

December 2011

ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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www.theWNC.org

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Dear Friends,

Christmas is on a Sunday this year, I wonder if this will affect the attendance at that worship service in a positive way? Meanwhile the Christmas EVE service will be scheduled as always at 7:00 pm. (We considered shifting it to an earlier time, but got a lot of push-back about the idea, and so decided to leave it as is for this year.)

Don't forget, though, that the month begins with an Advent doctrinal class on the 2nd, quarterly **holy supper** on the 4th, and the very special **Theta Alpha Guild program** at 7:00 pm also on the 4th – given this year by Rev. Ryan Sandstrom. School holidays begin for us on Friday, the 16th, with a school party that morning.

Also, remember! – there's NO SERVICE here on Sunday morning, the 18th, but instead of that we have our annual **tableaux service at 5:00 pm**, this year presented by the children of WNCS.

The Christmas Story

There are only two versions of the Christmas story, one in Matthew, and the other in Luke. Matthew's version is shorter and focuses much more heavily than Luke on Old Testament prophecy, including the whole genealogy from Abraham to the birth of the Lord. Luke, by contrast, tells first about the conception and birth of John the Baptist, and then goes on to include prophecies by Mary, Zacharias, the angels and Simeon, all New Testament stuff.



In the core details about the Lord's birth Matthew features Joseph, the Wise Men and Herod, whereas Luke features Zacharias, Mary, Elizabeth, a host of angels and the shepherds.



What can we make of these distinctions?

Over the years many scholars, including our own Bishop George deCharms in his epic "Life of the Lord," have worked hard to integrate and correlate the two stories, setting the events in consecutive order – just as we try to do in the annual Christmas tableaux. But it is also possible to view the two accounts as progressive in nature, Matthew being complete in itself as a story focusing on the intellectual aspects of our regeneration, and Luke being complete in *itself*, focusing on a more advanced state involving the regeneration of the will.

We can also see Matthew in a context of obedience, that is, just getting the message and doing as instructed, being aware of the

threats and temptations that accompany the good news, and then in Luke we have a much more uplifting message, *inspiring* the characters and featuring a good deal of celebration.

It's almost like what the Writings tell us about the two states of our spiritual growth, reformation and regeneration. In the first state we focus on learning and practicing. In the second we start to enjoy the life of charity and feel good about it. We recognize and commit to the first state in baptism, and to the second in the holy supper (see TCR 571 & 721).

In the meantime think about the two stories; compare and contrast them. Which is your favorite? Why? Or what particular elements in both do you find resonating in your life?

Don't forget, every word has a spiritual sense, verbs and adjectives generally indicating the same use or function on the spiritual plane as they do on the natural, while nouns and adverbs have to be "translated" from matters of space and time to matters of the spirit.

Finally, for those interested, we will have a booklet ready at the beginning of December (published by the church in Glenview, IL) offering daily readings in the letter of the Word and in the doctrines leading up to Christmas. Look for it in the supper room at the church, or write or call if you'd like one sent to you. You can even subscribe to the readings on www.newchurch.org and the selections will be automatically delivered daily.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Gladish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From the Assistant Pastor

Through the prophet Joel, the Lord says "behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations' (Joel 3: 1-2). We learn in the Heavenly Doctrine that by certain expressions in the Word such as "that day," "in that day" and "in that time" is meant the Lord's Advent (Lord 4). Why did the Lord come into the world? The Lord visited His people: to restore peace in heaven and on earth; to

restore order in the spiritual world; to establish the Christian Church; to provide an example of how we should live, to glorify His Human; and to make Himself visible so we can know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one God of heaven and earth.

Once again the season of Advent has arrived. During these joyous times, I'd like to encourage everyone to remember the Lord. So great is His love for humanity that words cannot express the depths of His love, depths prompting Him to come into the world to save and redeem. The Lord's birth and life in the world is the most profound of all miracles. It is true that the Lord came into the world at one special time and place. As we turn to Him as our Lord and Savior, He is coming again in our daily lives. Rejoice! For the Lord is come.

Michael

Doctrinal Classes & Special Events in December

Sun, the 4th ~ Theta Alpha Guild Christmas Program ~ Refreshments 7:30 pm , program 8:00 pm at the Zuber's gracious home. Refreshments and a short worship will precede the talk by Rev. Ryan, who says, "Winter is approaching and we brace for colder weather, yet the Christmas season invites a lot of warmth despite the cold. We will explore this contrast in relation to the circumstances of the world at the time of the Lord's birth. As always this will be followed by hymn and carol singing.

