

January 2019

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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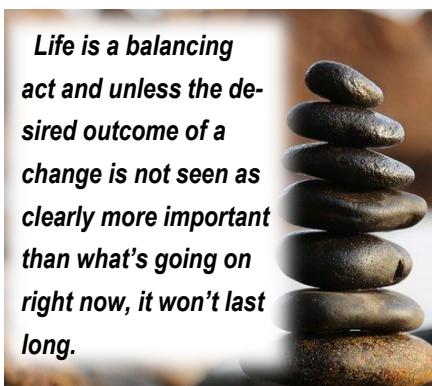
Dear Friends,

First, on behalf of the three ministers at the WNC I want to thank all of you who contributed to our generous Christmas gifts. We

feel your appreciation – very much. In addition it has been a pleasure to work with you and, hopefully, to have served you in some useful ways this past year.

### What Next?

The New Year always seems like an opportunity to make some fresh starts, although my experience has been that resolutions are never really effective unless there's a great deal more than a time element to them. Life is a balancing act and unless the desired outcome of a change is not seen as clearly *more important* than what's going on right now, it won't last long. That said, any new beginning is an opportunity to re-evaluate old habits, and of course we know that repentance of bad habits is a life-long responsibility.



***Life is a balancing act and unless the desired outcome of a change is not seen as clearly more important than what's going on right now, it won't last long.***

When it comes to the organized church it has always seemed curious to me that it is normally seen as a bastion of traditional values, including traditions themselves that may have outlived their usefulness. Certainly we admire the conviction of our founding fathers and we respect the doctrinal thinking that led them to establish the representative customs we hold dear. But in my studies over the years I have discovered that there are other perfectly good and right ways to apply the doctrines – and even (gasp!) that some of the original thinking about this may have been flawed.

For example, we know that the work of repentance must precede the peace of regeneration, but this does not mean that we must begin every service of worship with a focus on the acknowledgment of our evils. We could just as well start with praise and the acknowledgement of the **Lord's** love and wisdom, and *then* reflect on our need for His help, later in the service. So as you may be aware we have begun doing this with our new orders of service.

Again, why do we keep the two tables for baptism and the holy supper high up in the inner sanctuary? There is a lovely symbolism in doing that, but they could just as well be kept on the lower, introductory level of the chancel, or, if we had designed it differently, on the floor of the nave, closest to the people.

Many of our old hymns stir deep affections in us, at least partly because we grew up with them. But what of the people who didn't grow up with them? Are 300 year-old words and music likely to appeal to young people or the "unchurched"? In fact, do they?

I don't write any of this to arouse anxiety or fear of loss, but as we prepare, beginning this month, to counsel the bishop on a change of pastors we have an opportunity to consider possible new ways of doing all sorts of things in the church. Of course I'm not recommending sudden, radical change, but rather an *openness to change* as our needs and circumstances have changed.

### New Pastor Selection Process

So you know, our committee has narrowed the field to three possible candidates to consider for the pastoral office here this coming summer. This has already led to invitations for them all to come and visit, interview and preach for us in the New Year. So please, ***see the announcements about this on page p. 10*** and be sure to attend on those occasions if you want to have a say in who is called.

### People Ask...

"Mike, what're you going to do in retirement?" Well, the truth is, I don't know! I have about 40 years of my life in files that need to be sorted and culled, I have some hobbies I'd like to cultivate, and I might even be tempted to write a book. As for church work I am waiting to see what the new pastor might need or want, as I will take direction from him. If nothing else I might help out with some routine maintenance. And I'm waiting for the new bishop to take office to see what if anything he might need or want from me.

In short I hope to stay busy. I'm not much good at sitting around. But FWIW Ginny and I do plan to stay right where we are and be active members of the congregation. So if there's anything we can do for YOU, please don't hesitate to ask. 6 months to go!

