

January 2017

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  
~~~~~

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

Sharon Croft
croft.cooper@verizon.net

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley
Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org

Echo News Notes Editor

Ginny Gladish
ginnygladish@gmail.com

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From the Pastor

Welcome to another new year full of new frustrations – and opportunities. This may seem like a strange way to start but here's the thing: if it weren't for the frustrations nothing would ever change, but because we have them we get creative, and we come up with

new ideas. If it weren't for the challenges we wouldn't grow. If it weren't for the grief we wouldn't appreciate the blessings.

"...they who are in the stream of Providence are all the time carried along toward everything that is happy; whatever may be the appearance of the means," AC 8478:4

This is actually a doctrine of the New Church as well as not-so-common sense. Practically speaking, we have problems in our lives, not because the Lord intends for us to suffer but because He

knows we need improvement, and that we won't move unless we experience a certain amount of dissatisfaction.

That said, one of the greatest gifts of the human mind is our ability to take experience from one realm of life and apply it to another in some unconventional way. It's a function of rationality – the ability to make a relationship between two things in order to draw a new conclusion. This is why we have parables in the Word, and the “science” of correspondences: we see how things work on one level and apply them on another level, as for example seeds in good ground representing truths in a good, receptive mind.

This applies to the church just as much as it does to us individually. Among our current challenges are decreasing church attendance and a looming financial concern. These are not *causes* for concern, they are *symptoms* of concern, and as such they are potent indicators of the need for new, creative, rational thinking. If they are in fact problems they are problems we can solve, and we *will* solve them if we apply ourselves to the issues with imagination, confidence, and, of course, doctrinal integrity.

For example, sales and marketing people can tell us about how to approach people with a view to meeting their needs. Lawyers and engineers and teachers and contractors can tell us about logic and influence and planning and communication. Of course we start with what the Writings teach about the church (and we have to take that seriously!) but then what?

We have a tremendous pool of human talent in this congregation; it really is amazing when you consider all the skills, degrees, qualifications and achievements that are represented among us. Surely all this is more than enough to overcome any of the challenges that threaten the church if we will just apply ourselves and work together for this common goal. Surely, in fact, this is WHY we have all this talent and WHY we have our challenges – because the Lord has chosen us to do some new and better things in the church.

I look forward to working with all of you in this New Year as we work through our challenges and frustrations to a very fruitful, peaceful, prosperous and rewarding state – not just for ourselves but for all the people the Lord has in mind to join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Gladish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

From the Principal

I hope everyone had some good rest and good fun with your families over the break! Before the holiday, the students put on a great Christmas concert which was a mixture of beautiful and silly.

There was such a great turn out of family and friends that the room was filled to bursting – *see photo p. 4* (we will probably need to move to the church sanctuary next year).

In January we cross the half-way mark of our year; congratulations to students and teachers!

For the high school, this means exams and for all the students it's a useful time to receive some academic feedback and settle into the second half the year. What areas of school are going well for you that you hope to continue? What areas could you adjust so that the second half of the year goes better?

During January, we also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr day (no school on Jan 16) and Emanuel Swedenborg's birthday (an in-school celebration with a special outing on Jan 27). Our recitation

theme for the school year is built around the question: "What does the Lord require of me?"

This is a perfect first question to ask as some of us take a fresh look at our goals for 2017. Our goals might be new exercise and sleep routines, new commitment to a hobby or building a friendship. Whatever they are, beginning by looking for the Lord's perspective helps to put these goals in proper context and connect them to the spiritual dimension of our life.



Thank you: Janet, Jonathan, and I wish to thank you all for the wonderful gifts you've given us during the holiday season. Once again you have warmed our hearts beyond measure. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful friends. Thank you for the sunshine you've brought into our lives. We love you dearly.

~ Michael & Janet

Mike and Ginny would also like to thank you - for your kindness and your generosity in the Christmas season and throughout the year. We are privileged to be here and grateful for the opportunity to work with you in "building" the New Jerusalem.

