

February 2008

# ECHO

Newsletter of the  
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem  
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***Echo Deadline For March Echo is: 2/26/08***

## WELCOME TO OUR FEBRUARY ECHO

Our ECHO this month will take a look at the types of significant developments that are taking place within the Washington New Church. These are exciting times. We look forward to everyone feeling inspired to participate in the great things that are going on. It is important in these changing times to seek the Lord's

presence and continual guidance in our lives. As long as we truly try to find the Lord in all we do we can be at ease with the sure knowledge that He will be there. His words for us at the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew are, “*Lo, I am with you always.*”

In the book for those who seek to be part of the New Church titled *Arcana Coelestia* or *Secrets of Heaven*, we find the following teaching about how the Lord is with us. The word used here is “conjunction”. It is the type of joining together that grows stronger for all eternity.

The Lord's conjunction with a person does not exist except in love and charity, for the Lord is love itself and mercy. He wills to save everyone and by His mighty power to draw them towards heaven, that is, towards Himself. From this anyone may know and conclude that it is impossible for anybody to be joined to the Lord except by means of that which He Himself is, that is, except by acting like Him, or becoming one with Him - that is to say, by loving the Lord in return, and loving the neighbor as oneself. In this way alone is conjunction brought about; this constitutes the very essence of a covenant. When conjunction results from this, it quite plainly follows that the Lord is present. The Lord is indeed present with each individual, but it is nearer or more remote exactly according to the approach to love or the distance from love (*Arcana Coelestia* 1038).

## **WASHINGTON NEW CHURCH – PLANNING AND PROGRESS OVERVIEW**

The pace of planning for the future of Washington New Church has accelerated over recent months. Here is an overview of the exciting things that are happening.

**Strategic Planning:** This planning has been going on in one form or another since at least 1998. Extensive work was done by the Development Committee and afterwards through sessions led by Tim O'Connor. Our Board of Trustees has recently taken a much more hands-on position when it comes to this planning. In the December of last year a *Strategic Planning Committee* was formally established with Brent Hyatt as Chair. This committee was

tasked with reaffirming the priorities established over the previous 10 years or more of evaluation and study. It was also tasked with creating the financial models required to turn these plans into reality.

**Development Committee:** As part of its new approach to strategic planning the Trustees have decided to allow the Development Committee to on take a focused role that addresses just the physical plant and facilities needs of the congregation. Accordingly it has been re-titled the *Buildings and Facilities Committee* or simply the *Facilities Committee*.

**Strategic Planning Committee Report:** The first report from this committee was presented to the Trustees at the January 2008 Board meeting. This report focused on the following:

***Mission Statement:***

*The mission of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem is to cooperate with the Lord in building the New Church in the hearts, minds, and lives of people in the Washington DC region through fostering, first, the belief that the Old and New Testaments and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg are the Lord's Word, and second, a love for and an obedience to that Word*

***Vision Statement:***

Our vision consists of eight long-term commitments, which when achieved will create a growing, self-sustaining society capable of serving the purpose and uses of the New Church in the region:

1. To offer an attractive setting and atmosphere for worship as the center-point of the New Church for the Washington metropolitan area.
2. To operate a distinctive New Church School to offer New Church Education to our Society and the surrounding community.
3. To provide a safe and attractive New Church community for individuals and families of varied means, and ages.
4. To truly be and serve as a good neighbor to the surrounding communities.
5. To provide New Church-oriented programs that feed the spiritual needs of our broader community.

6. To support and develop the uses of the General Church of the New Jerusalem and provide leadership in our region.
7. To achieve and sustain financial independence.
8. To endeavor to actively reach out with spiritual and charitable activities to grow the “membership” and build presence of the New Church.

**Washington New Church Five Year Challenges:**

- ◆ The church will have 150 people that regularly attend services.
- ◆ The church will focus on attracting the younger generations to the church.
- ◆ The church will provide opportunities for people to attend church activities in addition to the Sunday service.

