

June 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

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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

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Dear Friends,

As I was wondering recently about the decline in attendance at services of worship (not just here but throughout America) it suddenly occurred to me that the very idea of worship may be problematic

for many people. Synonyms for worship include words like adoration, veneration, reverence, praise, exaltation and glorification, but in today's world of cynicism and general disappointment in the people and institutions we used to trust it is difficult for many to wrap their heads around unqualified praise of any sort, let alone *worship*.

In this climate even the whole-hearted worship of God is challenging, since

we all have our *questions* about how God is working in our lives, not to mention how to *picture* Him in our mind's eye. It is, to illustrate, fashionable these days to say that God is *above gender*, and therefore can't even be thought of as a Man. How then can we worship *IT*, or some hermaphroditic being, without reservation or at the very least without a certain awkwardness? We wouldn't worship a force of nature, would we? (That would be idolatry!) Why would we worship a spiritual force or a spiritual Being that is beyond our comprehension or imagination?

In this context I'm reminded of our tendency in the New Church to speak of Divine Providence being responsible for things in our lives, rather than the Lord Himself, when actually the Divine Providence is simply the government of the Lord's Divine love and wisdom (DP #1).

OK, we can venerate government, I suppose, but really, it is the good people *in* government who are worthy of our veneration, not the government itself, and so we venerate the Lord, just as we venerate war veterans, but we don't venerate war – or even the military as such: it's only a means to an end.

The Good News about Worship

Fortunately for the New Church, as challenging as it may seem, it is entirely possible to have a heartfelt worship experience. Why? - Because the Lord has now revealed Himself with such clarity and power in the heavenly doctrine that when we really read and reflect

Why would we worship a spiritual force or a spiritual being that is beyond our comprehension or imagination?

on what is written it is easy to be filled with a sense of awe, wonder and, well, veneration.

The questions that arise then are mostly about how we express that feeling. For example, how important is ritual in worship? For that matter, what IS ritual and why do we have it at all? Well, one answer is that ritual is simply a way of doing things, a regular procedure one usually follows, quite often so that we can focus on more important things. We all have morning or evening rituals we follow at home, there are various rituals in public life that facilitate co-operation. And it's the same in church: we follow certain rituals so that we can have a shared experience without disturbing each other or wondering what's next. But worship itself comes from the heart and fills the "space" provided for it in the ritual.

I've said before and I'll say again that we should be willing to adjust and adapt our rituals to whatever best serves for the expression of our devotion to the Lord. All of that, we are taught, must come from the Word, for we read, "what is from the Word is alone serviceable for Divine worship" (AC 8943), but I don't think this means that every word or action must be drawn from the literal sense. Rather these must reflect the living truths presented there.

A Reason to Celebrate



In any case, as we look toward the celebration of what we call "New Church Day" on the weekend of June 16th – 17th, and again on Tuesday, the 19th, we have a series of special opportunities to worship the Lord together. First is our Saturday night banquet, where we acknowledge the Lord's gift of a New Church that can embody the precious truths He has revealed in His Second Coming – by reflecting on how we can share this blessing with

others. Our speaker that night, the Rev. Elmo Acton, worked for years at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, talking with inquirers every day, and he is certain to have fascinating stories to tell.

On Sunday morning, the 17th, we will come together for our annual family service of worship, giving thanks and praise to the Lord in prayer and song as we also learn more about this precious gift. Here again, Rev. Acton will be our guest speaker: see the sermon topics on page 10 for details.

Finally, on Tuesday night, we invite everyone to come and join us for a very informal ***picnic at the church*** where we can share with one another what it means to be a part of this unique fellowship of families who respect and honor the Lord for what He has revealed to the whole Christian world. It will be light for some time after the supper hour, some come prepared for a fun social evening.

Meanwhile, congratulations to all our May and June school graduates! And may you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer!

Best wishes,



From the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on May 8, 2018, and discussed budget status, WNCS updates, the upcoming Society meeting and elections, outreach, facilities, and other general business.

The Annual meeting of the Society was held on May 11, 2018. Over 38 members were present. Administrative and financial reports were presented and discussed. Elections were held for the Pastoral Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the School Board. See below for details on this committee.

Four members of the Board of Trustees were confirmed, to fill four slots: **Kathy Johns, Steve Ball, Becca Smith, and Derek Hyatt**. Thanks to outgoing member Ben Glenn, and special thanks to Eric Genzlinger for his tireless work on the facility.

Erin Stillman was elected to the School Board, leaving one vacancy on that board, with thanks to outgoing members David Glenn and Paige Sweeney.

