

April 2025

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

Easter is great! It's a beautiful, solemn, meaningful holiday...celebrated by eating massive amounts of candy shaped like farm animals. Seriously, who decided that the best way to commemorate the Lord's resurrection is to bite the ears off an oversized chocolate bunny? And why, for that matter, must these chocolate rabbits be hollow? I picture some candy executive

gleefully rubbing his hands together, saying, “Let’s fill children with hope...and air.”

And then there are jellybeans. The cruel thing about jellybeans is that they come in fifty flavors, and three of them are always a mistake. You think you’re popping strawberry or cherry, but surprise—it’s bubblegum-flavored soap. This is how we teach kids the valuable Easter lesson of disappointment.

...despite all this candy confusion, egg-hunting madness, and questionable biology, Easter always circles back around to a simple, powerful idea: new birth. Regeneration!

Of course, there’s also the traditional egg hunt. Nothing says “celebration of eternal life” quite like searching the damp grass for plastic eggs. Don’t get me wrong: I think egg hunts are a wonderful thing for little kids. But what’s even more wonderful is the Easter miracle that occurs a week later when a lawnmower discovers an

undiscovered egg. Ever see jellybeans and plastic shards fly at 120 mph? It’s festive, yet terrifying.

Then there’s the biology question: rabbits laying eggs. Did nobody take a single science class? At least Santa’s elves make a sort of biological sense. But egg-laying rabbits? Why?

But despite all this candy confusion, egg-hunting madness, and questionable biology, Easter always circles back around to a simple, powerful idea: new birth. Regeneration! That’s the hidden beauty behind all this sugary chaos. We all need fresh starts, second chances, and hopeful tomorrows. Easter reminds us—often amid pastel-colored absurdity—that resurrection is real, renewal is possible, and hope isn’t just an empty chocolate bunny.

Easter is--if I can take a moment and be quite serious--the celebration of the greatest miracle in history: the glorification of the Lord’s Divine Human. And with it, the subjugating of the hells, the reordering of the heavens, and the establishment of the Christian Church. And layered in with all of that, we also have a step-by-step representative illustration of the path our own lives

must take if we are to be born again as angels in heaven. It's deep, it's breathtaking, it's vital, it's complex, and it's literally the key to your salvation.

So, this Easter, go ahead and savor the weirdness. Bite the bunny ears, brave the jellybeans, and dodge plastic eggs flying out of your mower—but while you do, remember this joyful, messy holiday really means something. No matter how absurd life gets, new life—and new hope—is always on the horizon. The Lord is with you always, even to the end of the age.

Happy Easter, friends. And good luck with the jellybeans.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2025.03.25

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

The Board met for monthly meetings on February 11 and March 18, 2025. Normal reports and business were discussed. Highlights of the February meeting included a Board vote to endorse and recommend that the Society adopt the Relationship Statement, following the discussion at the January Winter Society Meeting. The Relationship Statement, a formal documentation of the relation between our local Washington Society and the General Church, will be presented to the Society for adoption at the spring Annual Society Meeting. Additionally, action was taken by the board to form the Nominating Committee for filling expiring Board of Trustees and School Board seats. David Radcliffe reported on his recent attendance at the Academy of the New Church board of directors meeting.

The March meeting included a discussion of our current budget led by Treasurer Brent Hyatt, and upcoming action to develop a draft budget for the next fiscal year. Marketing activities for the school are ongoing, and potential volunteers are encouraged to talk to Rev. Brian Smith to see how to help. James Roscoe provided an update on Acton Park, and Lincoln Smith reported for the Grounds Committee. The full slate of the nominating committee was announced, with Steve Ball, Michael Ferrell, Bonnie Cowley, and Ariel Martin agreeing to serve on the committee. Anyone who is

interested in serving on either of the Boards is encouraged to reach out to the committee, current board members, or the Pastors to learn more and get involved.

The next Board meeting will be a joint discussion with the School Board on April 8.

~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc,

## **The New Contribune (Spring Edition)**

Here's the bottom line:

### **Washington New Church needs your help now!**

But perhaps a little more explanation is needed, so here's a slightly longer version:

- As we've discussed before, our Society must balance its budget to maintain its wide range of church and school activities, including leading weekly church services and spiritual discussion groups, hosting occasional social events, and instructing our students from Pre-School through Eighth Grade in secular and religious subjects.
- To meet this challenge, the Society has agreed to raise \$383,286 in Member and Friend contributions this year, representing a 6% increase over our 2024 results.
- Unfortunately, the Treasurer reports that we are ~\$23,000 behind last year's pace through the end of February, placing our goal of a balanced budget at serious risk.

