

November 2023

ECHO  
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Newsletter of the  
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Does the year feel to you like it's flying by? It seems like only a few days ago we were enjoying eighty-degree weather and sunshine. (Okay, it was only a few days ago. But still...)

Last month I wrote a huge article explaining to you why we are using this year to focus on the future of our school. I explained what motivated me to start this process (our school has evolved away from its original purpose, and I wanted to get affirmation from the society about its new direction), why I'm doing it now (we are in the midst of a big staffing transition), and what I see as the biggest threat to the school's future (the increasing challenge of maintaining an all New Church faculty while maintaining the same number of grades served). If you have not read that article, I *strongly* encourage you to do so now.

Since publishing that article, Brian, and I have moved forward with steps to collect input from various groups on what the school should look like five years from now and how we should go about getting there. We have had discussions on the topic with the School Board, and the Board of Trustees. We have also met with all of the faculty and staff in small groups, and I have been discussing it with the Pastor's Council.



Currently, I am having one-on-one conversations with individuals in the church society. If I have not heard from you yet, I encourage you to reach out to let me know what you think about the

school and its future. I have been sending out email invites, with a special focus on folks who are a part of the church but who are not already part of the groups mentioned above, looking to have conversations in person, or via email, phone, or video. But don't feel you have to wait for an email invite if you have something you want to share. I want to hear from everyone.

The plan is to gather as much input as possible before going back to the faculty as a group with what Brian and I have learned by **November 29th**. In that meeting we will evaluate the suggestions and other input with an eye toward coming up with one or more paths the church can take with regard to the school, with special focus on what the current faculty and leadership believe is reasonably

doable with the faculty we currently have and can reasonably expect to recruit in the near future.

From there, Brian and I will take the different options to the joint Trustee/School Board meeting on **December 5th**. There we will look at the financial and other resource requirements needed for each of the potential plans and adjust accordingly. After that we will be deep into the Christmas season, but Brian and I will still be doing some processing of everything so that when the entire Society meets on **January 19th**, the different proposed options will be organized and ready for discussion. At that society meeting I am hoping we can come together around one particular vision for the future of the church with regard to the school. From there, Brian and I take it back to the boards to develop a roadmap with specific steps to bring back to the annual business meeting of the Society on **May 17th** for your formal affirmation.

So far it has been a fun and interesting process. It has been gratifying hearing all the different perspectives, hopes, and suggestions for the school, and I am looking forward to hearing more from you in the coming month. There are definitely some themes developing, but I want to hold off on talking about them so as to not bias any future input until this phase of the process is complete.

So, if you and I haven't spoken on this yet, let me know when and how you'd like to provide input. Not everyone reads everything in the *Echo*, so I will also continue sending out individual invitations in small batches over the coming weeks. But like I said: don't feel you have to wait until I contact you individually. My door is open.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
2023-11-02

### Thanksgiving Service



As is our custom, the Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am. This is a family service.

All are welcome to bring a food or fruit offering. Fresh fruit will be delivered to WCNJ folks sick or in need and any non-perishable food will be delivered to a shelter or food bank in the area.

## Announcement

**TAG Meeting:** Our November meeting has been moved to Monday, **November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** at the church.

This will be the only meeting before the holiday season; so, there is much to plan for! Please do your best to attend this meeting.

**Echo Directory:** Believe it or not the 2022-23 Echo Directory is getting unreliable... many changes and new additions!

I will email all of you with an edited version of the current directory in hopes you would all look at it and email me with any changes that you see that is needed – especially your contact info, but also check other areas where your info might be – your children [I am a year behind on new babies], the boards you may be on, etc.

I am hoping to publish soon so please don't delay.

**WNCS Update:** It has been a busy 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for WNCS. We have a great student body, though smaller than we'd like, and a dedicated staff.

Some highlights – grades 5-8 spent the fall PE classes at Paint Branch Golf Course learning the sport, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> had their insect zoo and also release several painted lady butterflies which they raised from caterpillars, a multitude of kindergarten projects highlighted by the ever-beautiful Noah & the rainbow, several classes took field trips and much more.

The two days before Thanksgiving WNCS will pause from usual studies to have a couple “project days”.

This consists of one day of mixed age level children doing

hands-on projects followed the next day by a day long field trip. We will be focusing on this year's theme of “innocence”.



Just after Thanksgiving – Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> the WNCS choir will be singing a couple pieces for that Sunday’s worship service. Soon we will be into the Christmas season. This year WNCS will be putting on the annual Christmas Tableaux under the direction of Ariel Martin.

If you are pondering many of Mac’s concerns stated above in his article, take the time when you are visiting the church to walk the halls and see all the projects and artwork that is displayed. Ask any parent what they get from WNCS.

This is a wonderful New Church school, if you have any doubts.

~ Bonnie Cowley

## News Notes

### **Starting with Good News**

“Sometimes it’s good to hush up a while and let autumn stick in a few words.”

Calvin (Book 1 The Complete Calvin and Hobbes)

Words of wisdom from a 6-year-old. The middle of October was a great time to visit the mountains of western Maryland, for the trees were doing their best to overwhelm one’s eyes with bright colors; even on days when rain prevailed the woods were bright with reds and golds. Soaking in the beauty of the woods and listening to the wind and to the leaves drifting down was good for the soul. Calvin had it right.

