

May 2016

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

www.theWNC.org • 301-464-5602

Pastor: Rev. Michael D. Gladish
11910 Chantilly Lane; Mitchellville, MD 20721
mdgladish@gmail.com
~~~~~

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Michael E. Ferrell  
4210 Canyonview Drive; Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
[Michael.ferrell@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Michael.ferrell@washnewchurch.org)  
~~~~~

Principal: Rev. Brian D. Smith
11503 Chantilly Lane
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2126
Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org

WCNJ Inc. Treasurer

Mr. Brent Hyatt
bhhyatt@verizon.net

WCNJ Inc. Co-Treasurer

Mr. Wynne S. Hyatt
wynneshyatt@aol.com

WCNJ Inc. Investment Treasurer

Mr. Edward Simons
simons@safewareinc.com

WCNJ Inc. Secretary

- Vacant -

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley
Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org

Echo News Notes Editor

Ginny Gladish
ginnygladish@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,

Looking at the calendar for May, there is a convergence of events that will make it a busy month for many of us in the church. First we have our annual **yard sale** on the 7th, followed that same night

by a “**coffee house**” event with guest artists performing for us at the church. Then on Friday, the 20th, we have our **annual society meeting** with reports and elections, which I understand will include two nominees from among our younger adults. Please watch for the mailing of at least some of the reports before the meeting.

Please note, *our executive bishop will be here for our meeting, and for another session that Saturday* with our joint council to gather information for my annual professional review. BoT and Council members please take note: that meeting will be at 10 AM Saturday.

On Sunday, the 22nd Bishop Keith will be our guest preacher in a service that will also include some special music provided by a choir thanks to Ed and Wystan Simons.

Then on the 28th – which is on a holiday weekend – many of our members may go north to attend the graduation ceremonies of the Bryn Athyn College (the secondary schools graduation is on June 11th, a few days after our own WNCS commencement).

Looking to summer I have some great news about a community use in our building. We are going to host a series of SUMMER CAMPS put on by the STEM Club of Maryland



(STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This could involve up to 24 students in the 5th and 6th grades, and of course church members are also welcome to enroll. You can find more information about this at www.STEMClubofMD.com. The three weeks for the program are June 27th – July 1st, July 18th – 22nd, and August 8th – 12th. Of course we will gain some rental income from this, but the most important part is the exposure it will bring us and the use it will serve for the community.

Looking MUCH FARTHER AHEAD, I am really excited to announce that the first ever **Men’s Retreat** for this church is being planned for October 21st – 23rd most likely at an ocean beach site. See the announcement on page 5.

An Abridged Version of the Arcana

Now what about a little inspiration? Turns out there's a fellow in South Africa who's been reading the Writings for decades, feeling sad that many people find it hard slogging and so miss out on the wonderful teachings there. So in his retirement he has undertaken to create a digest of the entire twelve volumes, reducing the total volume of writing to about half of the original. He has worked hard to retain the focus of the work, including the flow and syntax of the Elliott translation, but he has removed most of the supporting quotes and references in order to stick as closely as possible to the simple exposition of the verses in Genesis and Exodus.

Having completed this monumental work (and seen it through several revisions) Dr. Willard Mansfield is now offering a free hard-copy version of the whole thing to any society of the church for its library (yes, we have asked for one), AND a free electronic download to any individual who wants one.

If this is you, please contact me at your convenience and I will forward you a copy of volume 1 as a sample (in MS Word).

Maybe we could use this as the platform for a new series of classes or discussion groups on the Arcana! Again, let me know if this interests you, and maybe we can start something in the fall.



The Nominating Committee presents the following as nominees for the four (4) positions on the Board of Trustees:

Rick Bond
Ben Glenn
Ed Simons (incumbent)
Kira Zuber

The Nominating Committee also presents the following as nominees for the two (2) positions on the School Board.