## Money Matters

As we begin another new year, one of the special uses we are actively contemplating is the development of an innovative new four-year high school program. You will be reading more about this in communications that will be widely circulated in the coming months. Meanwhile, the project puts a renewed focus on our entire school program, from junior kindergarten to grade 12, and highlights our need to be clear about this mission.

It IS a mission, after all, not just a service we provide for our own children. It is one of the BEST things we can do to inform and encourage whole families in the beautiful, life-affirming doctrines of the New Church. But of course, like all practical uses, it costs money, and we don't know of any private schools that can operate on tuition income alone. Some sort of endowment is essential.

With this in mind we have a suggestion. If or when you plan for a distribution of your estate assets when you “graduate” to the other world, would you consider leaving something specifically for our *school endowment*, or perhaps our *scholarship fund*? Obviously we don't want a lot of money tied up in ways that bind the future of the church, but if you used words expressing a *preference* for school endowment but a willingness to defer to other uses if the school doesn't need the money, all would be well. Any competent financial advisor – including Mark Wyncoll, at the General Church Development Office – could help you make the wording clear.

Please note that over the last 10 years or so we have seen at least 17 new members baptized into this church through their connection with the school. Even so, this is not the main reason for our commitment to New Church education; rather we do it to help all who are ready and willing to learn the vital truths of the revelation of the Lord's Second Coming. And we do it, or we should do it, without thought of financial return. We just need to pay the bills!

Thank you all for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Gladish". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'G'.

Hello friends:

My battle against multiple myeloma has been extremely difficult. The good news is my doctor said I am making "favorable progress toward rapid remission." I want to thank all of you for your kind words of encouragement, delicious food, lively visits, and your prayers. I am grateful for my family, especially Janet, and for all of you, my friends. I don't know what I may have done without you.

Above all, I am thankful to the Lord for strengthening me as I struggle to overcome this most difficult challenge in my life.

~ Michael Ferrell

### **Sermon Topics for January, 2019**

**the 6<sup>th</sup>: Priorities:** As we launch into a New Year how seriously are we prepared to take the Lord's instruction to "Seek **first** the kingdom of God"? Let's be real. Isn't it true that our first aim is usually to get comfortable, and *then* explore the deeper meaning of life? How can we turn this around? ~ MDG

**the 13<sup>th</sup>: Guest Preacher, the Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier,** from Glenview, Illinois, preaching on Matthew 5:44, "...Love your enemies; bless those who curse you," and so on. The children's talk will most likely be on the same theme.

**the 20<sup>th</sup>: Making Your *Proprium* Work for You** (rather than against you). Your *proprium*, is your sense of ownership, your sense of *self*. Why is this important, and how can it contribute in a positive way to your spiritual life? ~ MDG

**the 27<sup>th</sup>: Guest Preacher, the Rev. Mark Allais,** from Johannesburg, South Africa, preaching on "Prayer - Where God and Life Meet." See the "Events" page for other opportunities to meet and hear Mark during his visit to the WNC. He and his wife, Karen will be here from Wednesday until Tuesday!

And looking ahead... **on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> we will have still another Guest Preacher, Rev. Jared Buss,** from Toronto, his topic to be announced next month.

## From the Principal

Welcome back to all students and teachers! (Including a new student, Jaiden Selby, who has joined our third grade)

Over the break we posted a job offering as we search for an excellent, “educational coach” to be a key player in our high school program. If you know anyone who has a burning interest in developing New Church education and brings interesting training and/or experience to the table, please put them in contact with me!

*Arcana Coelestia* 3336 tells us that “nothing is ever able to enter the human memory and remain there unless there is some affection or love to attract it.” This statement is both self-evident, confirmed quickly in our own experience, *and* also profound in its implications for education. We can easily bring to mind lectures or conversations where the person speaks at length on a subject towards which we feel no affection. It can be almost physically painful to maintain the proper polite expression of attention and we are unlikely to remember anything about the subject. Contrast this experience with your best memories of reading, listening or problem solving in an area that captured your interest, where you learned rapidly and almost effortlessly, tugged along by an eager curiosity to learn more. It is this “flow-state” or “play-state” that we hope to cultivate in our students in order to bring the most value to the hours they have for education.

