

September 2025

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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

www.theWNC.org • 301-464-5602

Pastor: Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier
11801 Chantilly Lane; Mitchellville, MD 20721
Mac.frazier@gmail.com

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Asst. Pastor, Principal: Rev. Brian D. Smith  
11503 Chantilly Lane  
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2126  
[Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

WCNJ Inc. Treasurer

Mr. Brent Hyatt  
[bhhyatt@verizon.net](mailto:bhhyatt@verizon.net)

WCNJ Inc. Co-Treasurer

Mr. Chuck Quintero  
[c.quintero@alum.mit.edu](mailto:c.quintero@alum.mit.edu)

WCNJ Inc. Investment Treasurer

George Cooper  
[cooperpatents@verizon.net](mailto:cooperpatents@verizon.net)

WCNJ Inc. Secretary

Sharon Croft  
[croft.cooper@verizon.net](mailto:croft.cooper@verizon.net)

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley  
[Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

Echo News Notes Editor

George Cooper  
[cooperpatents@verizon.net](mailto:cooperpatents@verizon.net)

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### From the Pastor

“Tremble, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on  
your beds and be silent.” - *Psalm 4:4*

Whether through societal conditioning or as a function of innate  
human nature, people have a general tendency to assume that if  
they don't know the answer to a question, then they don't know the

answer. Testing in schools focuses mostly on measuring whether a certain collection of facts is easily recalled. Intelligence in public discourse is evaluated in terms of whether or not participants have immediate clever responses. Value in the workplace assumes busyness is an indicator for efficient productivity.

But the deepest answers come only after long thought. Wisdom often requires listening followed by protracted times of silence. And improvements in the workplace often only come at the cost of having a worker spend time staring out the window and wondering how things could be different.

Slow down and really observe yourself working if your world lets you. Spend a week—or a month, or a year—on a single question. Allow for pauses in your most important conversations and seek out people who will do the same.

There are plenty of people running at full speed all around you. And there are plenty of times you should be, too. But there are too few who will sit with a question long beyond the first response their mind offers; and there is a difference between solving problems and getting work done. We need both, but unless we solve some of our biggest problems, the work we do may just make things worse.

“I have now been in conversation with spirits and angels concerning reflection, to which I do not know whether men have paid sufficient attention. If they do attend to this subject, they will find that there are more arcana in the doctrine of reflection than in any other whatsoever.” - *Spiritual Experiences* 739

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church  
2025.08.31

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

The Board met for their final monthly meeting on June 10, 2025. The Board discussed normal business and status of Church and School activities, held an extensive discussion on the budget for

the next fiscal year, and planned for the upcoming Society Annual meeting.

The Society Annual meeting was held on Friday June 13 and called to order with 28 members present. After worship and approval of minutes, two Memorial Resolutions were offered and approved to remember our friends Carina Heinrichs and James Needer. The resolutions are presented after these notes. A slate of nominations was presented to fill positions on the Board of Trustees and School Board. A motion was passed to approve the full slate, and the following board members were elected:

- Board of Trustees: Lincoln Smith was elected to continue as a Trustee, and new members Erin Stillman and Phil Zuber were elected. Thanks to Craig Cooper and David Glenn for their past service.
- School Board: Charlotte Radcliffe and Paige Sweeney were elected. Thanks to Gillian Frazier and Jenny Smith for their past service.

Treasurer Brent Hyatt presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which after discussion was approved. Bill Kunkle presented for the Contributions Committee, and after discussion presented two motions to ensure focus on our Society's fiscal health, ensuring timely consideration of budgets, and ensuring our Endowment payout is focused on long term viability. The Society also approved adoption of the Relationship Statement between the Washington Society and the General Church.

The first Board of Trustees meeting of the new fiscal year will be held on Tuesday September 9, 2025.

Respectfully, Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.

### **Memorial Resolution for Carina Heinrichs:**

The Washington Church of the New Jerusalem lost a good friend with the passing of Carina Nicole Heinrichs on December 24, 2024. Carina was a pillar of the Society since she joined in 2012. She served as the 1st and 2nd grade home room teacher at WNCS for 12 years. She served as Theta Alpha Guild President organizing

the women to care for needs in the society. Carina was always surrounded by children and teens, who thrived in her warm and humorous but sincere presence. Her loving and good-humored presence in our church and school will be sorely missed.

