

September 2024

ECHO

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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

As I write this, the building is full of activity. Teachers are running around making last minute preparations for the new school year. Tomorrow is our first day, and we are excited to get going! By the time you read this, we will likely have completed our first week of school. I've said it before, but I'll repeat: we have an amazing New Church faculty at the Washington New Church School.

As we launch into another academic year, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. Last year, we collectively reimagined our school's purpose and future and recommitted to working to make the school even better. We've committed to a broader scope, aiming to shape not just academically proficient students but spiritually aware adults ready to make positive contributions to our complex world.

Our mission is to support parents in nurturing the spiritual, moral, and intellectual development of their children, using a New Church curriculum taught by New Church teachers. We do this in order to nurture peacemakers, thinkers, and leaders who are grounded in the truths of the New Church. This isn't just about teaching children. It's a means of impacting the world meaningfully, ensuring our graduates are equipped to navigate and improve the moral and spiritual landscape they will inherit as adults.

And over the summer we've made plans to up our game. We are expanding on the success of our "project weeks" and bringing project-based learning into multiple parts of the curriculum. This hands-on approach to learning is in part driven by our conviction that a good New Church education is one focused on *use*, i.e., *purpose*. By tying some of the learning to specific projects with specific meaningful outcomes, we expect to see not only deeper learning of those lessons but also an increased fostering of a love of being useful.

It's all extremely exciting. At the same time, due to a number of reasons, we are actually facing one of our lower enrollment years this year. We've had some students move on before finishing with us, and our number of new incoming students is lower than usual. In particular we have a small PreK/Kindergarten this year, in part due to the newly expanded pre-kindergarten offerings in PG County as part of a statewide expansion of public early education efforts.

As I mentioned many times in conversations throughout last year, there are four critical elements to our school: our mission and curriculum, our staff, our funding, and our student body / enrollment. Last year we focused on curriculum and mission. And over the past

few years and in the next three to five, we have a focus on staffing as senior teachers continue to retire.

*Instructing more students means putting more young people out into the world who are armed with New Church truths, values, and habits.*

And right now, and in the coming academic year, we need to pivot from mission and curriculum to focus more on enrollment. We need enough students in each classroom to justify staffing those grades, and this means we need to make extra efforts to get next year's enrollment back up. This isn't just about num-

bers, though; it's also about increasing our potential impact on the broader community around us, and on the world at large. Teaching more students means putting more young people out into the world who are armed with New Church truths, values, and habits. Addressing this challenge is not just about filling classrooms—it's about extending our unique educational opportunities to more families and doing more good in the world.

And we can't do it without the full support of the church. That means you.

Here are just four ways you can help us pursue our mission with a healthy number of students:

1. **Share our [Website](http://www.wncschool.org)** [www.wncschool.org]. We've launched a new website that beautifully encapsulates the essence of our school. It's designed not just to inform but to invite—showcasing the depth and breadth of our educational philosophy. Share this new site on your social media platforms, email it to friends, or talk about it in your groups.
2. **Create and Share Testimonials:** There's immense power in personal stories. Consider sharing your experiences as a parent, as a church member, and/or as an alum at the school. Write reviews. Post to [Facebook](#). Record videos for YouTube, TikTok or Instagram. Tweet about how cool our school is and find excuses to talk about it on [NextDoor](#).

Your voice can help others see the real-life impact of a New Church education at our school and might be just what a new family needs to hear to make their decision.

3. **Create Word-of-Mouth:** Start conversations. Whether you're at a community event, socializing with non-church friends or neighbors, or even just making small talk while in line at a grocery store, share your feelings about our school. Talk about how the school has touched your family, the positive changes you've seen in your children, and why you're excited about what we are now doing.
4. **Increase your Donation:** Or if you've never donated before, make a first-time donation! Contributing financially to our church will directly impact our ability to continue to operate the school, to hire great New Church teachers, and to fund marketing, publicity, and advertising efforts that I am heading up. Word of mouth is the best advertising, but our community only has so many mouths. Having more money for advertising lets us effectively buy extra "mouths" online and elsewhere to deliver our message and invite more families to join us.