**Washington New Church School Five Year Challenges:**

- ◆ The New Church School will serve 103 students by the 2012 school year.
- ◆ The school will offer grades Pre-K through 10<sup>th</sup> grade and will explore the opportunity of creating an aftercare or day-care program.
- ◆ The school will have a full-time administrator responsible for the administrative and academic operations of the school.
- ◆ A priestly leader will remain responsible for the religious education of the school.
- ◆ The community will build a new facility to accommodate the continuing growth of the school. This facility will provide for science and technology labs as well as a gymnasium facility.

**Resolutions.** The Trustees voted unanimously to support the mission, vision and challenge goals presented by the Strategic Planning Committee.

The resolutions of the Trustees were passed onto the School Board at their January 2008 meeting. At that time the School Board ratified the resolution over which it had authority.

The resolutions of the Trustees and School Board were presented to the congregation at the Society Meeting held on January 18. At that time a quorum of the Society affirmed the resolutions approved by the Boards.

**School Administrator Fact Finding and Search Committee:** The School Board assigned responsibility for conducting a study into what it would take to bring in a school administrator to a subcommittee comprised of Jean Allen, Pat Sweeney and the pastor, Garry Walsh. The title given just above is not a title that has been formally given to this committee. It does, however, capture some the scope that this three person team is focusing on. The committee is currently working on the following: 1) Establishing a chronological procedure defining the steps that need to be taken. 2) Establishing a comprehensive working description of the job of school administrator. 3) Researching equivalency within the General Church Schools system to see what is happening elsewhere and how this might help us establish the position here. 4) Researching equivalency in non-New Church school systems. 5) Determining the ideal background, experience and formal qualifications of the ideal applicant. 6) Determining which attributes should be weighted most heavily. In other words, what are the most important qualities we are looking for? 7) Determining appropriate compensation for this position as a function of the qualifications of the successful applicant. 8) Deciding what is the best way to advertise the position so that we maximize the opportunity for potential applicants to know about and apply for the position. 9) Defining the interview process so that we gain the best possible understanding of a particular applicant's suitability in our situation. 10) Creating an ongoing sphere of transparency and fairness in the process while maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality for all applicants.

**How soon would we like to hire someone?** If at all possible we would like to hire the right applicant in advance of the 2008-2009 school year. It is important to know, though, that no hiring will take place until all those involved in the hiring process are comfortable that the applicant we are choosing is the right fit. We anticipate continuing the process for as long as it takes to find the ideal person.

**What will be the effect of hiring a school administrator?** We see the position as critical in achieving the five year challenges by a)

putting in place someone who can focus their full attention on the school, and b) by freeing up the Pastor, who is now also Principal, so that he can focus on helping the church and school achieve all of the five year challenge goals.

**Who will this new school administrator report to?** Priestly leadership is something that will continually be a vital to the tone of our church and school. However, the details of the future administrative arrangement are still being worked out.

**How will we pay for this new position?** The full picture of how future finances will look is still being worked out by the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Where will new students come from?** The school banner that was created back in 1970 when the school first opening displayed the Lord's words: "*Suffer little children to come unto Me*" (*Matthew 19:14*). We are not told where these children came from, who their families of origin were or anything else about them. We are just told that the Lord embraced them.

Washington New Church School is a jewel that provides a place of safety where children can indeed come to the Lord. It is a place where the Lord's teachings are interwoven into everything that we teach. The concepts He gives us of creation and life are the concepts that guide our understanding of the universe and ourselves. To be part of this has, until now, been the privilege of a relative few. We now look forward to giving as many people as are truly interested, a chance to experience that privilege themselves.

It is anticipated that new students will come from one of two sources, 1) New Church families moving close enough to be able to send their children to WNCS. The continual expansion of the school will likely generate growing interest in making our area a home for New Church people. The expansion of the Acton Park subdivision is seen as a vital component of this (see more below), and 2) Recruitment of students whose families are not, as yet, part of the New Church and with whom we wish to share the things that the Lord teaches.