Toni Federici
Brad Johns

Elections will be held at the Annual Society Meeting on Friday, May 20, 2016. In accordance with the bylaws, Article IV section 4(d):

“Any two (2) members of the Corporation may submit in writing the name of any member of the Corporation as a nominee for Trustee (or School Board), provided that such nomination be received by the Secretary of the Corporation no later than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the Corporation, and provided that such nominee's consent is first secured.”

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Ball, Michael Ferrell, David Glenn, Bill Radcliffe
(Nominating Committee)

From the Principal

A couple of updates from the school:

Thank you Kathy Johns, WNCS students and supporters for a successful and fun fundraiser. The students seem to greatly enjoy the chance to skip uniforms and instead dress for different themes. They also surpassed the group target of \$1000 (see p. 6).

In spring our older students are putting a lot of their focus on preparing for the school play. Many of the classrooms are also making use of the good weather to enjoy a range of different field trips.

Our anticipated demand for aftercare *this coming year* is sufficiently high that we would like to continue to offer a program in-house. I invite anyone who may be interested in covering all or some portion of our 5 afternoons per week to contact me as soon as possible. Please also pass along this invitation to friends who may be interested. A strong candidate will be someone with a good understanding of our church culture and teachings, who brings experience working with children, strongly supports our school programs and has the ability to communicate effectively with parents and other staff members.



Men's Retreat in October



GUYS! Check this out! You are all invited to the first ever men's church retreat planned for the Washington Society. Tentatively

scheduled for Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, October 21st – 23rd, this is going to be fun, relaxing, stimulating, energizing, and spiritually rewarding, not to mention a great way to get to know one another better and just enjoy each other's company.

The plan is to meet in a commodious lodge or vacation house that will accommodate up to 20 men overnight, prepare and cook our own meals, create our own recreational options, and even share in the presentations as well as the discussions we will have.

The theme will be the application of doctrine to life, i.e., spiritual, rational and moral wisdom, and we already have one of you lined up to talk a little about how he applies New Church teachings in his



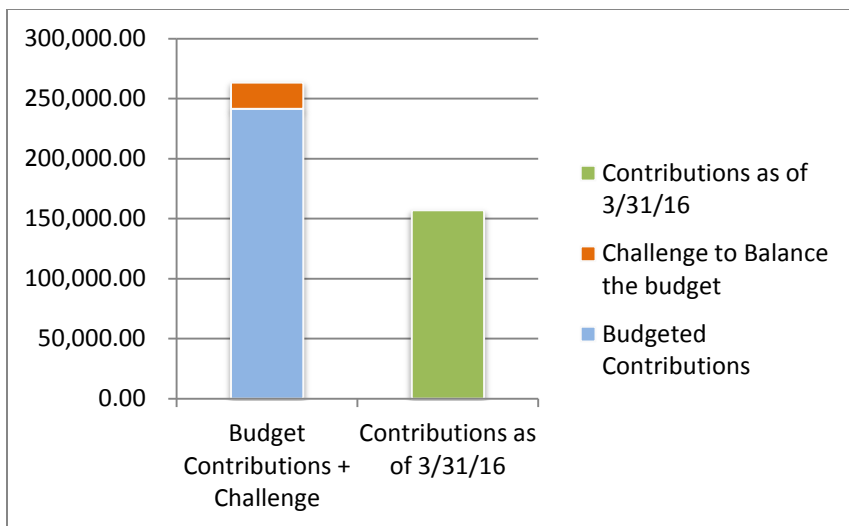
work as a lawyer with the Federal Government. Other presentations could relate to the fields of engineering, management, social work, contracting, real estate, military service, retail or non-profit businesses, in fact, any sort of work you do.

The program will include morning and afternoon sessions, with breaks for recreation and relaxed visiting, brief evening worship sessions, an interactive Sunday worship service most probably led by Rev. Brian Smith, and, as noted above, all our own food and beverage preparation. Details are still being worked out, but we hope to secure a venue within a two hour drive of the church where we can all be housed comfortably for a total cost of around \$100 - \$120 each.