~ Mike & Ginny

Pastor's Council January 17th at 7:30 PM

Pastor's Council meets again this month to discuss regular programming, pastoral initiatives, your responses and YOUR ideas. Members of this year's council are: -

Mary Cooper	Cynthia Harvey	Carina Heinrichs
Marie Kazeem	John Kern	Kim Maxwell
Lincoln Smith	Stewart Smith	Joseph Sprinkle
	Patrick Sweeney	

Council members are no longer responsible for calling you to get your opinions on the issues, but YOU should contact one of them if you would like to be heard on any particular church concern.

Topics for the January meeting – in addition to any that YOU may suggest – are as follows: -

- The WNC Mission Statement and new Strategic Plan – which will be circulated to the PC Members. Looking for responses to specific items in the plan – and other ideas.
- Ritual changes in worship: you encouraged me to try simplifying things a little in our regular services; what is your response so far?
- Family services in festival months: in December we had **4** family services. Next year I'd like to have a *regular* service on the 2nd Sunday in December. I suggest the same for Palm Sunday – the 2nd Sunday in April, and June 11th. OK?
- Striving for relevance: my goal is to teach the doctrines and lead thereby to the good of life. But what IS this good of life, and how exactly do you think I should lead you to it?
- Pastoral visiting: what is your sense of it? Should I be calling for more “face time” in your homes, or do you prefer to be left alone?
- In June I will be 70. There is a shortage of ministers. Never mind the lame duck syndrome; what if anything should we be doing to prepare for my eventual retirement? What would you like to accomplish together before then?

Special Events in January, 2017

Tues, the 3rd, the WNC School Board meets at 7:30 PM.

Wed, the 14th at 10:00 AM the NJHD study group meets at the Gladish's to review no's 123-140 on Piety & Conscience.

Fri, the 6th at 7:30 PM the series on the Acts and Epistles with Dr. Babb continues at the church with a review of 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Please plan ahead; it's a long reading this time.

NOTE, the next class in this series will be on Fri, the 20th, and will focus on the Epistle to the Galatians.

Tues, the 10th at 7:30 PM the Board of Trustees meets and among other things will decide what to request this year as a grant from the Glencairn Foundation.

Wed, the 11th at 8:00 PM there is a Theta Alpha Guild meeting for the women at Janna Zuber's house.

Tues, the 17th the Pastor's Council will meet at the church at 7:30 PM. Please see the proposed agenda on page 5 and be sure to contact a council member if you have any comments.

Sat, the 21st beginning at 9:00am the School Board will meet at the church with all of the WNCS teachers individually looking ahead to the next school year.

Sat, the 28th at 7:00pm we have our annual Swedenborg Banquet – which will feature a special guest speaker (invited but not yet confirmed) presenting “Swedenborg in His Context” – showing how he “fits” in the history of famous people and ideas.

And for those interested, the annual Boynton Beach Retreat in southern Florida is scheduled for the 29th through Feb. 3rd. Information about this is available at the church office.

Sermon Topics for January, 2017

1st: First, Do No Harm. This part of the physician's Hippocratic Oath applies especially to our spiritual lives. We can't do or be good without first shunning evil. The children's talk will be based on 9 of the 10 Commandments. ~ MDG

8th: FAMILY SERVICE: 1 Sam. 3, the Lord's call to Samuel when he was still a boy. Two of the things this story illustrates are: 1) how the Lord calls to us even before we know much of anything, and 2) how we come to understand the Lord more and more clearly as we persevere at listening. ~ BDS

15th: Numbering the People: In the Word, sometimes this is commanded, sometimes it is condemned. What is it really all about spiritually, and how can we do it right? The children's talk will be based on Numbers 1:1-19. ~ MDG

22nd: "Be Fruitful and Multiply!" These words from Genesis 1:28 are full of spiritual significance. Today you will see how we can all apply them regardless of our age or marital status, and why they are so important for eternal life. ~ MDG

29th: The Second Coming. Christians are waiting for the Lord's return. We claim He has already come. No other faith has made this pronouncement. Let your light shine. The hope is that the way we treat each other and people we meet is a reflection of the Lord's Coming in our lives. ~ MEF

From the Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees and School Board held a Joint Meeting on December 13. The following business was addressed:

1. Financial summary presented by the Treasurer.
2. Discussed application for a Glencairn Foundation Grant. The Board decided to apply for roof replacement funds for the original section of the building. An updated strategic plan is in progress for the grant application, due January 9.