Enrollment has a long lead-time. We are just starting the new school year and new students for the following year won't be registering for many months. But the process by which a family

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chooses a school is long and winding and we need to start the process of reaching out to those future school families now.

In the coming year, I am excited to see how our collective efforts will manifest. With every new student who walks through our doors, we have an opportunity to expand our

impact, weaving the values and teachings of the New Church into the fabric of more lives. We face some challenges and will continue to face challenges for as long as we are pursuing our mission. If running a New Church School were easy, it probably wouldn't

be worth doing. Put another way, anything important that changes lives and improves the world is going to face hurdles. This school has faced many over the past half century. We can deal with this year's challenges as well, so long as we all have a will to make it happen and we all, as a church, pull together to face these challenges head on and overcome.

I could say more about our outreach efforts as well as our school recruiting, but I think I'll stop here for now and just leave you with a quote. This is this year's theme at the school, taken from *Psalms* 20:4-5:

May He grant you according to your heart's desire,  
and fulfill all your purpose.

We will rejoice in your salvation,  
and in the name of our God we will set up our banners!

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier

## **The New Contribune**

We'll get straight to the point. The Washington New Church Society needs your financial support!

As you may know, the Society approved a balanced 2024/25 fiscal year budget in June. To avoid a large (and frankly unsustainable) annual deficit, the Society agreed to boost Member Contributions by 10% from last year's level, limit the projected decline in Friends Contributions, maintain school enrollment at last year's level, and reduce expenses in a few areas like new equipment.

This means, in effect, that we're asking each of our "contributing units" (defined as an individual or couple) to increase their contributions by an additional \$700 this year.

Yes, that's a lot. But it's the only way we can continue to support our current Church and School uses, including maintaining a staff of five homeroom teachers, one full-time "floater", and a Principal to provide a quality education for all our students from Pre-K through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

In our next report, we hope to give you a first glimpse of how we're doing.

Thank you.

The Contributions Committee

## Announcements

**Acton Park International Fall Festival:** The Washington New Church and School along with Acton Park invites everyone including members of the Acton Park community, friends, and family to an International Fall Festival. This event is planned for Saturday, November 2, 2024, on and around the Church property.



We will be requesting volunteers to help set up, food, entertainment, including games and music, as well as clean-up. In particular, if you want to provide some musical entertainment, feel free to contact Ariel Martin. If you are willing to help out in any other way the organizers will really welcome that. More details will follow. ~ James Roscoe – AP President

**TAG:** Women college age and older are invited to the Theta Alpha Guild meeting on Monday September 9 at 7:30, at the church. We look forward to working on church uses with you for the upcoming year! ~ Sharon Kunkle

**Sunday Brunch Invite:** In a continued effort to build community within the Washington New Church community, I will be starting up a 'brunch' after church. This event will be held once a month at my apartment, 12:15-2pm - I'm aiming for the last Sunday of each month, but we'll see where life takes us!

The first brunch will be held on **September 29th**. Feel free to drop by anytime during these hours and bring something to share if you feel like it. Hope to see you there! ~ Jordan Brunne

**Jordan B's Apartment:** 11503 Chantilly Lane, lower-level door on right side of building. Please note that I do have internal stairs.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at our church:**

Drive Details: **Site:** Washington New Church



**Address:** 11914 Chantilly Ln, Bowie, MD, 20721

**Room Name:** Multipurpose Room

**Date:** Fri Nov 29, 2024

**Time:** 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM

[Make an Appointment](#)

*Please note that donors can sign up for an appointment  
1 of 3 ways:*

1. Navigate to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter your sponsor code:

**WashingtonNewChurch**

2. Copy this link below and paste it into your browser  
<[https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zip-Sponsor=WashingtonNew-Church&cid=siebel&med=email&source=bdc\\_email&utm\\_source=siebel&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=bdc\\_email](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zip-Sponsor=WashingtonNew-Church&cid=siebel&med=email&source=bdc_email&utm_source=siebel&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bdc_email)>

3. Contact 1-800-RedCross (1-800-733-2767)

**Astronomical Observations Star Party:** Chuck Quintero is going to host some astronomical observing on Friday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> (depending on the cloud forecast) starting at 7:30 pm, in the school parking lot. He'll make the call on Thursday or Friday, just call him on Friday to find out the date selected. Venus will be a good sunset target, as will the waxing crescent moon, both in the West. We will try to observe Globular Clusters like M13 in Hercules and M22 in Sagittarius, Bright Nebulae like the Lagoon Nebula (M8) and the Dumbbell Nebula (M27), and the Andromeda Galaxy (M31).



