

July/August 2019

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

Hello, Washington New Church!

I'm writing this on a laptop in my very empty (and weirdly cold, for June) office at Glenview New Church. All my books are in

boxes and waiting in my garage for the moving truck to arrive tomorrow, my final sermon for Glenview is written, and my mind is now turning toward the future. Toward you.

I have a ton to talk to you all about. I have hopes and dreams, and I have questions. I hope to talk with you all soon about these things, and get going right away on assessing your present situation and working together to plan the next phase of our shared future. But before I say too much about that, I really need to do some additional listening. Keep an eye out for future announcements from me regarding all that.

For now, though, I think I'd like to share with you my final pastoral message to the congregation I am now departing. Every minister develops over time some core pieces of doctrinal understanding that become themes for their career, or at least for some phase of it. What I wrote for the people here in Glenview represents one of those thematic approaches for me, and is a kind of framework that I have derived from my reading of the Lord's Word, that helps me order not my only studying, but also my work as a pastor. It comes up a lot in my teaching and leading, in different forms.

Here's what I wrote, minus some personal mushy stuff you wouldn't be interested in...

So what do I want to say to *Park News* readers as my farewell message? What one thing do I want you to take away from my three years of preaching, teaching, leading, communicating and being in community with you all?

Well, *one* is hard. I have a list of *seven* things. I strongly believe that if you take these seven tasks deadly seriously, and make them the seven most important things in your life--even for a short period of time--then you will see a powerful net positive result in the lives of the people around you, and maybe even in your own life, too. Here they are:

Read the Word. Do it on a schedule. Set aside a regular time to do it. Even if it's a tiny amount of reading, making it a habit to read

the Word will lead slowly to enlightenment and to a closer connection with God.

Worship the Lord in community with others. Showing up to Sunday worship is good for you. And it's not just about the preaching. There is more power than you may realize in spending an hour with a large group of people in prayer, singing and worship. And even if sometimes you don't feel like you're getting something out of a particular Sunday morning experience, your very presence is almost certainly useful to others there in the room with you.

Pray. This is the one I'd pick if I had to pick only one. Pray regularly, just like reading regularly, and also pray spontaneously. Both planned times of prayer and the habit of quickly turning to the Lord in your heart and mind during times of decision making, stress, anxiety, and fear, will improve your life.

Repent. For real, work the steps. Think of a recurring challenge in your life that shows up in multiple contexts. Guess what? It's not likely to get better without repentance. If you don't periodically look at yourself and honestly confront your own shortcomings, you're not going to improve as a person. And if you don't bring the Lord into that process, you're going to have a miserable time at it. That's just how it is.

Avoid anything that entices you to do things that aren't loving or to believe things that aren't true. A big part of becoming a better, healthier, more whole person is slowly transforming things that you enjoy but that are bad for you into things that you actively dislike doing. But until that process is complete, there's going to be some self-denial involved. The technical term for this is "shunning evil".

Focus on service. Every day. Not just in your "official" occupation, but in the little interactions you have with friends, loved ones, neighbors and strangers. Stop asking, "What's in it for me?" Happiness is not something that comes as a result of pursuing it. Focus on being useful, and trust that the rest will come.

Love. Love *actively*. Love isn't a feeling, it's a lifestyle. A mission. Love people that you can't stand. If you have to, pray to love

them. Love everyone. Love the Lord, love the Truth as a path to find Him. Love the goodness that exists in every single person you meet, and when you can't find that goodness, look harder. And love fiercely, forgivingly, and courageously.

So there it is, Washington New Church. I could say more about each of them, of course, as well as about how they interrelate with one another. In fact, I think I probably will. But not today.

In other news, I'm writing this in the middle of June, and shivering. It's just barely broken above sixty degrees, and I'm taking it a bit personally. I'd be less annoyed if I still had some long pants or a jacket I could wear, but they're all hidden away in the mountain of boxes stacked in my dining room. But my weather app says Mitchellville is enjoying a delightful eighty-seven degree afternoon, so things are moving in the right direction. Looking forward to seeing you all and starting this next (warmer) chapter of my life.

