is primarily made up of kids from non-society-member families, with those actually baptized in the New Church making up a shrinking minority. Once again, I point out that this is the same story playing out in many other schools in our worldwide church organization.

Which is all well and good. But in addition to the decline of enrollment from church families, New Church schools are under a second demographic pressure: the increasing difficulty of finding, hiring, and retaining **teachers** who are themselves baptized members of the New Church. This is part of a much larger challenge facing the General Church, namely, that any strategic initiative or core program of the organization has to run through a tightening staffing bottleneck of not enough priests and not enough teachers. Creating priests and teachers is expensive, extremely time-consuming, and heavily dependent upon there being people in the church

interested in pursuing a career working for the church instead of elsewhere.

Setting the priesthood aside for another discussion, a challenge we (and all New Church schools) must face going forward is the scarcity of people in the New Church who choose to become teachers. But why does this matter? Does one have to be a member of the New Church to teach a New Church education curriculum?

Some schools in our system have begun to hire teachers from outside the church. The idea is that it is the **curriculum** that makes a school New Church. Usually, it starts with a single hire to fill in a gap, perhaps temporarily. But inevitably the pattern is to continue to add non-church faculty over time until eventually they make up a significant portion of the staff. To try to help these schools, efforts have been made by the General Church Office of Education to develop training to help “New Churchify” faculty hired from outside of the New Church tradition. So far, at the Washington New Church School, at least currently, we are 100% staffed by New Church teachers.

A final area of challenge schools seem to always face is **funding**. Ask any school administrator in any school, at any level, and you will hear the same thing: we could use more money. This is true with schools with large endowments, with schools that have recurring large donations from donors who value what the schools provide, and with schools supported by large church societies with large budgets. And it is certainly true with smaller schools with smaller endowments and fewer big donors. And it is true with us. The Washington New Church is absolutely dependent upon the generosity of donors, large and small—people like yourself—to keep our school operating.

*The Lord is present in so many discussions I overhear every week among (our) faculty as they talk about what they are teaching their students that there is no mistaking what kind of school we are running here.*

But having said that, I want you to know that we are fine. We could use more money. What’s more, it can get pretty stressful looking at the budget projections and thinking about the long-term

viability of not only the school but of the church as a whole, given how many unknowns there are to take into account. But for today, for our current size, we are blessed by donors who believe in our mission and are keeping us running.

Of the four resources that make up our New Church School—**curriculum**, **teachers**, **students**, and **funding**—the **funding** will *not* be our first point of failure if things get tough. To that, I will add that our **curriculum** is excellent and so infused with New Church thinking married with great scholarship and modern pedagogy that



it is a delight to work here. The Lord is present in so many discussions I overhear every week among faculty as they talk about what they are teaching their students that there is no mistaking what kind of school we are running here.

But what about the changes in our **student** body? Are we a New Church school if only a minority of our students are actually being raised in New Church households? I say yes, but some might see it otherwise. The school's founding purpose—its *use*—was originally to educate the children of New Church parents; if even one student in the school is from such a background, then the school is continuing to fulfill that purpose. What's more, even as the *end* (teaching New Church children) is shrinking, our *means* (using the Heavenly Doctrines to inform our curriculum, our culture, and our daily practices) remain solidly unaltered.

But what if someday in the near future we find ourselves with *zero* New Church family-sourced students enrolled? (And note this is not a far-fetched hypothetical. It could be something we face within our current generation.) Would we still be a “New Church school”? Again, I say yes.

So long as we are careful and intentional not only in our recruiting and enrollment process, but in the many ways we already work to inculcate our New Church-derived values into the community of parents, and at the same time maintain the curriculum and culture

of the school we currently have, then yes, I say we are a New Church school. However, at that point, I must concede that we will have then moved off of our founding purpose completely. More on that in a moment.

This brings me to the actual first point of failure that I worry about every day as Pastor, here: the scarcity of New Church **teachers**.