3. The Principal and School Board provided a school update, including discussions of school Tuition for 2016-17, future staff and student enrollment outlook, and outreach and networking efforts. The School Treasurer will resign at the end of the current school year; a replacement will be needed starting this summer.
4. The facilities head reported on the never-ending list of needed repairs and maintenance items throughout the building and property.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be on January 10 at 7:30pm.

~ Sharon Croft, Secretary ~

Money Matters

A Practical Look into the Future

For this financial year (July – June) our board took a leap of faith and planned for a balanced budget for the first time in many years. As of the end of November we are ahead of last year's pace and so have a reasonable chance of achieving this goal. More importantly, we know that our salary costs are going to rise significantly and our General Church subsidy is going to disappear very soon, making a balanced budget even more challenging in future years. So we need to start adjusting our contributions accordingly, lest we are forced to start cutting back on uses.

Of course we also confidently hope for an increase in our membership, but in order to achieve *that* goal we have to ramp up our giving now to make sure we provide the natural and spiritual environment that new members will find attractive.

Can't Attend Regularly?

At this time we would like to appeal especially to readers who are not able to attend regularly, but who love the teachings of the New Church and would like to see the church grow and serve more people. We are doing everything we can to make these teachings accessible – locally and on the Internet. One recent innovation is that sermons are being recorded and uploaded as audio files on our website, www.theWNC.org. We also have a new 5-year strategic

plan that includes some critical additions to our programming – as soon as we can raise the funds to support them.

So even if you can't attend often at Mitchellville, we want you to know that you can be part of this effort and that your contribution can make a BIG difference, both financially and spiritually. After all “community” is not just a physical thing; it really helps to know that we have the support of folks like you who share our vision.

For information about HOW you can give please call or write to either of us, or go to www.e-giving.org/washingtonchurch.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, Treasurer

2017 Directory Changes Needed: I am putting together the 2017 Washington Society directory this month and I want it to be as accurate as possible.

Please do the following: look at your 2016 directory (or download the PDF version I will be emailing you) OR the copy hanging on the church bulletin board and make any corrections, changes or additions you would like to see in the 2017 directory.

Don't just check your contact info... check the list of children. Did I miss any? Check the various board members – did you come on or off one of our boards? And check student contact information – do you have a student away at school that you would like in the directory. Check your family members in case they forget to check.

Let's make this an accurate directory! ~ Bonnie

Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) Supporting your Church and School

Many thanks to all who supported the recent fund-raisers at the church!

- Our two “Souper Sundays” so far, have brought in \$320, half of which has gone to the Church operating fund, and the other half to TAG.

- The Raffle, with Wynne Hyatt being the winner, brought \$230 to TAG, and these two sources of funds help this organization in its many supporting uses for the Church.
- And the sales of candle and greens centerpieces added \$350 to the Church operating fund.

These amounts may seem like a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of things but, of course, every drop counts, and adds up, and your participation was much appreciated!

~ Mary Cooper, TAG Secretary

From the Theta Alpha International

Bryn Athyn College Scholarships for Women

Two Education Scholarships are offered to women attending the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church for the 2017-2018 school year. Eligible applicants must intend to become New Church teachers, and have declared education as a major, minor or part of an Interdisciplinary Degree. The annual scholarship award is \$2,100. One award is for an incoming freshman, and one for a current Bryn Athyn College of the New Church education student.

Three scholarships are offered to women attending Bryn Athyn College of the New Church and who are studying **Religion**, participating in the **MARS** program or are **international** students. There are (2) \$2,000 and (1) \$1,000 scholarship awarded to eligible recipients who exemplify the teachings of the New Church. Applications are due February 1, 2017. Applications are available online at <http://bit.ly/TAScholarships>.

For more information, see our bulletin board.

Laws of Life Essay Contest

Girls aged 15-16 during the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to enter Theta Alpha International's Laws of Life Essay test. Write from the heart about your personal laws of life. Essays must be submitted in English. Please include your name and address but do not identify yourself in your essay.

