

March 2019

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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Dear Friends,

At last, after months of analysis and discussion, we are on the verge of determining who will be our new church pastor when I

retire this summer. (See the messages on pages 5&6.) It is an exciting time for all of us who care about the church, and hopes are high that the new man will usher in a new era of church growth and development.

It is also a time for rededication to the real effort that this will take on our part as members. No one man is going to change the dynamics of this church or make it grow. We are ALL called to do that work, and one of the most important ways we can contribute is by just showing up, encouraging one another and welcoming visitors. We can also share our personal insights with the new pastor so that he can provide effective leadership.



Obviously, this month also begins my official tenure as a lame duck pastor. Now you might think this would be an awkward time for the society and for me, but in fact it's a GREAT time to take stock, make adjustments and prepare for what comes next. Yes, some forward-looking decisions may be postponed for a little while – but not for long; meanwhile the pressure is off, and we can all just relax a little, reflect on the last 10 years, and enjoy the process described in DP #178, where we read,

“Everything a person contemplates in his reason arises from the love of bringing it into effect by means of his thought. Therefore, if he knew the effect or result from Divine prediction his reason would come to rest, and with it his love; for love with reason comes to an end in the effect, and from that point it begins anew. It is the very delight of reason to see from love the effect in thought – not the effect in its attainment, but before it, that is, not in the present but in the future. Hence a person has what is called Hope, which increases and decreases in the reason as he sees or looks forward to the event.”

The Doctrine of the Future

One of the blessings of the New Church is the whole doctrine on Divine Providence. We have the 5 (or 10) *Laws* of Providence

(DP #71 *ff* and AE #1136 *ff*), the eternal *perspective* of Providence, the explanation of *why evils are permitted*, and much, much more. One of my favorite concepts is this:

“The nature of the Lord’s Providence is such that it is linked together with Foresight; the one does not exist without the other. For evil things are foreseen, but good ones are provided; and the evils things that are foreseen are constantly being turned towards what is good by means of the Lord’s provident arrangement, since the Divine end, which has good in view, governs everything. *Nothing is therefore allowed to happen except to the end that something good may come out of it*” (AC #6489).

Of course this *good* that the Lord provides for is often hard for us to see, but it is important that we *know* He is working on it, and that we humble ourselves to accept it. So we read,

“A longing to know the future is innate with most people; but this longing derives its origin from the love of evil. It is therefore taken away from those who believe in the Divine Providence; and there is given them a trust that the Lord is disposing their lot. Consequently they do not desire to know it beforehand lest they should in any way set themselves against the Divine Providence” (DP #179).

Finally, for now, it is critical that we understand what truly matters to the Lord, so that we don’t get hung up on the little things.

“People do not yet know that throughout its progress in a person, Divine providence regards his eternal state. For it can regard nothing else, because the Divine is infinite and eternal, and the infinite and eternal or the Divine does not exist in time. *Consequently all future events are present to it.* Moreover, because that is the nature of the Divine, it follows that each and every thing that it does has eternity in it.” (DP #59, *Italics added*).

This is a particularly challenging concept because it *feels* threatening to our sense of freedom. But just because the Lord knows the future does not mean that He is controlling our decisions! We still

have to make the best of what's in front of us, but in His infinite wisdom the Lord can anticipate how we will do it and adjust His guidance accordingly. It is, in fact, nothing short of amazing.

So, friends, let's be confident in the future and look forward to every day as a new opportunity to do *something* good and to get *something* right. And let's trust the Lord to do the rest – for ourselves, for one another, and for His church here and around the world.



Money Matters

Over the years – many years now – this church has been the beneficiary of some VERY significant financial help from wealthy members and friends, AND from men and women who have had the freedom to volunteer countless hours of professional help – from teaching to engineering, landscaping and much more.

We continue to be very fortunate in the continuation of gifts like these, but at the same time, increasingly, we are facing a new reality, and that is that we cannot continue to count on quite so much generosity going forward.

The truth is that more and more of our member families depend on two incomes *just to make ends meet*, and so they have less time to offer the church and less financial freedom, too, despite their best intentions. This makes it more important than ever for each one of us to do the very best we can to help pay the bills at the church. We may not be able to give LARGE amounts of either time or money, but if the NUMBER of those who give small amounts grows we will be alright. After all, \$10,000 divided 10 ways is only \$1,000 each. And remember, we run an \$800,000 budget!