Be it resolved that the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem on behalf of its members recognizes the significant service of Carina N. Heinrichs and gratefully acknowledges her many contributions.

### **Memorial Resolution for James Needer:**

I don't think Jim would have wanted a fancy resolution, so I'd like to just take a moment to reflect on the life of my classmate and friend, Jim Needer. He simply didn't do what he thought was wrong and honestly and faithfully did what was right. I celebrate by picturing him with a sweet angel wife and a home full of joy. Thank you for the time you spent with us, Jim.

### **From our Marketing Committee:**

Dear Friends,

In support of our marketing efforts to increase enrollment in the school, we are inviting weekly donors to augment our grants to fund social media outreach. Five donors have already joined the effort. These funds are used to help pay for weekly advertisements on Facebook, Instagram, and other platforms. Any donation is greatly appreciated and will help us increase our school's reputation and visibility. Ideal donation amounts are multiples of \$10. If you are interested in donating, please contact Brent Hyatt at [brent.hyatt@icloud.com](mailto:brent.hyatt@icloud.com). To learn more about our social media and advertising campaign, or to see examples of our outreach materials, contact Anders Croft at [andersscroft@gmail.com](mailto:andersscroft@gmail.com). One quick way to help out even if you can't donate is to follow WNCS on our Facebook and Instagram pages, (Washington New Church School and @wncschool)

Anders Croft

### **From the Contributions Committee**

Dear Members and Friends of the Washington New Church,

The Contributions Committee would like to extend a heart-felt **thank you** to EVERYONE for your generous and unwavering support to the Washington New Church Society and School!

As you may recall, the budget approved by the Society included a projected deficit of nearly \$155,000. If proven accurate, this would have exhausted our previous surpluses and required additional unsustainable withdrawals from our endowment. The good news is that, although we didn't fully close the gap, your generous donations (especially in June) helped reduce the deficit by 60 percent to just over \$61,000 — a fantastic show of support!

Your contributions have greatly helped our pastors, teachers, staff, and volunteers to foster an environment filled with hope, joy, and continued spiritual growth.

William Kunkle ~ Head, WNC Contributions Committee

### **WNCS 55 Years of Excellence**, *by Bonnie Cowley*

Last week the Washington New Church School opened its doors for its 55<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Somehow, our 50-year anniversary passed by, probably because of the pandemic. Though a big anniversary party may not happen until our 60<sup>th</sup> year, I think a mention of the 55<sup>th</sup> is in order.

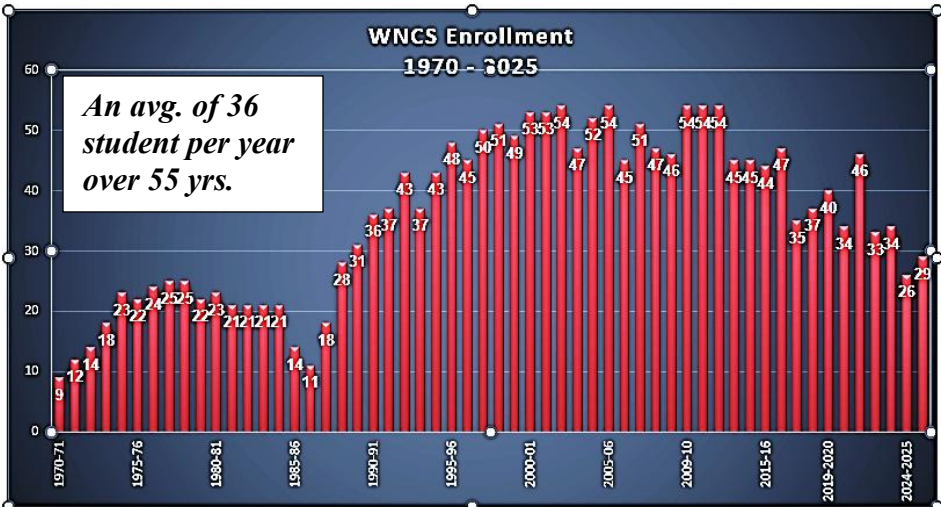
We had a great start, this past Wednesday with an enrollment of twenty-nine students. That may not seem like very many but the growth from last year is four more students.

