

November 2024

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

A fundamental concept that is repeatedly brought up in the Word is the idea of three degrees. Secrets of Heaven 9825 goes so far as to say that everything should be seen as having three degrees:

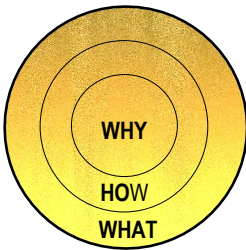
Indeed, for anything to be perfect it must be divided into three degrees. This is so with heaven, and it is so with the

forms of good and truth there.... There are three heavens.... Each heaven too is divided into three degrees.  
...The situation is just the same with a person's interiors.

In fact, everything the Lord creates has three degrees that are distinct from one another and that relate with one another the way end, cause and effect relate. This is true on many levels, all nested within one another, and in a beautiful manner that reminds one of fractals in nature. Your own mind is no different.

So it is hardly surprising to discover that the most effective advertising speaks not to the “what”, nor the “how”, but mostly to the “why” of the product being advertised. For instance, one of Apple’s most famous campaigns didn’t advertise phones and computers, or the process by which those devices were created. Rather, Apple was selling innovation: “Think Different.” Likewise, L’Oreal’s most famous slogan made no reference to what their product was or to what it did, but instead targeted something deeper: “Because you’re worth it.” This isn’t just a way of selling products, either. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not famously say, “I

have a plan,” but rather, “I have a dream!” We human beings respond most powerfully to “ends.”



All this is discussed in the speeches and writings of a man named Simon Sinek. Search YouTube for his TED talk, “How Great Leaders Inspire Action”

([https://www.ted.com/talks/simon\\_sinek\\_how\\_great\\_leaders\\_inspire\\_action](https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action)). Some of the references are now a little dated, over a decade later, but the essential points are still solid. Or look up his book, *Start with Why* for more on this.

One of the more interesting things Sinek points out is that our brains are divided into three parts that seem to line up with what he calls the “Golden Circle” (really three concentric circles) of “Why, How, What”—what a philosopher might describe as “End, Cause, Effect”.

This is just one illustration of how much insight one can get by applying the “doctrine of three degrees” from the Word to our

understanding of the world around us. Try it next time you are trying to understand a complex problem. Ask yourself, “How does what I’m looking at divide itself into three discrete, simultaneous degrees?” Which is the will/end/why part, which is the intellect/cause/how part, and which is the endeavor/effect/what part? Properly identifying these parts in any problem can yield powerful insights. Try it next time you get stuck trying to make a major decision in your own life. ~ Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor

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

The Board met for the monthly meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Mac Frazier reported plans for a busy upcoming month for the Congregation, and Rev. Brian Smith provided an update on school activities and future plans. The Treasurer provided an overview of our various restricted funds. The monthly topic was Acton Park, and Corporation President James Roscoe provided an update on upcoming activities and uses of the property. James reported that final details on the solar farm lease are still being finalized.

The Board had a follow-up discussion from the May Society meeting regarding the General Church Statement of Relationship, with the acknowledgement that the intended summer discussions did not come about. The Board discussed using the Winter Society Meeting in January to focus on this topic. Updates to the Building Use Policy are being finalized and discussed at the next Board meeting. The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, with monthly topics of strategic planning, marketing, and grants.

Board of Trustee secretary – Sharon Cooper

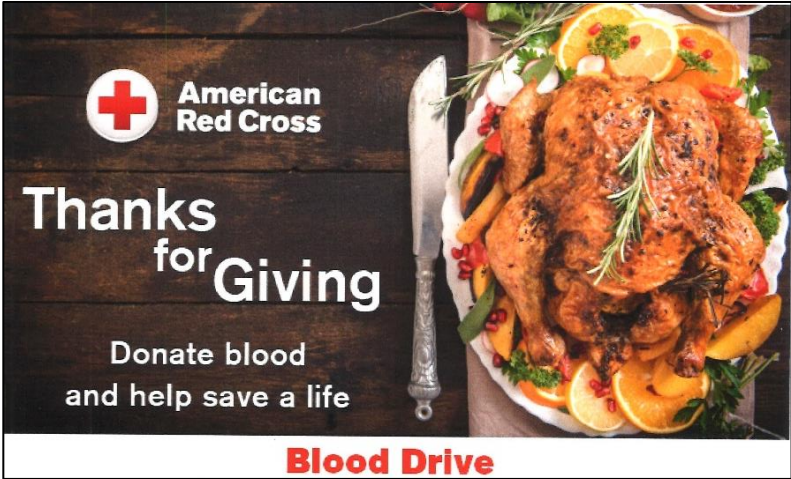
**Joint Counsel** to meet with Regional Pastor, Sat. Nov. 16 @ 10am.