Whew! That's a lot! Remember, too, however, that over \$200,000 of that will come from school tuition, and that will grow as, hopefully, our student enrollment grows. Another \$230,000 will come from endowment income. That leaves \$370,000 to glean from elsewhere – mostly from OUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

OK, so if we had 370 members that would be easy, right? Or if we had 185 members we could still do it with \$2,000 from each. But right now we have fewer than 100 members. And all we're asking, really, is that you think about this, and just do what you can to help. If your income allows it, please give more. \$5,000 out of a total income of \$100,000 is still only 5% and could make a huge difference to the health of the society, and it would help all those who can't give as much to feel that their donations have made a difference, too.

Thank you for your generous consideration!

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

Final Report of the Committee to Advise the Bishop

On February 9th the Pastor Search Committee completed its interviews with three potential successors to the job of Pastor to the Washington Society, and the following week met twice with Bishop Brian Keith to make its recommendations to him. In a letter sent to all members of the congregation on the 19th of February, the Bishop nominated Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier to be our next pastor. It should be noted that this nomination has the unanimous support of the Committee.

During its deliberations the Committee noted that our current school Principal, Rev. Brian Smith, was initially appointed to that position by the Executive Bishop, but through oversight his appointment had not yet been affirmed by a formal vote of the Society. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the Bishop nominate Brian to be the Assistant Pastor of the Society, and that nomination has also been made. This nomination also has the unanimous support of the Committee

Affirmation of these nominations will be by vote of the Society at a special meeting to be held on March 1st.

Except for a few follow-up items, the Committee's work has now been completed. Over a period of nine months, the committee met numerous times at the home of Candy and Chuck Quintero, with

profuse thanks to them for their patience and hospitality. Thanks also to all those members of the Washington Society who contributed thoughts, comments, criticisms and accolades to the selection process; we couldn't have done it without you.

George Cooper - For the Committee, February 22, 2019

To the Washington New Church,

Thank you for considering calling me to the position of senior Pastor of the Washington New Church in Mitchellville, MD. When Bishop Brian Keith telephoned me to let me know that I was being nominated to this office, I was delighted.

Every interaction I had during the interview process—with the selection committee, with Mike Gladish and Brian Smith, with the school faculty, staff and student body, and with everyone I met at various social gatherings and at church on Friday night and Sunday morning—was an overwhelmingly positive experience for me.

What I learned during that visit was that you are a friendly church congregation with a healthy sense of identity, a firm footing built up over many years of operation, and an exciting potential for continued health and usefulness as you face new challenges. So I am excited by the prospect of taking on a leadership role in the next chapter of this community's story, and am honored to be called to do so.

What's more, my wife Gillian, joins me in my excitement. Together we agree that your community will make a wonderful home for our family, and we are looking forward to making new connections with you all.

So again, thank you for this honor. I am enthusiastically anticipating the many conversations we will have together about planning for the future of the Washington New Church, and pray that we may all do so humbly, with the Lord's leading.

Very Respectfully,

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier

Sermon Topics for March, 2019

the 3rd: MERCY: What is it, and How do we Practice it?

People have all sorts of ideas about this, some of which are actually cruelty or foolishness in disguise. Come and see what the Lord says about this, i.e., how beautiful and how challenging true mercy can be, both to give and to receive. ~ MDG

the 10th: JUSTICE – OR JUDGMENT? When we cry out for *justice* what do we mean? Isn't it often really that we want someone to face consequences for some wrongdoing and be punished? Today we'll explore the delicate balance between these two things in our spiritual lives. ~ MDG

the 17th: THE LAST JUDGMENT and the 144,000. The book of Revelation describes a cataclysmic judgment in the world of spirits. But what does it mean to US, today? And how can we benefit from understanding this? ~ MDG

the 24th: FINDING THE WINDOW IN HEAVEN. There are several contenders for the darkest part of the Bible, and II Kings 7 is certainly one of them. We will use this desperate, unhappy story, to look for strength and insights that we can use when we face dark and desperate times. ~ BDS

the 31st: WE ARE ALL CHILDREN. When the great king, Solomon prayed for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:7 he declared himself "a little child," not knowing how to go out or come in. In fact we are ALL little children in the Lord's eyes. Today we will explore what this really means and why our acknowledgment of that fact is so important. ~ MDG

From the Principal,

This February was one of the bumpiest imaginable with snow days, early dismissals, and delayed starts -- occasionally even coinciding with actual snow! Everyone (other than the parents) *kind of* likes snow days, but the fits-and-starts really mess with the schedule and make it hard for everyone to settle into a steady routine.

