

March 2017

# ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the  
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

[www.theWNC.org](http://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](mailto:bhhyatt@verizon.net)

WCNJ Inc. Co-Treasurer

Mr. Wynne S. Hyatt  
[wynneshyatt@aol.com](mailto:wynneshyatt@aol.com)

WCNJ Inc. Investment Treasurer

Mr. Edward Simons  
[simons@safewareinc.com](mailto:simons@safewareinc.com)

WCNJ Inc. Secretary

Sharon Croft  
[croft.cooper@verizon.net](mailto:croft.cooper@verizon.net)

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley  
[Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

Echo News Notes Editor

Ginny Gladish  
[ginnygladish@gmail.com](mailto:ginnygladish@gmail.com)

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Dear Friends,

One of the benefits of church membership is the mutual support and sense of community that can develop as we strive together for spiritual ideals in our daily lives. Of course a lot of this work is internal and we don't necessarily want to share our struggles, but

even so, being connected with people we know are doing the same work is reassuring, and every now and then we find that a specific concern *does come up for discussion* in really helpful ways.



and shared social or recreational events, not to mention the occasional work party.

*This month* one of our best opportunities to build bridges and strengthen our church community comes in the form of our annual **school open house**. Really... I'm serious.

Your involvement with the school may be peripheral at best, for any number of good reasons, but the fact is that this is still our very best avenue of introduction to the church for new contacts. When parents apply to the school to enroll their children one of the first things they do is come and interview with me about the teachings of the New Church. And in that interview I appeal to them all to consider the marvelous new teachings of this church and I invite them to attend with us. Some do and some don't, as you know. But MY invitation won't mean much if they don't start building bridges of connection right away with other members.

This is why your attendance at the school open house can be so valuable. In fact you don't need to have *anything* to do with the school, but as a church member you can be welcoming and encouraging and begin to get to know these new contacts. For one thing *they* need to know that there is a supportive community attached to the school, and it's nice for them to see some of the people who support and subsidize it financially – which we all do. In addition it's important that *we* understand the sort of concerns that bring these people to our school.

Why are they here? What do they want? What are they missing in other schools or communities that draw them to this place? What

hope can we offer them beyond a quality education in a small classroom environment? Possibly you will be able to share an experience that inspires or motivates that one special person who is looking for just what you describe!

When it comes to the church I often say “the more the merrier.” In this case with the school particularly one of the big reasons is to establish common ground, to help new contacts *identify* with at least some of us, and us with them through shared interests, background or commitments. You may *not* have anything in common with someone you meet for the first time, but that is exactly why “more is merrier:” if you don’t someone else will, and if the one person who has a shared interest is *not* there to share it, an opportunity could be lost.

Please give it some thought. The open house is on Tuesday night, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 PM. It begins with refreshments and a short talk and illustration of our church focus, and then goes to introductions of our teachers and classroom visits. Come and meet the people who will help our school prosper and who may very well end up sitting in the church pews with you.



**From the Principal:**

**Please Join the Effort to Promote Washington New Church School:**

**OPEN HOUSE**

- 1. Attend our open house March 21.** The more people, the more sense of community and the better impression we make for the families that show up to learn more.
- 2. Invite people you meet to come and take a look.** Bonnie has postcards available to handout, please grab a few and challenge yourself to get them into the hands of young parents in the area.

**Enrollment Changes at the Half Way Mark:**

We recently added two new students (8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade), and said good-bye to another student from first grade.

## **February Inspiration:**

Even though it's hard to call these past couple months "winter" it is still a chilly and discouraging time of year as students and teacher deal with less sun, illness and the sense of a long year yet ahead. It is partly for these reasons, that Theta Alpha plans a teacher luncheon on Valentine's Day. This wonderful encouragement comes complete with break duty covered so that the teachers can enjoy a longer, quieter lunch than usual. Thanks very much for this support!

Equally encouraging and supportive was a meal and discussion



offered by one of our parents, Nicodemus Morfaw. Nic frequently has positive and encouraging things to say about WNCS, but this time we specifically asked him to come and talk to the

teachers about his experiences immigrating to the United States and to reflect on cultural differences around education, discipline and respect between Cameroon and the US. (A significant portion of our student body is second generation children of West African parents). Nic, shared many useful insights from his story of immigration (via Germany) but he also managed to weave in much encouragement and praise for the WNCS staff (and buy us dinner!)