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You can find a nice star chart at Astro League website (both English and Spanish charts at <https://www.astroleague.org/navigating-the-night-sky-guides/>). Prior to the date selected, Chuck will check if there are any ISS passes happening and have that information available at the star party. If you're interested in checking out ISS passes for yourself, go to <https://Heavens-Above.com> which will provide you precise timings and finder charts for your location.

**Location Change for Weekly Fire Circle:** Just a reminder that we still have a fire circle every Friday evening beginning at 8pm...The one change, for now it is being held at Brian and Janine's home – 11503 Chantilly Lane, Bowie, MD. We would love to have you join us any Friday.



If you would like to be on the What's App reminder list let Brian Smith know.

**Volleyball:** Weekly pick-up volleyball is still going strong. The group meets out behind the church every Wednesday after 5:00pm.

**Badminton:** weekly pick-up badminton is also available, same location as volleyball, on Wednesdays. [Contact Pat Seeny to be added to the Badminton What App group.

### ***NEWS! NOTED:***

How did you like July? Remember those 100+ feel-like temps for days and weeks in a row? Your electric bill probably reflected that and confirmed your suspicion that you should have spent that money on a vacation in Alaska or on a trek to the south pole. But then came the precursor of autumn with lower-than-normal temps in mid-August and summer didn't seem so bad after all.

Non-news: we missed the formerly-annual Acton Park parade and flagpole ceremony and picnic on July 4<sup>th</sup>. But with a 105° heat index that day, it was probably good to stay indoors – possibly.



## **At Last:**

July 11, 2024, was the day the lights went on. The traffic light at the intersection of Enterprise Road and Chantilly Lane, that is. It had been decades in coming but was at least one month too late to prevent a fatal accident at that corner. Let's hope it will meet its promise of greater safety and convenience.

## **Welcome:**

To new teacher **Joram Heinrichs** (son of former Acton-Parker and now Bishop Brad), who will be teaching a variety of subjects. He has moved into Steve and Anne Ball's basement apartment. His contact info: 215-602-0205, joramhein@gmail.com.

## **Other School News:**

A great opening day occurred on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Another school year began with 25 students in grades K through 8 with at least one child in every grade. Unfortunately, no JK kids so far, but a nice group of children headed for a good year. **Erin Stillman** and **Kim Maxwell** are tag teaming 1st & 2nd grades; Erin for 2 days and Kim for 3. Both teachers have many years of experience teaching 1st and 2nd grades and are quite pumped about teaching. **Joram Heinrichs** has been hired to cover a wide variety of classes [replacing Jordan Kinsey - who is focusing on her education this year]

## **What did You Do This Summer?**

**Jordan Brunne** went to Australia. It turns out she had to stay there for a month during the winter due to visa constraints, but since her family lives there she was able to pass the time usefully. Glad you are back, Jordan!

**Brian and Kai Smith** zipped off to Scotland for a while, and then joined the rest of the family in Scandinavia. (Is that what happens when you don't check your tickets before you get to the airport?) We are glad to report that they all made it back on time.

**Phil & Janna Zuber** loved having their oldest 2 granddaughters from California for a week, followed by their parents for week before that family went back to visit their German grands in

Munich! They were able to have 2 weekends full of all their kids and their children for lots of fun times, despite the heat!

**George and Mary Cooper** spent a week in a cabin on the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack (in the Pocono Mountains), accompanied by kids, kids' spouses and grandkids. The excuse was to celebrate a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, but the real reason was to go swimming and boating and sunning on the dock, to eat good food, to sing and dance and talk and play cards, to talk to each other via cell phones, and to eat cake and ice cream, all in a beautiful setting of woods and water and sunsets. Everybody got a week older and a week wiser and thought it was a good thing to do.

