

June 2025

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

As I write this, the school is buzzing with the energy it gets this time every year. Preparations are being made for graduation, kids are excited, teachers are extra busy, and summer is peaking its head above the horizon before us. Soon, things will slow down as they do around here every summer, but for now it feels like we're just about to crest over the top of the final plunge of the flume ride!

On the church side, things are more mellow. I'm putting the final touches on a four-part series on the end of the Book of Revelation which I'm excited to share with you starting on June 1st. They will be "family talks", meaning no separate children's talk apart from the sermon for adults. We shift to the family talk format every summer as well as on holidays, to provide relief for the parents and any other volunteers who often miss the sermons on other Sundays while taking care of little ones. This series will culminate in our New Church Day holiday service on Sunday, June 22nd. Oh, and speaking of New Church Day, on June 19th itself we are planning a blood drive, followed by a barbecue where you can restock your body with fresh nutrients!

On a more personal note, I'm going to be visiting Bryn Athyn yet again this coming weekend. I say "yet again" because I was just there earlier in May for the Swedenborg Foundation board meetings. I have just concluded my first year serving on that board where I am vice chair of their "External Affairs Committee" which oversees both the publishing and the video programming operations of the Foundation, and also the chair of the newly formed "Artificial Intelligence Governance Subcommittee" where we are forming policies to make sure the Foundation's use of AI is not only innovative and useful, but also ethical and secure.

In addition to serving as a board member for the Foundation, I am also on the board of New Church Challenge. NCC is a non-profit organization that provides funding to support people with special needs within the realm of our New Church societies. Projects funded by NCC have included things like job placement assistance for New Church people with special needs, training for New Church teachers serving students with special needs, and other such things. Like with the Foundation, I attend most meetings online but try to be physically present for the annual meeting. Unfortunately, this year I couldn't make it to Bryn Athyn for this year's annual meeting, but usually I try to be there in person. So that's a lot of meetings. In addition to serving the boards of the Swedenborg Foundation and New Church Challenge, I of course serve on the board of trustees for the Washington New Church, the board for the Washington New Church School, and the board of

Acton Park. Throw in my Pastor's Council, and that's a pretty full schedule of mostly evening meetings, to say nothing of the small groups and classes that I lead on some evenings. Oh, and I almost forgot one more "committee": I have been part of a small working subcommittee assisting Jane Enis in the development of an online tool to streamline how pastors and societies report the statistics the central office asks us to collect over the year. But that work should be completed very soon, and we only meet occasionally as it is.

You might think I have enough meetings at this point, but I am now about to join the Bishop's Advisory Committee that works with the bishops to manage the placement and supervision of all the priests in the field. For the past year I have been the "Regional Pastor" for Calvin Heinrich's church plant in Kansas City, but it was just a "region" of one, so I

have been able to avoid duty on Advisory. But going into the next fiscal year I will be picking up two more societies and their pastors to add to my supervisory portfolio, so now our bishops are telling me I will need to attend one more monthly meeting.

But don't get me wrong! I'm not complaining at all. I can't say "I love meetings", but I absolutely do love that I get to serve the church in all these interesting ways. And I think each of the ways that I've been asked to contribute to the overall function and health of the worldwide New Church movement adds something to my work serving you all here at Washington New Church. I am constantly learning things that I bring back into my work here, and I am able to find useful opportunities for our society to connect with the larger New Church community.

So yeah, I go to a lot of meetings. And one of the things I've been thinking about is how organizations use boards and committees and other work groups to get things done. With lessons I've been learning, I have just begun a process of re-examining how we are organized here at WNC, with the goal of updating our internal

*I can't say "I love meetings", I absolutely do love that I get to serve the church in all these interesting ways.*

structure to help us continue to pursue our mission, and in a way that most wisely engages all of our volunteers and staff while neither burning people out nor wasting volunteers' time.

I've started the conversation with Pastor's Council and will next be talking to the Board of Trustees. For now, most of my work is just studying and planning on my own. But stay tuned, as I will have more to say on all this in the coming months. I'm not expecting anything too radical, but I want to ensure that we are organized in a way that will serve our Society efficiently and effectively so we can continue to be of use to the world for the next phase of our existence.

If you have thoughts on how we organize ourselves to get good things done, please drop me a note or come see me in person. I'd love to hear your thoughts. And have a great start to your summer!

~ Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier

**Annual Meeting** the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem will hold its annual Society Meeting at the Church on Friday evening, June 13, starting at 8:00pm following a potluck supper at 7:00pm.\*

Business reports will be provided, elections will be held for the Board of Trustees and School Board, and a budget will be presented for Society vote. Further details will follow, but please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

**A slate** of candidates for Trustees and School Board has been circulated via email. Absentee Ballots will be available. Please contact [Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org) to pick one up.

### **\*Potluck**

- *A -F: Dessert; G - R: Salad; S – Z: Entrée*



**New Church Day BBQ:** Mac is at it again...On the actual New Church Day, Thursday **June 19<sup>th</sup>** we will be gathering together at **4:00 p.m.** for a potluck picnic. A time to gather as a community, to share in the warmth of fellowship, and to have

fun together as a community. And yes, Mac will again be providing an abundance of smoked barbecue. [Is this a tradition now??]

You are also encouraged to bring a food offering. Vegetable dishes, sides, drinks, and desserts are especially welcome, but more meat entrees are good, too! Thus, we will be sending out a “Perfect Potluck” via email so you can sign up and let us know – 1. If you are coming and 2. What you will bring to share

**Doctrinal Enrichment Day** - On May 24th, the Saturday over Memorial Day weekend, Jordan Brunne and I (Joram Heinrichs) ran a Doctrinal Enrichment Day or known as DED for short! My brother Calvin started this event a few years ago to encourage more young adults to gather to discuss topics about the Lord and to have some fun afterwards. This is my second one running DED myself and the first one running one here in Washington New Church!

On DED, we had 17 young adults in total gather together! About half came from our own society, and a few came from Kempton, and some from Bryn Athyn. Many commented they were delighted to make the journey from Kempton and Bryn Athyn even if just for the day. I want to thank them for making that trip especially and a big thanks to those locals for committing that precious Saturday to come to DED.

A typical Doctrinal Enrichment Day has worship in the morning followed by a discussion based on the worship, next a lunch then followed by activities in the afternoon, like games and sports. Lastly, to finish off the day, we will have dinner together at the restaurant. Our worship was the story of Moses and the

burning bush. The discussion afterwards was on prayer and how we can achieve prayer even in our very busy and distracted lives. Thanks to Brian Smith for running the worship and discussion. Lunch was graciously provided by Janine Smith and Erin Stillman. The afternoon itself was a huge blast as well! We had volleyball, badminton, and some board games all running at the same time! I want to thank Sharon Kunkle for helping get a lot of the sport equipment set up.

Overall, Doctrinal Enrichment Day was a huge success and it was only possible because of two reasons: We have a group of young adults who care about the Lord and want to make the effort to meet others who think the same and secondly the society who helped host and did all of the background work to help make DED run as smoothly as it did! I also want to thank Jordan Brunne for helping me run this second DED and getting all the pieces organized! DED was a lot of fun, and I believe there will now be more in the future!

~ Joram Heinrichs

## **SprinkleBerry Farm Update**

Hello to my loyal followers and captive readers! After a long hiatus, from reporting not farming, I have returned to let you know all the happenings on SprinkleBerry Farm. I have been planting! And planting some more. And planting even more. And will be planting for the foreseeable future. For veggies, I am hoping to have a supply of corn, peas, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, squash, pumpkins, and celeriac to sell to you this summer and fall.

Currently, I have 1-pound containers of Mom's Strawberry Freezer jam for sale for \$15.00 each. Text me on 410-220-9003 if you are interested in purchasing this scrumptious strawberry treat! Supplies are limited so hurry.

As the name implies, berries will be the heart and soul of my produce operation. My blueberry bushes are full of berries! They are still toddlers of course and need to grow and be joined by many siblings and cousins before I have enough to sell. My strawberry

babies are in the nursery, and I hope to transplant them with more siblings and cousins to their forever home in the fall. My two dozen elderberry children are waiting to join 12 siblings at their forever home too. Eugene Cole has given me some lovely Blackberry babies to transplant. Lincoln gave me some black raspberry babies, and I am going to bring some red raspberry babies from my home to propagate.



If you know me, you know that I love animals. Animals will be another feature on SprinkleBerry Farm. I already have chickens! I am so excited to have these lovely birds. I have four Rhode Island Reds, 4 Black Australorps and 4 Sapphire Splash. They are adorable. They won't begin laying eggs though until late summer or early autumn. Special thanks go to

Adelaide, Acacia and Janine Smith for raising these babies for me.

