

April 2018

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

Sharon Croft
croft.cooper@verizon.net

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley
Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org

Echo News Notes Editor

Hanna Hyatt
hannaihyatt@gmail.com

To donate, go to: <https://giving.ncsservices.org/g3>

Dear Friends,

This month we have the good fortune to welcome a visiting pastor who comes originally from the Ivory Coast. Currently assigned to

assist the pastor in Boulder, Colorado, ***the Rev. Jean Atta*** has graciously agreed to come and speak to our students about the New Church in Africa, *and to preach for us on Sunday, April 8th*. We are also hoping to arrange an open house for you to meet and visit with Jean (pronounced like John, with a soft J) on Saturday night. You won't want to miss that special weekend.

Then *over the weekend of April 21st – 22nd*, we will be favored with a visit by ***Bishop Brian Keith*** when he will be able – among other things – to answer questions related to the unfolding conversation about the selection of a candidate to become your new head pastor in 2019 – *and also preach for you on Sunday, the 22nd*. Note, we have decided to open the joint council meeting on Saturday morning to ***anyone*** who would like to attend – at 10 am on the 21st.

The Resurrection of the Lord

Have you ever considered how *little* of the Gospels is written about the Lord's resurrection? Matthew, Mark and Luke give it just one chapter each, and John gives it two. So how is it we know so much about the nature of the Lord's glorified body?

Well, first of all those chapters are packed. Critical things are said and done there that show the Lord's full Human presence – and yet He appeared and disappeared almost as if by magic. So we know that His body was no longer physical; it was spiritual, and the disciples' experience of Him was all through their spiritual senses – no less real, in fact more real than the merely physical body, but without physical limitations.

The real gold mine of insight into the nature of the Lord's resurrection body comes to us through the Heavenly Doctrines and the spiritual sense of the Word.

Yes, He specifically called attention to his flesh and bones (Luke 24:39), so He obviously rose with His whole body, but still, the flesh and bones were no longer material but made of spiritual substance. So as we see illustrated in two of the stories, the point was not for the disciples (or us) to cling to His material body (His feet) but to acknowledge and

believe in the love and wisdom He continued to present to them in Human form.

All that said, the real gold mine of insight into the nature of the Lord's resurrection body comes to us through the Heavenly Doctrines and the spiritual sense of the Word

There we read what is really meant by flesh and bones, and blood and every other part of the human body as these represents qualities and characteristics of the human mind, or in His case, the Divinely Human mind.

So in these weeks following the celebration of Easter, let's think about the precious treasure we have in these doctrines, and USE them to *inform* our commitment to the Lord, the living God, and strengthen our awareness of His ongoing presence with us – all the time and everywhere we may find ourselves.

Choosing a New Bishop

One of the reasons for my retirement in 2019 is to coincide with the election of a new executive bishop – which will inevitably trigger other pastoral moves – and I figured this would give you the best chance getting in on the shuffle and calling the man you want.

Meanwhile, the process to select the new bishop has been evolving almost weekly. In past elections the clergy alone were privy to all the information about the candidates and their nomination was sent to the board of directors for approval only after it had been decided. This year the board members have asked for and received lengthy statements from each of the six candidates discussing their views on the job and on the state of the church. These statements may or may not be made available more generally to the public, but either way this is a much more open and transparent process than ever before, and suggests a positive and healthy collaboration between priests and laymen in the church.

To see basic information about all the six nominees for the office of executive bishop go to www.newchurch.org and look under the tab for “resources” > bishop selection process.

You may recall that several months ago the ministers throughout the church solicited input from ALL MEMBERS about the qualities and characteristics YOU feel are important for this office. And we are still open to that counsel if you have anything more you'd like us to consider. In fact, we would be interested in your views on the nature of the position itself: is there more, or less, or something different about the bishop's job that you feel would help the church? Let us know!

That Evening Vespers Service

Having met twice with a small and smaller group to start planning this new service, and having tentatively scheduled the first one for April 15th, I have come to the conclusion that we'll need to postpone it for at least one more month. I'll be in Baltimore that evening for a memorial service (see p.7), and in any case would like to give more people a chance to collaborate on the first offering. April is already shaping up to be a busy month for church events.

So to all who have been looking forward to this, my apologies for the delay. I really want this to be a positive experience; it's just going to take a little while longer to pull it together.

Best wishes,



From the Principal

March seems to have disappeared in a puff of smoke, the kind the Road Runner trails: spring break week, Good Friday holiday, three additional days lost to snow/wind, and March is gone.