## **Ongoing Professional Development:**

Nic Morfaw's presentation was part of an ongoing effort to re-inspire and help the teachers to continue learning useful tools of the trade. This year we've also heard presentations on: the teaching (and assessment) of reading; designing lessons for wider ranges of learning styles, and strategies for effective discipline. We still look forward to: a tutorial on the teaching of research skills; anxiety and depression in students, and strategies around the most effective use of homework.

Also, several of our teachers are involved this year in the system-wide process of teacher support visits, either observing or being observed by another professional educator to give specific feedback on the teacher's work in the classroom.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nicodemus Morfaw".

## **Special Events in February, 2017**

**Wed, the 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM** the NJHD study group meets at the Gladish's to review no's 187-201 on Temptations **We'll meet again on the 15<sup>th</sup>** to discuss no's 202-222 on Baptism, **and on the 29<sup>th</sup>** to review no's 223-248 on **3** short chapters!

**Fri, the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM** the series on the Acts and Epistles with Dr. Babb continues at the church with a review of Philippians and Colossians. All are welcome. **NOTE, the next class in this series will be on Fri, the 17<sup>th</sup>**, and will focus on 2 Epistles to the Thessalonians, **and then on the 31<sup>st</sup>** to review the 2 Epistles of Timothy (we're one class behind schedule).

**The week of March 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> is Spring Break for WNCS.**

**Sat, the 11<sup>th</sup>** we turn our clocks **forward an hour** for spring!

**Tues, the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** the **Board of Trustees** has its regular monthly meeting at the church.

**Sat, the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** at the church special guest, Ayisha Synnestvedt will be showing her hour-long film, "The Amazing Interlude" about a young girl who raises contributions and travels to Belgium during WW I to set up a soup kitchen for the soldiers. Justin Ball is featured in the film and Freya Simons has a role. All ages are invited, though it may be best suited for adults and children from grade 5 and up.

**Sun, the 19<sup>th</sup>** after worship the **Acton Park Corporation** has its annual meeting with the election of officers.

**Tues, the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM** we have our annual **School Open House**. Come and meet our guests and make them welcome!

**From the 29<sup>th</sup> until April 2<sup>nd</sup>** the high school kids from the Kempton New Church will be here on a major touring visit. Let's do what we can to make them welcome!

## **Pastor's Council for Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 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	

Church members, this is your invitation to contact one of the above counselors if you would like to be heard on any particular church concern: phone, text, email or chat – whatever works for you.

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

- Bishop Keith will be visiting at the end of April and will conduct some sort of review for me (Mike) at that time. If you have input, or suggestions about the review process please contact him at [Brian.Keith@newchurch.org](mailto:Brian.Keith@newchurch.org).
- There is a plan for new lobby furnishings and a hope to have most of it in place by June 19<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting I will show you the plan and invite your input. We are getting ready to proceed.
- Overall strategic planning: there was some discussion of this at the society meeting on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, based on my pre-circulated pastor's report. What more can you tell me about this, and what if any modifications do you think are needed in it?
- Folks, church attendance is off this year by an average of nearly 10 from last year. Of course, it's not numbers we should care about, but *people!* Do you have any concerns?
- Related to the above, who do you think will become the next 15 members of this church, or where do you think they will come from? OK, 10 then. Please be as specific as you can. Remember, he who aims at nothing will surely hit the mark.

## Sermon Topics for February, 2017

**5<sup>th</sup>: You CAN Trust Your Senses:** why our experience in this world is important AND compatible with Revelation – as long as it is informed by valid spiritual principles! “Oh, *taste and see* that the Lord is good” – Psalm 34:8. The children’s talk will be about touching the Lord’s garment (Mark 6:45-56). **Holy Supper** will be offered at the end of the service.