Coming in July are two Nigerian Dwarf goats named Stormy and Stella. Stella became a momma in May and may still be in milk when I bring her home. I am also on the lookout for a pair of Nubian goats. Goats love company so I want to make sure my goats are happy and secure in a herd.

Don't forget the education part of SprinkleBerry Farm & Education Center! Starting in June are "Fridays on the Farm," a day program for children in grades 3 through 6 to learn about growing food and caring for animals. Text me on 410-220-9003 if you are interested in more information or see the handout in the church lobby.

Also starting in June are Sunday Service Days on SprinkleBerry Farm. No, we are not having church there, though that might be a lot of fun! Instead, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. you are invited to work on the farm! Yay! Many hands make light work and lots of laughter. I have all kinds of projects from building to planting to helping with animals. I will supply lunch if you text me (410-220-9003) by 6:00 p.m. the day before you come. I will also make sure

we have plenty of water to stay hydrated. The dates are June 8<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and August 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! And don't forget to let me know when you are coming so I can bring your lunch!

Until next time, may you be berry happy and prosperous.

*~ Jana Sprinkle*



**Explore Acton Park Trails:** Join David Radcliffe on a nature walk in Acton Park on Wednesday Evenings June 1, July 23 & Aug. 27, at 7:00pm. David has spent countless hours in the woods and fields of Acton Park since moving to the area in 1973 and is endlessly fascinated with how Acton Park's ecosystem has changed and matured over the years. He's built and maintained trails through the woods and, as a member of the Acton Park Board, is leading the effort to create, manage, and maintain a healthy forest ecosystem. Learn about the Board's plans for new trails and explore the richness of Acton Park's history and

natural wonders. We'll leave the Church parking lot promptly at 7:00 PM and will explore the park for about 45 minutes at a slow pace. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Long pants are recommended. Bug spray will be provided.

## **Our Mother Church** *Editorial*

Back several weeks ago while listening to the “Mother’s Day” sermon, I got to thinking about how I no longer have a mother on this earth. My mother lived well into her 90s but even before she passed, I stopped thinking about her as my mother. Don’t get me wrong, I love my mother. She was an incredible woman a loving

and nurturing mother whose lifework it was to stay at home and raise her 12 children as a partner to my dad. She baked her signature whole-wheat bread daily and sold it to others. She sewed, frequently making dresses for all 8 of her daughters. My mom could make wonderful meals out of next to nothing during hard times. However, she was primarily the perfect partner for my dad. Hard-working and incredibly knowledgeable, she managed the house, the children and all the finances [somehow magically!]

But as I grew up, we became more like friends. And the more I thought about that it struck me that the Church was now my mother. In relation to the Lord [our Father] the New Jerusalem (as a bride and wife) is our mother. So, it follows that now that I am an adult, **New Church Day** is sort of adult Mother's Day. I should honor the work she does.

“The reason why mother in the spiritual sense means the church, is that just as a mother on earth feeds her children with natural food, so the church does with spiritual food. This too is why in the Word the church is frequently called mother.” (TCR 306)

“...the spiritual affection for truth is what is called ‘mother’” (AC 3703)

I was fortunate to go to a New Church School in Pittsburgh. New Church Day [we called it June 19<sup>th</sup> then] was very special. The end of the school year performance [practiced for many weeks before school ended] was the June 19<sup>th</sup> pageant. Every child in every grade from Kindergarten through Ninth grade played a part. Whether as a “soul under the alter”, one of the 12 disciples or the lucky girl who got to play the woman clothed with the sun [I never did get that role] we all were part of this traditional event.

I have such affection for New Church Day. Even when June 19<sup>th</sup> fell on a weekday, our dads would take the day off work as a personal holiday. Everyone in our church society came out for the pageant which was held outside in the lower or “sunken” garden. I can feel the warm June days... portraying the Revelation stories – Four Horseman, Seven Seals and other scenes, while our pastor

(Kurt Asplundh or Louis King) read the passages in Revelation. Their un-microphoned yet powerful and gentle voices floated over the audience who were sitting on the upper lawn. Above the high wall would appear the Woman Clothed with the Sun, being approached by the Dragon (complete with fire extinguisher sound & smoke) being defeated by Michael and his angels. Year after year, I was part of this beautiful celebration that always ended in a great picnic. Talk about nurturing the affection for truth!