Fri, the 9th 7:00 pm Friday Supper (pot luck)

8:00 pm Doctrinal Class: The Wise Men from the east presented three gifts to the Lord: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We will examine what it means to give to the Lord, the spiritual symbolism of these gifts, and their importance in our lives. ~ MEF

Sat, the 10th 8:30 am ~ Men's breakfast book discussion at T.J. Elliott's Restaurant in Bowie – postponed from last month, all men, high school and up, are welcome!

Sat, the 17th 7:30 pm ~ Annual Christmas Party at Brad and Kathy Johns' home. See page 9 of this ECHO for details.

Sermon THEMES for December

Please note all Sunday morning services begin at 11:00 am

Dec. 4th ~ Holy Supper Service on the relevance of Advent prophecy in our lives today. Part of the idea here is to see the prophetic elements in the holy supper: our regeneration is not a “done deal” at any time, but we can get support for it and a blessing of hope in this special ritual. ~ MDG

Dec. 11th ~ Informal Family Service: The annunciation to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord is with you." This is the season to rejoice, not only because the Lord is with us but because **you** are also "highly favored." ~ RMS

Dec. 18th ~ Christmas Tableaux, 5:00 PM [Note the time! ~ There is NO MORNING SERVICE this day.] Instead the tableaux service will be presented in the sanctuary after a dress rehearsal mid-afternoon. Immediately after this service light refreshments will be served, followed by a hymn and carol sing in the supper room. Crafts will also be provided for the little ones in the 1st – 2nd grade classroom during the sing. After all that the youth group, directors and other volunteers may be dismantling the tableaux sets and putting things away. ~ MDG

Dec. 24th, at 7:00 pm~ Christmas Eve: a festival service for the whole family on why the Lord's coming was so important for the whole world and what exactly about this we have to be so very thankful for. ~ MDG/RMS

Dec. 25th ~ Christmas Day: Christ is Born! And the shepherds made haste to see what the angel had told them about. The Lord is "born" into our lives every day, but sometimes not in obvious ways, yet there will still be much rejoicing.... ~ RMS

Jan. 1st ~ unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain (John 12:24). Another year has ended. Even so, we still have opportunity for new beginnings. Our theme will focus upon taking fresh starts ~ MEF

From the School



The holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas always bring a special sphere of excitement, anticipation and enjoyment of all the associated traditions at WNCS. This year we begin to ready the school with the annual **Christmas Decorating** on December 2nd. The students are the ones who make your building and campus look festive and bright. School closes for the holidays at noon on Friday, December 16 after our school **Christmas Party**. There will be no student Christmas Program this year because throughout December the students will be rehearsing during school with Mrs. Kunkle in order to present the **Christmas Tableaux** to the church society on Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Students will need to arrive at the church by 4:00 p.m. on that day. If you are planning to be out of town, please let us know right away, so that we can plan accordingly.

If *you* are feeling the generous spirit of the season there are a couple things you could do for WNCS this December. WNCS has a wish list that includes everything from band aids to laptops. We have many needed supplies that would help us save money. If you want to wrap one up and place it under the church tree in the supper room, it would be a welcome surprise! Also, a great help would be to let people know about WNCS. If you get together with neighbors, coworkers, or are simply waiting in a long check-out line, you could probably find a way to tell people about our school. If anyone wants the date, our Open House will be on Feb. 15, 2012.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas holiday with your friends & family.

Be on time to start the new year on January 2, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.



From the Board of Trustees:

Notes from the Joint BoT and School Board meeting on November 1, 2011:

1. The Pastor reported on the new contributions program being developed; requested feedback on starting the Christmas Eve service at 5pm this year, as it falls on a Saturday; and mentioned that roofing repairs have been completed, but insulation is still needed.
2. The Treasurer reported on current income vs. expenses, and noted that he will attend the General Church Treasurers meetings in Glenview on November 4.
3. The School Board reported on their committee work, including School Finance; Tuition Assistance; Tuition Collection; and Strategic Planning. The boards discussed the various scholarship and tuition assistance funds, and how to clarify and unify the funds. The SB presented planning for the new Parent Service Program, which will require all school parents to volunteer a stated number of hours per school year to assist in various areas, starting next school year.
4. The BoT reported on facilities; maintenance; governance subcommittee; upcoming Society meetings (November 4 and January TBD); roles and responsibilities of Board members; and upcoming monthly topics.