As you may know, the Washington New Church School has an incredibly talented faculty of New Church teachers. It's not a competition, but if there were a debate over which New Church School had the best faculty, I'd be able to proudly make a reasonable argument that ours belongs at the top of the list. I've worked in three other New Church schools during my career and have seen some great and dedicated teachers at each of them, and it's a tight race, so maybe the magnanimous thing to say is: our teachers are very, very good.

Unfortunately, many of our talented faculty are at the tail-ends of their careers. Since I became Pastor, we have had one veteran teacher retire, and a second one pursue a second career. What's more, in the coming five years, we have three more extremely experienced and valuable members of our staff looking to move on to retirement as well. And they've earned it for sure! But this means that we are now in the midst of a huge staffing turnover.

*I believe that it is an appropriate time for the society as a whole to have a year-long discussion about our commitment to New Church Education, the school, and the uses of the church in general.*

experienced and valuable members of our staff looking to move on to retirement as well. And they've earned it for sure! But this means that we are now in the midst of a huge staffing turnover.

We have already made a couple of key hires, bringing on young New Church people as brand-new teachers. I am excited by what I am seeing them accomplish already. Going forward, if we intend to operate the school exactly as it is today—a multi-grade classroom elementary school serving students from Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade—then we will have to make two or three more key hires. And while we might be able to bring on an experienced teacher if one decides for some reason to move away from their existing New

Church society, the likelihood is that these hires will have to also be young adults just starting out their teaching careers.

Ideally, if we are going to invest time funding, and effort into recruiting, hiring, and then furthering the training and development of a couple younger New Church educators, then we should be thinking long-term about our plans for the school.

However, we don't really have a long-term *plan* for the school, beyond, "We've been doing it this way, so I suppose we will continue doing it this way." Sometimes, a "steady as you go" maintenance approach is just fine for a long-standing church program. But given that we are now in a mode of completely re-upping our staffing commitment, I believe that it is an appropriate time for the society as a whole to have a year-long discussion about our commitment to New Church Education, the school, and the uses of the church in general. This means that if we are to continue forward with our school, it must be intentional. Deliberate. Done not merely with the permission or consent of the membership but with your enthusiastic assent.

What's more, we need to face the possible reality of not being able to find enough New Church educators to fill all the positions we will need to maintain our current structure in the coming five to ten years. What do we do then?

As your Pastor, I want to make it clear that I believe hiring from outside the church would be a mistake. I have serious concerns about what happens when a school's underlying New Church culture is not well supported, regardless of what the curriculum looks like on paper. Despite efforts some schools and the Office of Ed may be undertaking, I am not confident that one can replace years of actively living the doctrines as a committed New Church member with a training program of six weeks, six months, or even two years. Being a New Church teacher is as much a matter of identity as it is one of pedagogy. It involves the inculcating of values and the establishment of a sphere and culture of the New Church. These are things that cannot merely be taught via lesson plans and methodologies. They must be lived. They must be *embodied*.

What am I saying? I am saying that I would rather we commit to having a 100% New Church faculty over committing to maintaining our current structure and program at all costs.

Perhaps we can be the absolute best K-5 New Church school the world has ever seen. Maybe we need to find a niche, as some other New Church schools have done, and specialize in serving a particular need in our community. Should we consider opening a pre-school? Are there ways we can start to serve homeschooling cooperatives and networks in our area? What other ways of structuring our school will best serve the needs of future students while fully embodying the ideals and values of New Church Education?

Oh, and what if ten years from now our enrollment of New Church-sourced students drops to zero? At that point, we are 100% operating the school as a benefaction of charity for our neighbors. I can see a reason to do that. But if we go down such a path, it must be with the full assent of the Society membership.



June 2023, WNCS Alumni Run Field Day

These are big questions. But it's time to talk about them. Limited resources will eventually force our hand one way or another, pushing hard choices on us. I don't want to wait around for a crisis before we figure out what our long-term intent for the school is. What's more, this is a bigger question than what we do with school. This impacts our entire identity as a church, and we are not a school, but rather a church that funds, staffs, leads, and operates a school for church purposes.