Good teachers, especially good New Church teachers already understand this need to engage the affections. A difference we envision in this high school program is the opportunity to better structure the whole context of learning around this insight, rather than merely making use of it in the delivery of a given lesson. Conventional teachers are often pressured and constrained by a great deal of content promises which push them to move steadily and rapidly through dense content with the requirement that students rapidly memorize and feed back the content to prove that they are “learning.” This relationship is very common, even between good students and good teachers in a good school. And there *are* some affections attached to this process (otherwise memory couldn’t occur

at all). The student and teacher can find affections around competition, pleasing the teacher, gaining some kind of future reward (grades, college admission etc). The most successful students will also connect with some genuine loves and interests in the subject – though tragically many students report chronic boredom and frustration with the content which has been carefully chosen for them by the culture into which they are being trained.

What can our high school do differently? By using a small-scale coaching model which allows the freedom to design individual, self-paced programs, we gain the ability to help the student find many more opportunities for affection-fueled learning in areas where he or she finds an active interest. It is not that high school freshmen are above mediate motivations of pleasing others, competing and being recognized for secondary achievements. Nor do these same freshmen have a mature knowledge of their own interests. The difference is that we can build a program where affection-fueled learning for useful purposes is the central focus of the program. Exploring, identifying and following up on potential areas of interest can be facilitated and scaffolded so that our students graduate with a precocious self-knowledge, born of regular experiential learning in areas of genuine affection and a well-developed ability to direct their activities in productive directions.



### ***Job Opening: High School Education Coach***

Washington New Church School (WNCS) is seeking applicants for a position as education coach in our innovative high school program. We are launching a 4-year, New Church high school, using an alternative model (based around guided internships and internet programs). We would love to talk with anyone with a passion for building the future of New Church high school education through a direct coaching model. The successful applicant will be an energetic, creative person who

loves working with young adults and is excited to join a team offering a distinctly New Church high school program which is built around experiential and student directed learning.

**Responsibilities:** The applicant's duties will include: 1) Implementation of the new program. 2) Oversight and coaching students on life-skills and in working through individualized learning plans. 3) Direct, skills-based, teaching.

### **Personal and Professional Requirements:**

- Love of teenage students
- knowledge of New Church Educational principles
- Baptized in the New Church
- Active Participant in the Organized New Church
- Ability to work collaboratively with other teachers, parents and community groups
- Commitment to marriage as defined in the Word and Heavenly Doctrines
- Bachelor's degree.

### **Helpful Experience and Skills**

- Conventional classroom teaching
- Strong written, oral communication skills
- Strong interpersonal/networking skills
- Firm and friendly boundary setting with teens
- Flexibility with a developing school model
- Well organized with strong follow through
- Experience with social media marketing
- Intellectual curiosity and dexterity
- Familiarity with homeschooling and/or online schooling programs
- Experience with various technology applications

**Please submit resumes and/or questions by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to: Brian Smith, Principal**

[brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:brian.smith@washnewchurch.org)

[301-850-3029](tel:301-850-3029) (cell)

[301-464-5602](tel:301-464-5602) (office)

11914 Chantilly Ln, Mitchellville, MD. 20721



### ***A Message from our Friend Bernita:***

The New Church “Tableaux Program” made the Christmas Story real, i.e. brought it closer to mind, nearer to the heart, and more intimate with the will.

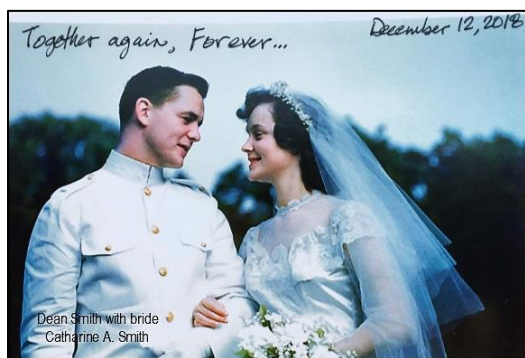
Because our consciousness is so pre-occupied with other interests, we do not turn to the Lord as we should with loving attention - what with gift and food shopping, sending greeting cards, and the lists go on . . .