The next BoT meeting will be on December 6, 2011 at 8pm at the Church. The special topic will be finances, including fundraising, contributions, investments, tuition, and budgeting for next year. Please contact Chair Angela Radcliffe if you have items to include on the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADOPT A FAMILY for the holidays! The YWCA Angel Tree project reaches out to gracious sponsors for needy clients and their families to provide them with holiday gifts. Would you like to be a sponsor? Would you like to teach your children the value of helping others less fortunate than you? Would you like that warm and fuzzy feeling of knowing a young child has a warm winter coat, or

a blanket, or even food for the holidays because of you? You can select the family you wish to sponsor. Maximum suggested contributions are gifts of \$75.00 per individual and \$200.00 per family, but any amount will be gratefully received. Gift cards can be offered in lieu of actual gifts, allowing parents to select items they need for their children. Our client parents have provided wish lists of items most desperately needed. *Please call Beata Kinsey (301) 219-2159 or see her after church on Sunday, November 27 if you would like to adopt a family. Gifts need to be delivered to the YWCA in Arnold, MD by December 15, or to Beata by Dec. 14.*



*You are Cordially Invited To the
Annual Theta Alpha Christmas Program
Sunday the 4th*



Refreshments 7:30 pm Program begins at 8:00 pm

At the home of Phil and Janna Zuber

Rev. Ryan Sandstrom

Come one and all, men and women

Enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of the Zuber home

Refreshments and caroling

Tableaux Crafts: Children ~4th grade and under are welcome to come for supervised Christmas crafts after the Tableaux, in the 1/2 classroom. This should allow parents to enjoy singing Christmas carols, even if the younger children are too fidgety to sit still. Older children should remain seated with their parents.

~ Sharon Croft Cooper

Book Study Group: Every other Wednesday a small friendly group gathers at Becca Smith's to have a book discussion. Currently the group is reading and discussing the book of Judges. This is a very welcoming group and they are always looking for more

members. Their next meeting is Wednesday, November 30 @ 8:00 pm, December 14th and so on. For more information and to join, call or email Becca at 202-834-0343, beccalek@yahoo.com.

Little Church Banks: It's that time again to bring your **Little Church Bank** to the church. Hopefully you and your children have been pouring all your loose change through its roof so that we can put the funds into building a new roof over our proposed addition. Please deliver your bank to the Tableaux, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day church service and leave on the glass case. It's one way for your child(ren) to remember that it's important for them to give a gift to the church. Every penny counts. The Little Church Bank saving program started many years ago, so if your family doesn't have a church bank, please let us know and we will make sure you get one. Thank you for remembering your school at Christmas time!

The Johns Annual Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 7:30 >?

College age and up are warmly invited to stop by for a moment or stay the whole evening!

If you'd like, please bring a small wrapped gift for a fun exchange. Out of town guests and family are most welcome.

~ The more the merrier ~

2012 Echo Directories: The new directory is now available for pick up. Thanks to everyone for getting me their changes, additions and corrections before we went to print. Please feel free to pick up more than one directory so that you can have one for your office or car. If you can't pick one up, and would like me to mail you one, please call the office. A PDF version will also be available via e-mail.

I would like to thank Ginny Gladish for her hours of volunteer help putting this directory together... thanks, Ginny! ~ Bonnie

A Special Note about the Directory: It can be very difficult deciding who should be in the directory. I like to include the single young people who are away at school so that we can remember to connect with them and remind them that the Washington Society is a great place to settle down once school is over. I like to remember those who serve our country especially when they are deployed. In general, however, once our young people are married and living outside of the Washington area I no longer include them in the directory as they are beginning to establish their families in other societies, circles or even as isolated New Church men and women. Sadly my decision to exclude 3 of our married service personnel from the 2012 Directory was not received well. I plan to rethink this decision for the 2013 Directory taking broader counsel from the pastoral staff and others here. Know, however, that I have an extensive data base that I try very hard to keep up to date that not only includes our married service personnel but also many of our young people that live outside of our society. Please feel free to call me for their contact information. ~ Bonnie Cowley



We recently received our yearly check

for GoodSearch/GoodShop. Over \$240! Not bad for easy money. It could be even more if all of you who shop on line (especially at Christmas time) when through **GoodShop**. There are so many stores now that participate in this fundraiser; even stores you think would not be on the GoodShop list are there. I'm kicking myself for ordering some expensive sound equipment for the church and didn't check to see if Zzounds was on the list... it is and it would have donated 5% to the church. It's easy – go to this web-site: www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx, follow instructions to pick our school and then **SHOP!** Better yet, download the Washington New Church GoodSearch toolbar. Once you have that, it alerts you to any store online that donates and has coupons. Support our cause when you search or shop online! <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/washington-new-church-and-school> ~ Bonnie Cowley

SE District Scholarship Fund: Southeastern District Scholarship Funds are available to anyone who lives in the SE district who would like assistance with paying for education at the Academy High School, the Bryn Athyn college or the Theological School.