The board has set the tuition for next year at \$7,500 as the base tuition charge. This is an increase over last year in an effort to keep tuition roughly on pace with school costs, however, keeping up with the school costs is difficult given the continually rising cost of health care. We have also introduced a buy-out option for the Parent Service Program (PSP). We're hoping that most parents will continue to help out in the school and build community through 10 hours (or more) of volunteer participation each year. However, sometimes people are busy enough that they would rather support financially than through volunteering and so we have introduced a \$400 PSP charge (which can be refunded at the end of the school year based on volunteer participation).

The process of developing the high school program continues along, but settling on a candidate to hire remains elusive. We've interviewed some promising people and hope to have a final answer by our March 19 Open House.

Speaking of the Open House, I would like to make a special request to friends and community of WNCSS to consider participating in the open house event. The most important selling point for a school is other parents and alumni. Your participation as alumni and parents of alumni IS the product of the school. We also welcome any support in distributing fliers and yard signs promoting in the community.

We regularly talk with our veteran staff about plans for the future, and Erin Stillman has let us know her plan to gradually decrease her teaching load (of art and music courses). This creates a unique challenge for next year because we now need enough courses covered that we can't simply solve the problem with existing staff, and yet, neither does it amount to full time job. This means that if you, or someone else you know, has an interest in working in the school in a part-time capacity I would love to talk with you. PLEASE give me ideas, leads or possibilities who live locally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Stillman', written in a cursive style.

Church Events in March, 2019

Fri, the 1st: As many of you know, the special society meeting called to affirm the nomination of **the Rev. Mac Frazier** as our next head pastor was held on this evening, led by Bishop Peter Buss, Jr. The vote was overwhelmingly affirmative, thanks to the intense preparation and unanimous nomination of the committee to counsel the bishop. Please see Mac's note on page 6.

Mondays, the 4th & 18th, at 8:00 PM the new study group reviewing the summary doctrinal book, "The New Jerusalem," will meet again at the Coopers' to review passage #23 and on.

Tues, the 5th, at 7:30 PM the WNC School Board has its regular monthly meeting at the church.

Wednesdays, the 6th & 20th at 10:00 AM the *Revelation* study group will meet at the Gladish's to discuss chapter 14, 15 & 16 as expounded in the *Apocalypse Explained* and *Revealed*. Note the change in the dates from the original syllabus.

Tues, the 12th, at 7:30 PM the Church Board of Trustees has its regular meeting with the church property as a special focus, and perhaps also the new minister's housing.

Sat, the 23rd, at 8:00 AM please come and enjoy a cooked breakfast (\$3.00) before helping with a **church work party** from 9:00 AM until around 1:00. There will be LOTS of interesting things to do, inside and out, for all ages and abilities.

Please note, our school will close at noon on Thursday, the 28th and remain closed on Friday, the 29th, as the teachers will be attending a professional "inservice" program in Bryn Athyn.

The Cemetery

Things are coming alive in the cemetery! Well, we're not talking about bodies, but rather the rejuvenation of the landscape there. A volunteer crew has been working since summer to control overgrowth and collect debris, complemented by a professional tree service that eliminated dead branches and trees on Valentine's

Day. The goal is to bring to life the dream of Rev. Fred Schnarr to create an attractive and accessible New Church Memorial Park. The next step this spring will be to restore the split rail fence fronting Sondberg Lane. After that we definitely need visible signage. And in the future additional planting and landscaping can be undertaken.

This all may seem to be a relatively remote issue in the face of our many pressing needs, but for us octogenarians it is considerably more compelling.

Bill Radcliffe

How Can I Help?

Editorial by Bonnie Cowley

There is a new TV show that I like where the main character, wanting to effect positive change in his new post at a hospital, goes around asking his coworkers and employees, “How can I help?” rather than telling them what he thinks should be done. It is the theme of the show and seems very effective. I’ve been thinking a lot about this approach, and yes, of course it works on TV, but could it actually work in reality or even here in our own church.

We all want positive growth and change in the church and school... we even have our own ideas as to how to effect that change. We may not even be negative or critical, yet we freely offer our suggestions or advice. Our pastor might say, “I wish more people would sing in church”. Our knee jerk reaction is to offer our suggestions. “How about we have more modern songs... have song practice... or a choir.” There is nothing wrong with suggestions. People have great ideas all the time that may actually help if acted upon. But sometimes suggestions appear to fall on deaf ears. Why is that?

Let’s take another example. One day a woman finds herself with too much to do. She ends up working late and comes home to even more work. She complains to her husband that she still has to do the breakfast dishes she left in the sink, make dinner, start a load of laundry...etc. etc. Her husband kindly offers, “I’ll make dinner”.

This sounds perfectly helpful, yet she's tired and grumpy and unbeknownst to him was looking forward to making dinner. So rather than gracefully accepting his help she complains about how he makes dinner or the like.

