

November 2025

ECHO

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Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

Every year around this time, we start hearing two very different messages. One says, “Be thankful.” The other says, “Start shopping.”

And maybe that’s fine. After all, Thanksgiving and Christmas are only a few weeks apart, and the rhythm of one holiday naturally

flows into the other. But I do think it's worth noticing that the word *Thanksgiving* has two parts: *thanks and giving*. And they belong together. Gratitude and generosity are two sides of the same coin.

The Lord once said, “*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you*” (Luke 6:38). It's a wonderful image: the Lord's idea of generosity isn't stingy or careful, it's overflowing.

But He also said that we shouldn't give only to those who can repay us or love only those who love us back. True giving, He said, means lending “*expecting nothing in return.*” That's not just a rule for generosity; it's a whole way of life.

In *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine*, we read:

“Good that is really good must be done from a love of what is good and therefore for the sake of the good that is accomplished. When we devote our lives to this love, we do not want even to hear about getting credit, because we love what we are doing and find real pleasure in it.

(NJHD 152)

That's a high standard! But it's also deeply freeing. Because when we stop measuring whether we're getting a fair return on our kindness, we start to experience the joy of kindness itself.

I used an example once in a Thanksgiving talk that still makes me smile. Imagine me giving my wife, Gillian, an espresso machine for Christmas. On the surface it looks generous. But she doesn't drink coffee. I do. So, who's that gift really for?

We all do something like that from time to time. We do something for someone or give them a “gift” that, if we're honest, is more about ourselves than about our neighbor. Or that is at least somewhat for us as well as for the other person. But the Lord is inviting us into something richer: generosity that forgets about “what's in it for me.”

Real generosity isn't transactional. It's sacrificial. It's saying *yes* even when you won't get anything back. It's giving time to someone who can't repay it. It's helpful because it's good to help.

And when we do that—when we give freely—something spiritual happens. The Lord fills us with the same kind of joy that fills heaven. The Heavenly Doctrines teach that, “The delight itself that is found in doing good with no goal of getting something in return is the...reward that lasts to eternity.” (NJHD 156)

That's what makes generosity so powerful. It doesn't just bless the recipient; it changes the one who gives, as well.

So maybe this year as Thanksgiving approaches, instead of just counting blessings (which you should still do), maybe consider *sharing* them a little more freely.

- ~ *Say yes when it's inconvenient.*
- ~ *Give a compliment without expecting one back.*
- ~ *Forgive someone without expecting an apology.*
- ~ *Listen to someone's story all the way to the end.*
- ~ *Be generous not just with things, but with your time, your patience, your attention.*

When we live that way, our gratitude becomes something active — something that mirrors the Lord's own generosity. The Lord flows into it and into us, and so through us into the world.

Because this is how the Lord gives to us. He doesn't calculate whether we've earned it; He just keeps pouring out blessings, “*pressed down, shaken together, and running over.*” The only thing that limits what He can give us is how tightly we hold on to what we already have.

May your Thanksgiving this year be full of gratitude, and may your gratitude overflow into generosity that others will count as a blessing.

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor
Washington New Church, 2025.10.31

Executive Bishop Visit: Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. will be coming to Washington the weekend of November 14th – 16th.

We plan to have a Potluck supper on Friday beginning at 7:00pm followed by a presentation by the bishop at 8:00pm. Bishop Buss will also preach on Sunday the 16th.

Please join us! Don't forget to bring a potluck – Bring a dish based on the first letter of your last name.

Friday, November 14, 2025, Potluck

A -F: Dessert, G - R: Salad, S – Z: Entree

Thanksgiving Service:



As is our custom, the Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27th at 11:00am. This is a **family service**. All are welcome to bring a food or fruit offering. Fresh fruit will be delivered to WCNJ folks sick or in need and any non-perishable food will be delivered to a shelter or food bank in the area.