~ Sharon Cooper, BoT Secretary

Church Events in June, 2018

Sat. the 2nd, all day at Allen Pond Park: BOWIE-FEST, where our church and school will have a booth/display all day long promoting the WNC(S). PLEASE come and help us share our beautiful teachings with hundreds of new people!

Mon – Thurs, the 4th – the 7th, is our last week of school.

Please note these events:

Monday: field trips for all grades

Tuesday: regular classes

Wednesday: half day, closing at noon. SCHOOL PLAY

Thursday: late start, half day, GRADUATION at 7:00 PM

Tues, the 5th, the WNC School Board meets at 7:30 PM

Wed, the 6th, the last of the *morning Heaven & Hell* study group meets at the Gladish home at 11:00 AM.

Fri, the 8th at 7:00 PM Jenn Mullin will provide another of her popular “sound baths” in the church supper room. Cost: \$20.

Sat, the 9th is graduation day for the **Bryn Athyn high school.**

Mon, the 11th & 25th the *evening Heaven and Hell* study group meets at the Cooper home at 8:00 PM.

Mon & Tues, the 11th – 12th the WNCS staff will meet to resolve any year-end issues and begin next year’s planning.

Tues, the 12th at 7:30 PM the Board of Trustees will meet.

Wed, the 13th the Prophets Class will meet for the last time with Rev. Bernita at the church at 8:00 PM.

Sat, the 16th is our banquet night to commemorate New Church Day. See all the details on page 9 of this Echo.

Mon, the 18th Josh and Kathy Sumner’s “**Sumner Camp**” for kids gets under way and will be using our main, big spaces all day long, 5 days a week until August 24th.

Tues, the 19th actually IS “**New Church Day.**” See details about our community picnic on page 11.

From the Assistant Pastor:

I had an appointment with the oncologist on May 22nd. The results are good, real good.

My kidney function is steadily improving. This is a good sign as the improvement is quite significant over a short period of time.

The lab results/blood work indicate that chemo is working well in attacking the tumor. It's a slow process and will take a while.

Right now I'll continue with the weekly chemo treatments, at least through July, maybe August. The prognosis is very promising. I'll continue with rest and taking it easy.

Cheers, Michael

More Appreciation:

I have been truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support following my recent diagnosis and surgery. Thank you all for the cards, flowers,

food, visits, hugs and all of your prayers. I am grateful to be living in such a warm and caring society...you brighten my day and make my heart smile. ❤

Jean Allen

Pastor Search Committee Status Report

The Search Committee, elected at the Society Annual Meeting on May 11, 2018, held its first meeting on May 13th to elect a Chairperson, to select two more members, and to broadly outline its agenda for the next few weeks. George Cooper was selected to chair the meetings, and Sharon Kunkle was selected as committee secretary; Jeannette Roscoe and John Croft were asked to join the committee.

A second meeting was held on May 23rd to establish specific tasks, such as identification of Society and Congregation needs and priorities for the coming years and setting target dates for completing these tasks so that we will be prepared for the actual selection process in the fall.

The first goal of the Committee is to ensure that there are open lines of communication with everyone who is a part of the WCNJ congregation and/or is a part of the WNCS school community, so that we can have an accurate and complete view of the sort of leadership we should be seeking in the selection of a Pastor. To this end, the Committee will be sending out a short survey to which we hope everyone will respond and will also reach out in other ways to ensure that no one is excluded from the opportunity to provide input.

Please note that to facilitate the communication process, at least two Committee members will be available to anyone who wishes to provide input after Church every Sunday during the search process. This can be in the form of open conversations in the Supper Room, or private conversations in a separate room, as desired. Also, everyone is encouraged to communicate at any time with any of the Committee members whether by telephone, email, regular mail, casual conversation, or telepathy (if that works for you). We want to hear from you.

The Committee members are listed below. Their telephone numbers and email addresses can be found in the Echo Directory, or if you can't find your directory, you can call the Chairperson or the Secretary for that information.

George Cooper, Chair

(301) 390-6292; email: CooperPatents@verizon.net

Sharon Kunkle, Secretary

(301) 706-4873; email: sharon@wlk.name

Carina Heinrichs	Marie Kazeem	Jana Sprinkle	Steve Ball
Jeannette Roscoe	Candy Quintero	John Croft	Curt Moore
Derek Hyatt	Pat Sweeney		

Money Matters

The month of June, as some of you know, has been designated by the General Church as a “month of giving.” In that context it is worth noting some of the many benefits we receive from our parent organization as a member congregation. Not only does it train and support our ministers, it provides legal and financial services we could not possibly afford on our own. In addition it provides Sunday school

materials, projects for pre-school children, education, outreach, and society support through the bishop’s office.