The reality of growth is exciting. Consider all of the people that the Lord might be able to bring to His New Church as a direct result of our efforts. And, consider all those people who live daily

lives of charity and what their presence in our congregation might do to enhance what we have here.

**If the school is getting bigger, where will everyone fit?** The school, as it is presently configured space wise, has a limit of about 70-75 students. Short term planning is focusing on properly accommodating that type of number. Slightly longer term planning is focusing on the major expansion plans that lie ahead.

**If the Pastor is going to be less involved in the day to day running of the school, what will he be doing instead?** The Pastor will finally have time to focus more on the health and growth of the church and its congregation. It is anticipated that there will be renewed efforts to support the human side of what we do in the church, making our congregation a place where people feel supported as they go through their personal journey of life. While doing this, we look forward to spreading our ministry so that we touch the lives of an ever growing community of people.

**How is Acton Park going?** Some of the most exciting news of late has been in regards to the plans to expand the Acton Park subdivision. By late spring 2008 we hope that all of the approvals and permits will be in place for us to construct the roads and put in the amenities that will allow people to purchase one of the twelve new single-family building lots in Acton Park. A huge "Thank You" goes to Brent Hyatt for his tireless work with the Acton Park Board to bring things to this point. We also need to thank one of our members, David Tolson of DBT Development, for his incredibly generous commitment to supporting this project both financially and logistically. This support is anticipated to continue beyond the first twelve single-family building lots on to the next phase of the project. This next phase is the approval and ultimate building of quads. We are all hoping that this quad development, and the townhouse development to follow, will provide more affordable housing options not previously enjoyed in Acton Park.

**The big picture financial overview:** It is obvious that the plans we have for our church and school will cost a lot of money. As indicated above, the Strategic Planning Committee is working hard to develop a financial plan to ensure that all this can happen, including the extensive expansion and upgrades to our church and school facility that are clearly necessary. It is anticipated that a financial model will be ratified by the Trustees in advance of the congregation voting on it at this May's Annual Society Meeting (Friday,

May 16). In its initial meetings the Strategic Planning Committee established a preliminary working target of \$8 million dollars. The initial concept is that \$1 million or more would come from the congregation as an extension of the Building Fund that people have been contributing to, or at least pledging to, for a number of years now. Up to \$3 million would come from leveraging the Acton Park land via some form of loan that is yet to be defined. The remaining \$4 million would come from a special fund being set up by one or more family-run Foundations.

In addition to the above, the General Church (GC) and the Academy of the New Church (ANC) are joining together to launch a Capital Campaign aimed at raising vital funds to support exciting initiatives both in our Bryn Athyn, PA headquarters and across the ever growing breadth of the Church domestically and internationally. The more proactive and organized we are here in Washington, the more we can appeal for additional funding through this campaign. What's more, once we have our financial model in place, we can reach out to other foundations in our region. At this stage we are optimistic that we can find generous and ongoing financial support from these non-New Church sources.

It must be noted, though, that a great many of the Foundations and groups that might support us will do so on the basis of matching grants. This means that we must continue to do our part locally to financially stand behind the programs being provided here.

### **How does this all tie into General Church Strategic Planning? Rt.**

Rev. Tom Kline, Executive Bishop of the General Church, has recently presented a vision for the church in which, in the next twenty years, the church will seek to make meaningful contact with a million people. Our efforts here in Washington, though modest in comparison with the overall goals of the General Church, are an important part of making this goal a reality.

**What might we do to raise average church attendance as we hope to?** There are several things we can do to help our attendance in worship rise to the levels we hope for. 1) We can attend ourselves as often as possible. 2) We can invite friends and neighbors. 3) We can become part of the greeters program 4) We can be open and tolerant of a gradual style change in worship that will continually seek to enhance the uplifting tone of our worship services. These are early days and no plans are in place to alter the flow or tone of

our services right now. Over time, though, it is inevitable that things will change somewhat.