And guess what! A preliminary survey has identified 17 guys of all ages who are already seriously considering this proposal! You may be one of them, but if you are NOT and would *like to be*, please let me know as soon as possible so we can book the best possible venue.



As soon as we have at least 18 guys actually *committed and signed up* we will begin planning in detail and also ask for a \$50 deposit to hold your place. Call or email me, Mike Gladish, **today**, and we will make this happen! 301-461-3521.



From the Treasurer

We are entering the final push for the fiscal year. As I write this I don't have the final numbers for April, but as of March 31st, we need to raise a total of \$84,373 over the three months of April, May and June. It will be May by the time you read this, which means we have only two months left in the fiscal year (ending June 30th) to reach our budget for contributions. Some may think this is going to be too tough, but if you break it down, it really does seem attainable. The 84k breaks down to \$28k for each of the last three months. And if we break that down by the 66 contributors from last year, that averages \$426 per month for three months, for each of the 66 contributors. Now some will be able to give more and some less, but on average we are able to do this. Now part of this means we need to reach the 66 contributor level again this year. Right now we have 51 contributors. So if you have not contributed yet this year please consider a contribution. And if you have already contributed, thank you very much, and please see if you can contribute a bit more. We can do this together. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Contributions Update: Fund Raisers – during April \$1432.17 was raised by students, parents and friends over four FUNdraiser Fridays at WNCS.

May 7 is our annual Spring Yard Sale. If you have items that are too good for a yard sale, but you no longer want, please bring them in so we can sell them on eBay.

Upcoming Months ~ please, consider heading up a fund raiser this summer or fall. The goal is to have ongoing and varied fund raising throughout the year. Any ideas welcome – contact Kathy Johns – kcjswim@aol.com

Theta Alpha International Offers New Scholarships!

“From Women, For Women”

Are you a female considering attending Bryn Athyn College of the New Church? Theta Alpha would like to help make it possible for you to get a New Church higher education.

We are offering 5 new scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,100 a year. If you plan on studying religion or education, or participating in the MARS program, or are an International student interested in a New Church educational experience, you may apply for one of these scholarships.

Applications by mail or by email must be postmarked on or before May 15, 2016 to be considered for the 2016-2017 school year. Please take a look at the Financial Aid section of the Bryn Athyn College website for more details.

<http://www.brynathyn.edu/admissions/finance/scholarships/>

Summer Sunday School

I am in need of men or women, college age and up, who are willing to supervise the summer Sunday School program. This is an informal program for students up through 6th grade, with provided crafts, games and movies - no preparation required! I would really like to give the usual SS teachers the summer off, so please let me know if you (or you and a friend/spouse/son/daughter) can volunteer for one Sunday, between June 26 and Labor Day Sept 4 (no SS on July 10 and Aug 14, for Family service).

Please email me at croft.cooper@verizon.net or text [301.814.2490](tel:301.814.2490). Thanks ~ Sharon C

Announcements

THETA ALPHA is looking for a VICE PRESIDENT for 2016-2017. Job Description: Attend 4 (1.5 hour) meetings during the year. Be part of a fantastic four-woman Executive Committee, providing comments and counsel (usually via email) on a variety of topics in support of the Washington New Church and School. No prior experience needed. For WNCS parents, this leadership position fulfills one year of PSP hours. Please contact Becca Smith (beccalek@gmail.com, call/text 202-834-0343).

FOR RENT: sunny 1 bedroom apartment in Acton Park, big deck, private entrance, washer/dryer, \$900/month utilities included. Come take a look! Call 202-834-9188: - Lincoln and Becca Smith

Academy Journal 2014-2015: The Office of Advancement has recently published the Academy Journal. The Journal is a compilation of various reports for fiscal year 2015 from Academy organizations as well as the treasurer's report and financial audit. It is available at <http://www.brynathyn.edu/alumni/news/publications/>. We also have a limited number of hard copies available. If you are interested in a hard copy contact us at the Office of Advancement at [267.502.4895](tel:267.502.4895) or email us at advancement@anc-gc.org

Jacobs Creek Family Camp – July 24th – 27th: Jacob's Creek family camp is a New Church Camp held in the lovely mountains of Western Pennsylvania. This year's theme is "The Heavenly Marriage". For more information either see the church bulletin boards or go to www.jacobscreekcamp.alotSPACE.com.