[If you note that we lost five students, three who graduated two other who moved to other schools, this it's actually an increase of **nine** students!]



It is hard to know what to attribute this growth to, but it is likely caused by our increased efforts to market the school. This past year our new school website came online, and Ariel Martin has done a fantastic job of keeping it current. We also have a new and highly active Marketing group led by Anders and John Croft putting ourselves out on social media. Our Facebook page is updated daily with pictures and messages thanks to several of our teachers. We now have a presence on Instagram.

The bottom line is that I am an optimist. I looked at the chart below, and though I cannot miss the highs and lows of the school over time, I am still excited to see this new growth. Because of this growth, coupled with our recent vision upgrade, the hiring of new, young, talented teachers and the help of several seasoned volunteers, I am excited for the future. I get to watch WNCS in action every day and love what I see!



## SPRINKLEBERRY FARM & EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE

Hello everyone! I have decided to name this year "My Infrastructure Year on the Farm." I am growing a few veggies - tomatoes, corn, and celeriac, but I was so busy trying to get sheds placed, a coop and run built, tarps moved, existing plants mulched, that I did not pay enough attention to my corn, so it was very small. The

tomatoes are still going gangbusters, so if you are in need of cherry tomatoes or beefsteak tomatoes, let me know! Otherwise, I will be making lots of tomato sauce soon.

The good news is that my metal tool shed is no longer sitting on its



roof. Apparently, if they are not anchored down immediately, they may take a tumble for the worse and land on their heads. Even better news is that my chickens have a home! A beautiful coop that my dear friend Stephanie Kuykendall paid for; she had her handyman build it for me. She helped me finish the run, just in time for the Smiths to return from vacation to find no more chickens

in their yard. Adelaide and Acacia with the help of Alder (and perhaps Kai?) raised my hens and surprise rooster from babies into lovely, feisty teens. Of course, they named the rooster Sir Reginald, having recently performed Ballad of the Bremen Band which features a cocky rooster of the same name. My lovely hens, 14 of them, should begin laying eggs soon. I am about to begin the shed build for my future goats. As I have only weekends to work on it now, I am still hopeful that it won't take me the rest of the year to finish it. If anyone LOVES building, feel free to help. And, in October, I am having a high tunnel delivered and built for me. This will allow me to extend the growing season, which means I will be growing brassicas in the spring, tomatoes, eggplant and cucumbers in the summer and kale and radishes in the winter. I am blessed to have received a grant from The Natural Resources Conservation Service which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hopefully, I will be growing kale and radishes this winter!

I am also planning on expanding my blueberry bushes and am tarping the area for next Spring's strawberries! Wish me luck!

*Jana Sprinkle*



**TAG corner:** Women college age and over are cordially invited to attend the September Theta Alpha Guild meeting, on **Monday, September 22, at 7:30** at the Church (Zoom link also available). We

will be planning our year of supporting uses at the Church and School - we look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Mac will be joining us, to hear about how Theta Alpha Guild operates within the larger church structure.

Sharon Kunkle

### September News Notes

#### **Nothing But News**

Private Phineas Ingalls wrote in his diary on July 2, 1775, shortly after the famous battle of Bunker Hill: “Rained. A new general from Philadelphia.” And George Washington, “an imposing, confident figure” who “possessed the gift of silence” arrived in Cambridge, Mass. to assume command of the Continental Army. (See “The British Are Coming” by Rick Atkinson.) A lot of people died during those early skirmishes during that summer 250 years ago to get our country started on an 8-year path to independence.

#### **And how was your summer?**

**Kathy Johns** reports that “Our summer vacation was spent driving 2630 miles. We drove to **Sara & Matt Smith’s** cabin In Wisconsin and caught at least 40 bass from their lake. From there we traveled to Canada, seeing Lake Superior for the first time and traveling through Sault Ste Marie, Tobermory and Niagara Falls. A bucket list ride on the Maid of the Mist was our final stop. Safely back home to Brad’s studio and our dogs. And now we’re ready for grandparents’ duties: our fourth grandchild arrived via C-section on July 2nd. Sara Mae Johns; and she’s a beauty! Brad got through strep without too much impact on his voice, while Kathy has been helping a lot with the 5-, 3- and 2-year-olds. And now CAPS hockey season is about to start. Life is BUSY”



