

April 2024

ECHO

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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

“A love of learning has a lot to do with learning that we are loved.” - Fred Rogers

I love to learn. I consume information ravenously. My normal mode of operation is to go on six-week deep dives into specific subjects, one or two subjects at a time, and then move on to another deep dive shortly after I complete the current one.

My general approach is to first survey the landscape and get a general sense of the subject's natural outline. I try to identify the best sources to represent the two largest viewpoints on the subject, along with some quirky "third way" points of view. I tend to think of these as McDonalds, Burger King, and Wendy's. Or Windows, MacOS and Unix. (You can pick for yourself which is which; I'm not interested in a holy war at this point in time.)

Another way of thinking of it is in brand terms. In most markets, there is a dominant brand (like a Coke) that far outsells any other brand and tends to present itself on its own terms. Then there is almost always a single "top competitor" number two brand (like Pepsi), that is easily identified by the fact that their advertising tends to focus on comparisons with the number one brand. These two brands usually dominate more than fifty percent of the market, or at least more than fifty percent of the "mind share" of the market. Then there is often a clear number three (like a Dr. Pepper) that tends in its advertising to present itself as "other," "quirky," and for people not interested in the traditional competition between one and two. Anyway, I often find that in fields of knowledge, you can find a similar division among theories/opinions/schools of thought/etc. And I like to simplify while still getting a balanced picture. Thus, my approach.

In addition to trying to identify the major schools of thought on a subject, I also will look for some sort of natural taxonomy to describe the major categories of the subject. This divides the subject study into a matrix, if you will, with subcategories on one axis and schools of opinion on the other. From there, I go to town, seeking books, articles, videos, and conversations with people in the field in question.

Now, it's not actually as formal and deliberate as all that. Rather, the above is merely a description of what I observe myself doing when I study how I study. I actually do it in a much more organic fashion, feeling my way around, working from the outside in, until I learn whatever it is I can learn before I get distracted by some new pursuit.

And I do this from subject to subject, bouncing around, all the time. Sometimes one subject will lead naturally into another, like cooking into baking into food science. Or like the history of jazz music to playing jazz piano to music theory. But sometimes the jumps are completely incongruous, like game theory to Russian history to number sequences. And sometimes I get stuck on something longer than six weeks. Sometimes a lot longer. I also occasionally return to previously visited subjects. But one way or another, I am always doing this.

But I'm not doing it with any specific purpose in mind. For me, it's mostly about entertainment. It's just something I find joy in. I am just a very curious person, I suppose.

That said, it would be incorrect to assume that this habit serves no purpose. I may not intend a purpose, but I have found plenty of purpose, after the fact, in my various random explorations of knowledge.

For instance, my deep dive into serious chess (which lasted a lot longer than six weeks, and which I still return to now and then) taught me ways of ordering my thinking process when analyzing the position on the board before selecting a strategy for the next phase of a game. I have found that that same thinking process is easily repurposed when faced with some structured, non-chess problem. Likewise, understanding Joseph Campbell's concept of the "Hero's Journey" has provided me insight when trying to figure out how to structure a sermon. And getting into the science of baking using ratios has given me new insight into different ways of organizing any given process-oriented field of study.

I call this "mental cross-training." When an athlete cross-trains, they participate in a second sport or athletic activity besides their "official" sport, in order to improve the health and performance of particular muscles, general endurance, or other traits important to their "main" activity. Mental cross-training is the same for me. Except I very rarely have any idea what benefit I will get from any particular subject when I first start. But I almost always find an application after I have finished.

I suppose this is one way of understanding what colleges mean by a “well-rounded” education. I know, what they are mostly saying is that there are no major gaps in their curriculum. But you can also pursue the idea of “well-roundedness” in terms of trying to expose yourself to as many different ideas as possible, because the cross-pollination of those ideas in your fermenting mind will produce

*All of creation came from one mind: the mind of the Lord. As such, it all harmonizes in deep and interesting ways, if you look hard enough. Everything is, in the end, in the “human form,” because creation reflects its Creator.*

wholly new things that cannot be planned for but that will most surely enrich your life.

