

October 2024

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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### Not From the Pastor

*Our dear pastor Mac has been very busy this September and asked me if I could fill this Echo space. I usually love a chance to editorialize but have been too busy myself. So, I decided to share a short editorial from my favorite (no longer with us) editor – The Rev. W. Cairns Henderson, the editor of New Church Life for 28 years.*

*This editorial was written in a 1953 issue of the NC Life and really hits the spot with me as I struggle to discern what is true in this “too much information” world. ~ Bonnie Cowley*

## **The Pressure of Opinion**

***By Rev. Cairns Henderson***

Little children in heaven, the Writings for the New Church tell us, are tempted by certain spirits to talk, and this is allowed that they may begin to resist and may learn not to think and speak from others, and in consequence may learn to permit themselves to be led by no one but the Lord. The cynic might observe that for many adults on earth this would seem to be no temptation at all! We have with us always those whose considered opinion is the one they have most recently heard or that which was offered by their favorite public opinion; and it should be our endeavor to resist all those which wish to do our thinking for us, and to strive to be led by no one but the Lord. In other words, we should try to think of the issues of the day primarily from the Three-fold Word, and in so doing strive to see through the external things involved to the spiritual issue at stake.

*“...it should be our endeavor to resist all those which wish to do our thinking for us, and to strive to be led by no one but the Lord.”*

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

The Board held its first meeting of fiscal year (FY) 2025 on September 10, 2024. New Trustees Kim Maxwell and Jonathan Sprinkle were welcomed to the Board, with thanks to retiring members Derek Hyatt and Kathy Johns. Officers were elected as follows:

- Chair – Steve Ball
- Vice Chair – David Radcliffe
- Secretary – Sharon Cooper
- Treasurer – Brent Hyatt

Reports included a summary from Pastor Mac Frazier on Church business and upcoming events; from Treasurer Brent Hyatt on financial status, including finishing FY 2024 with a surplus; and

from the Principal Rev. Brian Smith on the status of the new school year and future planning for the school. A discussion and review of restricted funds will be added to a future meeting agenda. The Board agreed on monthly topics to be discussed throughout the coming year, including follow up on the Statement of Relationship with the General Church that was discussed at the June Society Meeting.

It was announced that the renovation of the front bathrooms has been completed, with many thanks to the dedicated team that oversaw this effort, including Bill Kunkle, Stewart Smith, and Kathy Johns & Gillian Frazier. The next Board meeting will be held on October 8, with monthly topic Acton Park report, Relationship Statement, and planning for upcoming Society Meetings.

~ Sharon Cooper – Secretary

## **From the Principal**

Washington New Church School has completed the first month of her 54<sup>th</sup> year. We have shaken off the summer freedom and trained ourselves - students and staff, back into waking up at a predictable time and following bells.

Joram Heinrichs has joined the staff to provide PE, art, math, history and other extras as needed. He's off to a great start! The congregation gave him a welcome basket and he wrote a thank you card that you can find on the church bulletin board.



This year I've been thinking about a pair of passages, which manage to simultaneously highlight the importance of our work in teaching and yet also remove the ultimate responsibility from teachers. Take a look at Divine Providence 172, "the Word must needs be taught mediately through parents, teachers, books, and especially the reading of it. Nevertheless, it is not taught by these, but by the Lord through them."

The Lord is the true Teacher – this means that the most important aspects of learning that take place within a person are always under

the direct care and guidance of the Lord. Yet, the mediate work of providing the materials, conditions and encouragement remains an important contribution. With this seeming paradox, it can be confusing to understand what exactly the teacher or parent is contributing. Arcana Coelestia 1495:2 explains that “All instruction is simply an opening of the way; and as the way is opened... heavenly things flow in.”

At WNCs our job is to help open the way for heavenly things to flow in. It can be relieving to stay in touch with the limits of our role.

Last year we took some time as a church and school to articulate and develop our primary mission and purpose in the WNCs today. This year, we are shifting to a more pragmatic focus. We have ideas of project and service learning that we are excited to develop and implement. We also need to look in practical detail at our enrollment and approaches to marketing and also at our staff as we continue through the baby-boomer retirement process.

One recent hands-on project is a bake-sale/car wash put on by the students to raise money for a new ping pong table, so that we can once again host an annual teacher-student ping-pong tournament. (Support for the table is still welcome even once that the bake-sale/carwash has passed.)

On a school adjacent topic, I should mention that we are hosting New Church teen weekend in our building from Oct 18-20. This is open to local and distant teens from 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If you know someone who fits that description, please make sure they are invited and able to get in touch with Brian Smith.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to our renewed website at [wncschool.org](http://wncschool.org). Kim Maxwell and Bonnie Cowley put in much effort to get this updated website live. Now we can shift to the process of slow refinement and development. If you are a social media user, you are welcomed and encouraged to link and amplifying the website.



## The New Contribune

*A Compact Version* - The Church needs your financial support, and it needs it now. Here's the slightly longer version.