**How can I stay informed as to how the planning is going?** The ECHO will continue to be a place each month where up to date information can be found. The ECHO can now also be found online at our website [www.washingtonnewchurch.org](http://www.washingtonnewchurch.org). If there are specific questions please feel free to forward these to the Pastor, or to Brent Hyatt (Strategic Planning Committee and Acton Park), Jean Allen and Pat Sweeney (School Administrator subcommittee), Erin Stillman (Facilities Committee), or any of the Trustees.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BAPTISM:** On Sunday, January 20, 2008, Greg Baltz was baptized into the faith of the New Church, during the normal Sunday service. The Rev. Garry B. Walsh officiated.

**CARE PACKAGES:** We have 15 wonderful students from our area at the Academy Schools this year. It is time to start collecting for their much appreciated winter CARE PACKAGES. Please leave your donation in the collection box on the glass case by February 8, 2008. See the door for donation suggestions and names of the students. Any questions, contact Kathy Johns. Thank you!

**FEBRUARY FUNDRAISER:** "Kindstuff" coupon Book go on sale from February 11th to the 29th. You can purchase them from Wystan Simons or Annette Baltz. Proceeds will benefit the school.

**APARTMENT:** One bdrm apt in Acton Park. Available in March. \$950 month, including utilities and laundry. Call Simonses, (301) 464-8653.

**LAKE HOUSE FOR RENT:** The Brock/Simons lake house is repaired and available for your family reunion! 6 bdrm, 4 bath, lake-front in Pocono Mts, PA. Rates: High season (J, J, A) \$1,500 wk, \$750 weekend (3 days). Off season (S - M) \$1,000 wk, \$400 weekend. Call Wystan. (301) 464-8653.

## GENERAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY VISIT

Our parent organization, the General Church of the New Jerusalem together with the Academy of the New Church (ANC)/Bryn Athyn

College are setting about to bring their vision for the future to congregations across North America and beyond.

We are pleased to announce that we will be visited by a team consisting of Rt. Rev. Tom Kline (Executive Bishop of the General Church and Chancellor of ANC), Mr. Dudley Davis (Executive Vice-president, ANC), Mr. Wayne Parker (Development Director), Mr. David Frazier (Chief Accounting Officer, General Church), and Mrs. Jennifer Allen (ANC Ambassador).

The visit will take place over two days, Thursday March 13 and Friday March 14. The exact schedule over those two days is still to be determined. However, the plan is for the visiting team to have formal discussions with the Trustees on Thursday and then have an open presentation to the congregation on Friday evening during the normal Friday class time slot. It is also likely that an Open House will take place on Thursday evening. Stay tuned for more precise details as they come together.

## **WNC/WNCS Library Report**

Once again we benefited from Sharon Croft's well organized Book Fair. We added books to our library and still had some \$300 to spend on additional books. We thank Sharon and her volunteers, as well as the many people who bought books for the library.

We are continuing to add to our biographies of the Presidents as well as books on the individual states. These have been bought with the money from the Robert W. Gladish fund.

Our juvenile fiction books have increased, creating a problem of crowding and making it necessary to discard some old and little read books. The shelves have been reorganized, with the help of Joe Sprinkle, making a little more space.

My thanks go to Mary Cooper who has helped me on Tuesdays and to Monica Hyatt who took over the job of library orientation for the lower grades.

When I went to put out our Christmas books, I found the following books missing:

Angelina's Christmas by Katherine Holabird HB

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski HB  
The Christmas Angel by Pirklo Vainio HB  
Rocking Horse Christmas by Mary P. Osborne PB  
Arthur's Christmas by Marc Brown PB  
Tall Book of Christmas by Dorothy H. Smith HB  
Yogi Bear, a Christmas Visit by Quentin S. Hyatt HB  
A Newberry Christmas by Martin Greenberg HB  
The Little Christmas Tree by Karl Ruhmann PB

The HB stands for hard back and the PB stands for paperback. Would teachers, parents and students see if any of these are with your books? More than half of these are hard back and represent quite an investment to replace.