Tools4Life, July 17-23, 2016: Picture a compass. Put the compass in your hand, and watch the needle rotate like the hand of a clock. If it's working correctly, the needle will point to "N," the magnetic north. An instrument of navigation, a compass offers direction when we're unsure where to go. Tools 4 Life camp, held on the ANCSS campus, is like a compass, a way to navigate and make decisions about life beyond high school. Rising juniors and seniors explore the value of networking, attention to personal growth, and service to others. This camp is a safe setting to practice moving beyond the familiar into investigation of what is to come with

the mentorship of seasoned college-age counselors. There is plenty of time spent off-campus, including two college visits, a career day experience, and a fun team-building adventure.

Visit www.ancss.org/tools to download and print the registration form, as well as the health forms. Questions? Call Ali Childs at [\(267\)-502-4931](tel:(267)-502-4931) or email ali.childs@anc-gc.org

Sermon Topics for May, 2016

1st: “You are the Light of the World.” What exactly did the Lord mean by this teaching, and what do the properties of light have to do with it? This is the sequel to last week’s sermon, “You are the Salt of the Earth.” Sunday School could make use of any Scriptures that refer to the power of light. ~ MDG

8th: FAMILY SERVICE: It’s Mothers’ Day, and the theme today will be what makes Moms so special; what is it about women that make them just right to be mothers? ~ MDG

15th: “How long, O Lord” How are we at waiting? People like to ask “how long” about many different things. How are we at understanding the sense of delay and wait in our spiritual lives? We’ll look esp. at 1 Sam. 13.1-15 and Rev. 6.9-11. ~ BDS

22nd: Please welcome our special guest preacher, the Rt. Rev. Brian Keith, executive bishop of the General Church. His sermon (and children’s talk) will be based on Genesis 1:26-31 where we are commanded to be fruitful and multiply, but, he asks, how much fruit should we expect in this world?

29th: Love of Country: In celebration of Memorial Day our worship theme focuses upon love of country and honor to the men and women who protect us. ~ MEF

Special Events in May, 2016

Sun, the 1st, don't forget we are all invited to a health fair at the new Muslim Mosque on Good Luck Road. See the ECHO, page 10 for details.

Sat, the 7th, from 8am to 2 pm the annual church yard sale will be up and running – thanks to all you volunteers who will be helping out the day before and during the event. Remember, you can bring you stuff for sale to the church any time now; we are ready and can keep it here until the day.

This same evening, the 7th, there is a **“Coffee House” concert** event at the church with special guest performers. See the announcement on page __ and plan on a fabulous night out!

Fri, the 20th at 7:00 pm there is a pot-luck supper at the church followed by the annual society business meeting, which will include elections for our two Boards. Bishop Keith will also be here for the meeting.

Sat, the 21st at 10:00 am there is joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Pastor's Council to advise the Bishop on how things are going here – and to help him prepare for the pastor's annual review by giving him your candid review of the pastor's work. There will be just 3 main questions this year: what do you think is going well, what needs improvement, and do you have any other useful comments?

Sat, the 28th Bryn Athyn New Church College has its annual graduation ceremonies. (ANC High School graduation follows two weeks later on June 11th.)

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Note, as usual there are several small group classes and/or discussion groups that meet weekly or biweekly off campus. New-comers are always welcome; just ask for details!

Greetings!

A monthly note about welcoming people at church

The Rev. Harold Cranch, who was a great admirer of Walt Disney's business model, used to say that it takes 8 different points of reference for a brand to become really successful in marketing. So for example, Disney had theme parks, cartoon shows, souvenirs, food products and at least 4 other products or services that reminded people of his enterprises.