Indeed, I confess, something needed to happen to turn attention to the LORD! IT DID!! The TABLEAUX! - Which gave me a sense of the PRESENCE of the Divine Reality, at such a time as this!

Thank you for the constant awareness of the LORD! Of a truth, “we are saved” . . . by conscious communion with HIS greatness and love and holiness.

Cordially, Bernita

## **Catharine Arrington Smith**



Catharine Smith quietly passed into the other world on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 after a long struggle with failing health. Her family and many friends memorialized her life in a service by Pastor Mike Gladish, held at the

Washington New Church on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Better known to us as our friend Cathy, she was, along with her husband Dean and their four sons, an integral part of the Washington Society for over 50 years. The Smiths lived in Arlington for several years but eventually, as Acton Park was developing, built their beautiful home here. Among her many contributions to the

life of the Society, Cathy had a large part in outfitting the chancel in the original Church building and, after they moved to Acton Park, was a strong supporter of the newly established school, teaching history, mythology and other subjects for 10 years. She quickly took charge of the historical records of the Society and remained our dedicated archivist. She was always deeply interested in and involved in the various affairs of the congregation.

Cathy was a true lady. She was an avid homemaker and gardener and a gracious hostess. She also had a sense of fun. Some of us may remember her doing the “Charleston” at one of the semi-formal dances we used to hold, to the great enjoyment of all. But she was also a real student of the teachings of the New Church, as well as of all things historical.

Cathy’s health gradually declined after her beloved Dean preceded her into the other world. But a few of her old friends were able to have good visits and conversations with her over “a cup of tea” on a regular basis until her latest spell in the hospital.

We will miss her sorely. We all loved her interest in people and in the things of the church, and her cheerfulness and optimistic spirit. But we rejoice in the knowledge that she is now once again making a lovely home with Dean. ~ George Cooper

## **Thanks**

*The Smith family, one and all, would like to give **heartfelt thanks** to our friends and neighbors for the outpouring of love and support at the time of Mom (Cathy Smith)'s passing. Every one of your kind acts, hugs, and loving words has been much appreciated. We are so happy for Mom to be with Dad, but her absence does leave a hole on earth, so it is comforting to have so many dear friends who cared for her as well and can share in our memories and affection for her. ~ Sara Smith, for all the Smiths*



## **Report of Pastor Search Committee**

The Committee has met twice with Bishop Brian Keith (on November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>) to discuss possible and potential candidates for replacing our retiring pastor next June. Initially, the committee reviewed the status and possible availability of all the active ministers in the General Church to narrow the scope of the search, and finally has asked three ministers to visit our Society and to meet with the committee. After the last of these meetings, - in about the middle of February – the Committee will meet to select a candidate for recommendation to the Bishop as our next Pastor. The Bishop will then make a nomination to the Society for a vote in late February or early March

The schedule for the visiting candidates is as follows:

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier will visit our Society from Thursday evening, January 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday afternoon, January 13<sup>th</sup>. He will visit the School on Friday, give a Society Doctrinal Class on Friday evening at 7:30 PM, and preside at the usual Church service on Sunday at 11:00 AM. After graduation from Theological School, Mac served two years in Pittsburg and two years in Bryn Athyn as assistant pastor before serving as Pastor of the New Church in Austin, Texas for 5 years. Most recently, he has served 2 years as Assistant Pastor in the Glenview, Illinois Church. Mac will be staying with George and Mary Cooper.