To this end, I have begun to have conversations. I started by alerting the board of my intentions and concerns last year. This year, at our September meeting it was a major topic of discussion. I have since brought it before the Pastor's Council to start people thinking about it there. Soon it will be a topic at our School Board. I intend for our winter Society Meeting to primarily focus on a town hall discussion of these issues and of our church's commitment to and



intentions for the school, and I hope you will be a part of that discussion.

What's more, I want to get a chance to speak with every member, either individually or in smaller groups, over the coming months. Expect, also, to see the topics of New Church Education come up in articles here in the Echo (see Brian Smith's article in this issue, for instance), as well as in the school's E-News newsletter, and in my occasional email updates to the congregation. For November I am developing a three-part sermon series that will explore New Church doctrines related to education.

This needs to be a multipart, far-ranging, inclusive conversation. I want to hear from parents, faculty, staff, donors, and especially from society members at large. I want you to hear from each other on this, too. Discuss this while you go on walks together. Use it as a focus as you read the Word, on your own and together. Bring it up at family meals. Let's see what we come up with!

My goal is to be able to come together at our annual Society meeting (at the end of the school year) with some sort of consensus among Society members around how to strengthen our school over the next five years so that it can continue to perform its use to the world in decades to come. We need to come together to be intentional and deliberate about this major program of the church. Things have changed, and now it is time for us to affirm whatever direction we take with it from a place of conviction and purpose.

I know that this can be a sensitive and even scary topic, but I hope that it will also be one that you come to find exciting and inspiring. I look forward to hearing from you personally on this matter, and to talking with all of you as the church. And throughout it all, I pray that the Lord lead us and guide us, through His Word and through His influx into our minds and hearts as we strive to be His church to the world.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2023-09-28

## **From the Principal**

As WNCS moves further into our 53<sup>rd</sup> year of operation, many things remain consistent and just as many things change. There is a strange tension in successful institutions between constant adaptation and sustained stability.

This year we have welcomed 9 new students and said goodbye to 16 others. We have wished Jana Sprinkle farewell and added Jordan Kinsey to our ranks. We have had to let go of our high school program but have maintained our Jk-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

From time to time, it is useful to review, explore and re-articulate our goals and strategies to see what has changed and what has stood the test of a decade (or five). Our Pastor has initiated, beginning with discussions with the board, a congregational process for the coming year. It gives us a chance to digest updates and changes from the last decade or so, to get back in touch with our core goals and values and to explore their implementation in programs, with the effort to focus and strengthen the Washington New Church School. These review processes help guide budgeting and hiring but also, we hope, give congregation members the opportunity to think-afresh about the largest program of the WNC.

To aid in this review, I hope to bring before you perspectives from the past, which people have offered to articulate the purposes of New Church education. I also would love conversations with any member of the congregation, which I might review or share in the pages of the Echo with or without names attached (depending on comfort).

As a start, I will list the seven objectives which Willard Pendleton enunciated in a series of lectures in 1964 – 6 years before WNCS opened its doors.

Objective 1: A knowledge of the Word

Objective 2: The formation of conscience in the understanding.

Objective 3: A respect for law and order.

Objective 4: Moral integrity

Objective 5: A sense of social responsibility.

Objective 6: An affection for spiritual truth.

Objective 7: The love of use.

In different decades, the broader public school system will tend to emphasize some of these same objectives, but not all. For example, cultivating a “sense of social responsibility” is a current concern for many public schools. Similarly, most schools have professional success in mind as they educate their students. “Professional success” is not the exact same idea as the spiritual concept of a “love of use,” but it does have some overlap.

However, these objectives articulated by Pendelton have a much broader, and more thorough emphasis on spiritual or religious goals and formation than is found in the public system. This follows logically from an understanding of humans as *spiritual* beings. If one views people in this light, then an educational institution will be concerned with educating and training the *spiritual* dimensions of students, in addition to their *natural* ones.

By sharing this list this month, I hope to get you thinking about New Church education and how *you* understand its core principles, concepts, and objectives. There are additional elements which can be emphasized about New Church as those found here. How would you describe these essential elements?