### **Announcements**

**Fall Back:** don’t forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night – November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Thanksgiving Offering:** As is our custom, you may bring fruit or a nonperishable food item to offer during the first hymn of the Thanksgiving service. Food will be donated to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry.

**TAG Meeting Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm:** Ladies, please join us for our November meeting. This is the meeting at which we plan for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will be looking for volunteers to distribute Thanksgiving food offerings to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry, to be ready to help with the Tableaux needs, school program/party needs and decorate for the Christmas Services. Please join us in these joyous preparations.



This blood drive will be in our area... in fact right here at the Washington New Church multipurpose room!

**When?** – the day after Thanksgiving – **November 29<sup>th</sup>**  
from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Start the holiday season doing good for others and click on the following link - [Click here to make an appointment](#)

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

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



*Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS + Red Cross socks, (limited quantity). Keep one, gift one!*

***Share this with your neighbors and friends!***

**Job Posting:** Academy of the New Church / General Church  
Advancement Coordinator / Gift Processor / Database Manager  
PO Box 708 | Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 | 267.502.4990  
| [susan.wright@anc-gc.org](mailto:susan.wright@anc-gc.org)

**Pancake Breakfast & Work party**

**SAT, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 8am**

**Inside & Outside**

**Bring your family & your tools!**  
**Earn PSP**  
*(Children must be accompanied by an adult)*

- I am looking for help putting on the breakfast – come early and be able to leave early.
- Raking, weeding, pruning, blowing leaves, and spreading mulch... great work to do with children.
- Indoor work for those who prefer it.
- Build community with church and school families.

Our gardens are the first thing people see when they come to our building. They have been lovingly created by our own plant loving members. But they do need regular maintenance.

Let's work together to dress this place up!



## SprinkleBerry Farm & Education Center Update:

Hello everyone! I was blessed to be the recipient of many helping hands on Saturday, October 19th, and as the adage says, "Many hands make light work" at least for me! My crew of 11 youths plus Derrick Lumsden and Jonathan Sprinkle cleared a path to the fire hydrant to make access to water easier for me; they cleared around many abandoned hay bales which I hope to use for mulching, and they re-laid four tarps to help prepare the soil for next spring's planting!

What would have taken me several days by myself was accomplished in less than two hours. A huge shout out and thank you to Serena Hasen, Tovah Cole, Elsa Brown, Rebekah Heiter, Ginny Cooper (granddaughter of Patti and Stewart), Elias Schnarr, Mason Heiter, Jeb Heiter, Kai Smith, Eli Cole, and Josh Uber! These lovely teens represent the Bryn Athyn, Washington, Oak Arbor, Pittsburgh, and Kempton New Churches!

See below for photo of the wonderful volunteers themselves!



“I also had my first experience wielding a brush hog and it was a doozy! I learned some particularly important lessons, such as, don’t tip a machine on its side on purpose OR acci-

dentally or bad things happen. Don’t worry! Both the machine and I survived the experience intact. The best part is, now there are paths up through the entire field for you to enjoy.

Come see the farm, do some bird watching, seed collecting or simply walk the paths for the pleasure of enjoying the Lord’s beautiful world.