### **Which produced 90<sup>th</sup> year Memories:**

Time all of a sudden tightens the tether,  
And the outspread years are drawn together.  
How confusing the beams from memory's lamps are;  
One day a bachelor, the next a grampa.  
...Here lies my past, good-by I have kissed it;  
Thank you, my love, I wouldn't have missed it.

Apologies to Ogden Nash

### **A Restart, and You Are Invited:**

Since school has started for the young-uns, it is also time for the adults to do some studying. Right? So, the TCR reading group is re-grouping on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30PM, on Zoom. The class is starting at Chapter 5 and will read 20 or 25 pages (to be determined). If you wish to join this scintillating discussion group, please let Pastor **Mac Frazier** know so you can be added (if not already a member) to the notice list.

### **Condolences:**

To Joseph Jenkins, who lost his mother in her fight with cancer, only 11 months after he had lost his father.

### **A Thank-you:**

From **Stewart, Patti & Jenny Smith**: We are more than grateful for all the wonderful well wishes, support and meals showered on

our family as we hunkered down to meet the challenge of fighting Patti's cancer. It's hard to express in words the depth of our gratitude. Patti is now cancer free and in remission and will continue 2 years of maintenance treatments to hopefully keep the cancer at bay. With much love and appreciation, Stewart, Patti & Jenny.

### **Did you notice?**

Swedenborg was mentioned and described in the Washington Post. Sound implausible? Well, he was noted to be "an 18th-century theologian and philosopher who believed in a relation between the natural world and the divine..." in an article about the Wayfarers Chapel outside Los Angeles. A creeping landslide, 7 inches per week, is gradually destroying the chapel, and an architectural restoration firm has been retained to do a piece-by-piece disassembly and mothballing of the parts with a view to reconstruction at another site sometime in the future.

(WAP0 page A17 on 9Aug2024 by noted author Jennifer Allen.)

### **Congratulations:**

To **Jonathan and Gretchen Sprinkle** and to the baby who made the good choice to become the most recent addition to Acton Park. In the midafternoon of Friday July 19th, the Sprinkle family was blessed to receive baby **Wynne David Sprinkle**, born 8 pounds 7.9 ounces and 19 inches long. Welcome to grandparenting Jana & Ed Sprinkle.

To **Anne and Steve Ball** on the birth of a granddaughter on Wednesday, July 17, and also to the immediate cause of the event, **Justin and Nicola (Glover)**. We have it on good authority that "She sure is cute!" More formally, she is **Elina Mejer Glover**. She weighed just a little over 6 pounds and is healthy and thriving. After 6 weeks in the U.S., Elina will be spending 6 weeks in Denmark with her parents, visiting family. She's now a world traveler and already learning Danish.

## And A Message from Florida:

**Carina Heinrichs** says: Hey Washington Society! I miss you all very much! I started chemotherapy as soon as I got down here, but unfortunately, it wasn't working. I am now doing hormone blocking therapy to hopefully shrink the tumors enough to have surgery. I am in mostly good spirits and am getting lots of good niece and nephew (and family) time, which has been nice! I volunteer at my mom's school every once in a while, when I feel up to it...so far, I've been twice, but I'm hoping to go back soon! Thank you or all the well wishes I've received! Hope to see you all soon!

### *September Anniversaries*

*"In the marriage of one man with one woman who are in conjugal love, the wife becomes more and more a wife, and the husband becomes more and more a husband."*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg CL 200 ~*



*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Daric & Jamie Simons ~ 10 yrs.*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ (Edwin) & Nancy Alford ~ 68 yrs.*

*Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Steve & Anne Ball ~ 37 yrs.*

*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bill & Sharon Kunkle ~ 40 yrs.*

*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ (Fred) & Carole Waelchli ~ 60 yrs.*

*Sept 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Lachy & Kate Maxwell ~ 21 yrs.*

*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Bradley & Christine Johns ~ 7 yrs.*