

May 2024

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

I want to have a big impact on the world. Many of the people I talk to would also like to make a big difference. This seems especially true of those I meet who are in their twenties, but the desire to change the world is not limited to the young, by any means.

And yet, what can one person do? Maybe you are thinking right now, "Sure, it'd be nice to have a big influence on things, but right now I feel like I can barely control my own circumstances!" And if you think about it, you might realize that most of the things in your own life—let alone the goings on of the larger world around you—are largely outside of your control.

Well, there are two pieces of good news on that front. First, it is a good thing that you and I have so little control. Throughout the book *Divine Providence*, we see that the Lord governs our lives down to the tiniest detail, and that if we were to see the Lord's plan, we would try to control it ourselves and so mess things up. So, it's good we are not in control of much.

But we do have some influence. And that tiny influence is in what we choose to do with the thoughts and affections we find in ourselves. We can't control what comes into our minds, but we can use our rationality to discern the true ideas from the false ones, and good affections from evil ones, so that we can then choose to let the Lord remove the evil and make way for more good.

*"... it is a good thing that you and I have so little control."*

And that, friends, is how you and I and every person in the church can have an immeasurably large impact on the world. Through the tiny act of observing our inner lives and so entering into the process of repenting, we open a way for the Lord to change us. And when we are changed—even a little bit—it has a very real impact on every one of our interactions with other people.

How many people do you interact with in a given week? Even if it's, say, only thirty people, what do you think the value is of being just a little bit more loving, or just a little bit less selfish, in your relations to thirty other human beings? So, spend this month observing your intentions, not just because it is good for you, but because it can change the world.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2024-05-01

## Announcements

**This year we will celebrate New Church Day in two ways.** New Church Day commemorates the inception of the New Christian movement that began on June 19, 1770. To remember that day, we will have a **barbecue and picnic** at the church, starting at **4:00 p.m on Wednesday, June 19th.**

Then, at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 23rd**, there will be a special family festival **worship service** with a New Church Day theme.

**You're invited** to a shower to celebrate Jonathan and Gretchen Sprinkle's soon-to-arrive (mid-July) baby! The shower will be in the home of Amanda Hyatt at 2:00 on Saturday, June 15. Expect to receive an evite in the near future with details (address, registry information).

**FOR RENT:** The TH Doering cabin on Lake Wallenpaupack is for rent the last week of June, Sunday the 23rd through Sunday the 30th. The cabin sleeps 9 and comes with the use of their canoe and kayak. If interested, please call Jean Allen at 240-676-1893.



**WNCS/WCNJ  
COMMUNITY BBQ**

**Saturday  
May 18th  
4:00pm**

**Food & Fun**  
Volleyball, soccer, badminton, basketball!  
Church & School Community

**Pot luck style**—We supply the meat & grills, you supply the sides, drinks & dessert. (Perfect potluck to be emailed)  
*Children are to be accompanied by an adult!*

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

The Board of Trustees held a joint meeting with the School Board on April 2, 2024. Following discussions related to the Pastor's and financial reports, the two boards discussed the Washington New Church School, including topics such as enrollment outlook, teacher training opportunities, and staffing for the next school year. There was some discussion related to housing costs in the area, concerns that have been expressed by some prospective teachers.

The Annual Meeting of the Washington Society will be held on June 14, 2024. Updates on business, election of Board members, and approval of the Society budget for Fiscal Year 24-25 are primary topics. Agenda details and additional information will be provided soon, but please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Respectfully, Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

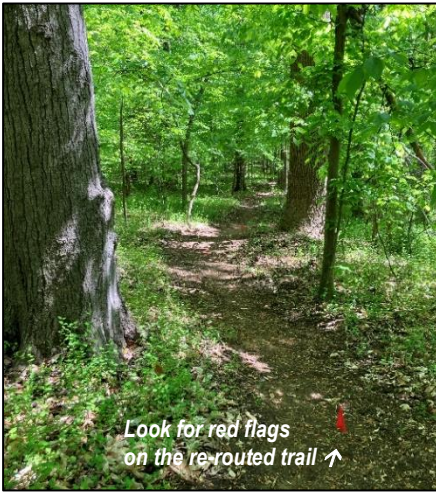
## **Acton Park Woodland Use – by Bonnie Cowley**

It has been much too long since I have taken a walk on the Acton Park trails so last Sunday afternoon I figured that with sunny and 80-degree weather I had no excuse not to go for a walk in the woods. And, wow, I was delighted and rejuvenated!

Acton Park woods are quiet. The tree canopy is broad and lets in only streams of light. The woods are undisturbed [except for well-kept narrow trails]. Fallen trees quietly decompose allowing fungi to flourish, animals & birds to find shelter and food. Though I only heard the calls of a few hawks that day, many times before I have encountered deer, beaver, foxes, and turkeys. Once I was able to quietly watch a piliated woodpecker hunt for insects in an old stump.