It's the same in the church, but more personal. People need many points of contact before they start to feel at home in a new church. So we need to advertise, welcome people to events, send follow-up mail, keep the decals on our cars, etc. But the most important thing of all is to make friends with our visitors. If a visitor does not make at least 5 positive personal connections right away or soon after he/she attends a church service or event, the chances he or she come back a second time are very slim.

News Notes

"If it's drama that you sigh for, plant a garden and you'll get it. You will know the thrill of battle fighting foes that will beset it. If you long for entertainment and for pagentry most glowing, plant a garden and this summer spend your time with green things growing."

Edward A. Guest, Plant a Garden

Congratulations to **Lisa Martin and John Attilis**, who were married in a quiet civil ceremony on Thursday, April 14th. John and Lisa, we wish you many years of happiness and blessings from the Lord in your marriage! Also, it is wonderful to hear that John's treatments are going so well, and that he is able to return to work this week. John, you must be so delighted to be able to get back to your "real" life again!

Aubrey Hernandez, for her excellent academic achievement (while being a wife and mother to a large brood) was offered a

\$10,000 “Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship” at the University of Maryland! Unfortunately, Aubrey says “...but I probably can't take it because I would have to maintain a minimum of 15 credits per semester which I don't think I can manage...” We are so proud of you, Aubrey! Actually, I'm in awe!

Marybeth Bond received a theater department Award for Excellence in a senior awards ceremony at Ferrum College. **Michelle, Mike and McKenna Kappert** were able to attend the event and also got to watch her perform in a Collegiate singing performance that night. Congratulations, Marybeth, and well done!

We're very proud of **Sophie Hyatt**, who donated over 10" of her hair to Children with Hair Loss, a nonprofit that gives wigs for free to kids with medically related hair loss, and who can't afford to buy their own. What a kind and thoughtful thing to do, Sophie!

Bonnie Cowley reports that her granddaughter **Rachael Fields** (not that long ago a student at WNCS) was selected to participate in the Oratorical Event at the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA. Her topic was “My Global Grandmother” and she did a great job!

Daric Simons had double knee replacement surgery on April 22nd. **Wystan Simons** says she is sure any encouragement as he goes through his PT process will be appreciated! After suffering with a degenerative cartilage problem from the time he was thirteen, Daric looks forward to being able to move without pain when PT is over. Daric, we hope your therapy goes as well as it possibly can and you are running and skipping before you know it.

And speaking of new body parts, our friend **Martha Brannon** (in Baltimore) got a new hip on April 26th. Her surgery was in Good Samaritan Hospital. The day after surgery, there was a fire in the hospital and they had to evacuate. Martha said fortunately she was in physiotherapy and had everything she needed, so she walked down six flights of stairs! Obviously, the surgery was a success and she is healing well. She was very impressed with how well everyone handled the emergency and highly recommends that hospital. She returned home on the 28th to be spoiled by her mother

and siblings first, and then her son **Matthew** will be with her for a week, followed the next week by her daughter **Meaghan Self**. Some people will do anything to get their family to visit!

Becca Smith reports that she, **Lincoln and their kids** went to Detroit for spring break and had a good visit with extended family **Nathaniel and Bryn Brock and kids**. We helped them boil dozens of gallons of sap to make maple syrup, saw sleepy kangaroos at the zoo, and even got out on the pond in the rowboat! It sounds like that trip was educational as well as fun!

Eric Genzlinger reports that on April 14th his wife **Suzanne** was driving home in rush hour traffic and was rear ended by a landscaping truck. No one was hurt and the driver was trying hard to avoid hitting Suzanne. Unfortunately Suzanne's car was totaled and she and Eric will be shopping for a new car. She is looking forward to getting a new vehicle soon so she and Eric can drive to Charlotte NC to celebrate their Grandson's 4th birthday in May. We are so very glad that no one was hurt! And I can't believe your grandson is 4 already! Time flies.