I credit my father to a great degree for teaching me this. He regularly advocated “keeping your options open” when it came to education. He encouraged people to explore as many different things and to be exposed to as many different ideas as possible, so as to have access to

as many different tools, paths, options, as possible when contemplating their future. And from what I could tell, that’s how he lived his life. That’s how he stumbled into a job interview he wasn’t supposed to be in, that nevertheless led to a life-long career in a company that he loved and that treated him well. That’s how he met Malcolm X somewhat randomly one afternoon while at college. And I can look back and see that’s how he often found new ways of thinking that he could then take to his consulting clients in order to help them find unique solutions to age-old problems. It’s also how he thought about the church and how to support its uses around the world.

And it has served me well, as well, I think. All of creation came from one mind: the mind of the Lord. As such, it all harmonizes in deep and interesting ways, if you look hard enough. Everything is, in the end, in the “human form,” because creation reflects its Creator.

This is one reason it is important that our school here provides varied experiences for children that get them interacting with the world and with each other. Our students are being exposed to

repeating patterns in the world around them that they can use in the future to unlock new ways of viewing seemingly unrelated challenges they will face as adults. And ultimately, feeding their innate love of learning will provide the foundation for a lifelong love of the Lord's truth.

And this is true for you, too, no matter how long you've lived. Be curious about the world. Look for patterns. Find lessons in your areas of interest and then see how they apply in other parts of your life. Pursue knowledge. Take that knowledge up to a love of thinking. And from there, prioritize knowledge and thinking that ultimately allows you to see truth.

For more on this, read Divine Love and Wisdom 404, which talks about the marrying of the will with the intellect through the development of an affection for knowing, then an affection for understanding, and finally an affection for seeing truth, springing from thought.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
2024-03-26

## Announcements

**Summer Volleyball & Badminton:** With warmer weather approaching the volleyball group may be starting some pickup games... maybe on Sundays. It would be useful to know who would like to participate so the group can find the best evening. Contact Ariel if you are interested in being on the volleyball call list.



Along those lines, Pat Sweeney is hoping to have badminton run consecutively with volleyball. There are those not up for volleyball but would love to play this sport. If interested in participating in badminton – contact Pat or Bonnie.



**IN SEARCH OF:** A volunteer to adjust sound levels for our church band. It's an easy job, with free training included! Requirements: show up on one Friday night and one Sunday morning per month,

listen to some good music, and adjust instrument levels on an iPad as needed. This will make a huge difference to our sound capabilities, including vast improvement to our live stream experience! ~ Ariel Martin

**Local House for Sale:** If anyone at the church/school would be interested, the Papadapolous's house is going on the market (many of you know their son Bill Papadapolus – who owned an auto shop that many of you have used) the house is on Whittier Road – just off of Belvedere Road in Enterprise Estates, a stone’s throw from the church. It's a similar floorplan as the Roscoe home in the same neighborhood, 4 bedrooms with a full finished basement, 3 ½ baths, two car garage. Their realtor is Arelis Perex with Samson Properties. Phone 202-487-7562 email [arelis@arelisperez.com](mailto:arelis@arelisperez.com)<mailto:[arelis@arelisperez.com](mailto:arelis@arelisperez.com)>

**Summer Tutoring with Brenna Sweeney:** If you know of any children needing tutoring or a summer program, pass this on.



The graphic is a colorful promotional poster for WNCS Summer Programs. At the top left is a photo of Ms. Brenna. To the right of the photo is the text 'Capital Kids Tutoring LLC With Ms. Brenna'. Further right are icons of a sun and a palm tree. The main title 'WNCS Summer Programs' is in large white letters on a blue background. Below the title are four white boxes with orange headers. The first box is for the 'Summer Book Club', the second for 'Summer Escape Rooms', the third for 'Learn More and Pre-Register' (which includes a QR code and a URL), and the fourth for 'Contact Me' (which includes an email address and a phone number).

**Capital Kids Tutoring LLC**  
With Ms. Brenna

# WNCS Summer Programs

### Summer Book Club

WNCS Summer Book Club is back, starting June 10th! Once again, I took your supportive and constructive feedback, and have made some changes and improvements to create an even more comprehensive program that is grounded in recent research and findings in *the science of reading*. Book club is a great way to help your 1st-4th grade students strengthen their comprehension skills, grow their vocabulary, and meet summer reading requirements alongside their classmates!