Studies have shown that “Exposure to forests and trees: boosts the immune system, lowers blood pressure, reduces stress, improves mood, increases ability to focus (even in children with ADHD), accelerates recovery from surgery or illness, increases energy level, improves sleep.” [<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/immerse-yourself-for-better-health#Research>]

I am not just encouraging you to walk in Acton Park woods for



your own health, however. Since our regular trail volunteer – David Radcliffe - has been updating the trail, he is asking us to begin to use the trails more frequently, particularly because he had been diverting some of the main trail away from the flood plain. This helps the flood plain return to a purer state and allows us to walk or run the trail without getting wet feet. David asks that we look for the new

trail flags (see picture above) and walk on the new trail, allowing the old trail to disappear into the forest. On my walk I noticed that many large trees that fell across the trail had trail-size pieces cut out of them. Trees falling across the trail happen often. Sometimes they are very large and take a big chainsaw and a great deal of effort to remove. I know that David Radcliffe, Phil Zuber, and other volunteers work regularly to keep the trails open. Thank you!

Acton Park woods has several trails. The main trail, which starts at the soccer field picnic area (nearly a mile long) and loops around the wetland. A second trail comes off the main toward the lake and Woodmore Estates only to meet back further down the main trail. There is a relatively new trail that goes from the church gravel lot up the hill to our outdoor worship center and continues back down the hill toward the soccer field, crossing the dirt entry road, and meets up with the beginning of the main trail.

There are three bridges that cross the wetland stream. One near the beginning of the main trail and one halfway around that loop near the golf course. Both of these bridges are in desperate need of repair or replacement. Please contact the church office if you would like to either help build new bridges or finance the necessary lumber.



The third bridge was built 6 or 7 years ago by the high school shop class and remains in good condition but could use some railings.

Lastly, The Acton Park Board of Directors met April 30th and approved a new “Woodland Use Policy”. This policy

attempts to balance community use with protection for the wetland and other shared spaces on the property. Copies of the new policy will soon be available to all members of Acton Park and all residents of Acton Park. A copy of the new woodland use policy is available upon request to anyone else who wants a copy.

Thanks to Sharon Kunkle and Craig Cooper for their tireless work on this policy and again, thanks, David Radcliffe for all of his work!



## **THE WASHINGTON THETA ALPHA GUILD**

needs your support!

We've been busy behind the scenes making sure the friendly uses of the church and school continue. Our current president, Carina Heinrichs, is finishing her term and we need a new leader. The job isn't hard or terribly time consuming, just attention to scheduling annual uses and seeing that our pastors and school are supported. We have 5 meetings a year and usually a banquet. The existing executive committee will remain in place with lots of experience and readiness to assist in any way. The president's term is only for one year and it's a great way to serve our society. Ask any officer if you have questions about what's involved.

Please consider whether you might be willing to serve in this position and let our secretary know.

VP - Laura Cooper, Secretary-Sharon Kunkle, Treasurer - Kathy Johns

**Final TAG Meeting of 23/24 is on Monday, MAY 13 at 7:30:**

Please join us on Monday, May 13, at 7:30 pm here at the church.

This meeting will include planning and volunteer opportunities for future events, updates on recent activities, gratitude to current and outgoing officers, and elections for a new president to lead us into the coming year.

**NOTABLE NEWS**

“It is from our lives and not from our words that our religion must be read.” ~ Thomas Jefferson ~

“There is a vast difference between saying prayers – and praying” ~ Anonymous ~

Words to live by, so to speak.

**Happeneds and -ings:**

Please explain how it got to be May, already. It’s true that we had April showers and all that, but still, we haven’t even finished with winter - the snow-blower is still waiting to be started (that sure was an unnecessary expense!). With time speeding by like this, be sure to enjoy the profusion of flowers and graduations and all that, for soon we will be complaining about the hot weather – and Oh! - the humidity of it all.

Thanks to **Derek and Hanna Hyatt** for providing and hosting the Easter Egg hunt after the Church service on Easter Sunday. It turned out that there were more eggs than kids, so all went home happy. If you happen to find the missing egg, we recommend keeping your distance.

**Easter Planting:** As is our tradition, a few of our WNCS classes spent some time outdoors planting the lovely flower offerings that were brought to church on Easter. It sure beautifies the place! Thanks for your help, First through Fourth grades and your teachers and helpers!

**Erin Stillman** loaned her house – or more accurately the floor of her house – to 30 Boy Scouts from the Bryn Athyn area for their weekend adventure to the Nation’s Capitol. Her house remains standing. We trust she was prepared.

