

September 2009

ECHO

Newsletter of the
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www.washingtonnewchurch.org

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Dear Friends,

Welcome back to a new season at the church and school. This promises to be a pretty interesting year as we adapt to new conditions and also actively engage in new uses, not to mention moving forward on Acton Park development. I feel very fortunate to be here among you at this time, and very energized (apart from the heat) by all that is and will be going on.

Now, speaking as “the new guy,” I appreciate the advice that we not make too many changes too quickly under the new regime. Still, fresh eyes bring opportunities, some of which may be useful enough to explore right away. One of these is the following: -

Beginning this month in the ECHO we will be announcing the preachers and all the sermon topics for the month in advance. If possible we will also list the class topics. I know that there has been a custom in the church for decades not to do this, on the principle that people should come to church no matter what. But I feel there are other principles that trump that one.

1. It gives people who may be planning to bring a friend to church the opportunity to choose a topic (and a preacher) that is well suited to that friend’s needs or interests, thus it is a tool for outreach.
2. It gives people who may be in strife over some particular issue, let’s say a nasty divorce, to take note of a sermon topic that may be very difficult for them at that time, let’s say the joys of marriage, and opt to read the Word at home that Sunday, or perhaps hear a sermon online.
3. It gives everyone a chance to prepare for the topic by doing some reading or reflecting on their own if they wish, possibly based on suggested references in the sermon announcements themselves.

4. Finally, it helps us as ministers to start focusing well ahead of time on our topics, and it also helps us to ensure a good balance of topics and sermon types (expositional, pastoral, hortatory, etc.) Once we commit we're obliged to follow through (barring some emergency), and I think that's useful, too.

Please note we have scheduled **Holy Supper** for Sunday, September 20th. As I believe has been the custom in the recent past, this important act of worship will be presented toward the end of a "regular" service so that the children benefit as usual from their lesson and talk before going out to Sunday School.

In the New Church we are accustomed to the phrase concerning the holy supper that it is "the most holy act of worship" (NJHD 210), and that only those who are "worthy" can be conjoined with the Lord through this ritual (TCR 719 – 730). Thus some find the whole prospect of the sacrament quite intimidating. But note two things: first, the phrase "the most holy act" comes from a Latin superlative that really only means "very holy." In fact there is no article adjective in Latin (the original language of our doctrines), thus no "a" or "the." Translators have to supply those words if they are called for in English. This means that while it is "a most holy act" it is not necessarily "the most holy act," and so if you are unable to participate you are *not* necessarily missing the most vital experience of your devotional life.

On the other hand, you need not be intimidated by the statements about worthiness. If you hunger and thirst for righteousness and you are not engaged in some deliberate evil or hypocrisy then you are worthy (more about this in the first Friday class on the 11th). You may not be fully regenerated, but who is? If you are on the regenerative track and are asking for the Lord's help there is no better time or reason to come to the Lord's Table. Furthermore, we read, the Lord "is also present with those who approach the holy supper *unworthily*," it's just that "He does not open heaven to them" (TCR 719).

Preparation for the sacrament is important. And you can prepare well by reading the chapter on it in the *True Christian Religion*, as well as #530 concerning repentance, and then by just working on improving one small area of your life so you can feel the Lord's support for that when you come forward.

If you choose to participate on the 20th you may notice some small changes in the bread and wine that are offered. We will be trying a "new" recipe for the bread which we hope you will find especially pleasing, and we will be using a *naturally fermented* red table wine without any added alcohol or sugar. It, too, should be very pleasing and the representation will be free of any unnecessary manipulation (again, more about all of this in the class). Finally, note that individual cups will be available for those who have health concerns, but we believe the risk of contamination through the common cup is extremely low.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. Certainly it has been a very "moving" experience for Ginny and me, and we are truly basking in the delight of being here, grateful for all the tremendous Ohelp and support many of you have given to help us settle in.



SERMON TOPICS FOR SEPTEMBER

6th **How Unbelievers Can Get to Heaven.** How the Lord provides for the salvation of ALL, what really stands in the way of salvation, and why Jesus said no one comes to the Father except through HIM (John 14:6). – MDG

13th **FAMILY SERVICE: “Our Daily Bread,” the mannah from heaven and the Divine Providence in every aspect of our lives.** Note this service – with lots of visual aids and “easy” music – is for children AND adults. - MDG

13th **TRADITIONAL:** Candidate Ron Schnarr will preach on **the Lord’s Miracle of Feeding the 5,000** (Matthew 14:13-21). Note, this ties in perfectly with the family service theme and will build on the earlier message for those who stay on.