### Summer Escape Rooms

WNCS Summer Escape Rooms are back this August! Last summer, we had 11 WNCS students participate in this pilot program- thank you for making it so successful! The escape rooms are an immersive, themed, academic experience that will cover a range of math and language-based skills, targeted to your student's specific grade-level content. This is a great way to ensure back-to-school readiness through fun & challenging puzzles, problem solving & critical thinking, and collaboration & teamwork. Escape rooms will be offered to 3rd-8th grades.

### Learn More and Pre-Register

Copy & Paste the URL below:  
[sites.google.com/view/capitalkidstutoring-summer/home](https://sites.google.com/view/capitalkidstutoring-summer/home)

OR

Scan the QR code



### Contact Me

Questions? Contact me and let's chat!

Email: [capitalkidstutoring@gmail.com](mailto:capitalkidstutoring@gmail.com)

Call/Text: 301-957-5110

...and, visit the website!

**LAUREL FAMILY CAMP:** “Beautiful and Messy,” JULY 14-20, 2024. Relationships are the cornerstone of a fulfilling life! Our relationship with the Lord, with ourselves, and with others is the theme of this year’s Laurel Family Camp. Don’t miss out on an unforgettable family experience! Head to the woods this summer, for a week of spiritual growth, worship, friendship, joyful singing, outdoor activities, group time. All ages welcome! Register: at [www.laurelcamp.org](http://www.laurelcamp.org). Early Bird registration - discounts until April 15! The camp pastor is Calvin Odhner.



**Plants for Playground:**

**It’s time to sign up for the Plant Sale!** We have literally hundreds of plants that local friends have started, and **Patuxent Nursery** is giving us a discount on all plants.

If you can give us a rough guess of what you might like to buy, we will do our best to have it on hand the day of the sale.

- Approximate prices will be:
- Small pots (2”-5”) - \$5
  - Medium pots (1 gal) - \$10
  - Large pots and very special plants - \$20

Tear page **8** out – fill in and drop it or send it to the school office or email Erin Stillman your wishes to buy or help!  
[barryanderin@verizon.net](mailto:barryanderin@verizon.net).

Please circle what you might like:

**We will have:**

Lots of veggies  
Tomatoes all sizes.  
and colors  
Cucumbers & Peppers  
Herbs

Flowers for sun  
and shade  
Perennials and Annuals  
Shrubs  
Azaleas and Peonies  
House plants

**How Can You Help?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ can help with

- Food Making
- Prepping and selling food the day of
- Plant people for heavy work or potting plants.
- Plant People for sales and giving advice.
- Cashiers

Time I am Available \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks!**

**The Team**

**Questions? Call Erin Stillman 301.801.3905**

**Reminder:**

- There is a match in play, so your dollar becomes \$2.
- Don't need plants? Swing by for baked goods, breakfast and/or lunch.
  - You can purchase a planter, or have your plants repotted while you wait.

**To those of you who have donations of pots etc. - start bringing in your planters, garden stuff, etc. starting in April.**

***Please return the form or email Erin by Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>.***



## **SPRING NEWS NOTES:**

“That person lives twice who lives the first life well.”

~ Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

***A thought for every day.*** And how did Robert Herrick know that?

Another thought: do you have a bounce in your step now that April is here? (Yes, because it is springtime.) March did its thing, since a cold rain followed by 50 mph wind gusts for a couple of days qualified as a lion-like entrance in this official (?) chronicle of the WCNJ. Even the daffodils tucked behind the back wall bowed



their heads in acknowledgement of the blasts. And then we were rescued for a while by that nice lamb-like 70-degree sunshine, before April showers arrived a bit early along with a burst of cherry blossoms and other tree-born flowers turning the woods white. Is your lawn mower greased?

### **A Capella:**

Thanks again to the school kids who sang *a Capella* before and after the church service early in March. How do they do that? It was great. We suspect that Ariel Martin had something to do with it, so she gets to share in the thanks. (And yes, we are old enough to call them “kids” even though they can out-sing us.)