(Do be mindful that it is deer hunting season however - there are a couple of hunters hoping for a dinner or two.)” ~ Jana Sprinkle

## News-Type Notes

Well, that was a spectacular October for us, unless you happen to like rain and clouds. As of this writing it has been 34 days since it last rained. However, for rain, all you needed to do was drive a few hours to the western part of North Carolina where they had enough rain to provide a few years' worth of repair and rebuilding. A sad reminder that life is not always fair, and that "them instead of us" seems to be a matter of a few miles, a few moments, or a little luck. Our beautiful weather has had the downside of a shortage of rain; but if you think it should rain, be careful what you wish for.

### **Teen Conjunction:**

A swarm of young people descended on the Society for the weekend of October 18 – 20 for a working party, and a joy it was for us as well as for them. About 40 high school students from near and far and wide came to enjoy beautiful fall weather, to spend a morning working on the trails through the Acton Park woods, to attend a doctrinal class and a vesper service, to spend an afternoon at the nearby Six Flags amusement park, to spend a couple of nights sleeping on the concrete floors of school classrooms (soft concrete, of course), and to join us and sing for us at Church, then lunched with us on Sunday before heading off to their respective homes. It was great having all of them and we hope to see them all again.

### **Recover Soon:**

The latest member of the hip generation is now recovering nicely, she says. **Janna Zuber**, to be precise, is the one who reports her hip replacement went well, and she is feeling good. Welcome to the replacement (but irreplaceable) club, Janna.

### **Congratulations Gramps and Gran:**

**James and Jeannette Roscoe** are basking in their new "grand" roles upon the birth of granddaughter **Emeline Stephen Gardner** "Stevie" on October 12th to daughter and son-in-law **Renee and Robby Gardner**. **Stevie** was two months early and weighed 2 pounds and 15 ounces upon birth. She is up above 3 pounds but remains in the NICU at the MUSC Hospital in Charleston.

## Condolences:

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Mark Odhner**, this past October after a prolonged illness. He is the son of Jerry and Deena Odhner. Mark, 48 years old, attended WNCS many years ago, when the Odhners lived just down the road a bit. Our thoughts are with Mark's entire family.

## Travels:

**Andy Cooper and Bradley Johns (Jr.)** spent a week in the wilds of Scotland hunting (actually, dirt-fishing) (successfully) for buried treasure with their high-tech metal-detector machines. They found antique coins of yet-to-be-determined value, as well as other interesting things. As expected, it was cold and sometimes rainy, but an enjoyable time was had by all.

**Nancy Alford** reports that she has become a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> year reunion club at the Academy. She drove up to B.A. on charter day weekend for her reunion dinner with 12 classmates on Saturday, October 13th at Cairnwood Village. One highlight of the weekend was that at church on Sunday her senior class song was sung by the choir during the interlude. It has never been so beautiful. Although it was a very enjoyable weekend (and the weather couldn't have been better), she notes that it's sad to realize that it's probably her last reunion.

Nearly all of the teachers and the Principal of WNCS attended an **“in-service” conference hosted by the Pittsburgh Society** and also attended by teachers and staff from New Church schools in Oak Arbor, Glenview, Toronto, Kitchener, Kempton, Pittsburgh and Bryn Athyn, as well as people from the General Church Office of Education. It was reportedly a particularly useful few days and focused on the Pittsburgh school's pivot to dealing with issues of dyslexia (though they are most definitely staying true to being a New Church School). Though they may have many church and non-church dyslexic students they are able to accommodate all children. Their teachers are all trained in this field and have many useful things to share on both dyslexia and ADHD. The teachers felt the in-service program was incredibly useful... not to mention



the value of time spent with our other small church school teachers and staff.

**Thought For Today:**

“The true test of one’s mettle is being good when one has an innate inclination towards evil.” [Calvin (Calvin & Hobbes, Vol 3, p 116)]



*November Anniversaries*

*“When married partners love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of its being terminated by death.”*

*Swedenborg - CL 458*



*Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Dan & Jeanine Federline ~ 11 yrs.*

*Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Bob & Bea Newkirk ~ 62 yrs.*

*Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Court & Elaine Lee ~ 52 yrs.*

*Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ (Barry) & Erin Stillman 30 yrs.*