**12<sup>th</sup>: FAMILY SERVICE: Remembering and Forgetting.** You can remember something from many years ago but forget something that occurred yesterday. Today we will address how both remembering and forgetting are useful to our spiritual life. In His mercy, the Lord says, “I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you” (Gen 9:15). ~ MEF

**19<sup>th</sup>: The Cycles of Natural & Spiritual Life:** the preservation of the universes is a perpetual creation. This applies in spiritual as well as natural life. So beginning with Gen. 8:22 we will explore the parallels of natural growth to spiritual growth and see why knowing about this is so important. -MDG

**26<sup>th</sup>: Community & the Grand Man:** People are designed to live in community... but why? What is it that we need from one another, even when we don’t consciously want it? And how can we strengthen our sense of community in the church, in preparation for a heavenly life? See Genesis 11:1-9. – MDG

**Theta Alpha Guild:** During **February TAG** was busy as always,



lovin' y'all up! As the support arm of the church, sending out love is a big part of our job! We sent homemade **We Care Valentines** containing a \$5 Starbucks gift card to 30 young people connected with our congregation - some at local colleges or high schools, and some just because! Lisa Martin organized and delivered Valentines **Care Packages** full of sweet things (contributed by the congregation) to all former WNCsers who are now

students in the church system in Bryn Athyn. (Thanks everyone! awesome job!).

The WNC faculty also got love, in the form of the **Valentines Faculty Luncheon** put on by Jean Allen and her team (and famous for Jean's Crab Casserole). Many thanks Jean and team!

The **His'n'Hers Raffle**, taken down during the recent spell of illness will be re-installed soon. (Thanks to Sharon Kunkle for a great idea)

Bravo to all the soup makers who stock our “**Souper**” **Sundays** - this continues to be a very successful fundraiser – this year alone raising **\$914** (50% of which is donated directly to the WCNJ operating budget), the other half allowing TAG to do more to support the uses of the church and of the school. (It also gives the Sunday cook a break - double yay). Did you know that TAG contributes to Healthy Church Match? \$200 every year!

Last of all - FYI - **TAG's Spring Banquet is April 1st!** Our speaker Lincoln Smith will intrigue us with his "*Meditations from a Treehouse without Railings*," and cooks Candy Quintero, Janna Zuber, and Wystan Simons will beguile our taste buds with a delicious meal. *Don't miss it!*

### **Money Matters**

Last month we discussed financial planning for the church in general terms. This month the focus is on vacation planning.

Even though it's only March but many of us have already started to book our summer holidays. It's really exciting to be making these plans, as we can anticipate the enjoyment of the whole experience for months in advance. We don't mind the expense, either, since it is a genuine priority to get some good R & R.

As we plan, naturally we take care to make sure all the utility bills are looked after while we're away, and – *here's something you may not know!* – many insurance companies require that someone check your house every 48 hours or so when you're away, to be sure there are no problems that create risk of property damage.



One thing we could easily neglect, however, is our duty to the church while we're away. Staff salaries and other expenses continue throughout the summer and it's important that all do our part to keep the lights on and the budget balanced.

The easiest way to do this while you're away is to set up automatic contributions through our on-line donation portal. Just go to [www.e-giving.org/washingtonchurch](http://www.e-giving.org/washingtonchurch) and designate the amount you feel is right for you. Then you can relax knowing that your transactions will be looked after, whether you attend services every week during the summer or not.

- Mike Gladish, Pastor & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

## **Announcements**

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

*Note:* these grants are also now available for students attending the *WNCS high school*.

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2017, for those hoping to attend in the 2017/2018 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

**Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund:** Levi Cowley Scholarship Funds are available to graduates of the Washington New Church School who would like assistance with paying for education or books at any school of higher education (college)

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2017, for those hoping to attend in 2017/2018. Please send your application to:

Attn.: Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

**Plants, plants and more plants (mulch too!):** Last spring, the Landscape committee began re-planting many of the beds around the church and school that had been destroyed by construction. After cleaning out one of the beds, Aubrey Hernandez noted that the gardens are doing pretty well, but many more permanent (perennial) plants are needed in many locations. How can you help?

- \* When you separate overcrowded plants in your own garden, consider donating them to the church (*please text Aubrey 301-379-3469 to see if this is a species we need.*)
- \* When thinking of your Easter offering consider a perennial plant, or shrub.
- \* Consider just donating some perennials or some money so the committee can buy plants or mulch.
- \* Volunteer to help weed and plant.

*What Kind of Plants do We Want?*

**Full Sun Perennials**

- \* Coreopsis
- \* Echinacea,
- \* Penstemon
- \* Russian Sage
- \* Heuchera
- \* Candy Lily
- \* Tango Hummingbird Mint.