20th Both pastors on chancel together, with readings and **an address on the Holy Supper** – in preparation for the sacrament which will be offered this day. See the notes on page 3 in this ECHO.

27th **Everybody Has Problems.** Get some perspective on the things that trouble you. The Lord has much to teach us about the purpose of our trials in this life. - MDG

PASTOR’S COUNCIL

One of the provisions for leadership in a congregation of the General Church is a pastor’s council. The main differences between a pastor’s council and a board of trustees are:

Pastor’s Council	Board of Trustees
Appointed by the Pastor	Elected by the Membership
Gives Leadership Guidance	Executes & Manages
Advisory	Legislative

Going forward in this congregation my plan is to have a council of about 12 members, each of whom will represent some particular group or segment of the congregation, e.g., older & younger, male & female, married & single, local & not local, school & non-school, various family “clans,” and so on. My objective will be to provide not just for wise counsel but for *varied* counsel from as many different “stakeholders” as possible. It will take some time for me to determine who might best fit or be willing to serve on this pastor’s council, but I will begin approaching people sometime in September with the hope of having a first meeting of the new council in late October.

Members of the council will be asked to serve three year terms, with four members rotating off each year, thus providing for both continuity and change. So in the first instance four will be asked to serve for 1 year, four for 2 years, and four for 3.

I consider pastor’s council to be very important, equal to if not more important (in some ways) than the board. And since one of the key purposes of the counsel is to help the pastor appreciate the needs and concerns of the members all members will be encouraged to communicate with counselors of their choice on issues to be discussed in meetings. To this end meetings will be announced in the society calendar,

agendas will be posted on the society notice board, and counselors will be asked to contact members of their “constituencies” in advance of every meeting to find out what’s on your minds.

I even have a job description for a pastor’s council member, which will also be posted on the society notice board.

Meanwhile, it is my pleasure to report to you that I have met once already with the outgoing pastor’s council and we have discussed (at some length and among other things) the following issues:

1. The present state of the society with respect to your pastoral needs;
2. Various convictions and concerns about worship services in this congregation;
3. The present status and future hope for the school;
4. The relationship of evangelization to education and other work of the church;
5. How best to meet the needs of both Acton Park (local) residents and other (non-local) members of the society;
6. Youth Groups and Sunday school.

If you would like to know more about the substance of that first meeting, please feel free to contact any of the members who attended, namely, David Glenn, Barbara Jackson, Bradley Johns, Dorothy Radcliffe or Paige Sweeney.

If you are especially interested in serving on the new council please contact me at your convenience.

Gratefully -- (Pastor) Mike

FROM THE ASSISTANT

Welcome to our new Pastor, Rev. Mike Gladish and his wife, Ginny! (I pray, along with you, that we can support them in all the wonderful work of this society.)

Most of you know that I also have travel responsibilities, and this month I’d like to say something about that, but I’d like to focus your attention first upon the Lord. After His resurrection, the Lord “presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by (His disciples) during forty days” (Acts 1: 3).

During this time He continued teaching His disciples, and also sent them out, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28: 18-20).

It is in this spirit I also feel called to travel work. Once a month from September to June, I go to the Baltimore New Church. We are a small, humble group. Doctrinal class is at 10:00 am followed by worship at 11:00 am. We also have refreshments and visiting after worship, society meetings twice a year, and holy supper several times a year.

I hope and dream that we can build Baltimore into another major center of worship. Just think: as that group grows (the glass is half full!) we could have a resident pastor there as well as our central office in Bryn Athyn and our church here. I’m not naïve. I’m aware of reality: costs, needs of the church, planning, program-ming...hundreds of other details. But...the glass is half full!

I also have three trips scheduled for Chapel Hill, NC (September and December 09 and then in March next year). My pastoral visit in March is on the 28th – Palm Sunday! I am particularly humbled by the opportunity to visit our friends there on that day. We are very fortunate here in Mitchellville. We offer worship every Sunday and doctrinal class on Fridays. We enjoy festival services, banquets, New Church day activities, and many other enriching events. My heart goes out to our friends in Chapel Hill who yearn for ministers to visit and lead worship.

I also have one trip to Jacksonville and Lake Helen, FL. In Lake Helen we start with a doctrinal class on Sunday at 10:00 am and then have worship at 11:00. Then we have a potluck during which there's time for fellowship and announcements.