So how would it change if, instead of giving her his idea as to what *he thinks* would fix the problem he says, "How can I help?" It would then give her the opportunity to #1. Think of what she really needs (could actually be a glass of wine), #2. select something she thinks he could do that would really help.

Now let's think about how this might help our new pastor. We are all really excited by the potential of a new pastor, but sorry folks, he won't be perfect and won't agree with everyone. He will, however, come with his **own** new ideas and concepts of what can help the church grow and thrive. We too have all sorts of ideas as to what we hope we can get the new guy to change or do. Maybe a young people's organization, more socials, more Friday suppers or guitars in church, all of which might be great ideas but may not really help while he gets his feet on the ground and learns to work with us. Is it really helpful for us to tell him what he should do?

Real help is when someone sees a need and offers to be supportive. You don't just tell a person with a broken down car on the road that you know a good mechanic and then drive off. You ask them how you can help. What helps the most is action and action that implies the willingness to participate without judgement.

As Mike says in his lead article "It is an exciting time for all of us who care about the church, and hopes are high that the new man will usher in a new era of church growth and development." So let's embrace that affirmative attitude and when we see a need, don't expound on what *we think* should be done. Let's simply ask, "How can I help?" and be willing to do just that.



Boynton Beach Retreat

The annual Boynton Beach Retreat (nee Eldergarten) took place on January 27-31 at a conference center fifteen minutes away from the church in Boynton Beach, with about 75 people attending. As usual it was a stimulating and enjoyable combination of social events and lectures, with a little tourist time thrown in. The three speakers each gave a one-hour talk on each of the four days, allowing for a variety of subjects each day but also providing enough time for the speakers to delve into their subjects.

During the four days of sessions, Rev. Eric Carswell spoke on the subject of “How we Come to Genuine Wisdom”, based on the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers. Rev. Jeremy Simons spoke about “The Last Judgement – What it is and what it isn’t”, looking at the way the world has changed since 1757 and considering the possible impact of the Last Judgement. Finally, the Rev. Ray Silverman spoke of the joy and the challenges of teaching “Religion 101” to new students at the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. As a bonus, Executive Bishop-elect Peter Buss addressed the Tuesday evening banquet.

It turned out that although the weather in Florida wasn’t as warm as it might have been for the first couple of days, it surely was an improvement over the minus whatever temperatures of home. Thus, natural and material comfort was added to spiritual inspiration. You should try it next year. ~ George Cooper

The Women’s Respite Weekend

Twenty years after its birth, the Women's Respite Weekend Survives! This weekend must have been meant to be. There was GREAT initial interest! But people's lives changed - not enough dollars came forward fast enough to afford our rental on the Chesapeake. Then we were gifted a beach house to use! Many, many thanks to Safeware salesman Pat Crawford and his wife Suzanne for offering their home. In the last week, illness prevented four of the ten women who planned to be there (two of those presenters) from attending. I really began to wonder if we were swimming



against the flow of Divine Providence! But the six of us met at the beach February 22-23rd and had a wonderful time, relaxing together, listening to and supporting each other, building new friendships, and solidifying old ones.

It was a beautiful, peaceful time. And now four women have agreed to serve as the WRW steering committee. Carina Heinrichs, Amy Odhner,

Becca Smith, and myself will very soon be planning for our next weekend. Stay tuned! ~ Wystan Simons

Announcements

Looking for Housing: Hanna Hyatt is looking for housing for her frequently-visiting family— she said, “My mom, stepdad and brother are considering moving to Maryland! Super exciting for us. We are hoping to find a transitional place for them to live while they find jobs and a house in the area. They need a pet-friendly two bedroom apartment. Any leads or tips for them would be a huge help. Thanks!”

Oak Arbor Montessori School: Oak Arbor New Church School in Rochester, MI, will be starting a Montessori program in the fall of 2019. The transition will begin in the lower grades, with a 3-6 year old classroom and a 6-9 year old classroom opening this fall. Subsequent grades will follow up through 6th grade; Middle School (7th & 8th grade) will be a hybrid of Montessori Methodology & Traditional School Curriculum. For more information, visit our website www.oakarborschool.org, or email Camille Rodda at crodda@oakarbor.org.

Wanted Safeway Monopoly pieces: We’re winning! The Safeway Monopoly game has already garnered the church a box of

sandwich bags, a bottle of water and a couple of doughnuts or bagels. Our chances for bigger prizes are filling up too. Please keep those game pieces coming. ~ Erin J. Stillman

Two Scholarship Funds: Don't forget, the Southeastern District Scholarship Fund and the Levi D. Cowley Scholarship Fund have deadlines of April 30, 2019. For details, look in the February Echo or contact the church office.