**Shrubs:**

Daphne, Bluebeard (Caryopteris), Potentilla

**Yoga class** is into its 5th week now and rolling! Our teacher Jenn Mullen is wonderful and all (high school and up) are invited to

this 2:30 Saturday afternoon class regardless of skill level. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Janna Zuber - \$10/class.

**The Guild of Bowie Artists** also meets once a month on a Saturday in our church. Again, anyone who would like to join us is more than welcome. We bring our own projects / art that we are working on, and share ideas and support each other in our efforts of painting. The guild is very congenial group; feel free to contact Janna Zuber if you have any questions.

**Janna Zuber's art** will be on display in a new venue for the month of March. She has been invited to show her work at the restaurant Olive on Main in Laurel, Md. The pieces there will be different from those that were up at the Senior Center. She invites you to her artist reception on Thursday, March 16 from 5:30 - 8:00.

**YARD SALE -- COMING -- SATURDAY MAY 6th --**

Think about extending the effectiveness of this valuable annual WNC fundraiser by:

- Boxing up things for the Yard Sale when spring cleaning.
- Potting up plant babies when dividing up your overcrowded plants!
- Contacting Wzystan if you would like to join the loyal yard sale team!



## **Summer Camps in Bryn Athyn**

**Glencairn Museum Mythology Summer Camp:** For children ages 9 and 10. Two weeks to choose from:

- Session One: June 19 to 23
- Session Two: June 26 to 30

Daily hours are 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The cost is \$125 per student. Registration brochures will be mailed out on Monday, March 13.

For more information contact Christine McDonald at [267-502-2995](tel:267-502-2995) or [christine.mcdonald@glencairnmuseum.org](mailto:christine.mcdonald@glencairnmuseum.org).

**Bryn Athyn Cathedral Summer Camp 2017:** If you are already in Bryn Athyn for Session Two Mythology camp with your 9-10 year old, you might consider enrolling younger siblings in June 26-30, Time: 9:15-12:00, Ages: 3-7 years old, Location: Bryn Athyn Cathedral

For more information contact: [Joanne.kiel@bacs-gc.org](mailto:Joanne.kiel@bacs-gc.org)

## News Notes

**“Indoors or out, no one relaxes  
in March, that month of wind and taxes,  
the wind will presently disappear,  
the taxes last us all the year.”**

**- Ogden Nash**

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, our friend and WNCs alum **Richard Glenn** was confirmed in the faith of the New Church, Rev. Scott Frazier officiating. Congratulations, Richard, on taking this momentous step on the path of life!

We have a new address for **Bill Kingdon**. He has been moved to: Caring Hearts & Hands Assisted Living; 13201 Iris Court, Bowie 20715. (This is off Race Track Road north of MOM’s Organic store.) The phone number is 301-464-3578. Visitors are welcome between 10 AM and 6 PM, and even later if you call first.

Congratulations to **Brad and Kathy Johns**, who have been inducted into the Elks! When asked about it, Kathy said, “We were inducted into the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks on Feb. 18 ~ Lodge # 2428 in Brigantine, New Jersey. The organization gives a lot of support to local scholarships, needy families, and patriotic/veterans' activities. Last year they supplied 3 seeing-eye dogs as one of their charity drives. ... We are excited to help support their good work whenever we are in Brigantine.” Brad said, “Yes, we are now Elks.... very cool. Interesting fact...



The Elks are the number three top rated charitable giving organization in the country. Number one is the United States government, number two is Bill Gates and number three is the Elks!”

**Brad Johns** was also happy to report that he got his first "British accent" voiceover job this month. This was one of his short-term goals. That’s great, Brad! Wish we could hear it. ☺

We were delighted to have **Rev. Stephen Cole and his wife Jennifer** in our midst for the Swedenborg’s Birthday weekend. After a delicious banquet, compliments of **Dave Cowley and his team of cooks**, we were treated to Stephen’s enlightening talk on “Swedenborg in his Intellectual and Cultural Context. The whole evening was delightfully satisfying on both the natural and spiritual planes!

Our friends **Quentin Hyatt, Wynne Hyatt, George and Mary Cooper and Bill and Dorothy Radcliffe** headed south to Florida to soak up some sun and take part in the Boynton Beach Retreat from Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not having a report from any of those attendees, I snatched this from the Boynton Beach Church website: “This year we have three wonderful speakers who will certainly peak your interest. Dr. Soni Werner, Professor Emeritus at Bryn Athyn College, is wonderful in how she is able to weave together the fields of Psychology and Religion. Rev. Glenn ‘Mac’ Frazier, Co-pastor of the Glenview New Church, will be speaking to us about his experience as a church planter in Austin, TX. And, last but not least, Brian Henderson, the Director of Glencairn Museum, comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in the fields of History and Religious art and artifacts.”