Our Open House caught the middle of the snowstorm, which was a disappointment. However, the bad weather didn't stop many of our current students from coming out for the fun. It also gave us a reason to communicate more extensively with those interested in our school.

Our boards, faculty and special hiring committee have continued to work on plans and steps towards shifting our high school program to a more flexible structure, which would allow us to serve students all the way through twelfth grade graduation.

We remain very eager to develop this capacity. But we have come to the hard decision that we will delay one year before the program launch. This means no 9th and 10th grades offered in school year 2018/19. There are a couple reasons for this choice to delay. Our hiring committee did not secure a full-time hire for next year, which makes the prospect of developing and expanding on our high school program daunting. (With the loss of Amy D. Glenn, we are a full-time teacher short next year). We want to avoid an overly bumpy start. Delaying, we gain development time and the prospect of launching with a full-time staff person.

The upper school has begun preparation for the end-of-year play, which signals the exciting and busy shift into our final quarter of the year.

~ Brian

From the Board of Trustees:

The Board met on Feb 13 and March 13. During these meetings, the main topics were planning for the pastoral selection process, in light of Rev. Gladish's announced June 2019 retirement; development of a new four year High School program; and drafting our budget for the next fiscal year. The Board has also started the process of seeking nominations to fill upcoming slots for the School Board and Board of Trustees. If you are interested in serving, please contact Steve Ball or any member of the Boards.

The Trustees hosted a meeting on Feb. 23 to kick-off the process of selecting our next pastor. It was a fun and creative evening, with the next step to seek nominees to serve on the committee. A separate letter from the Board is included in this Echo.

The next Trustees meeting will be joint with the School Board on April 10, at 7:30pm.

The Annual Society meeting will be on May 10, 2018, and will include elections for the Boards and to the Pastoral nominating committee, as well as voting on other business including the FY19 budget.

~ Sharon Croft Cooper

Sermon Topics for April, 2018

The 1st: EASTER – and by the time you get this it will be history, but you can read the talk or listen again through a link on our website, theWNC.org. ~ MDG

the 8th: **Special Guest, the Rev. Jean Atta**, preaching on “More Than Meets the Eye,” about the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Although they walked with the Lord, yet they did not recognize him at first. How were their eyes opened? How can OUR eyes be opened? Come and see.

the 15th: “**Thine is the Kingdom...**” – last in the occasional series on the Lord’s Prayer: “...the kingdom and the power and the glory.” But wait, what about US? If it’s all HIS what’s left for us? It all hangs on two little two-letter words! ~ MDG

Also the 15th, at 5:00 PM in Baltimore, a memorial service for Charles Edward (Chuck) Doering. See the note on p. ___ of this Echo for details.

the 22nd: **Bishop Brian Keith** on Anxiety about the Future - about how we trust in the Lord guiding us, especially when we have worries about the present and future.

the 29th: **Letting Go & Getting More:** Sometimes our most fervent prayers go unanswered. Then what? How can we learn to let go of what isn’t working so that we can receive more of what does work? How can humility inform purpose? ~ MDG

Announcements

Resurrection Service for Chuck Doering: A date and venue has at last been set for a service to commemorate the life and celebrate the resurrection of our old friend, Chuck, who passed into the other world in Baltimore on February 23rd.

The service will be held at Fells Point, in the reception room at ***The Inn at Henderson's Wharf***, 1000 Fell St, Baltimore, MD 21231, on Sunday afternoon, April 15th, at 5:00 pm, Pastor Mike officiating.

A social time will follow at the Doerings' *Penny Black Tavern*, just a block from the Inn. On-street parking is usually available. Gated parking is also available at the Inn for a nightly fee of \$18.

Another Old Friend...On March 10 **Fred Fiedler** passed into the spiritual world after losing his battle with cancer. He was married to Barbara Allen, sister of Nancy Alford and John Allen. Fred and Barbara were members of the Washington Society while Fred served as a General in the Air Force here. Their two oldest children, Marion and Erin attended WNCS. Barbara's address: Barbara Fiedler, 4319 East St. Joseph Way, Phoenix, AZ 85018. Our best wishes and condolences are with the entire family.



Wood Burning Creations: Kathleen Smith's Etsy business website, "SimpleAs12Tree" where she sells various wood burned creations. Proud mom Sara is shamelessly plugging it here.