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

The Board met for our first hybrid meeting of the new Fiscal Year on September 12, 2023, at the Church and on Zoom. The Treasurer’s report showed that we ended the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, with a much lower than expected deficit, thanks to strong contributions. We will continue to focus on collaborating with the congregation to keep our contributions and offertory donations strong in the new year to meet our contributions budget of about \$230K. The new school year has started, and although our student population is on the smaller side, in part due to closure of the High School, we have a strong and positively engaged group of students and families. Led by the Pastors, the Board engaged in a discussion

about planning for our future and maintaining our purpose and mission and plans to embark on a 5-year outlook for growth in the school and church. There is still a need to have a volunteer head for our contributions and fundraising efforts, and anyone interested should please contact one of the Pastors. In building news, permits have been submitted for our renovation of the front restrooms, with hopes to begin this calendar year. The next meeting of the Board will be on October 10.

Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ Inc.

### The Rebuttal *An Editorial*

I found Mac's last month's article on the end of summer very entertaining. I can agree with him completely when it comes to pumpkin spice everything... and probably even agree with the "middle child" nature of September - the killjoy of summer. But that is where it ends. True, summer for a child is glorious freedom, at least it was for me as a child. Days and days where I could grab my bicycle in the early morning, pack a lunch and take off for most of the day to a wooded park or the zoo. And I loved vacations... ah camping!

But face it, for most of us adults, summer usually means going to work every day and having maybe a week or two for vacation.

Let's put September aside since you spent a lot of your time bashing the fall. You mentioned color... by summer the "vibrant" greens of spring have dulled to the hot dry crispy grass under the burning summer sun. If you love beaches, as you seem to, the colors there are blue and tan and perhaps the occasional white puffy cloud. From late November into December, you do get the muted tones, the bare trees, the mud, but do you sleep through Autumn? Autumn is all about color. Yes, the leaves are dying but they go out with a glorious burst of red, yellows, greens, and oranges. The sunsets are amazing in the fall too. With the changing seasons,



come dark weather fronts that bring sunsets into stark contrast of grays, blues with a deep fiery glow.

Now I'm not going to quote from the writings – though I could, about the significance of the autumn and harvest but the one thing autumn does best is display the fruits of our labor – the meaning of bearing good fruit is obvious in the Word and autumn is the poster child for that. As a gardener, I love the harvest! The culmination of a year of work is displayed in the harvest. Autumn is like the 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest; it doesn't hurt that I had 4 of my 6 children in October (I really needed the rest by then).

Autumn has variety! Put on a jacket and take a morning walk over the frost covered grass only to bask in the warm autumn afternoon in your shirt sleeves. Then there's fall sports, soccer, football, tailgating (the team jacket would get awfully hot in the summer). In the evening you can finally gather around your patio fire pit with an actual fire, roast marshmallows or drink a hot toddy (I have noticed that our patio rarely gets summer use as no one wants a fire and well... mosquitos.)

As a senior I am enjoying this autumn part of my life too. It's more peaceful, there are less feelings of anxiety or concern about the future. Not the frantic juvenile growth of spring or the sweat and toil of summer but the quiet peace and satisfaction of a "job well done" that autumn brings.

I get that a youngster like Mac would love summer, though coming from a guy who plays ice hockey and takes his summer vacation in Alaska, I do wonder. So... I'm throwing down the gauntlet to anyone to promote their favorite season in the November Echo... Winter anyone? ~ Bonnie Cowley

### **Washington Theta Alpha/Guild (TAG) meeting report:**

Our first meeting of the 2023/24 season was held via Zoom on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. We had a report from treasurer, Kathy, and a discussion about fundraising plans for monthly Souper Sundays again this year. In the past, half the funds from this program have been donated to the WCNJ operating fund, with

the remainder supporting TAG uses through the year. Suggestions were made to consider other charities to receive the funds vs using them locally. Members are invited to respond to Carina with questions and thoughts on this before October 1, 2023.