In Jacksonville, I lead worship in the home of one of the families who volunteers to host, but I still wear my robe for the service. During one of my visits (there were only 10 – 12 people), I overheard one of them commenting that maybe I thought they were special because I wore my robe. I didn't think much of the comment itself but I was touched that a person would feel such delight in that formality. And something inside me wept for them because they are good people, our friends in our church who have only 3, maybe 4 pastoral visits a year.

I also have one trip to Chicago (not Glenview). While I don't know all the history, Rev Grant Schnarr started this group many years ago, and they are a small but big-hearted group of people who love the New Church. They cherish the Lord's revelation in His Second Coming. It is a privilege to serve them.

I am touched by the Lord's Word "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." These words inspire me when I travel. "Go therefore" just feels so natural for me.

If any of you are also moved by this work, please come and speak with me about it anytime. I appreciate your insights. And when you hear I am away traveling in the church, think of the use that is served in ministering to our friends.

Finally, here's an idea from a useful book for the church (AE 815:2): "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach *unless they are sent?*" (Romans 10: 14-15).

We have other ministers who also travel. Pray for us. Remember, the Lord said "the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10: 2).

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In addition to the school and the community a vital aspect of church work is our outreach to share the vital teachings we have been given with other seekers. In support of this use we have an outreach committee. This committee needs some new members and fresh thinking. If you would like to serve on the committee with the pastors here's what to do. Submit a memo or a letter to the pastors explaining why you wish to serve along with some of your creative ideas for what could be done to promote this use. Do this by September 20th and the pastors will consider your input, visit with you, select the best proposals and announce the new committee in the Echo for October. We look forward to seeing your enthusiasm and your ideas! - MDG

FROM THE SCHOOL

Our kindergarten renovation project is finished and ready to go! We have a beautiful new space for our full day Junior Kindergarten ~ Kindergarten program. What an exciting way to start the 40th year of New Church Education at the Washington New Church School. Our enrollment is holding steady and our staff is expanding to include Mrs. Candy Quintero, our new kindergarten teacher. We also welcome our new School Pastor, the Reverend Michael Gladish.

Our theme for the year will be Science, using the quote from Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." A project week will be held in November to explore the wonders of the Lord's creation. If you have some specialized knowledge in one of the sciences that you would like to share with WNCS, please let us know.

As we begin the busy days of back to school schedules, take a look at the calendar for important dates at WNCS. Coming right up in September will be the first ever Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. It will be a great time to meet new WNCS parents and see all our wonderful students. On Friday, September 18th we will have the more formal Parent Night with information about the school year and your child's homeroom procedures. We hope for a great turnout at both events.

It is amazing to see how far WNCS has come in forty years. We came from humble beginnings with teacher-generated texts all the way to internet access and amazing materials for all our students. But this is not the primary thing that makes our school successful. It is the underlying religious foundation that has kept our school focused and strong. We thank you all for your continued support of New Church education.

THE GENERAL CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As most of you are aware the General Church and the church Academy in recent years have been investing heavily in new developments looking to the health and growth of both institutions. Many of the new programs are dramatic departures from our somewhat staid traditions and have captured the imagination of young and old alike. As well, some of our traditional uses have been strengthened – for example the theological school recruitment and training program, which now provides full tuition and a stipend for qualified men entering the ministry from other professions.

To support all this development the church has initiated a new and very innovative fund raising campaign which will have its formal public launch on Sunday, September 13th. On that date congregations around the world will be joining in a unified celebration of support for the church, some hosting parties, some Q & A sessions, and some guest speakers. Unfortunately that date does not work well for the Washington Society, so we propose to introduce the program at a special meeting after church on Sunday, October 4th. By that time we will have more specific information to share with everyone, and we may be able to host a representative from the campaign to answer our questions.

Please make a note of this date – October 4th – and watch for more details in October's *Echo*. Meanwhile think of your friends in other congregations on September 13th and join in the spirit of renewed support for all that we hold dear.

- (Pastor) Mike & Stewart Smith

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The following are highlights from the Board of Trustees meetings held on June 2, July 7, and August 4, 2009.

- Ryan Allen presented proposals from three companies for installation of a security system at the Church, including alarming all doors and windows. The Board voted unanimously to proceed with the system from Astech Security. The system is now operational.
- The addition of a new School Aftercare program was discussed on several occasions, led by Pat Sweeney. The Board generally agreed with the approach and supported the implementation of this new program, requesting presentation of final details once developed from the Aftercare committee and School Board. No formal Board action required.
- Progress on the Kindergarten room renovation was reported by Stewart Smith.
- Progress on the Manse refurbishment was reported by Bill Kunkle.
- Status of the Society budget and our projected end of year deficits were reported by Keith Hyatt.
- School status and enrollment was reported by Kathy Johns, Acting Principal. Enrollment stands at 46 students. Joint School Board/Board of Trustees meetings are planned for Jan 5, 2010 and May 4, 2010.
- Acton Park status was reported by Brent Hyatt. We are very close to readiness for start of construction on the infrastructure for new lots.