Storage Space Wanted: Chris & Lyle (Kingdon) Crossman are looking for some space to store a few boxes of things (dishes etc. from Bill's house) for a few months while they try to buy a house and get out of their little apartment. 443-801-7645.

Job Opportunity: "Olivet School in Toronto is seeking a full-time principal. More information available from Mike, Brian or Bonnie. Applications are due by May 27, 2018".

Wanted – old cake pans – Wystan Simons is interested in your old 9x13 cake pans to hold seedling pots. 301-237-1283

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH! –interested in joining a group for support following Dr. Mark Hyman's 10 Day Detox program? After a kind of scary health-year 2017, the Simonses are on a quest for wellness, and looking for support. Wanna join up and support each other? Other church groups have worked with Dr. Hyman with great success. We can't get Dr. Hyman himself, but we have

his book: *The Blood Sugar Solution, the 10 Day Detox*. To learn more look at YouTube (interview on mindbodygreen 2015) (etc.) or check Amazon for a list of his many books. Starting in April. Call Edward Simons 240-882-6868.

Theta Alpha Guild:

Our “Souper” Sunday’s fundraiser this winter did very nicely. We netted \$571.00, which we split with the church operating fund. The other half TAG uses for the church and school. Thanks all for making and buying bread and soup!!!

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 pm at the home of Dorothy Radcliffe. Our spring business includes helping with WNCS graduation and the school play, supporting the annual yard sale, and New Church Day gifts for the children. WNCS parents earn PSP credits.



HERE'S TO OUR FRIENDS Theta Alpha Banquet April 14 at 7 pm

We know where our friends work, but do we really know what they do? Come hear from a panel of women talking about their professional lives and what their work means to them. Enjoy the company of the women and men of the Washington New Church community. *All welcome!*

Banquet Helpers still needed (cooking, setup, and cleanup) - contact Beccalek@gmail.com.

A Bit of Male Bonding, Anyone?

Each Men's Retreat in Cambridge we have come away thinking how great it would be to get together between them, just to stay connected and to build on friendships and mutual interests.



We gathered in February, and now Pat Sweeney is inviting us all to his house for another gathering on **Friday night, April 6th**, starting 7:30 pm. Pat has a neat

"man cave" in his basement and is keen to share his amenities with us - those men unable to make it to the fall retreats also welcome.

We are collaborating on the organization, but we all want this to be very relaxed, very informal, and free-flowing. We might start with refreshments (please: Pat is providing the venue, we need to each bring a little food or drink to share) and have some "check-in" time to say how things are going for us, but no formal program is planned. There will be Foosball, ping-pong, darts, cards or board games, a 50" TV in case there's some important game you don't want to miss, and generally plenty of space to sit and visit, unwind for the weekend, blow off steam, or cultivate new connections.

Men, come on out! We're gonna have a great evening! ~
MDG/PMS

Walks in Acton Park Woods

Remember the princess pines that used to be plentiful in Acton Park woods? Where did they go? These little plants grow rooted one to another below ground. Above ground look like miniature pine trees "Princess pines" is what my grandmother called them, Andy Cooper says they are called *lycopodium*. I spotted some down by the bridge toward the golf course. Take a walk thru AP woods and look for yourself! Soon the Jack-in-the-Pulpit



will be up, followed by the May Apple, which looks like little umbrellas spread across the forest floor.

Next Month: Andy Cooper's bird report! - Wystan Simons

Money Matters

Have you ever thought about the spiritual correspondence of money? Wealth everywhere in Scripture – and in life! – Represents power, and all real power comes from knowledge.

So just as we do with knowledge (with which we are extraordinarily blessed), we use money to get what we need or want. It is a means to an end, nothing more. Still, no end is possible without means!

So the question with money, as with knowledge, *always* is, “What are our priorities?” For example, what level of natural comfort do we need (or crave) in relation to the spiritual values in our lives? And how are we going to maintain those values?

One way to determine this is to make a budget and actually track where the money goes: - so much for food, clothing, shelter, recreation, transportation, life insurance, and, yes, the church. We all have to decide for ourselves what we'll spend in any category, but the great thing about a budget, even an approximate budget, is that it provides a way to consciously prioritize, and then exercise the self-discipline the Lord is constantly reminding us we need to apply in this world – lest the important things be neglected.