Winning essays are published in the Theta Alpha Journal if space allows. Winners receive a certificate and a check: 1st Place: \$100 USD, 2nd Place \$75 USD, 3rd Place \$50 USD. For more information, see our bulletin board.

News Notes

Once the sun is up on New Year's Eve
I start to watch the Old Year Leave.
I think about the things that passed
And treasure all the gifts that last.
While most of the world goes out to play
I celebrate a different way.
At 10 pm snug in my bed
I let soft sleep come fill my head.
'Til midnight clamor brings me round.
By years of habit I am bound,
And softly, half asleep I murmur:
Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit,
Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit,
Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit,
Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit, Rabbit-rabbit.
Then confident twelve months are covered
I welcome back the sleep that hovered.

Ginny Gladish

Bennett James Kappert was born on December 3, 2016 at 11:58am. He weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs. 4 oz. and 22 inches long! Proud parents, **Michelle and Mike** say Bennett is a happy, healthy boy and his big sister **McKenna** loves the new addition to the family. Congratulations to you all!

Our love and prayers are with **Jerry, Deena and Amy Odhner** as they struggle with several health issues. **Amy** was all set to have a

hip replacement, when she got a serious foot infection and was hospitalized for that. The hip surgery of course had to be postponed. In spite of some new and challenging health issues of her own, **Deena** has been dedicating her time to supporting Amy. We hope you all can feel our love and support like warm hugs.



Charlotte Radcliffe competed in an NCSSEL horse show at Merkel Farm Equestrian Center on December 11. She won two first places and a second, and her team ended the show at second place overall." Good for you, Charlotte! So many girls love horses... Could it be because horses represent the power of understanding?



Congratulations to **Lauren Ball, Astri Hernandez and Oskar Simons** for being on the First Term Honor Roll at the Academy of the New Church High School! Way to go, you three!

Christmas!

Grandma (**Carole Waelchli**) made Christmas come a week early for the **Chris Waelchli family** in Bryn Athyn. She drove up to BA for the Christmas Vespers service on Dec. 18 to hear her granddaughter **Isabel**, the youngest singer (she's 8) in the group, sing with the BA Choristers in an inspirational service conducted by **Rev. Eric Carswell**. Readings from The Word were interspersed with glorious Christmas organ and choral music. Later, Santa Claus from DC came early and everyone had a good time opening presents and celebrating with family and friends. It was a wonderful way to start the week before Christmas!

Sara Smith reports: “**Matt and I** were lucky enough to have all our children home over the holidays at various times. Oldest son **Joram and his wife Katelyn** came from Illinois with their son **Koen Dean** before Christmas. **Koen was baptized** in a lovely service on December 20th officiated by **Reverend Michael Ferrell**.

Savanna was also home for the holidays from Illinois and **Kathleen** was in town from PA. With **Evan** living here too we had the whole family together for a few precious days before Christmas.” It was lovely to see you all together!

Mike and I (Ginny Gladish) were delighted to have visits from all our children over the last two months. Son **Dar** from Canada



was with us for a week over Thanksgiving. Son **Brett** from Arizona dropped in for a few days this month while in MD for business. Daughter **Anika Kistner and her whole family** came down for my 70th birthday the week before Christmas. And **Mike** totally blew me away by sur-

prising me with visits from daughter **Evie and her husband Cedric Synnestvedt** and daughter **Charity Cortez and her son Leo** – all from Texas. Could there be any better way to celebrate a birthday?! Charity and Leo were able to stay for Christmas as well. I am feeling very blessed! (Photo from left: Charity, Evie, Ian, Ginny, Anika)

Brian and Janine Smith and family spent their Christmas in sunny Tucson visiting Janine's parents, **Rev. Nathan and Elise Gladish**. Janine says: ‘The weather was gorgeous and we felt very lucky to get to spend the time with my parents.’ I’m sure the appreciation of special time together went both ways!