There it is. There is trouble afoot, and we must come together to solve this problem. And while we need to recognize and celebrate our members' and friends' generous donations of their time, energy, and funds up until now, it's also true that we still have a long way to go; so, please ask yourself what you can do and help us meet this challenge!

Thank you. ~ The Contributions Committee ~

## What's Happening

*April is a busy month... keep up on what is happening!*

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Breakfast –**  
8am followed by a **Work party – 9am.** Bring your family your tools, your enthusiasm and let's spruce up these gardens!



**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Acton Park Corporation meeting –** following Sunday Services with reports and elections.



**Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – 2025 WNCS School Play –** 5th-8th grade are excited to share their musical, the Ballad of the Bremen Band, which will open on Friday, April 11th at 7pm. This event is required for all students. The whole family will love this play about five unwanted animals traveling to Bremen to become famous musicians. We've got some amazing musical and theatrical talent to showcase - you don't want to miss it! – Miss Ariel

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Festival Service,** 11am. Palms will be available for a procession.



**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Holy Supper service,** 8pm. A lovely meditative service.



**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Festival Service,** 11am. This is a family festival service. You may bring a flower or plant offering.

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – The PLANT SALE!** 8m-2pm. Come and help, socialize and buy! To benefit the playground fund.

## **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Community BBQ. 4pm.**

Society members & families, WNCS families, and friends are all invited to join us for food and fun.



### **TAG Corner**

**Theta Alpha Guild Spring Meeting and Elections!**

Come join us for the final TAG meeting of the year. We will vote on our Bylaws revisions, work on plans for the 2025-26 season and elect the officers who will lead us in those uses. We look forward to seeing you at **7:30 on Monday, May 12!**

Lauralyn & Sharon  
TAG co-presidents 2024/25.

**"Summer Volleyball is starting up again!** We usually play on Wednesday evenings but sometimes we add weekend games. If you have any interest in participating let Brian Smith know so that you can be included in communications. 301 850 3029."

### **Church Summer Camps**

#### **Tools 4 Life Summer Camp | June 20-25, 2025**

For more information see the Tools For Life web page  
<https://www.ancss.org/about/summer-programs/tools-4-life>

#### **ANC Summer Camp | July 6-11, 2025**

For more information see the ANC Summer Camp Web page  
<https://www.ancss.org/about/summer-programs/anc-summer-camp>

#### **Living Waters Family Camp | July 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

Location 452 Bruce-Saugeen Townline, Paisley Ontario, Canada N0G 2N) to register – [LivingWatersFamilyCamp@gmail.com](mailto:LivingWatersFamilyCamp@gmail.com)

#### **Jacob's Creek Family Retreat | July 24 – 27, 2025**

A religious retreat for all ages, it combines a family vacation with an emphasis on the wonderful doctrines of the New Church. For

more information see the Jacob's Creek website:

<https://www.jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org/>

### **Maple Leaf Academy | July 5 – 11, 2025**

Maple is open to teens who have just completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 for more information got to [maplecamp.com](http://maplecamp.com).

### **British Academy Summer School | July 20<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The British Academy Summer School (BASS) is a fantastic two-week, annual event for young people from around the world. It's a chance to learn together, share experiences about life and spirituality and have fun! For more information see

<https://newchurch.org.uk/get-involved/british-academy-summer-school/>

### **Laurel Family Camp | August 3 – 9, 2025**

The focus of this camp is to draw people together and build a true sense of spiritual community. For information on this camp see [laurelcamp.org](http://laurelcamp.org)

### ***News Notes for April:***

It appears that spring has arrived, not only meteorologically but actually, as evidenced by the profusion of blossoming trees and daffodils. We weren't so sure that it would happen, with the temperature swings brought by the untrustworthy weather predictions all month. But that should have been expected – it's what March does, as experience should have taught us.

(Experience is what you get when you are expecting something else.) So, enjoy the change while you can – those hot summer days will be upon us before you know it.

### **Thanks To:**

... **Bonnie Cowley** and unnumbered excellent helpers for the joys provided by the super souper Sundays all year. Many a feast was provided in exchange for your efforts, and we are all the happier for your willingness to support this use. Mary Cooper reports that from October – February, 2024-2025 the "Souper" Sundays brought in \$1325. One half to the church - \$662.50 and one half to TAG \$662.50.

... The **School Choir** for their excellent singing at church on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and to **Ariel Martin** for making it happen. A lot of hard

work goes into such a performance, and we appreciated your willingness to do that for us.