In addition, an introductory briefing on Society operating structure, demographics, and history was presented by the Board, led by Dean Smith, to Rev. Mike and Ginny Gladish on August 1, 2009. (*Next meeting September 1, 2009 at 8pm.*)

FROM THE CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who contributed what they could during the Church's last fiscal year. Unfortunately, we fell a bit short of our budgeted member contributions, receiving a total of \$204,770 by 6/30/09. That sounds like a lot – and it is! – but unfortunately it fell short of our budgeted \$239,800 for Fiscal Year 2009, and was even \$30,000 less than we received in FY2008.

Let's all put our heads together and our hearts as well, and see how we can do better in the coming year! Thank you all again for your continued support.

~ The Contributions Committee.

FROM THE FRIDAY SUPPER COMMITTEE

The Friday Supper season starts up again in Mid-September. The intention is to continue weekly suppers and doctrinal classes, including "Pot Luck" suppers about once a month. Please note, start time will be **7 PM**, with the hope that class can begin by 8:15, and end by about 9:30.

The fee for supper remains at \$5 for adults, \$3 for students. Banquets are \$8 and \$4 respectively (when reserved ahead of time), but \$10 and \$5 if not reserved before the deadline.

Your committee knows that, as food prices have risen considerably, we needed to increase the budget, and that has been done. As always, we know our cooks will do their best to stay within budget when shopping, but we will depend on all of you to let us know if you feel we are asking you to do the impossible. If we have to, we will consider further changes in both the budget, and the fees.

Friday Supper has been an important social function for our society for many years, and of course, the weekly doctrinal classes provide the spiritual food we all need and want. We encourage all of you to attend as often as you can. Where else can you get a good, complete meal for \$5 and an inspirational class on top of that?

It would be very helpful for planning purposes if you would try to let us know your intentions: If you can come only occasionally, please call Sharon Kunkle or Mary Cooper to tell us when you are coming; if you are a "regular" call if you are not coming. Thank you so much to all of you who support this use.

~ The Friday Supper Committee ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enrolled and Numbered: On Sunday, July 19 **Braddock Austin Smith**, infant son of Nathan and Valerie Smith was baptized into the New Church by the Rev. Michael Ferrell.

Also, On Sunday August 23, **Sohaila Dawn Smith** and **Shaunti Alexa Smith**, daughters of Lincoln and Becca Smith, were baptized into the New Church by the Rev. Michael Ferrell.

Theta Alpha Guild: The first meeting of the Washington Theta Alpha Guild (the ladies group of the church) will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 8:00pm at the home of Dorothy Radcliffe. All women college age and up are welcome. Let's help the society and school get off to a great start.

Phone Changes: Please note the following new phone numbers – Mike and Ginny Gladish's home phone 301-464-2410, also Mike's cell # 301-461-3521, Ginny's cell# 301-461-3532.

James and Jeannette Roscoe have cut the land line. Please use their cells. Jeannette's is 301-395-1454, James' is 301-395-1452.

Smurfs: Our group of musicians who play and accompany for the monthly family service (The Smurfs) is looking for additional musicians. This is a wonderful use (and a great group to play with). If interested, contact John Croft jwcroft@verizon.net.

From the WCNJ Book Center: Please take a look at the used books on display, some at greatly reduced prices, and some free. For example there are three copies of Naomi Smith's The Arrivals, about life after death, like new, at \$10 each (half price).

If you have any questions or requests in regard to the book center, please contact Mary Cooper at 301-390-6292.

Job Postings: Anyone interested in learning about job opportunities within the Academy of the New Church, Bryn Athyn College or the General Church should look regularly for postings at <http://www.ncpeoplevision.org/14html>. Job openings will no longer be posted in society newsletters.

Helen Keller Lecture: The Convention New Church, located at 1611 16th Street NW in DC, will be hosting a lecture given by General Church minister Ray Silverman on **September 26th from 6:30 PM to 9:00pm**. Ray is a professor at the Bryn Athyn College with a special interest in Helen Keller. He is also the Bryn Athyn College chaplain.