From the Board of Trustees:

The Board held its monthly meeting on October 14. The Pastor provided an update on his activities and focus for the coming year, including his duties as regional pastor. The Treasurer provided financial status as of September 30, reflecting strong income data, but warning of an expected increase in staff benefits due to an upcoming policy renewal with expected higher costs. The Board discussed several items of financial business including a new recycling contract for the church and status of restricted funds. The principal provided a report on the school and related topics, including discussion of the church grounds, snow removal, facility maintenance, staff planning, and planning for potential future challenges. Monthly topics included a discussion of Acton Park,

including the potential start of the solar project in the near term as well as property strategies; and a discussion of a winter society meeting to discuss the governance structure for WCNJ. The next board meeting will be held on November 11.

Respectfully ~ Sharon Cooper, Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.



Theta Alpha Guild: Women college age and above are cordially invited to the TAG uses meeting on Monday, November 17 at 7:30 in the school library. We'll be finalizing plans for our visit from Bishop Peter Buss November 14 to 16, as well as holiday planning volunteers and a new event in 2026. We look forward to seeing you there!

“Souper” Sundays - Thanks all for coming out to our 2025-26 “Souper” Sunday kickoff picnic. Wow! What delicious soups and bread!



And don't forget, every few weeks the ladies get cooking and will provide soup and bread for sale! The next two “Souper” Sundays: Sunday, November 9th and 30th. Come to church ready to purchase soup and bread for lunch or dinner or just to stock up for when you forgot to plan a supper one night.

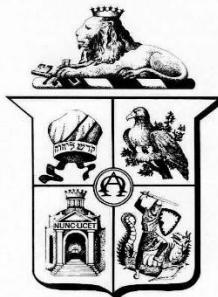
Proceeds benefit one half to TAG and one half to WCNJ General Fund.

NEWS IS US:

And now you know what an October looks like when it doesn't rain much and is cooler than most. The woodpile is replenished, the fireplace is ready, the colorful leaves have covered the grass so we can ignore the need for mowing for a while, walks in the woods are exhilarating – and mosquito-free – and it hasn't started snowing yet. It has been a good candidate for best month of the year. Unless you happen to work for the Federal Government. But that's another story.

Charter Day:

The Church was eerily quiet on Sunday the 12th of October with the double-whammy of an out-of-town family wedding and the Academy's Charter Day celebration. You-all were missed, but for worthy causes. We didn't track Charter Day attendees but congratulate **Mary Cooper** on the celebration of her 70th year class reunion, which was a joyful, but sedate, gathering of long-time friends.



The **Kunkles** enjoyed a sunny Charter Day for **Bill's** 50th ANC class reunion and a full weekend of activities with former classmates. Before heading home Sunday, they enjoyed a well-attended brunch on the newly reinvigorated Bryn Athyn College of the New Church campus, which included a State of the College presentation by President Sean Connelly. College alumni (whether ANCC/BACNC) - keep your eyes peeled for opportunities to support our alma mater - it's one of a kind and its mission is crucial in helping students find their purpose in the Lord's kingdom.

Congratulations:

To **Spencer and Christine Cowley** on their marriage on Saturday, October 11th at the Lacawac sanctuary in the Pocono mountains near Lake Wallenpaupack. Spencer and mom Angela and stepdad Charles Radcliffe were long-time residents of our Society, so lots of Radcliffes and Cowleys from here were in attendance, along with Spencer's father (Chris Fields) and paternal grandmother (Judith Amstutz) and many of Christine's family. It was a beautiful day for an outdoor wedding in a great setting and the rain held off until everyone was under cover in a large, well-decorated tent.

To **Hanna and Derek Hyatt** on the birth of **Baby Hyatt**, born on Wednesday afternoon, October 29! He was over 5 weeks early, but is doing well, all things considered. He was 6 lbs. 14 oz, and is perfect, according to all who have met him. Hanna is her usual

cheerful self and is recovering well. Derek, Hugo, Lila, and Ruthie make up an instant and enthusiastic cheering section for both baby and mama.