We hear that **Kim Maxwell** zipped off to Hawaii for a spell. We can hardly wait to see the slide show.

The **WNCS school choir** performed at the Church service on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, again, kids for the enjoyable singing – and thanks, **Ariel** for making it happen.

### **The Future is Almost Now:**

If you like conviviality and BBQ (in no particular order) mark your calendars for May and June. The exact dates are spelled out elsewhere herein, so you will just have to find them. And don't forget the Society Annual Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> and, most importantly, the New Church Day Family Festival service on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Also – the Maryland Primary elections will be held in May, so don't forget to vote. It is your privilege as well as your duty.

### **An Observation, or two:**

We hear that some folks went to great lengths and distances to not see the sun on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Some of us just went outside at midnight.

But others had an Eclipse Watch Party at the school on a warm and mostly sunny day that was great for staff, students, and parents at WNCS to don their eclipse glasses to see the partial eclipse. There were eclipse cookies and a variety of Sun Teas served to help celebrate this occasion. And the eclipse was all - if not more - than they had hoped.

### **Words to the Would-be Wise:**

**Pat and Paige Sweeney** report that they have watched The Chosen (TV series) about the life of Jesus and have found it to be worthwhile and thought provoking. The casting and acting are very well done, and the portrayal of Jesus' grace and power is compelling. Seeing the writer's and director's interpretation of daily life with Jesus and his disciples, in their historical context, has brought another layer of appreciation and understanding for what Jesus did here on earth for us all. Pat and Paige recommend you give it a try, but also, read the Gospels directly for clarification as the director does at times take artistic license. If you decide to watch, Pat and Paige will be happy to chat with you about it. The series is



available for free using the official The Chosen app, found at [www.comeandseefoundation.org/watch](http://www.comeandseefoundation.org/watch). It's also available on platforms such as Amazon Prime, Netflix, Peacock and is coming soon to Disney+ and Hulu.

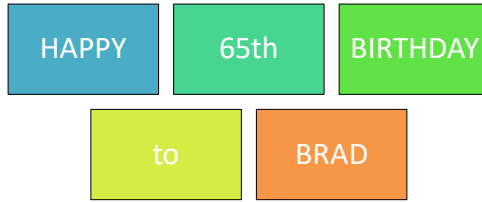
### **School Stuff:**

Inspection of the spaces between the on-growing Pecan trees near the playground will reveal at least 3 benches gradually taking form (one of which is complete). These are being built by the **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** and will be constructed of concrete pedestals supporting redwood boards recycled from the old Church sign on Enterprise Road. With the assistance of **Lincoln Smith** and **Bonnie Cowley**, the students have built forms for the concrete, calculated the cubic feet of concrete needed (math class works!), mixed and poured the concrete.

The **Great Ping-Pong WNCIS Invitational** has been enthralling the massed throngs of students as grades 5 – 8 and the WNCIS staff spent six weeks this spring pinging and ponging (and studying, of course). The rounds produced 6 semifinalists: **Kai Smith, James Frazier, Bryce Assan, Bonnie Cowley, Candy Quintero**, and **Ariel Martin** as well as the player with the most wins **Brian Smith**, who got a bye into the final rounds. In a breathlessly competitive final set, Ariel won the third game to unseat last year's champion. Congratulations, Ariel!

### **Hospital Report:**

Regrettably, there are people who accidentally find ways to try out various medical facilities, and we wish they wouldn't. Among the latest is Amy Odhner who had a serious bicycle accident that put her in the hospital for a week. She is now home but brought with her the neck fracture that sent her there. And joining her, but in a different medical center, is Kira Jenkins, who managed to break her foot. That involved a middle-of-the-night emergency room visit and a 5:30 AM return with crutches but no instructions about how to manage two babies and three briefcases with them. Please recover quickly, both of you.



## 2024 Time to Celebrate **BRAD!**

Reaching out to all friends who have crossed his path in the last 64 years. We would love to have you come to our Open House at our new home in Highland, MD on

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 Any time between 3pm & ??

Food & drinks all day – Celebration at 7:00 p.m. Say a few words or share a poem, make some new friends, play some games & have fun visiting.

Please RSVP to Kathy @ [kcjswim@aol.com](mailto:kcjswim@aol.com) so we can adequately feed and hydrate you. If you can't make it, Brad would love to hear from you. [brad@americanvoicepower.com](mailto:brad@americanvoicepower.com).

7021 Mink Hollow Road, Highland, MD 20777



## *May Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven... and the fundamental of all the delights and joys of heaven.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, AE 993 ~*

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*May 9<sup>th</sup> ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 26 yrs.*

*May 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Craig & Laura Cooper ~ 18 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 19 yrs.*

*May 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 48 yrs.*

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