We are currently assembling a welcome basket for Jonathan and Gretchen Sprinkle. Donations can be put in the marked box in the conference room outside the Pastor's office. Most committee heads remain in place, except for New Church Day Childrens' Gifts. Let Carina or any other TAG officer know if you are interested in supporting this use. Bonnie is spearheading a group to rebuild Didi Trimble's front walk, sometime this fall. Please contact her if you are interested in joining this effort.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Kunkle – TAG Secretary

## Announcements

**Fall Work party:** October is when we usually have the fall work party, however this fall we will be putting our efforts to help an elderly neighbor fix her steps. Please see the advertisement on p.19 and join us! It is good community fun working together.

If you can't make the work party – consider helping the landscape committee keep our gardens looking nice. We hope to organize small weeding parties this fall. Stay tuned!

**“Souper” Sunday Kickoff Picnic:** ‘tis the season for “Souper”



Sundays to begin. We are planning a Kick-off picnic Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> right after church.

We will have tables set, a variety of warm bread and several crockpots of delicious soup. The picnic is for the whole family and will not cost anything (*we will have a basket out for donations to the “Souper” Sunday funds*).

Please join us for our first “souper” Sunday picnic and be ready to start buying our soup and bread throughout October – February.

**General Church Assembly  
June 27-30, 2024**

**Would you like to lead an Assembly workshop?**

Applications are open!

A variety of workshops are critical to a successful Assembly. Can your talent or experience help create an enriching experience for our church?

Click below to learn more & apply: Workshop Application

<https://forms.gle/2qACrZyhh89Wninu6>

Kindly apply by November 1, 2023.

## *Silent Auction*

*To Benefit the  
Washington New Church  
& School*

29" X 33" Framed painting by  
resident artist Janna Zuber

The painting is hanging in the lobby for all to view  
*(photo does not do it justice).*

There is a clipboard with the painting for you to place your bid on the clipboard, and the highest bid gets the painting.

Bidding begins at \$150 and ends **Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:45pm**. Anonymous bidding permitted, simply write down a 4-digit code on the clipboard with your bid and send your name & code to [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org).

You may also bid remotely. Contact me via email or phone (301-518-3628), I will notify you of the current highest bid and will mark your bid on the clipboard.

If you ever wanted to own an original Janna Zuber painting, now's your chance! ~ Bonnie Cowley



## Noteworthy is the News

“God created the universe so usefulness could exist” (True Christianity 67)

The Church on earth in its embodiment as the Washington New Church seeks to reflect that usefulness in a variety of ways. One of its more visible uses is its school, which has now opened its doors for the 53<sup>rd</sup> time. Do you recall its precarious beginning? With the generous backing of the General Church, nine students in grades 1, 2 and 4 and a new young teacher managing all the grades started out on a journey that eventually led to a complete elementary school, including kindergarten and preschool, as well as two high school years. We cannot know what impact this small school might have on the world at large, but we trust that it has favorably affected the lives not only of its many students, but of the members of this Society who continue to support it.

### **Congratulations:**

To **Baby Smith**, who arrived in timely fashion late afternoon on September 26<sup>th</sup>, courtesy of **Brian and Janine**. A 10b. 1 oz. boy! Currently known as Strawberry until parents get to know him and divulge his real name. Mom is doing well, and he has some good lungs! Welcome to this world, Straw. (*Ok, we now have a real name – **Kerek Daniel Smith**, a name more fitting for a strapping 10 lb. boy.*)

To **Thomas Wallace and Yolanda Magana** on the baptism of their daughter **Nayeli Jasmine Wallace** during the Church service on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To **Brad Johns** who traveled to the One Voice Conference in Dallas in August, where he was very honored to receive two awards for his voice over work. Best Live Announcer - for the voice of God AND Best Narrative for a WWII film on the Battle of the Bulge.

To **Shannon (Allen) Warzeniak**, who was promoted to Lieutenant in the Anne Arundel Fire Department. She is assigned to



Station 21 in the Harmon/Dorsey area near the Arundel Mills Mall. (Jean Allen notes that she started her teaching career at Harmon Elementary School, near where Shannon is now working. Small world!)

### **Welcome to WNC:**

**Chelsea Quintero** has moved back to the area. Glad to see you again, and welcome.

**Jonathan and Gretchen (Roscoe) Sprinkle** have moved back and are living in the Lincoln Smith house on Enterprise Road. Welcome to you both.