*“The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Rev. 22:2). “The leaves of the tree symbolize rational truths” (AR 936:1).*

### **Congratulations Corner:**

To **Brian and Janine Smith** on the baptism of their new baby boy - **Kerek Daniel Smith**. This took place during the first part of the Sunday service on October 8<sup>th</sup>, with the **Rev. Lawson Smith** officiating.

To Bell Ringer **Pat Sweeney**. After enjoying a lengthy period of remission, Pat Sweeney recently experienced a recurrence of meta-



static colon cancer with the discovery of a new tumor in his lung. Fortunately, the tumor was treatable (let's hear it for early detection!) and Pat underwent daily intensive chemo/radiation therapy that was exhausting but finally completed in late October. He will

spend November recovering and is eager to get back to full speed. Pat is in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of his cancer battle. The Sweeney family is deeply grateful for all the love and support they've received throughout this journey! Here is a snapshot of Pat "ringing the bell" after his 40<sup>th</sup> treatment at the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. He's accompanied by his wife, **Paige**, and his nephew, **Jeff Brown**, who lives near Hopkins and gave Pat a much-needed place to rest in between morning and afternoon treatments. Congratulations Pat!

To **Anders Croft**, who had a very momentous September. He passed his written and flight tests and received his Private Pilot's license on Sept 17. And at the end of August, he started a one-year Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability Management at Georgetown University. Then he found time to take part in the Georgetown University bike ride for raising cancer research funds. He's a busy dude!

Food Fun 4 All:

"Souper" Sunday Kickoff Picnic was a great success! Thanks Bonnie and Company for providing a free lunch for all, especially one

featuring Crock Pots filled with soups of various constituencies to-



gether with a table full of varieties of warm home-made bread, all emanating from various kitchens at the hands of skilled purveyors. The addition of cider and other potables as well as irresistible desserts overcame the portent of rain, and a good time was had by all!

After a two-week rain delay, a Forest Feast occurred at the Forest Garden on a beautiful, warm, and colorful October Saturday afternoon. A delicious and exotic multicourse dinner, prepared by a skilled chef, featured produce grown in the forest garden and was enjoyed by a large crowd.

For almost 12 years, **Lincoln Smith** has been growing a great variety of nutritious and delicious foods in a thriving young forest ecosystem. The chef takes the ingredients Lincoln grows, such as chestnuts, pawpaws, shiitake mushrooms, acorn flour, aronia and many more, and prepares a memorable meal. Many of these ingredients are not found anywhere else! A full Harvest Moon was a fitting closure to the feasting.

### **Charter Day at BA:**

With school closed for the occasion, a number of people from this area travelled to Bryn Athyn for the annual Charter Day festivities at the Academy of the New Church. Among those making the trip were Aubrey **Hernandez**, celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> reunion, and **Kim Maxwell**, celebrating a different one, according to our intrepid reporter. Other, more secretive reunions also occurred, fittingly capped by **George and Mary Cooper** attending a small celebration of George's 70<sup>th</sup> reunion of the class of 1953 on Friday afternoon. (It was small because many could not make the trip – but the memories loomed large.) After the party, George & Mary drove half the night in order to attend a Saturday morning HOA

annual meeting in Western Maryland. They then took a week off to recover.

What does “intrepid” mean?

Some Charter Day attendees managed to visit a wall full of marvelous paintings by **Stewart Smith** in the Dining Hall at Cairnwood Village. Included were lots of beautiful scenes of recognizable places around Garrett County and Acton Park, among others.

### **Condolences:**

Our condolences to Anne Ball and Amanda Hyatt and their families on the passing of their father, **Richard L. Goerwitz**, on Sunday, October 15, 2023. He was 90 years old. A memorial service was held at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral on October 29<sup>th</sup>, with the Rev. Stephen Cole officiating.

Also, to **Sharon Croft**, who had the gall to get sick in the middle of the workday, thereby disturbing the surrounding offices with two ambulance visits (apparently really important people require reinforcements) before she was deemed sick enough to be carried off to a hospital. Happily, she is home now, de-stoned and recovering from her current lack of gall.

### **Travels:**

**Dorothy Radcliffe**, along with daughter **Laura Gurney** and daughter-in-law **Angela Radcliffe** had a great time in New York, Angela and Dorothy going to the opera to see a well done “La Boheme” and Laura visiting with son Colin and Kim who are permanent residents there.

### **School News:**

The WNCS was visited 3 times by General Church master teachers, Beth Bochniak Greg Henderson, and Debbie Cook, to support our teachers. As always, these were useful and enjoyable visits.

Our soon-to-be famous reporter, **Adelaide Smith**, tells us that “on October the 23, the fifth through eighth grade P.E. class had its golf tournament! It was a huge success, and everyone had fun. We



played with teams of four people, and each team played three holes. I'd like to congratulate the winning team: **Elijah Mbella, Emma Shaheed, Marcellus Smith, and Bryson Thompson.** However, I think everyone did very well. We're all so grateful to our instructor, Coach Elvie (from Paint Branch Golf Course). We learned so much!"



### **Last Minute News:**

Halloween happened on schedule, arriving with the first day of winter so that everyone out after dark came home with cold candy in the form of frozen toes. Yum!

## *November 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.” Swedenborg - CL 458*



*Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Dan & Jeanine Federline ~ 10 yrs.*

*Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Bob & Bea Newkirk ~ 61 yrs.*

*Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Court & Elaine Lee ~ 51 yrs.*

*Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ (Barry) & Erin Stillman 29 yrs.*