We should be honoring our spiritual mother. Taking time to think of the Holy City New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven. When I was a child I thought everyone celebrated New Church Day. Someday I pray that it will be a worldwide holiday! So please join us for our New Church Day celebrations, first on – Thursday, **June 19<sup>th</sup>** for a BBQ picnic and then join us Sunday, June 22 for our New Church Day Festival Service.

And Happy ~~Mother's~~ **New Church Day!** ~ Bonnie Cowley

### **Summer camp at Glencairn for 8–10-year-olds:**

We will be running two weeks of summer camp.

Session 1 | Ages 8–10 | Monday, June 16–Friday, June 20 |  
8:30am–1:00 pm

Session 2 | Ages 8–10 | Monday, June 23 – Friday, June 27 |  
8:30am–1:00 pm

***More details and registration info on the Lobby bulletin board.***

### **All the News We Have:**

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it.”

- Warren Buffett -

And it only takes one rainy day to wreck a week at the beach or a long weekend hiking in the mountains. So welcome to summer vacation time, and plan ahead.

### **Planners Aheaders:**

**Sharon and John Croft**, along with siblings **Dave and Christine** and **James**, along with assorted family members are spending the

first two weeks of June, more or less, and depending on schedules, camping at Assateague National Park, which is just a little south of Ocean City, MD. They cleverly picked campsites on the opposite side of the dunes from the ocean, but maybe less cleverly on the same side of the dunes as the wild horses (OK, ponies).

And **Pat and Paige Sweeney**, together with **Keith and Monica Hyatt**, are spending the same two weeks in the Emerald Isles. After years of delays and other postponements due to unplanned circumstances beyond anybody's control, they finally made it, and Ireland will be the better for their visit – as will they. Determination pays.

**Phil and Janna Zuber** plus **Kira and Joseph Jenkins** and kids went to the Grand Canyon at the end of April. Janna reports that it is always fun to meet Phil's siblings Jim and Kerry there for their (almost) annual trek to the Colorado River, plus Janna's sister and husband, **Greta and John Davidson**. This year Phil and Janna got to babysit two young grands while parents did the hike in record time! They report that it is still grand.

### **Good News:**

After over five years of planning and permitting, and Covid-induced delays, the option for the lease of five acres of Acton Park land has been exercised (and payment received!) and a solar panel field will soon be installed, providing Acton Park with much-needed income for a few years.



Although it didn't take quite 5 years, but felt like it, **Erin Stillman** finally got the permit for reconstructing and reconfiguring her house. The destruction has begun!

### **Party Time:**

As predicted in the April Echo, the Community BBQ occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and by means of careful planning (ahead, of course) was a great success. The predicted rain did occur just as people were completing the packing up of kids, chairs and leftovers, so almost nobody got wet and the other “nobodys” who did get wet almost

didn't. The afternoon stayed mostly sunny, the two volleyball courts stayed used, the food was terrific, and the toddlers toddled all around. Thanks to the planners and preparers for a great afternoon.

**Doctrinal Enrichment Gathering** - In the midst of the month, a batch of young people gathered for a Saturday full of doctrinal contemplations and other mental and recreational exercises. Details on P. 5.

### **Congrad-ulations:**

**Siobhan Frazier** graduated from Bryn Athyn College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a focus on Fine Arts and English Literature.

**Joseph Jenkins** graduated from Anne Arundel C.C. with a degree in addiction counseling.

**Charlotte Radcliffe** graduated from the U. of Maryland (magna cum laude) with a degree in Government and Politics with an International Relations concentration. Notably (could we say fittingly?) the commencement speaker was Kermit the Frog.

**Madeline Klippenstein** graduated from the US Naval Academy on Friday, May 23. She is the daughter of Brian and Jackie Klippenstein and granddaughter of Glenn and Linda Klippenstein.

### **Congrat-ulations:**

**Jared Hyatt and Kylie Mauricci** are now engaged. He popped the question by a beautiful lake in Italy. (No details on the date or location of the wedding.) Parents **Amanda and Brent Hyatt** report that "all simply overjoyed!"

### **Tip of the Month:**

**Hanna Hyatt** reports that apparently one cannot simply replace canola oil with another type of oil (motor oil?) when making brownies. (She learned that the hard way, aka the serving-it-for-Hugo's-birthday-and-watching-his-mouth-go-EW-after-taking-one-bite). Read the instructions if you want brownies that do not taste like fancy dirt.