School Notes:

Interesting times at the school, as usual. While the 3rd and 4th graders made bugs, the Kindergarteners became bugs and made bread. As a result, the place was a zoo, and drove the faculty ... um, buggy? The swat team arrived in time to ensure that all is now peaceful.

Apparently, the 5th and 6th graders have been making hand-pies. One hesitates to ask what they were made of, although the published report claims it was apples. They were said to be delicious, but we will have to take their word for it.

On the very last day of October to replace the Halloween party, WNCS students, teachers and many parent helpers took the afternoon off to experience many old autumn traditions.

Remember bobbing for apples? Yep! After much thought, **Candy Q.** figured out a way to have the kids experience this fun game hygienically! And all the students tried it. They also had an opportunity to catch a donut hanging on a string - with hands behind their backs - another old-fashioned game. Add to that, candle dipping, pumpkin carving, archery and several carnival games, the day was a wonderful success. Thanks to Candy for planning this and all the teachers and parent helpers!

Supreme Court of The WNCS

This past week the 7th & 8th graders did a simulation of a supreme court case - **Marcellus Smith** had petitioned the school that it was unfair (unconstitutional) of **Principal Brian Smith** to select Oct. 31 as the only uniform free day for October when students usually wear Halloween clothes that day. Because the 7th & 8th are learning about US laws and the courts, **Miss Ariel** decided to have Mr. Smith served the petition and the plaintiff took it to the supreme court. Wednesday afternoon the "Congress" [5th -8th graders] were assembled. The petitioner – Marcellus with Ariel Martin as Counsel, and the plaintiff - Brian Smith - representing

himself, appeared before three justices, **Michael Ferrell, Carole Waelchli, and Chief Justice Mac Frazier** to present his arguments. On Friday, the court came down with its final decision, granting the students another uniform-free day.

October Work party and such:

It occurred on schedule and was a tremendous success. Profuse thanks to the many WNCS families and children, church society members and friends who were able to participate in this annual event and who all worked side by side to really beautify the building and grounds. It began with a pancake & sausage breakfast starting at 8am. Pancake makers **Bonnie Cowley** and early bird helpers, **Roxanna Fuentes & Erin Stillman** started off the day, with **Lola Ayodeji and Glenn Frazier** helping a bit later to allow Bonnie to supervise the work that was beginning at 9:00. **Bill Kunkle and Eric Genzlinger** spent weeks before, scraping, cleaning, and cutting in the very long wall on the west side of the building that was much needing a lot of tender loving care. Then a painting crew of 8 or 10 people provided two coats of paint (which is what painting crews do). That was a lot of wall to paint on a Saturday morning, but the pancakes helped, as did extending the



morning to 1:30pm. Meanwhile, a mass of people (did we mention we had a great turnout?) dug the weeds out of the gardens, pruned back overgrown plants and bushes, hauled mulch from the mulch piles, and covered **every** flower bed with mulch. It all looks great!!!

It should be noted that the 1st and 2nd graders have been working to reclaim a garden patch outside their classroom window, learning how to recognize and remove weeds, plant chrysanthemums and

shrubs, and strew wildflower seeds in preparation for spring. All done as good training for Society work parties, maybe?

Thanks again for the great music produced at a recent Church service by our marvelous musicians – including our newest violinist, **Adelaide Smith**. We enjoy your music-making and appreciate the hard work it takes to sound like that.

November Anniversaries

“Those in love truly conjugal are not separated by the death of one; for the spirit of the deceased continues to dwell with the spirit of the one not yet deceased.”

Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 321



Nov. 1st ~ Dan & Jeanine Federline ~ 12 yrs.

Nov. 3rd ~ Bob & Bea Newkirk ~ 63 yrs.

Nov. 11th ~ Court & Elaine Lee ~ 53 yrs.

Nov. 19th ~ (Barry) & Erin Stillman 31 yrs.