News that's fit to be printed

Travel News: Wynne Hyatt, Bill & Dorothy Radcliffe and George & Mary Cooper had a great idea – going south in January during its coldest weather. To the Boynton Beach Retreat in, well, Del Ray Beach. But no matter, both Beaches are in Florida. They spent enjoyable days listening to enlightening talks and meeting both old and new friends.



More Travel News: Mike & Ginny Gladish's sister/sister-in-law Lori Heldon of Sydney, Australia visited them over the February 16-18 weekend before moving on to Bryn Athyn for even more relative-visiting. Mike & Ginny then followed her to B.A. over the weekend of February 22nd for still more visiting and to attend the wedding of their granddaughter, Freya Kistner (daughter of Anika and Dain Kistner) to Derek Buss (son of Anne and Erik Buss). The couple radiated innocence and joy throughout the beautiful candlelit ceremony conducted by Rev. Scott Fraser in the Cathedral. An added bonus for Mike and Ginny was the chance to visit with all their children, spouses and even some grandchildren who were able to attend. Ginny stayed on a few days to attend the Eighth-Grade play (The Jungle Book) in which the chief of the Village Guards was delightfully portrayed by grandson, Ian Kistner. It was also a chance to catch up with a few old friends, including Monica Hyatt.

A Respite: Bill & Dorothy are in the news again, this time because they have once more traveled south. At the end of February, they

left for the Bahamas to find respite from snow and sleet for ten days. Good move!

More Respite: Six women shared a February weekend at a beach house in Fenwick Island, DE, for the 20th annual Women's Respite Weekend. Although the numbers were small, they report sharing a lovely and peaceful time. See the full report on p. 12.

Teachers' Respite: The WNC staff really enjoyed this year's renewal of the TAG (Theta Alpha Guild, just in case you wondered) tradition of preparing a lovely Valentine's Day lunch for the Teachers. Led by Jean Allen (with her famous crab casserole) many ladies made salads, bread and dessert and served their honored guests. Thanks to the many who helped out, and to Nancy Cole and Lisa Martin for doing playground duty so they could all enjoy a bit longer lunch together.

Welcoming News: The Rev. Jared Buss visited on the weekend of February 8-10 to give a doctrinal class on Friday evening, to interview the Pastor Search Committee on Saturday, and to preach on Sunday. He is now assistant to the Pastor in Toronto, and it was good to see him again – it doesn't seem like four years since he was here for a few weeks before he completed Theological School. Thanks for the visit, Jared.

Thanks: To Bishop Keith for his support of the Society in its Pastor Selection process. His many overnight trips to Washington in all kinds of weather in the midst of his busy schedule has been greatly appreciated. And thanks to the twelve members of the Search Committee who put in long hours over the summer and autumn and winter – nine months' worth of meetings – to advise the Bishop about the needs of the Society and to assist him in making his nomination for a new Pastor.

Remembrance: On February 1st, Catharine Arrington Smith was laid to rest with her beloved husband, Colonel B. Dean Smith at Arlington National Cemetery. Rev. Mike Gladish gave a brief graveside address to the family and friends gathered together on a snowy, windy, cold Washington area day. Cathy's gravestone has yet to be delivered, but she was proud to know that it will be the

only one in all of the national cemetery with the unique and meaningful words “New Church Wife and Mother” on it.

As was the case when Dean was interred, the Prince George’s County police provided a memorable and impressive escort to those making the drive to Arlington. District of Columbia police officers led the way when the line was crossed into the district. Officer Bryan Kunkle also came from PA in his police vehicle to attend the service and assist in transportation.

The family is very grateful for all the kindness and support from all involved.

Remember: Your 15 minutes of fame awaits you. All you have to do is tell us what you’ve been up to and we will do the rest. Just send your notes to Bonnie Cowley or Hanna Hyatt.

Thoughtful: TAG sends out “We Care Cards” to young people in the area each February. Here is a thankyou: “I just received a Valentine’s Day card (I hadn’t checked my mail for a while) from the WNC society and I wanted to say thank you. It brightened my day and it’s always nice to know that people at my home base are thinking of me. Plus the Starbucks will definitely help me through the three exams I have next week! Thanks again and I hope everything is well with you! Jared Hyatt



Pancake Breakfast
8:00am

WORK PARTY
SAT, MAR. 23rd
9:00am

Cost of Pancake Breakfast: \$2 under 13yrs. - \$4, 13yrs. & up