Dorothy G. Radcliffe

**(the following message was sent to the community right around Christmas)**

*To the Community of Maryland New Church*

*The Mabaso Family would like to thank you very much for the hospitality you showed us during our stay there. You are really a good and caring people, we learned so much from the way you celebrate your Independence Day 4th of July. It's quite interesting, the fireworks, barbecue, sport by kids. It's amazing.*

*Thank you very much for the lovely and empowering tour to Washington DC from the pastor and those lovely ladies.*

*Thank you very much for help we got from families who helped us to prepare for the Rehearsal Dinner.*

*We would like to thank all the families that hosted us and contributed to everything until the wedding day.*

*When we related our vacation to people they are just surprised by your kindness and humanity. It's really amazing.*

*The card [on the board at church] you're reading from, it is a project which is done by my grade 6 learners.*

*We really enjoyed ourselves and Puseletso [Lala's little sister] is attending her matrix dance celebration as I am writing*

*this card.*

*Enjoy and have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous  
New Year.*

### **Kyle Smith: Grappler**

Kyle's dad (Aaron Smith) had told me about one of his son's wrestling matches. His description was vivid, soaked in the typical pride any father would have while telling of a son's activities. Then, I attended a match for myself. As glowing as Aaron was, he had actually downplayed just how good a wrestler his son has become.

That day, the gym was crammed with brightly colored wrestling tights, scurrying in all directions; some seemed no larger than my size 15 sneaker. There was a flurry of matches all going on concurrently, spread 3 wide across the available mat space. I was warmly greeted by the 'cop section' in the stands, where Kyle sat by his dad waiting for his match.

When Kyle's match started, he stepped to the center of the mat, pushed a splash of bright blond hair out of eyes, and extended his hand. His opponent gingerly offered his return handshake and Kyle gave it a vigorous "1-2 "pump. His stance at the beginning whistle surprised me. Most of the kids just stood or half crouched, with arms forward, ready to grab. Kyle however, leaned into a tense *Spiderman*-like crouch, appearing as I would, if I were about to tear into a rack of baby-back ribs.

I wish I had the space for a proper description of the match. It was over in a scant minute or two, with Kyle pinning his man. What amazed me the most was the determination and skill level demonstrated by such a youngster. He knows how to combine the typical moves, with an uncanny awareness of how to keep every ounce of his little body, pressing his opponent at all times. I later learned that one of the keys to his growing success is his coach ability. He keenly listens and learns from his coaches at practice, and uses whatever they teach him.

Kyle is in weight class #5 (54-60 lb..) and wrestles on the Bowie Bulldogs team in the Southern Maryland League. He is undefeated in 11 matches, 9 by way of pin. He has also qualified for the Maryland State Championships scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Come check him out! I did. Brad Johns

# February Anniversaries

**“Conjugal love is a spiritual love particular to human beings because they are born to become spiritual.**

**(CL 48)**



**Feb. 12th ~ John & Mary Ellen  
Kern ~ 31yrs.**



## NEWS NOTES

The News Notes are a time to look back on the month previous, and celebrate the accomplishments of our friends and fellow churchgoers. This month, the News Notes are pretty slim... not because we are not an accomplished group, rather, because January is a month were we all buckle down, hole up, and fortify our selves, spiritually and otherwise for the year ahead.

January is also the month we celebrate Swedenborg's Birthday and it is fitting, as it reminds us of the inventor, philosopher, and scientists in all of us! While we are busy trying to "reinvent" ourselves through our New Year's Resolutions, it is good to have Swedenborg's birthday to remind us that of the resolutions we keep, the ones related to our spiritual development are most important.

With that brief prologue, here are the notes:

\* The school had its annual Swedenborg birthday luncheon (thanks go to *Jeannette Roscoe* for her coordination of that yummy lunch!) and outing. This year it was bowling and the kids all had a wonderful time!