We might object, thinking spiritual values can't be monetized, but it takes money to provide for and maintain those values, even in our own private lives. Give it some thought, won't you? And remember the church as you plan the rest of your life.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer



Yard Sale Prep:

Annual Church Yard Sale is Sat, MAY 5th, 8-2pm! **Please cull through your stuff, and save us your best extras!**

DROP OFFS: The RED TRAILER is available from **APRIL 14th**. Bring your items to church on SUNDAYS OR ANY DAY on your way to or from work. Just text Wystan (301-237-1283) or talk to Bonnie.

YARD SALE SHOUT-OUT goes to a friend of our church society, *Kathie Constable*, known to some as Owen Simons's caregiver. Over the years Kathie has donated an ENORMOUS amount of great stuff to our yard sales, just 'because she likes to help out. Thanks so much Kathie!

WNCS Family Community Picnic

Put this on your calendar: APRIL 6th, at 4pm is an encore of last year's very successful Family Community Picnic! Church friends, school friends, any friends, invited to a POTLUCK PICNIC with grill available to mix and mingle.



Church Events in April, 2018

Tuesday, the 3rd, starting at 7:30 PM the WNC School Board has its regular monthly meeting at the church.

Wednesdays, the 4th & 18th, the Prophets Survey Course continues at the church with the pastor & Rev. Bernita.

Mondays, the 9th & 23rd the evening Heaven and Hell study group meets at the Cooper home at 8:00 PM.

Tuesday, the 10th, the Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30.

Wednesdays, the 11th & 25th, the morning Heaven & Hell study group meets at the Gladish home at 11:00 AM.

Saturday, the 14th at 7:00 PM the Theta Alpha Guild is hosting a banquet for all members and friends, featuring a panel of women on their professional lives and what their work means to them. ***Please let Bonnie know if you plan to attend.***

Saturday, the 21st, at 10:00 AM **you are ALL invited** to join the Bishop for an OPEN meeting with the WNC Trustees and Pastor's Council members to review all the issues related to the selection of a new head pastor to replace Mike in July of 2019.

Saturday, the 28th starting with breakfast at 8:00 AM there is a long delayed and much needed **work party** scheduled to take care of a host of routine maintenance issue at the church. Please come and help out! There will be jobs for everyone!

Saturdays all month two **Yoga classes** meet at 1:30 and 2:30, and on the 21st once again Lincoln's "Forested" group will be hosting a seminar for at least part of the day in the supper room at the church.

April Anniversaries

“The blessings of conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, full trust and a mutual desire of mind and heart to do the other every good.

Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 180



April 9th ~ George & Anne Miller ~ 57 yrs.

April 13th ~ John & Sharon Croft ~ 21 yrs.

April 16th ~ Andy & Pam Cooper ~ 28 yrs.

April 20th ~ Curt & Wanda Moore ~ 25 yrs.



“Marriage Moats”

To build a moat of safety around your marriage.

“Marriage Moats” began as a periodical, created by John and Lori Odhner in support of New Church (or any) marriages. It shifted into an online daily inspiration with a loyal following. Lori and John have been involved in marriage support groups for years, and run the Caring for Marriage Conference each February in Bryn Athyn, PA. You can sign up for daily “Moats” by contacting Lori: lori@caringformarriage.org. Here’s a sample:

March 18th, 2018

It was only a few bucks on Amazon. *Ten Lessons to Transform your Marriage* has been a rich read. The current chapter is about accepting influence. The philosophy behind the Japanese martial

arts form Aikido is "yield to win". Allowing your partner to modify your behavior actually increases your power. Oxymoronic, I know.

The other night I was re-watching an episode of West Wing where the president elect bends to his wife's wishes. He is a broad shouldered man, yet he is wise enough to know, even days after he has been chosen as the leader of the free world, to respond to his wife. She in turn becomes even more staunchly his supporter.

The book includes dialogue from couples before and after spending time with [authors] Julie and John Gottman. For couples who have a history of being resistant [to each other], it takes a conscious effort to release the breaks.

Here are some of the Aikido-esque responses:

- Explain your thinking to me.
- What are you afraid of in this situation?
- This seems important to you. Tell me more.
- What are your goals around this issue?

It is the antithesis of defensiveness. Which is an interesting strategy for martial arts, let alone a conflictual relationship. But maybe it rests on the underlying truth that when biceps and triceps cooperate, the whole arm is stronger. If two people on one swing push each other where they want to go, they both reach the sky.

Love - Lori

Don't Miss the News Notes

Included on a separate "insert" sheet along with an important letter from your board of trustees