I'll start with some good news. Despite last year's gloomy budget forecast, we finished the fiscal year (the one ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024) with a budget surplus of almost \$54K! This is largely due to our generous members and friends (i.e., you), as well as a few one-time adjustments, which gives us a small cushion for a "rainy day."

Now, the sobering news. One of the key assumptions we used to help balance this year's budget – the retention of 36 students in our school -- didn't pan out. In addition to the normal loss of students due to graduation, several students went elsewhere, and our historically large Pre-K/K class shrank due to new P.G. County financial incentives to cover the cost of daycare. As a result, this year's student population fell to only 26 students, with a corresponding decline in tuition revenue of \$93K.

This means we are even more dependent on your generous contributions to help us balance our budget and avoid painful cutbacks next year. And by "you," I mean "all of us." As always, people have been extremely generous with their time and energy—and the committee is grateful for everyone's efforts—but now it is also time to ask yourself what you can do to help out the Church financially, and then do it. Thank you,

The Contributions Committee

### ***Acton Park Update:***

Acton Park has been told to expect construction to begin on the Enterprise Road Solar Farm to begin next month. There have been some hiccups of a bureaucratic nature that need to be resolved.



Keep a look out for machinery in the upper field.

There are now two farmers renting property from Acton Park. Jana Sprinkle is in the process of developing an educational farm on property near the

Needer property. Feel free to ask Jana about her plans. (*or see article from Jana on p. 9*)

Finally, plans for a community festival are ongoing. Acton Park is inviting the larger local community to an International Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 2nd. Details on the event itself and how you can get involved appear elsewhere in this esteemed newsletter. Thank you to all the Board of Directors and members!

James Roscoe, President

### *From our Society Music Head*

Over the years, several people have asked me about resources for learning harmonies for our beloved hymns. We've had some hymn practices and quick recordings for individual use, but nothing extensive... until now! Several musicians, including myself, are now collaborating under the leadership of Graham Bier to record our liturgy songs (starting with the non-copyrighted), available at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@brynathynchurchmusic2775/playlists>

You can also use the QR code here, or just type "Bryn Athyn Church Music" into YouTube to find their page.



Each song has its own playlist of seven videos, which includes learning tracks (so you can listen to just your own voice part) and full recordings (organ, piano, and a cappella options, to support singing in small gatherings, classrooms, or even church when needed). There are only a few so far, but more videos will be appearing in the coming months and years! I hope this project will help us as a congregation to gain more confidence in our singing, and from that, more joy in our worship.

Happy singing! ~ Ariel

## TAG Corner: October update!



We had a good turnout at the TAG meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, to start the year! We read our Purpose and Organization, heard a Treasurer's report from Kathy, set dates for meetings and "Souper" Sunday fundraisers, as well as discussed ideas for a Christmas event and Spring banquet speaker. Gillian has volunteered to lead the New Church Day children's gifts committee. We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate for Pastor/Organist and Teacher gifts; not a hard job and we will be happy to describe it if you are interested.

We would love to hear from anyone who plans to attend the Theta Alpha International banquet in Bryn Athyn, on October 12 and everyone is encouraged to contact Janine Smith to volunteer help for the New Church Teens weekend coming up October 18-20. If you want to donate an item for the TAG Raffle Basket to be offered at the International Festival, please drop it at the church before October 26<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting will be Monday, November 18 at 7:30 at the church.

Lauralyn Cooper and Sharon Kunkle – co Presidents

PS – After church on the teen weekend Sunday TAG will host a "Souper" Sunday picnic to share with all of our visiting friends. We need lots of soup makers and bread bakers as well as a supply of beverages and desserts. Please email Bonnie to sign up to help.

### Announcements



**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

*Click this link to [Make an Appointment](#)*

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

OR - Contact 1-800-RedCross (1-800-733-2767)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There are FIVE festival heads all looking for volunteers... there is something for everyone to help make this a great outreach and a fantastic day.

- ❖ **Games & Decorations:** Headed by Candy Quintero and Lisa Martin
- ❖ **Food & Drink:** Headed by Bonnie Cowley with help from Lisa Martin.
- ❖ **Entertainment, Music:** Headed by Ariel Martin.
- ❖ **Set up & Clean Up:** Headed by James Roscoe
- ❖ **Promotions:** Headed by Bonnie Cowley

**Every little bit helps!** Pick a committee head to call and offer to help today! Invite your friends and, of course, go to *Perfect Potluck* and sign up to bring food... the more international the better!!

<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/UVHL3265>

*(I will email this link to all as well.)*



## New Venture

Hello friends and neighbors! You know me well – at least I think you do - I **was** teaching your children for approximately 20 years. But did you know that I have a passion for gardening? That I love growing vegetables, fruits and flowers? And that I **love** animals? Now that I am “retired” from teaching, I am starting a new venture - SprinkleBerry Farm & Education Center! Oops! I guess I am not done teaching after all.

My mission is to connect children and their families to God’s abundant sources of nourishment by growing & raising healthy food together. I want children to experience the wonder of turning a tiny seed into a nourishing meal. I want them to see the beauty in God’s nature and how harmoniously all aspects of creation can work together to nourish our minds and bodies.