### **Happenings & Visitations:**

The new traffic lights are hanging from their long pole that stretches across Enterprise Road at Chantilly Lane, but they are still covered with black plastic and await adjustment, alignment, connection, and control before becoming effective (as do we all). We trust that once they are operational, we won’t suffer from buyer’s regret.

The Acton Park annual Corporation meeting brought out a good attendance to hear about the “progress” of the solar farm that is scheduled to appear one of these days. Delays that are still blamed on the pandemic and its aftermath have prevented this particular

farm from sprouting, but the seeds have been planted in the County bureaucracy and we would not be surprised to see constructive activity soon.

**Janna Zuber** is one of many Maryland artists who are hosting an open studio on April 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information go to [Artistopenstudios.com](http://Artistopenstudios.com) for a list of participating artists and addresses.



**The TAG banquet** was great – Thanks to all those whose kitchen skills produced the majestic meal. And thanks also to **Greg Henderson** (from the General Church Office of Education) who reminded us of the answers to the question “Why is New Church Education Special?”

Also, it was a pleasure to have **Bishop Brad Heinrichs** leading worship the next day. His sermon

about how “New Church Education Is All About Vessels” expanded on the previous evening’s talk by Greg Henderson.

Noticing a theme to the weekend? Both Greg and Brad are very aware of the conversations we've been having over this year about our school, our vision and mission for it going forward, and **New Church education** in general.

### **Travel-in (and out)**

Various members of the **Hendricks** family visited the **Brent Hyatt** family for a week while moving house from Longmont, Colorado, to Halifax, Nova Scotia. **Cathlin and Juniper** (who will tell you that he is almost four-and-three-quarters years old) flew in for a week-long stay, while **Dallas** and brother **Dillon** drove an enormous moving truck cross country. (You might have caught a glimpse of it in the church parking lot!) The drivers had sweet visits with friends and family during their 24-hour stay here.

Word had it that **Sharon and John Croft** spent a few days in the Caribbean. Corrections soon revealed that they were next to the Caribbean, on the sandy part of an island that was actually in the Caribbean. A few days in the sun is restorative.

And it has been said that certain Smiths have been taking advantage of spring break by bouncing around the world. (Get it? Spring, and bouncing?) (News is hard to come by when everybody is traveling.) The **Lincoln and Valeries** have bounded off to Italy, while the **Brian and Janines** have shuffled off to Seattle.

**Carl Martin** and **Anders Croft** spent a part of spring break in the sunny and quiet part of Florida, visiting a friend in Tampa. A good time was had avoiding the uproar of the East Coast of that state while discovering that the sun is still hot on the West Coast.

Others are also enjoying visits and visiting so much that they forgot to tell the News Noter that they are having much-deserved enjoyment while avoiding publicity.

And then there are those who are just running around. We have it on good authority that **Charlotte Radcliffe** ran a half marathon! Charlotte reports: "I did the Annapolis Running Festival half marathon with my dad as my awesome ground crew and finished with a new personal record." Good going!

### **Constructive News:**

A recent dust-up next to the Church lobby has resulted in the destruction of the 58-year-old restrooms, resulting in some inconvenience. Fortunately, this was a planned event, and much needed, and the dust will soon be gone as it morphs into new and improved facilities that will also be restful.

Also, a note of thanks to **Bill Kunkle** and **Eric Genzlinger** who recently responded quickly and efficiently to the appearance of water on the lobby ceiling and on the carpet below. Inspection revealed a leaking solder joint in an overhead water supply pipe, which was repaired with a good deal of sweat and solder. Overhead soldering of water-filled copper pipes is not for the faint of heart. Well done!

**Nancy Alford** enjoyed a more personal type of construction, involving (successful) removal of hardware from the hip she broke 15 months ago and enabling her to sleep pain-free for the first time since the break. That is the good kind of news.

**Breaking News:**

Have you noticed that the price of duck feathers has increased? That means that down is up.



*April Anniversaries*

*“The blessings of conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, full trust and mutual desire of mind and heart to do the other every good.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 180*



*Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Sharon Croft ~ 28 yrs.*

*Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Pam & Andy Cooper ~ 34 yrs.*

*Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Curt & Wanda Moore ~ 33 yrs.*