Applications should include the name(s) of the student. Their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their child and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2012, for those hoping to attend in the 2012/2013 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

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*Please join us for a cocktail shower for
Jessica Hyatt and Owen Frazier*

*When: Thursday, December 22, 2011
5:00-8:00pm*

*Where: 11916 Progress Lane
Mitchellville, MD 20721*

Men and women, college age and up are welcome!

Hosts: Michelle Bond and Cathlin Hyatt 240-678-8914

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News Notes

It must be that time of year again... you know the time for children when all clocks seem to tick ever so slowly through the month of December until Christmas, yet for adults seem to pass in the blink of an eye until after Christmas. This year November too has disappeared... so fast that I cannot remember all the news. Thankfully some of you have shared your good and sad news with us so we can share with you.

October's last gasps: In the final days of October the church and school had two great events beginning with the Scholastic Book Fair running the last weekend in October - Our wonderful Book

Fair chairwoman, Sharon Croft, reported that we sold \$1831.39 worth of books. We also collected \$90 for One for Books (which means Scholastic will donate 90 books to underprivileged children!). We earned \$732.56 in Scholastic Dollars for the school, which can be used to purchase books, supplies and equipment. And to top it all off, all of the classroom wish lists were filled. Way to go! This was right on par with what we did last year, despite the snow! Thanks, Sharon.

Saturday of that same weekend was the Chili Cook-Off, of course you might suspect that the cook-off was a bust because of the snow, but a hardy group gathered in the supper room, outside around the grill or in the Kindergarten room getting their faces painted and had a really fun time. We were pleased to have some of our new WNCs parents join in the fun and bring dishes to the contest and friends too. Siri Dubois' aunt Margaretta won first prize for her Turkey Chili, 2nd prize went to Paige Sweeney – Veggie Chili & 3rd prize to Candy Quintero for her Pumpkin Chili. In the grilled meat department Bonnie Cowley took 1st place with her herbed-sauced ribs and Annette Baltz & Amanda Hyatt tied for 2nd place with their own special recipe for Pulled Pork... YUM!

After stuffing ourselves the SMURFS (Special Music Usually Reserved For Family Services) treated us to a sing-a-long. What fun that was... have you ever heard all of the words to "My Darlin' Clementine"? Then to top it all off, the Karaoke machine (kindly lent to us by the Kinseys) came out and much more fun was had... Erica Napier knocked our socks off with her rendition of "Get here if you can". Even the young people joined in singing Beatles, Justin Beiber and other popular tunes. All-in-all it was a great evening. Thanks to Candy Quintero and Annette Baltz for organizing this event.

Now on to November: First up was the society semi-annual meeting filled with the usual reports. Money's tight like it is everywhere, but it is nice to know what a hard working group of Trustees, School Board, Committee members and even individuals are putting in the time to find ways to keep us afloat... of course your contributions are always appreciated!

Speaking of contributions...lots of people turned out to “contribute” their time at the work party on the 5th. The morning began with a great breakfast of pancakes, sausage, muffins, coffee and juice put on by David and Amy Glenn. Greg Baltz (our building committee head) marshaled the troops and got a whole lot of work done! Eugene Cole and son Kyle, Mike Brannon and Greg stayed long into the afternoon finishing their projects. A few weeks following Avi and Aubrey Hernandez worked on finishing the painting in the girl’s restroom that was begun at the work party. Thanks for all who came and worked!

More hard work: Several members of the WCNJ Youth Group were out and about raking leaves beginning at the home of Vera Kluss since she has a huge yard with lots of leaves!

Visit from the General Church financial officers: On the evening of November 10th Duane Hyatt and Dave Frasier came here to meet with our Board of Trustees. Reports are that the communication was good and useful. We really appreciate Duane and Dave’s effort to help us work through these tough financial times.