### **Welcome Visitors:**

It was nice to hear from the team of **Curtis Childs, Chara Daum and Tim Bilger** who followed a marvelous potluck supper at the Church with a presentation on the current activities of the Swedenborg Foundation. They described the Foundation's current emphasis on completing its publication of the "portable" edition of the New Century translation of Swedenborg's writings within the next couple of years and discussed the ongoing success of their video program "Off the Left Eye."

### **Vacation and Other Travels:**

**Bill and Sharon Kunkle** enjoyed a long-planned Rhine River cruise recently, traveling in tandem with **Keith and Monica Hyatt**. They started with 2 days in Lucerne, Switzerland, during which they explored the mountainous and historic area and had a chance to recover from jet lag. After meeting the ship in Basel, they report being well cared for and entertained by the Viking ship staff as well as the excellent guides for the land excursions. Happily, the weather cooperated too, with sunny days and cool nights all the way to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Highlights included a trip up the peak of the Swiss Stanserhorn with mountain views all around, an e-bike tour to the Black Forest of Germany and walking tour of windmills and dikes in Holland!

**Royce and Cynthia Harvey** flew to Albuquerque September 8th to attend a surprise 90th Birthday / 70th Anniversary party for

Royce's one remaining Uncle. According to the Census Bureau, literally one in a thousand married couples make it to their 70th! Uncle Bill is getting frail, but Lucy, just a year or two younger, looks like she did a couple of decades ago! Their two boys and their families, Aunt Lucy's twin and "little" brother and sister from California, Royce and I from Virginia, his brother (Katy TX) and their cousins Wylie (and wife Lucy) (Snyder TX) and Ann and her son (Austin TX) made for a just-large-enough group and a wonderful surprise for the happy couple. Uncle Bill (a 17-year-old lineman installing poles and wires for the Rural Electrification Administration) looked down one day and saw Lucy, a 16-year-old high school student walking by, and said - she's the one - and she was! We had a few days of great visiting, photos, and stories. Royce was thrilled to dine (several times) at a diner on old Route 66, and I had a wonderful birthday dinner at the local Fogo de Chao. What a weekend! Albuquerque is beautiful.

### **Other News:**

**Lincoln Smith** reports that their family is enjoying their resident flocks and herds. He says "we have 10 new ducklings and 3 new geese who have all just about lost their baby down. They have joined our 11-year-old old goose Andrewshek in the yard. They announce all the comings and goings of the home and neighborhood, and love yelling at the hayrides going by at the Maryland corn maze next door."

**Hanna Hyatt** reports on the joy she finds in having been gifted with some helpful kids, which is so nice, except when they choose their own helper job called "move the toys in the playroom from the middle of the floor to under the couch." However, she can't complain since they seem to have learned from her very similar "shove things under the couch" game.

### **Recovery News:**

**Amy Glenn** had gall bladder surgery on the 12th of September, and reports that she is slowly recovering. **David** continues to improve with therapy and was able to help Amy during a month and a

half wait for surgery and during her recovery. Their goal is to get back to church as soon as possible.

**Jean and John Allen** are recovering nicely from the Covid beast. Recovery is a good thing.



**Let's Come Together**  
**Sat, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am**  
To help replace Didi Trimble's crumbling steps  
(rain date Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>)

**No experience necessary**

**Just a willingness to work (or support the workers).**

**Bring gloves, shovels, picks, saws, levels, hammers and sledges.**  
**Any questions? Contact Dave or Bonnie Cowley.**



## *October Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love has the quality of each one wanting to be the other’s completely and reciprocally. When this is experienced, they are in heavenly happiness.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg—AC 2731*



*Oct. 5th ~ Eric & Suzanne Genzlinger ~ 26 yrs.*

*Oct. 7th ~ Joe & Kira Jenkins ~ 6 yrs.*

*Oct. 16th ~ Pat & Paige Sweeney ~ 30 yrs.*

*Oct. 19th ~ Eugene & Nancy Cole ~ 27 yrs.*