Rev. Mark Allais will visit our Society at the end of January. He will arrive with his wife Karen on Wednesday afternoon, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will return to South Africa on Tuesday evening, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mark (and Karen) will spend time in the school, and Mark will deliver the address at the Swedenborg’s birthday banquet on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Mark will also preside at the Church service on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. After graduating from Theological School, Mark served as an assistant for one year before being called to serve as Pastor of the New Church Buccleuch (near Johannesburg, South Africa), where he has been for the past 9 years. Mark and Karen will be staying with Chuck and Candy Quintero.

Rev. Jared Buss will visit our Society from Thursday afternoon, February 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday evening, February 10<sup>th</sup>. He will visit the school on Friday, will give a Society Doctrinal Class on Friday evening at 7:30 PM, and will preside at the usual Church service on Sunday at 11:00 AM. After graduating from Theological School, Jared was appointed as Assistant to the Pastor of the Olivet Church in Toronto, Canada, where he has served for the past 4 years. Jared will be staying with George and Mary Cooper.

We invite you all to attend these services and classes to welcome these candidates to the Washington Society.

George Cooper, for the Committee



**Special Class**  
**Friday, January 12, 2019**  
**7:30pm**

Please join us and welcome Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier who will be visiting us to meet with our pastoral selection committee and will be giving a special Friday class on the topic of *charitable works as an integral part of evangelism*. This will be followed by refreshments and socializing at the church (no dinner this time).



**Swedenborg's Birthday Banquet**  
**FRIDAY - Jan 25, 2019**  
**7:00pm**

Please join us and welcome Rev. Mark Allais and his wife Karen who will be visiting us to meet with our pastoral selection committee and will be our guest speaker at this year's Swedenborg's birthday banquet.

Marks topic will be: *Being the Church* - bringing together the simple foundation truths that provide structure to the church within and without.

Call the office to reserve a ticket to the banquet. \$10 – Adults, \$5 – Students.

### **Church Events in January, 2019**

**3 Wednesdays, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** the *morning classes on the Book of Revelation* continue at the Gladish home at 10 AM to review chapters 11, 12 & 13. A syllabus is available on request, and new members of the group are always welcome.

**Mon, the 7<sup>th</sup>,** the *evening Heaven & Hell class* at the home of George & Mary Cooper will meet at 8:00 PM to discuss the concluding chapters of the book, from no. 566 to the end.

**School resumes for WNCS on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Fri, the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** there is a special doctrinal class by our guest pastor, the **Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier** on the topic of *charitable works as an integral part of evangelism*. This will be followed by refreshments and socializing at the church (no dinner this time).

**Wed, the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM** the **Theta Alpha Guild** has a meeting at Mary Cooper's.

**Thurs, the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** the **Acton Park Board** has its regular bi-monthly meeting to discuss our land management.

**Fri, the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** we have our annual Swedenborg's birthday banquet (note, Friday, not Saturday), featuring our guest pastor, the **Rev. Mark Allais** speaking about "*Being the Church* - bringing together the simple foundation truths that provide structure to the church within and without." This will be preceded by a simple introduction by our pastor recognizing Swedenborg's part in the establishment of the church.

### **All the News that will fit in Print:**

**Sad News and Good News:** On Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, many family members as well as numerous friends from near and far attended the moving memorial service for **Catharine A. Smith**, and afterward shared memories of her long and useful life. For those who were unable to attend, the service is now posted on our website "theWNC.org" where both audio and video recordings can be

found. As Cathy graduated to the next world, one of her grandsons was also graduating in a different way. ***Evan Smith***, son of Matt and Sara, just finished getting a degree in Computer Science from UMUC. As the graduation ceremony at the University of Maryland fell on the same day as his grandmother's funeral, Evan was happy to forgo that event and spend time with family instead. His proud parents would like to point out that he graduated Summa Cum Laude- a testament to the impressive amount of hard work he put into achieving this goal.

**Good News:** Congratulations to Kasey & Lisa (Bond) Moritz; it's a baby boy, ***Landon Kasey Moritz*** - born Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6lbs 7 oz. All is well.