[http://boyntonbeachnewchurch.org/news\\_items](http://boyntonbeachnewchurch.org/news_items)

Those who attended the **Annual Excellent Dessert and Hors d’oeuvres Contest** on February 11<sup>th</sup>, would like to enthusiastically thank the ever-gracious hosts, **Brent and Amanda Hyatt!** “New and unusual foods, carefully crafted and beautifully presented with appropriate libations, complimented an engaging and cheerful social atmosphere including new and old friends of many ages.” – **Mike Gladish** Mike couldn’t remember the winners, so I asked **Amanda**. She said she was very excited that people not of our

congregation are regularly taking part. The winners were: Hors d'oeuvres: **Kylie McCulla** (first, shrimp taco cups) and **Patti Smith** (second, maple bacon caramel crackle); and for Desserts: **UMD Girls, Jill, Kylie, and Zoey** (first, strawberry chocolate drizzle cheesecake) and **Emily Maple** (second, thin mint layered brownie). Congratulations and gratitude to the winners, and all who participated in making the evening so enjoyable!

Lots of folks traveled over the Presidents' Day weekend. **Candy and Chuck Quintero** went to Chincoteague Island, VA. "First time seeing the Chincoteague ponies...I was not disappointed!" says Candy. **Lisa & John Martin-Attiliis** and **Carl** went to Bryn Athyn to deliver care packages to our ANC/BAC students and enjoy the Sigma Live talent show. Though they didn't go out of



town, the **Hernandez family** (with Granny in tow) took a day at Calvert Cliffs hiking and collecting shark teeth. "It's a two mile hike through woods and wetlands one way to get to the cliffs but well worth the hike" – Bonnie Cowley

**Phil and Janna** took over a week off to spend with their 2 young granddaughters - Sophia, 9 and Catherine 7, children of Devin and Suzanne Zuber. They flew by themselves from Berkeley on their winter break. They had a ball doing lots of things together, including lots of cousin connecting time as well as East Coast aunts and uncles. Now the Zuber home is feeling all too empty and quiet.

Early spring has arrived. We've got crocus', snowdrops and some other cheerful little lavender flower blooming in our yard, and **Stewart and Patti Smith** have a blanket of crocus' instead of grass in their yard! - *Ginny Gladish*



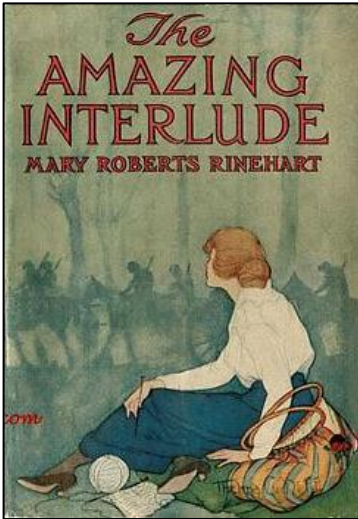
## The Amazing Interlude

A Film based on the book by Mary Roberts Rinehart produced by Ayisha Synnstedt (Becca Smith's sister)

Featuring our own Justin Ball

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

In the Multipurpose Room



*The Amazing Interlude* is based on the 1918 book by Mary Roberts Rinehart. It is set in World War One, before America has entered the war, and it is about a young American girl who hears how brave the Belgians are holding back the German advance. She then decides she wants to help, so she gathers up donations from her local community and goes over to start a soup kitchen for Belgian soldiers.

### **Appropriateness for children:**

Ayisha would rate it PG, but some young kids may be bored!

## March Anniversaries

*“It is instinctive in a wife’s love to unite her husband’s will to her own, for in this way a wife becomes one who belongs to her husband, and the husband one who belongs to his wife. Thus the two become one person.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg, Conjugal Love 196*



*March 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Bill & Dorothy Radcliffe ~ 57 yrs.*

*March 15<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Jean Allen ~ 48 yrs.*

*March 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Aaron & Eva Smith ~ 21 yrs.*