On Saturday, April 16th, **Michelle Kappert, Jeanine Federline, & Marybeth Bond** hosted a poolside (at the Simons') bridal shower to celebrate **Lisa Bond's** upcoming marriage to **Kasey Moritz!** The happy women who came enjoyed "making" board games for the couple, partook of yummy refreshments, admired lots of gifts and just enjoyed the company on a delightful sunny afternoon. What a nice way to bless the special time when a couple is "bride and groom!"

The delightful **Theta Alpha Guild Banquet** on April 16th was well attended. The room was decorated quite eloquently, the food was excellent, and our featured speaker, **Dylan Odhner**, who teaches at the ANC and goes to graduate school in California, gave a very interesting and informative speech about his research on the ancient Mayan religion and its correlation with what our doctrines teach about the ancient Word of revelation from the Lord. Thank you, **Becca Smith**, for organizing this and all the women who cooked and decorated to make this event special!

Those who joined in the **Church Work Party** on Saturday, April 23rd, seemed to appreciate each other's company as they accomplished quite a bit of much needed "Honey-Dos" in spite of the rain. Two men fixed part of the ceiling in the Chapel, major garden work was done outside the Chapel, and of course much needed "extra" cleaning and polishing was done. Thanks for all those who participated and to **David Glenn, Carina Heinrichs, Hanna Hyatt and the Youth Group** for putting on a great breakfast.

On Sunday, April 24th, many women from our church gathered at **Amanda Hyatt's** lovely home to take part in a baby shower for **Hanna Hyatt**. Our hosts: **Anne Ball, Carina Heinrichs, and Jana Sprinkle** made sure there were lots of dainty and delicious treats in keeping with the "Afternoon Tea" theme. There were lots of cute and SOFT and useful baby gifts to admire, much happy visiting, and of course free ad-libbed entertainment from the mother-to-be! And here is a message from **Hanna**: "The baby shower was absolutely lovely-- it was so sweet of everyone to come and celebrate. The food was delicious, and it was wonderful to see everyone and get to catch up. :)"

Thank you! Rumor has it that **Lincoln Smith**, our resident forest gardener extraordinaire, recently taught a few PG County park rangers to graft! :) ... then on Friday April 29th Lincoln says, "the director of the National Agroforestry Center (under USDA) and her team of researchers and educators (two of them are based out in Lincoln, Nebraska and focus on tree buffers to help stop soil



erosion) were in town for meeting at the DC office and came to visit Forested. We planted a tree for Arbor Day (see photo). It was great to meet these folks with tons of experience with many aspects of forest

agriculture - they've produced great info on growing mushrooms, ginseng, fiddle head ferns and much more. They were very sup-

portive and impressed by the work we're doing at Forested to advance forest-based agriculture". ~ Lincoln Smith

Go Lincoln! And speaking of the Forest Garden, avid gardener Bonnie Cowley reports that it is burgeoning with new trees and several new garden plots as Forested begins its first year of CSA (consumer supported agriculture). Bonnie's garden there is facing some professional competition, but I'm sure she has nothing to worry about!

I want to apologize to **Sara Smith and Janna Zuber** for messing up their funny story in the last news notes! ☹ (My brain's not getting any younger, you know.) The dialog makes much more sense if you know it was meant to begin this way: "Odd conversation between Janna Z and Sara S when they had a brief chat outdoors while walking – Janna: "Sara, where's your walking buddy? Sara: "Oh, sadly, he's in the hospital undergoing surgery right now." (So now you all need to go find last month's Echo and read the story again!)

May Anniversaries

"The inclination to marriage of one man to one woman is the jewel of human life."

Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 457

~ ~ ~

May 9th ~ James & Missy Cooper ~ 18 yrs.

May 19th ~ Frank & Babs Jackson ~ 43 yrs.

May 22nd ~ Alan & Renata Trimble ~ 12 yrs.

May 22nd ~ Stewart & Patti Smith ~ 40 yrs.

~ ~ ~

**DON'T FOR-
GET**



← Yard Sale
Saturday
May 7th
8am-2pm

Coffee House & Concert

Saturday evening
May 7th - 8:00pm