“**Kathy and Brad Johns** had a busy December this year. **Brad** was hired by Brightview (formerly Brickman) to emcee their national conference in Florida. He ran the program for 500 attending the annual awards dinner. Upon return he ended up spending four

days in the hospital for diverticulitis. He was well enough to host our annual Christmas party at which we enjoyed seeing so many friends. We spent Christmas at Cairnwood Village in Bryn Athyn celebrating the day with our three Nonagenarian parents and family! **Brad Johns, Jr. (Bisty)** has been metal detecting with his group, **The Hoover Boys**, making some amazing finds this past fall. If you like history, relics, coins and buried treasures you can join with the almost 10,000 subscribers they have on YouTube to watch their weekly episode which comes out every Wednesday.” Sorry to hear about your hospital stay, Brad, but glad you recovered well and were able to enjoy Christmas!

“The **Cowley, Martin-Attilis and Hernandez families** joined the **Roscoe family (James and Jeannette and all 3 girls)** for a before dinner gift exchange (free-for-all) on Christmas afternoon.... We were so glad to have the Roscoes spending Christmas in town this year!”

Lincoln and Becca Smith and Family “spent a week down in Orlando, FL with Becca's 90-year-old **grandmother**, her sister **Aurora Synnestvedt**, parents **Lou and Aileen Synnestvedt**, and brother **Landon's family** from Bryn Athyn. Then we drove back north to Kempton, PA in time for Christmas Eve with Lincoln's parents and former Mitchellville residents, **Lawson and Shanon Smith**, sisters **Janina and Lindy**, and the **families of siblings Lydia and Anders**. We spent a few days opening presents, going on walks and Gator rides in the woods, and playing board games.”

On Saturday, December 3rd, **Phil and Janna Zuber** graciously welcomed us into their home for the annual **TAG Christmas Celebration**. **Rev. Brian Smith** offered some inspirational thoughts. Lots of delicious Christmas treats disappeared as friends enjoyed catching up with each other. Our hearts were full as we ended the evening singing those wonderful old carols!

On Friday December 9th a good crowd gathered (27 attended) in the hall for supper and a Christmas class. **Bonnie Cowley helped by Anne Ball and Lisa Martin** (the specialty drink-miester) prepared the dinner. Not only was the food tasty, but the tables were elegantly set and the salads even looked like wreaths! Following

the natural feast, we were nurtured by spiritual food as our Pastor; Mike Gladish helped us prepare for Christmas by discussing “What the Lord Actually Accomplished by Being Born into the World.”

On Sunday, December 18th we gathered in the church to Celebrate Christmas with “**The Tableaux**”. I always find these “living pictures” very moving and helpful in giving shape to my sometimes-scattered thoughts about Christmas, and this year was no exception. The powerful message was “The Lord’s Purpose in Being Born on Earth.” We are grateful to many people for making this special experience possible: **Mike Gladish and Amy Glenn** for directing, **Bonnie Cowley** for staging and anything else she could do, **Mary Cooper** for the costumes, **Bea Newkirk** for playing the organ, **Brett Pell** for handling the lights, and all the volunteers who so beautifully portrayed the people in the Christmas story.

Following the Tableaux, everyone gathered in the supper room to enjoy the yummy refreshments organized so ably by **Toni Federici** and contributed by many. Thank you, Toni! The **SMURFS** once more entertained us with their own rendition of “In the Bleak Mid-Winter”, “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” and “Rocking around the Christmas Tree” which led the whole group into singing along. And thanks to the dedicated crew who set up for the sing, and decorated the church for the Christmas Eve service. I must say that the Church looked gorgeous, warm and very welcoming on Christmas Eve!

Looking Ahead:

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 5th** – This is Super Bowl Sunday and TAG will be doing a “**Chili**” **Sunday** in place of our “Souper” Sunday.

We will be taking pre-orders of Chili and corn bread... so plan ahead and get your Super Bowl Chili order in today. Chili will come in meat and vegetarian and may also come in mild or spicy! \$8 per quart.



Contact: bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org to order.



Dessert & Hors d'oeuvres Contest

Sat. February 11th

This ever popular adult evening out is a must for the dreary month of February. Be thinking or your creative recipe to unseat multiple year winners like Lisa Martin and Candy Quintero!

Friday, February 24th – Pot Luck Supper and Society Meeting

This is an open meeting featuring discussion providing a time to reflect on our progress and goals as a congregation.