**Pat and Paige Sweeney** report that they are feeling healthy and blessed. "This summer was especially meaningful, highlighted by **Brenna and Austin's** joyful wedding - a beautiful outdoor ceremony surrounded by family and friends. Before the wedding, the Sweeneys enjoyed an enchanting getaway to the Emerald Isle, accompanied by their dear friends, **Monica and Keith Hyatt**. In late July, Pat participated in "Guitar Week" at the Swannanoa Gathering near Asheville, NC, where he enjoyed instruction by day, and concerts by night. "While the 12–15-hour days were exhausting, the experience was educational, inspiring, and very fun," Pat says. In early August they cherished a long weekend with their precious granddaughter all to themselves, and they are now wrapping up their summer season in OCNJ. God is good."

**Bill and Sharon Kunkle** are happy to report that the Big Island of Hawaii is still out there, in the middle of the ocean (we went to check and make sure). We traveled with Jamie and Julie Uber (our son's in-laws - does this make them outlaws?) and had a terrific time exploring all directions from our home base in Kona on the west coast of the island. We visited the currently active Kilauea caldera, which was steaming away, but didn't erupt until later in our trip, so no live shots of that. It's fun to learn about where coffee and macadamia nuts are grown, and how many kinds of lava there are! *[Rumor has it that **Erin Stillman** also hied off to Hawaii for a week in its special brand of sunshine while lolling about in the sand, while waiting for her house to be renovated.]*

And here is some more space-filling news for you: **Bonnie Cowley** reports that as far as she can tell no one else went anywhere ... no camps, no beaches, not even the mountains. But she reports that for two days she happily visited this small town in Pennsylvania that had castles and a cathedral. Even though it rained one of the days she found a great B & B [Chez Radcliffe – you ought to try it!] that had fabulous meals and a pool which even allowed Bonnie's numerous children and grandchildren to enjoy with her! Sorry the rest of you had such a boring summer. ☺

(The news notes editor is writing this from the mountains, where night-time temps are in the mid-forties to low fifties. In August!)

## Condolences:

We were saddened to hear of the untimely passing of **Rustin Needer** in an automobile accident last July. Rustin was the son of **Jay Needer** and nephew of **Nancy and Eugene Cole** and was a student at WNCS many years ago. He leaves a wife and two teen-aged children. Our condolences to his family.

### *September Anniversaries*

*“Love truly conjugal is from the Lord alone  
and exists with those who join good and truth  
from Him.”*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg AE 983 ~*



*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Daric & Jamie Simons ~ 11 yrs.*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ (Edwin) & Nancy Alford ~ 69 yrs.*

*Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Steve & Anne Ball ~ 38 yrs.*

*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bill & Sharon Kunkle ~ 41 yrs.*

*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ (Fred) & Carole Waelchli ~ 61 yrs.*

*Sept 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Lachy & Kate Maxwell ~ 22 yrs.*

*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Bradley & Christine Johns ~ 8 yrs.*



**A message from our Pittsburgh New Church friends Rad & Erin Sellner:**



Dear Gold Star Families and Friends, <https://americasgoldstarfamilies.org/about/gold-star-history>

It is with great honor and profound gratitude that we write to share news of a meaningful and lasting tribute coming to our community in Pittsburgh.

In partnership with the Woody Williams Foundation, we are bringing a **Gold Star Family Memorial Monument to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**. This solemn black granite monument is designed to honor the families of our fallen military heroes—those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and will be placed in the **Remembrance Garden at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum** in Oakland (PA).

It stands as a powerful symbol of love, loss, and the enduring strength of Gold Star families reflecting the themes of **Homeland, Family, Patriotism, and Sacrifice**—core values that unite all who have borne the weight of such loss.

As Gold Star family members, we understand the depth of what we and all Gold Star families have endured—and what we continue to carry. This monument will ensure that our loved ones are never forgotten, and their families are recognized as well for the price they have paid.

If you would like to learn more about the project, support its mission, please visit the Woody Williams Foundation with a dedicated page for the Pittsburgh Monument:

👉 <https://woodywilliams.org/monuments/pittsburgh-pa.html>

Your presence, support, and voice matter. With deep respect and unwavering gratitude, **Rad and Erin Sellner** ~ Gold Star Parents - In honor of their son, Karl Sellner

***For the full letter please see the lobby bulletin board.***