Mark H. Wyncoll, Manager of Giving Operations for the GC, has stated that his office always supports local giving first, as financially independent congregations are the bedrock of the General Church’s material health. But in case you have any extra freedom to give, he offers this timely message:

Dear General Church supporters,

Please consider a gift to help the General Church meet its annual giving goals as our fiscal year wraps up June 30. Any donation, large or small, will help us achieve the mission to help people all over the world live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord in His Second Coming. Your donation to your society and to the General Church matters.

To donate to the General Church or your local society* you may go to www.newchurch.org/give or send a check to Advancement, PO Box 708, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009.

*Note, you can always give locally, on-line or in person, by checking the title page of this Echo.

Thanks again for all your generosity toward the Church.

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

You are all Invited to our New Church Day Banquet Saturday, June 16th

7:00pm

This year's Speaker:

Rev. Elmo Acton

*"Pulling Back the Curtain:
How to Share Your New Church with Others"*

Photo by: www.johnmccormick.com

OPEN GALLERY

About our New Church Day Speaker: Elmo grew up in the

Glenview New Church society. By age twenty he had moved to the Bryn Athyn, where he has lived for the last twenty-five years during which time he worked as a tech in an operating room, an elevator cab manufacturing company and for Maryland's Safeware, Inc. He is

married to Abbie (Grubb) Acton – they have two children Morel (5 yrs.) and Ellouise (2 yrs.). He also has an older daughter Mckenna (25yrs).

To meet them and learn more about Elmo and his family please join us for our New Church Day Banquet or Sunday's New Church Day Service – he will also be preaching that Sunday.

Sermon Topics for June, 2018

the 3rd: From Swords to Plowshares; from Spears to Pruning Hooks, the beautiful prophecy of Isaiah 2 & Micah 4 proclaims a new life of peace and productivity after war. But what are the details of this symbolism in our spiritual lives? This is what we will explore in depth today. ~ MDG

the 10th: A New Vision of the Lord: in preparation for New Church Day today we will consider the symbolism of the vision John saw in the first chapter of the book of Revelation and see why it is so instructive and inspirational. ~ MDG

the 17th: Eagle's Wings, Earth, and Chains – How does the story of the struggle for our Lord's Church to reign on earth teach us about the struggle of the Lord's Church to reign within us? There will be a fun interactive part of our service for the kids, followed by the answer to our question above! Can't wait to see you all for this New Church Day service! - Elmo Acton

the 24th: Give Us a King! What are people after when they demand a king? Why is the Lord hesitant to grant this demand? We begin an exploration of where religion meets politics. **Deut. 17.14-20; I Sam 8, Isaiah 60.1-3; DP 215.1-3** ~ BDS

From the Theta Alpha Guild:

YARD SALE: With a steady stream of customers and decent weather, the WCNJ Yard Sale team led by Wystan Simons brought in \$1304 and counting. Thanks to all the donors, volunteers, vendors, and buyers! More than a fundraiser, this annual event continues to prompt meaningful conversations with people outside our immediate church community and offers an avenue to deepening friendships.

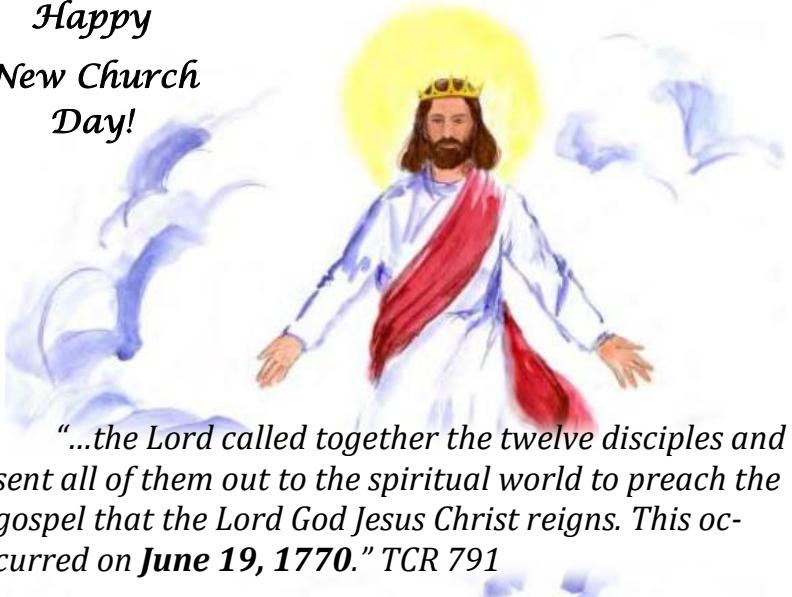
NB: Income is STILL being generated from the Yard Sale. If you missed the sale, you could still donate items to be sold on EBay for the benefit of the church - for info contact Kathy Johns ([kcjs-wim@aol.com](mailto:kajs-wim@aol.com)).