The lecture is called *Water from the Well: The Spiritual Journey of Helen Keller*. Rev. Silverman will describe her life up to the amazing experience at the well, where the sudden understanding of the word, "water," opened her consciousness to the whole world of human language and thought. He will then proceed to give THE REST OF THE STORY, including her discovery of Swedenborg's Writings, and her claim that Swedenborg had given her the "golden key" that unlocks the treasures of the Bible. Rev. Silverman will also talk about the science of correspondences and how that can be used, in connection with the doctrine of genuine truth—and prayer—to receive enlightenment from the Lord.

From the Office of Evangelization: Great News on the Translation Front! Our Korean translation of Heaven and Hell translated by Elaine Kim has sold out for the second time in 6 months! That means 10,000 copies of this new Evangel have entered the homes of people living in South Korea!

NEWS NOTES

The ECHO has been without a "News Notes" Editor for nearly a year now. Thanks to the able writing and reporting of **Wystan Simons** this column has not completely died. However, she feels she is not able to continue, at least for the time being. If you are interested in taking up this important use (the most read part of the Echo) please contact me.

With that said, here is my weak attempt at some of a busy summer's news. ~ Bonnie Cowley ~ Editor

It is alarming how busy it is here at the Washington New Church in the summer. So busy that I don't even remember anyone going on vacation (which I'm sure they did, and I'm sure some went to many exotic locations). So here is just a snippet of the news from the church's "staycation".

The real alarming thing was the church building being fitted with an alarm system. For many reasons, not the least of which is the protection of our teachers and students, the Board of Trustees felt that it was time to take this step??. If you are one of many people with building keys and do not yet have a pass code to the alarm system, **don't enter the building** without receiving that code and training. I would like to thank **Ryan Allen** for all of his work getting the bids and seeing the set up through. Thanks, Ryan.

Barely a beat was skipped between the activity of graduation, New Church Day and July 4th, before mountains of work was done on the manse in preparation for our new pastor and his wife. There were many people who contributed their time and sweat to this project. I know I may miss someone if I mention names, but I must mention

some of the tireless effort by a few who stuck with the job from beginning to end – thanks to **Janna Zuber, Bill & Sharon Kunkle, Candy Quintero, Ian Lee, Monica Hyatt, Dorothy Radcliffe & Mary Cooper.**

If there was a lull between manse prep and the arrival of the Gladishes I didn't notice it. On July 25th **Mike and Ginny** and a large moving van arrived in Acton Park. Helpers seemed to spring out of the woods to assist (OK they watched the movers unload the truck – but several helped unpack).

No time was wasted as the next day Mike gave his first Sunday service as our pastor. This was followed by a luncheon “open house” for him and Ginny, hosted by the Quinteros.

“Home” work – Having time on her hands with school out (not), **Kim Maxwell** embarked on the refurbishing of her new home in Bowie – 2815 Botany Lane, Bowie, MD 20715-2451.

The summer was not all work, though. Several babies were welcomed into the world (OK its work for the mom). Becca and Lincoln Smith welcomed a sister for Sohaila – **Shaunti Alexa Smith** – on July 23rd. The next day our dear Devin Zuber and wife Suzanne (living across the big pond) gave birth (a bit too early) to a sister for Sophia – **Catherine Ruth Zuber**. And just a few weeks ago, on August 21, **Ginny Rose Cooper** made her entrance into the family of Becky (Smith) and Jordan Cooper of Winchester, VA.

For me, volleyball tops the list of summer's best. For the first summer ever, not one Thursday was missed either for weather (this includes rain and excessive heat) or lack of attendance. And what a great variety of people showed up week after week. We even had several neighborhood friends and teens join in!

A few visitors I can mention, though I know there were lots more. **Greta and John Davidson** were in town to stay with Nini (Janet Doering) and spend some time at the shore with Zubers. **Anika & Dain Kistner** and three children came to check out parents' (Mike & Ginny) new digs. **Marion Kunkle** and two sons from Pittsburgh came here to visit brother Bill and Sharon.

BBQs & Pool Parties, the usual summer fair, was not lacking. Crofts hosted a BBQ for Mike and Ginny and the WCNJ Trustees and spouses. Brad and Kathy hosted a pool party for the 20 somethings. I hear both parties were a success.

So now that we are all so rested.... let's dig in and make this society and school year and active and happy one!

Next month - Where are all of our bright young students going to college?

Echo Deadline for the October Echo is: Sept. 21

Coming Soon!
Saturday, Oct. 3
BBQ/Chili Cookoff



Followed by...



the Sons of Art
Stay tuned!