... **WNCS**, which provided a spring break before spring even arrived. Does that mean that summer break will arrive before summer arrives? Possibly. But for another kind of break, be sure to attend the **WCNJ** play on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. It is bound to be an entertaining real spring break.

### **Calendar News:**

Don't forget the April 26<sup>th</sup> plant sale. It is a fun way to spend money on your garden while meeting friends and neighbors and while supporting the Church.

Be sure to mark your calendar – and then attend the spring Community Barbeque on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If past iterations are a reliable indication, it is an event not to be missed. Watch for notices with further data and/or information.

### **Retirement News:**

**Suzanne and Eric Genzlinger** jointly retired from Federal Service on 31 October 2024. Suzanne retired with 38 years of Federal service. Eric retired with 33 years of Federal service and 5 years as a contractor working for the same agency. Suzanne started her career in January 1987 as a space planner and later moved into senior level planning and programmatic for her agency. She became the “go to” person for congressional notifications and the Land and Structures annual submission to congress. Her deep knowledge of planning, together with her quiet personality, very organized work, and deep historical knowledge made her invaluable to her executive level managers. Eric started his career working as a contractor for the government in March of 1986 as an electrical engineer working on upgrading and replacing large power systems. He became a Federal employee in October 1991 and continued his career as an Electric Engineer operating and solving power system problems. Later he became a manager of several large facilities and supervised the construction of several buildings. Eric was well known for his ability to assist, diagnose, and remotely solve power and cooling system problems with technicians at remote locations. Suzanne and Eric met at work and married in October 1996. And on the afternoon of Halloween, they



walked over their agency’s seal together to start a new adventure – Retirement.

### Not-so-good News:

As reported elsewhere herein, the church is in need of some (financial) assistance – or even a lot of it. Who will be the first to respond? And who will be the 31<sup>st</sup>? We all know what the reward will be, see p.4.

### School News:

The WNCS recently hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Ping Pong tournament, with an enthusiastic group of Church members, School Parents, students & Alumni to socialize and battle it out for best ping pong player.

**Janine Smith & family** along with **Mac Frazier** set the brackets and managed the play, and with two tables going at once the 20 players worked through the brackets quickly even though this was a double elimination tournament.

While all the play was going on, those who came to just watch, those who were waiting for matches & those who lost two matches rotated in and out of the multipurpose room and lobby to graze at the snack table, socialize, watch the matches or size up the competition for a future match. The competition was fierce, and it came down to the last two players: **Dominick Asare** (parent of 3 former students Riley, DJ & Owura) and **Louis Pierre** (brother of WNCS 8<sup>th</sup> grader Melizane Iku). Dominic came out as the winner



by taking two matches. The cheers could have been heard outside in the parking lot. Janine presented the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners

with a special T-shirt and a gift card each, and Dominic also got a mug with the inscription: “To hold my ping pong opponent’s tears”. It is hard to express the feeling of community experienced by everyone from the competitors to the spectators and to the children. **Let’s do this again!**

A huge thanks goes to **Brian, Janine, and family** for organizing the tournament and the food.

### **Good News:**

Congratulations to **Lincoln Smith & Valerie Vaché**, together with their kids Sohaila, Shaunti, Clare, Violet, Marcellus, and Charles who are overjoyed to welcome their new family member: **Jubilee Cindy Smith**. She was born on March 24, 2025, weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces, and 21.5" long. Mom and baby are doing very well. They report that: “We're filled with gratitude to the Lord for this blessing and seeing with our own eyes that He makes everything beautiful in its time.”

Update on **Jerry Odhner**: he is finally out of the ICU and is now in the hospital rehab center and is slowly improving. Deena reports that it will be a long, long rehab time. They both appreciate the support they feel from their friends at WCNJ.

### **Thought for the Day:**

Learn from the mistakes of others – you can never live long enough to make them all yourself.



**PLANT SALE ~ Sat. Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Washington New Church  
& School  
11914 Chantilly Lane  
Mitchellville, MD 20721**

**Buy a Chance to Win  
A flowering Plant**

**Vegetables**      **8am - 2pm**  
**Herbs**  
**Crafts**    **Flowers**  
**Food**      **House plants**  
**Raffle**      **Flower pots**

**Questions?  
301-464-5602**





## *April Anniversaries*

*“When friendship and mutual trust join together with the first love in marriage, conjugal love results.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 162*



*Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Sharon Croft ~ 29 yrs.*

*Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Lincoln & Valerie Smith ~ 1 yr.*

*Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Pam & Andy Cooper ~ 35 yrs.*

*Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Curt & Wanda Moore ~ 34 yrs.*