**And more Good News:** ***Lila Bea Hyatt***, the littlest daughter of Derek and Hanna Hyatt, was baptized as a part of the church service on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, with her proud parents and brother watching as she smiled and laughed (much to their surprise) through the service. Congratulations, Lila, you are in good hands. Hanna reports that "We had fun sharing the day with everyone!"

**And Some Moore News:** Wanda just had to attend a conference in Glenn Dale, Arizona right after Thanksgiving, so Curt went along with her to enjoy some of that warm desert weather. After her conference they did some sightseeing around Glenn Dale/Scottsdale/Phoenix, and on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> they drove up to Sedona, Arizona. Wanda report that "when I say up, it was truly up, elevations over 4,000 feet, you could feel yourself going up and up the mountains, and coming down was interesting also."



The highlight of Sedona was the Chapel of the Holy Cross which was built into the red rock, the view was amazing!!" They also visited the New Church of Phoenix for their morning service. She said

that “The pastor and congregation were so welcoming and really made us feel a part of the family.”

**Christmas News:** The Tableaux by all accounts were terrific – moving and memorable. It was an adult presentation to the children, and it was great to have so many people step up to take part - including many new school parents being super-helpful participants this year. Special kudos to the behind-the-scenes people who were able to set up the chancel scenery in record time on Sunday following the memorial service on Saturday afternoon. Particular thanks to Bonnie Cowley and to Mary Cooper for their stalwart support. Also, special thanks to Pastor Mike, who directed the Tableaux and managed to pull it together in spite of writing and giving the memorial address for Catharine Smith on the day before the Tableaux.

The Christmas Eve candle light service was its usual inspiring occasion, and thanks go to the ladies who put together the beautiful decorations

**News of the Arts:** Several of our members attended an "art soiree" at the home of one of our school parents, *Sonya Ojikutu*, just before Christmas - a really nice event showing his work for sale.

***Janna Zuber*** got a last-minute invite to hang a show at “Ahh Coffee” in the Eastport Shopping Center in Annapolis, MD two weeks before Christmas. Her show will be up through the end of January, so if you missed seeing her show in Laurel in November, you have another opportunity to see them here, plus some smaller pieces that were not on display in Laurel.

***Emily Martin*** managed a sparkling 4.0 GPA in her first semester at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), where she is majoring in illustration with concentrations in sequential arts and performing arts. Good going Emily.

**And Now Bad News:** *Amy Glenn* broke her wrist while looking after granddaughter, Harper, in December. Who said being a grandparent was easy! But at least she gets to sport a Christmassy light red cast.

**And Really Bad News:** The entire *Simons family* had to vacate their house for MAJOR mold abatement and remediation in the midst of the last thing they needed - more rain. However, they are grateful to Dave Cowley for his energy and creativity on the project, to Stew Smith for giving time to the project during his mom's last week with us, and to Erin Stillman, a friend indeed, for helping to evacuate the Christmas presents! They are grateful that some of their kids could be with them for Christmas (at the hotel). Wystan invites you to visit them at room 102 at Town Place Suites by Marriott, behind the Bowie Town Center; they will be there a while. She also reports that Owen attended a holiday party for young people who type to communicate, in Rockville. It is very exciting to see him begin social networking.

**And Finally, the News:** *David Stebbing* presented the church with a copy of a family history written by his mother (and the wife of a former WNC Treasurer) that he edited - replete with fascinating pictures along with the narrative. It is a history of the Washington Society, as well. You can see it in the church lobby. Thanks, David – it is a valuable keepsake of the early days when the Society was a Circle, and when it grew into its present status.

Now it is the turn of you, both of our faithful readers, to provide your versions of new newsworthy news for the New Year so that we can provide a new Echo for February. Don't delay! The deadline is only 3½ weeks away!

## Mark Your Calendars

For the

## Annual Dessert & hors d'oeuvres Contest

Saturday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00pm

at the home of  
Brent &  
Amanda Hyatt



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