GRADUATION: June 7th at 7pm - stay tuned for Perfect Potluck to celebrate this event with our church and school families.

NEW CHURCH DAY GIFTS will be given to the children on Sunday June 18. Please contact Janna Zuber (jannazuber@verizon.net) to help with the gifts and wrapping.

TAG SERVICE PROJECT: Instead of a banquet **next year**, TAG is interested in coordinating a service project in the community. Trash pickup? Soup kitchen? Contact us with your ideas - beckalek@gmail.com.

*Happy
New Church
Day!*



*“...the Lord called together the twelve disciples and sent all of them out to the spiritual world to preach the gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns. This occurred on **June 19, 1770.**” TCR 791*

***Join us for a family (bring
your own) picnic –
Tue. June 19th -6pm out back
of the church.***



News Notes

Happy summer to everyone! It is beautiful out here today, and we have some beautiful news notes to go along with it. Thanks for the good news-sending! It's been fun to read about all of your lives. :)

Sharon Croft wrote in about some exciting Ivan news-- **Ivan** was "initiated to the Bowie High School chapter of the National Honor Society on May 9, 2017."

Mike and Ginny Gladish were pleased to host a 24 hour visit from Mike's brother-in-law, **Murray Heldon**, from Australia last month, and to catch up on all the news from a life long ago when they lived there. They are also pleased to have seen some of their son, Brett, on his way from Phoenix to Wallops Island for another successful launch of an Antares rocket to re-supply the International Space Station. Brett, a mechanical engineer, works on launch mechanisms and the rocket's "upper stack" components.

The **Kinsey kids** have been super busy!

Kristin Kinsey has two short films traveling the film festival circuit! "Out Loud" has been screened at numerous festivals and has already won Best Drama at the DC Film Festival! "Final Refrain" which premiered on Friday, May 18, her senior thesis film (and was Best in Show, and was screened last as a result) and will begin the festival circuit very soon! The Kinseys are unable to send out the links to her movies while they are in the festival circuit, but either Kinsey parent can and probably will proudly show to anyone interested! She has one more semester to go and will be graduating from Towson University in December with a major in film and a minor in French. This summer she has many irons in the fire of the film and television world so stay tuned for more exciting news (and if you watch House of Cards you might even see her name in the credits!). For a full synopsis of her film accomplishments, Kristin also has her own IMDB (Internet Movie Database) page! Check it out!

Matthew Kinsey just finished his junior year at Morgan State University in the Honors College as a Graphics Design major. He had a full social life this year along with Jordan in the PGCC club

“Seoul Searching” where he helped choreograph and direct. He is preparing for senior year by coming home to rest up for a while!

Micah Kinsey has finished his second year at PGCC and also his third home schooling high school year, and is graduating with a Missouri state high school diploma! He has been accepted to his first choice school, Salisbury State University where he will begin this fall.

Jordan Kinsey just finished her first full year of PGCC classes and is wrapping up her first year of home schooling (junior year). She participated in a PGCC club called Seoul Searching where she got to choreograph and perform Korean Pop (or K-pop) dances at several events and two major showcases. She is also studying Korean to fulfill her language requirements for high school. She had a very busy social life this year including numerous trips to BA to visit friends, in addition to a very rigorous academic year, but still managed to find time to get her driver’s license!

Candy and Chuck Quintero wrote in to share news of their travels-- they went to Newport, Rhode Island to see the Volvo Ocean Race. There was a lot of rain, but it was still fun to see those big sailboats race in the harbor. Chuck got some great photographs of the race.

Also, oldest daughter Chelsea Quintero has moved to New Hampshire. She is working on an organic farm and loving it!

Bill and Dorothy Radcliffe attended **Anna Gurney’s** graduation from Emory College in Atlanta last weekend. Anna's brothers as well as other members of the family attended. Besides the graduation festivities they enjoyed two delicious dinners at Atlanta's fine restaurants.

Wystan Simons shared some wonderful news about Owen's ability to communicate using assisted typing! Owen has impressed his whole family by communicating beautifully through a new way of typing that helps him communicate effectively with help-- Wystan set up a presentation for the community so that she and Edward could share this moment with their friends and family. They are so

excited-- the collective sense of awe was very sweet and filled with love and support of the Simons family.