My venture is in its embryonic stage, but it is expected to arrive in the 2025 growing season. Be on the lookout for more information – how you can help and how you can benefit from SprinkleBerry Farm & Education Center.

Ta Ta for Now! ~ Jana Sprinkle

## NOTABLE NEWS

So now summer is gone, dragging September along with it. The year is turning over its old leaves and we are progressing toward another year’s worth of turning over leaves in our regeneration – right? A couple of us had the good fortune to spend 10

days in the mountains of Maryland toward the end of the month and were privileged to see the leaf-turning cause the woods to change from green to brilliant reds and golds in that short time. In spite of a little rain, it was glorious. The colors should last into the first week of October and are recommended viewing.



## **Congratulations:**

To **Bill & Sharon Kunkle**, who have received a Glencairn Award for their generous work at the Church through untold hours of helping to keep the school and the church in working condition. Bill made virtual learning possible at the school during the Covid pandemic by fixing and updating old computers for the students, and now manages IT for the school and the church in addition to being present and available to make sure everything works. Sharon is present at the school, nearly every day, helping out with everything from finding lost documents to substitute teaching, while in her spare time serving as President of Acton Park, doing event planning for the Society, and generally volunteering for a wide variety of tasks, whether large or small. Of course, we knew all that, but it is great to see this recognition of their dedication.

Together with Nancy and Eugene Cole, Paige and Pat Sweeney are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Brenna Lynne**, to **Austin Cole** on August 31st.

## **Welcome:**

It was nice to have **Eric Sjodin**, a theologian from Sweden, for a 10-day visit to see what our congregation is like! He stayed with the Kunkles (thank you Bill and Sharon!!) from Sept 20-30.

## **Invitation:**

Since church services include both a children's talk and an adult sermon (except for summer months) it is hoped to provide some Sunday School classes during the sermon, even if they don't happen every week. We have a younger age (approximately Jr. Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade) and an older one (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) who can benefit from such classes, and high schoolers are asked to listen to the sermon unless helping with younger ages. Would you consider taking even one class between now and Christmas?

Please contact Janine Smith – [janinegracesmith@gmail.com](mailto:janinegracesmith@gmail.com)

## **Other breaking News:**

The Quinteros had a great trip in August to go see daughter Emily in Portland, Oregon. The rose gardens were in full bloom and the

weather was gorgeous. After oversleeping and almost missing our very early flight home, we were surprised to get to the gate and find that an old friend and coworker of Chuck's was our pilot for part of the trip home!

**Bill and Sharon Kunkle** enjoyed a visit to the Kempton area over Labor Day weekend, attending church and a meal out with former next door neighbors Matt & Sara Smith, who are loving life near grandchildren and the New Church society there.

The school had a very successful Back-to-school night with nearly all parents in attendance. So far, the school year is going smoothly, although it takes a while for kids to transition from the craziness and overarching free time of summer to the schedule and pattern of school. Those new to school will take a while to figure out how to fit into this new environment, while little ones left behind are probably confused about why everyone is gone every day (but their time will come).

The first "Souper Sunday" of the season was off to a great start, selling 15 quarts of soup and 5 loaves of bread.

A Men's Breakfast was hosted by **Rev. Brian Smith** and a variety of cooks and helpers on the last Saturday of the month. Good food, good conversations, good friends.

We hope you didn't miss the school **car wash/bake sale** to fund-raise for a new ping pong table.

We will miss the paper dumpster in the parking lot, strange as that may seem. It made us feel good to do our part for the environment by dumping papers every so often, but the new owners decided we should pay them \$65.00 per month for that good feeling. Since the county recycles paper for "free" (check your property tax bill lately?) we will just have to feel good about that.

### **Condolences:**

To Jean Allen on the loss of her brother **Dale Doering**, who passed away recently at the age of 91.

And a "get well quick" wish to **Chuck Quintero** after his recent trip (via ambulance) to the hospital.

## Predictions:

- The celebration of Charter Day at the Academy Schools will occur (rain or shine) on the weekend of October 10 - 13. Lots of things will be happening, so enjoy it if you can make it.
- ★ A **Teen Weekend** will occur on October 18-20, 2024, hosted by the Washington New Church School for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students at WNCS, Kempton, Kitchener and others. **Rev. Calvin Heinrichs** will be the program head which will include a service project, a visit to Six Flags, a doctrinal class and evening vesper services, and attendance at Church on Sunday. And lots of pizza.
- ★ On **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Acton Park will be putting on an **International Fall Festival** to reach out not only to our church and school community but also to the surrounding community. There will be food, music/entertainment, crafts and games for the whole family. Your help and participation will be appreciated.

## Question:

Did you know there is a Pastor's Council? It consists of a bunch of people who periodically meet with the Pastor to discuss Society issues, concerns and plans, and to serve as a conduit between Society members and the Pastor. You are invited to talk to any of the Council members about such things. The bunch includes - Hanna Hyatt, Candy Quintero, Pat Sweeney, Jana Sprinkle, Erin Stillman, and George Cooper.