11-11-11: WNCS again celebrated Veteran’s Day with a special chapel service, flag pole ceremony and veteran’s lunch. Shortly after a detail of WNCS soldiers/color guard raised the flag, veteran John Kern spoke eloquently on the history of Veteran’s Day. A reporter from the Gazette News was also there and snapped a great picture of Charlotte Radcliffe and others, which was published in TWO local papers! Following the ceremony, Monica Hyatt and crew put on a lovely lunch for veterans, teachers and parents.

Faith and Works #Three: Saturday, November 12 we were treated to a lecture, complete with slide and video by MAJ Aaron Smith. The title of his talk “First in, Last out” referred to his two major deployments to Iraq – first at the beginning of the war helping search for weapons of mass destruction and then back again this past year as part of operation Freight Train moving massive amounts of supplies and soldiers around that country.

Thanks, Aaron, for speaking to us!

Hot Topic: If you have been reading the New Church Life magazine you may have been following the discussion on the use of wine in the Holy Supper. The most recent issue of the magazine has a lengthy article by our pastor on this very topic. If you don't subscribe the NCL you can get it online at www.newchurch.org.

Big Estate Sale: This past week the Zubers had a sale of the abundant property from the estate of Janet Doering (Nini). Kathy and Bradley Johns, Jr. (Bisty) ran the sale helping the family with the mundane work of liquidating the estate. The final hurdle will be the actual sale of the house. **Please** if you have any interest in this house – right in Acton Park - or know of someone who may be interested in it for themselves or for an investment, contact Phil Zuber – przuber@verizon.net.

Travelers: Jean Allen took a week to join her sister at Glen Tonche, NY. She reports that the weather was beautiful though peak color had passed for the New York highlands. However, she says that driving home through New Jersey was a real treat!

Annette Baltz and her daughter Lucy travelled to Lake Wallenpaupak, PA for a long weekend with all three of Annette's sisters and her mom as well as one of Lucy's cousins, Faith. Must be sister reunion time!

Ginny Gladish is off again! This time to visit her son Brett and his family in Arizona and then to spend Thanksgiving with them on a Mexico beach! (Note from the Echo Editor – please don't go away next month, I much prefer your News Notes! – Bonnie).

On Injured Reserve: John Allen took a fall off of a ladder doing some outside painting. Seems he was more worried about getting the painting done than getting medical help since he called Avi Hernandez to come and help... paint... not take him to the hospital. And since his wife Jean was up at Glen Tonche with her sister for the week, John drove himself to the doctors with... as it turns out, a broken radius and ulna! But the painting got done and he is first kid on the block to get a burgundy Redskin's cast - even has flecks of gold - what a fan!

Alan Childs – father of Martha Brannon passed suddenly into the Spiritual World last week after a fall – He was 81 years old and already in failing health. All the family gathered in Florida over the weekend of Nov. 20th for the memorial service conducted by Rev. Kurt Horigan Asplundh.

Finally... It is with utmost sadness that many of us heard the news of Drew Cox being suddenly called to the spiritual world this past November 16. Drew, age 20, was the son of Pat and Charley Cox and younger brother to his sister Samantha.

The Cox family lived in Enterprise Estates and moved to Florida 8 years ago. While here in Maryland they were searching for a better school for their then young children and "checked us out". It was a perfect fit! Sam and Drew easily fit into the school and were well loved by teachers and peers. The family embraced both school and church with open arms and hearts and we they. There was nary an event in which they were not involved in, and we were all saddened to have such an active family leave us.

We all mourn the loss of Drew's young life here on earth and wish that we were only closer to go give them more support. The Cox family will be kept in our prayers as they travel the hard route of the loss of a child.

In Drew's honor a scholarship has been established at MMI in Arizona - the school he loved so much. Tax deductible donations may be sent to: The Drew Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o UTI Foundation, Suite 100, 16220 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Next Echo... Thanksgiving and Christmas recap. Make sure you give the News Notes Editor your holiday travels, visitors etc. by emailing ginnygladish@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas All!

December Anniversaries

“Conjugal love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven - and the fundamental of all the delights and joys of heaven.

~ Emanuel Swedenborg ~ AE 993



Dec. 6th ~ George & Mary Cooper ~ 53 yrs.

Dec. 19th ~ Brad & Kathy Johns ~ 30 yrs.

Dec. 23rd ~ Aoi & Aubrey Hernandez ~ 6 yrs.

Dec. 27th ~ Jerry & Deena Odhner ~ 42 yrs.

Dec. 30th ~ Joel & Didi Trimble ~ 49 yrs.