Wystan is attending an Autism One conference in Chicago this Memorial Day weekend-- she wants to "hobnob with more parents doing facilitated typing." She also noted that Oskar is moving home for the summer and looking to set up a wood working studio in their shed. Good news all around.

Wanda Moore sent us a correction to the last Echo along with her news. **Curt and Wanda** had **not** been married for 25 years.



They've actually been married for 27 years and celebrated that in 2018! 27 years! I'm glad you caught that. :) The Moore family has been doing some traveling-- they went to "the Canadian side of Niagara Falls earlier this month and had a great time - with a falls view from their hotel

room and were amazed at the power of the Falls. They took a trip on the Hornblower into the falls. A very powerful experience!! Marcus was the only one missing, but for good reason-- he finished exams "for his junior year with a 3.6 GPA. Mom and Dad are very proud and look forward to great things in the upcoming year."

The Zuber annual Grand Canyon vacation. Most of the Phil Zuber immediate family gathered yet again at the Grand Canyon along with other family and friends to do the annual trek down and up the canyon in one day. This year Phil's 10 year old granddaughter Sophia successfully joined the hikers. Janna, not one to enjoy death marches, stayed at the top of the rim and loved visiting her sister **Greta Davidson** - her husband John also did the march. Janna said "she thinks that we girls had far more fun and lots of visiting time. It is always a treat to see the gang that gathers there and I believe this was the 7th year for our family."

After that adventure **Janna** went off to join 5 other artists for a wet week of painting in Orkney Springs, VA at Shrine Mont. Luckily, the indoor studio was quite bright and dry, and it was a good recharge for her artistic batteries. Everyone, remember that Janna has an ongoing art show at Hysteria Brewery in Columbia MD!

The next day after returning home Janna, Phil, Kira and Joseph car pooled to the destination wedding of **Bryan Kunkle and Kristin Hein** in Barto, PA. The venue was nestled in the rolling hills of Amish country and was beyond beautiful. Luckily, the historic facility was ready to handle a wedding rain or shine, in an elegant setting.

The **Reverend Chris Barber** performed the ceremony. All of us were treated to beautiful live music by a violin and cello duo. The bride was radiant in a gorgeous gown that looked like it was designed just for her. Her attendants wore lovely navy-blue dresses. Bryan looked pretty dapper and mighty happy as well, with his best man being our own Evan Smith. And there were 2 really cute young ones there that tried to steal the show but could not succeed.

All of us enjoyed the good food and much merriment at the reception that went on into the wee hours of the morning. We wish the newlyweds the best on their journey in life together!

That's all for this month, folks! Enjoy this warm weather and sun (until we all have to hide in the shade, of course).

Until next month!

Your news hound,

Hanna

Don't forget to send me all of your graduation news!

hannaihyatt@gmail.com

June Anniversaries

“Conjugial love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven - and the fundamental of all the delights and joys of heaven.”

Emanuel Swedenborg, AE 993



June 10th ~ David & Heather Radcliffe ~ 23 yrs.

June 13th ~ Carl & Judy Goetzinger ~ 54 yrs.

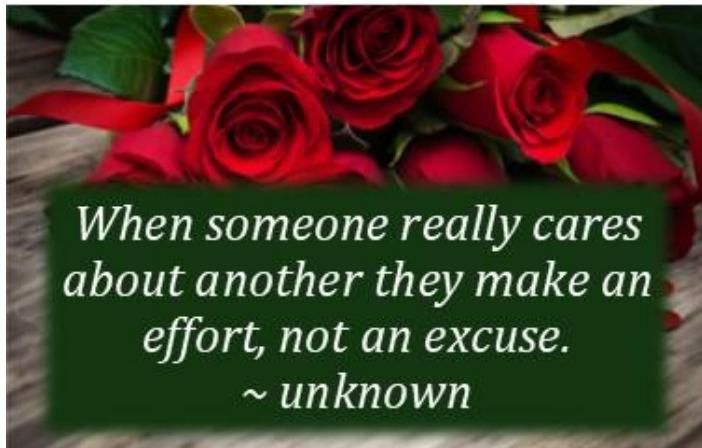
June 15th ~ Wynne & (Marge) Hyatt ~ 61 yrs.

June 15th ~ Derek & Hanna Hyatt ~ 3 yr.

June 20th ~ (Dean) & Cathy Smith ~ 65 yrs.

June 21st ~ David & Amy Glenn ~ 33 yrs.

June 25th ~ Brian and Janine Smith ~ 12 yrs.



*When someone really cares
about another they make an
effort, not an excuse.*

~ unknown