\* The Washington New Church School hosted an *open house* for prospective students. The event was top notch: Our school was gleaming from the many hours put in at the well attended work party. The teachers were beaming with pride, and both the Academy and BACONC attended to demonstrate the larger network that our not-so-little school belongs to. The exhibits that the students put together were equally impressive! The high school human body science posters were amazing! I believe we had at least 6 prospective families and we will keep our fingers crossed that some were as impressed as I was with all we have to offer. Special thanks to *Annette Baltz* for coordinating refreshments and the high school students for being ambassadors.

\* *Stefanie Quintero* got her tonsils out and got on the dean's list at McDaniel college, way to start the year off right Stef!

\* And while we talk about recovery, our thoughts go out to our Assistant, Michael Ferrell who has been sidelined with Diverticulitis. Get Well Michael!

\* *Chuck Quintero* got appointed as a JPL ambassador for astronomy. The JPL Solar System Ambassadors Program is sponsored by the JET PROPULSION LABORATORY in Pasadena, CA, an operating division of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and a lead research and development center for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The Solar System Ambassadors Program is a public outreach program designed to work with motivated volunteers across the nation. These volunteers communicate the excitement of JPL's space exploration missions and information about recent discoveries to people in their local communities. Fantastic, Chuck!

\* *Brad Johns* was awarded the first annual "Dennis Marine Leadership Award" at the Brickman regional Christmas party in December. The award was established to remember a beloved employee who passed away last year after a short battle with cancer. Dennis was a newcomer to the church and Rev. Michael Ferrell conducted his memorial service. Congratulations to Brad for

being the first recipient of the award dedicated to his friend's memory.

\* Tom and Annette Rose's daughter ***Liz and husband Dave Smith*** (who live just up the road in Glen Burnie), welcomed a new addition to their family, Maria Nicole born January 3, 2008 7lbs. 12oz. 19 ½ inches. Savannah is happy to have a new sister

\* ***The Guzzlers*** are playing at the Bowie Old Town Grille on Saturday Feb. 16 from 8:30pm to midnight. \$5 cover charge. Come have some delicious Bayou Shrimp and hear some great rockabilly blues. Directions or questions call Brad Johns.

\* The society held its winter society meeting in the middle of this past month. Lots of good stuff happening! Please check out the Q & A that led this issue of the "Echo".

\* Did you know we have a budding wrestling champion (***Kyle Smith***) in our midst? Brad Johns reports: "I saw one match and was blown away by his skill, strength and presence on the mat. He'll be a state champ someday soon!" look for an article on Kyle earlier in these pages!

\* I am pleased to report that several of the Journey groups have restarted...including the one led by ***Candy Quintero***, the ***Young Adults Group*** (with new members!), and ***the Simons group...*** Happy reading!

\* The tasty Swedenborg banquet was prepared by ***Pat Sweeney, Dave Cowley, Ian Lee , and Ed Simons*** again this year and it was delish! Spiritual food was provided by Garry—the focus of the talk was - Swedenborg and Mining. Court Lee provided some additioan "show and tell".

\* A small group of youngsters braved Eldergarden in Florida this year. I understand ***Wynne Hyatt Sr., Joel and Didi Trimble, Bill Kingdon and Bill & Dorothy Radcliffe*** all enjoyed a wonderful series of talks by Peter Buss Jr., Brian Henderson and Grant Odhner. The Radcliffes also visited with Dorothy's sisters and got in a visit with Bill's sister and brother-in-law, Vernon and Dick Hastings, in Naples.

\* Well, that's all the news for January, if I missed something important, remember that the News Notes are only as good as the news provided to me! Maybe next month I will be reporting on the two "pending" deliveries in the Cowley family (both Aubrey and Berith are due any day now...)

## 8th Annual Dessert

### & Hors d'oeuvre contest:

Please come on February 16th, 8:00 PM to Brent and Amanda Hyatt's home for this annual fund raiser. Enter your favorite dessert or hors d'oeuvre for a chance to win a prize, or just come to enjoy the culinary expertise and good company of others.



We will collect donations to the Building Fund in lieu of an admission fee. College age and up are welcome. Please bring a beverage of your choice.