~ Mac Frazier, June 17, 2019

Sermon Topics for July & August, 2018

This summer, as in recent years, we are taking a more relaxed approach to sermon topics, and invite you to just "come and see." However preaching *schedule* will be as follows:

July 7 th	Mac Frazier
July 14 th	Mac Frazier
July 21 st	Mike Gladish
July 28 th	Brian Smith
Aug. 4 th :	Mac Frazier
Aug. 11 th :	Mac Frazier
Aug. 18 th :	Mac Frazier
Aug. 25 th :	Mac Frazier

Welcome, Mac, Gillian & Family!

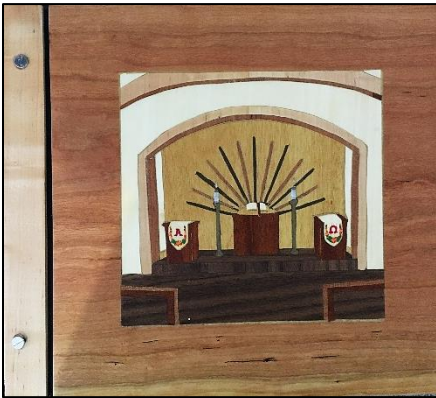
Mike Gladish Retires, by Bonnie Cowley

As promised, Mike has retired. As I complete this issue of the Echo his office is nearly cleared out of the hundreds of books and files of classes and sermons. This part is kind of sad since Mike spent an average of 60 hour a week there. Mac is poised to move in any day now; so we are on to a new era.

On Saturday, June 15th The Washington Society had what is believed to be its first-ever pastoral retirement party (*not* farewell party) and it turned out to be a worth the wait. It was quite a party, and special thanks go to Mike and Ginny for making it possible. Retirement parties are much more fun than farewell parties.

Thanks also to Brent and Amanda for making their home available, to the party-goers and to all those who participated in the food supply, the gifts, the speeches and the planning. Special thanks to Master of Ceremonies Ed Simmons and gift presenter Kathy Johns.

The Hyatt's beautiful home and yard were full of well-wishers as



everyone circulated in and out, visiting and spending time enjoying the new photo album given to the Gladishes, crafted by Bonnie Cowley and carefully assembled by Mary Cooper, Anne Ball and Wystan Simons. All the while a smorgasbord of delicious food and drink was being enjoyed by all.

About an hour into the festivities our MC, Edward Simons called all together for presentations and speeches. Kathy Johns first came up and presented Mike with a gift from the society (a very large lathe chisel) and an envelope with a cash gift which included the suggestion that he spend it on some special wood working classes in Virginia. She also read a card expressing our appreciation for Mike's service as our pastor for the last ten years.

Ginny was also presented with the Washington Society horse pendant for her years of service to us and to Mike supporting his many hours spent here. Ginny was visibly delighted with the gift!



Several people came up to the microphone to speak and share their stories and appreciation for Mike & Ginny. Rev. Michael Ferrell, who has shared with Mike in pastoring for the full 10 years, Ed Simons as MC, Carole Waelchli wrote one of her famous “Pupperel” poems written just for Mike.

Kathy Johns, who was WNCS principal during Mike’s earlier years here as well as the head of the building committee responsible for our 2014 building project read a poem she wrote.

Stewart Smith, who shared much of the load for the building project wrote a funny poem too. Here is an excerpt:

Mike is a Pastor to us all ... every last wretched one of us.
He ministers - and administers.

Mom (Catharine Smith) loved Mike’s regular visits with her. She loved and took the opportunity to cross-examine him, but with a twinkle in her eye, as she knew - he cared - to try. Patti reminded me he was the last person outside the family that spoke to Mom before her passing.

Poor Mike.
He thinks he’s retiring...
He thinks we’re gonna let him.
Besides, I think it’s just an excuse.
This guy has gotta WRITE
As Captain John Paul Jones answered ... “I have not yet begun to fight!”

I also got to speak of my tenure as Mike’s secretary for the past 10 years here is a small excerpt:

“I can’t say everything has always been easy. Mike has very high standards and has a high attention to detail. Giving him my editorials to read for the Echo was an exercise in humility...

But Mike is not dispassionate, the concern he has had for me in difficult times and for all of his flock is evident. His love for the doctrine is evident in his classes and many sermons. His persistent hope for the New Church here in Mitchellville is evident in his outreach to our many new families.”

A few impromptu speakers also came to the microphone like Sharon Kunkle and Nic Morfaw; so I don’t have text from their speeches. However, I must quote a wee bit from Carole Waelchli’s poem:

“When Brian, Mac, or Michael, three
Can’t preach for some good reason,
You’re ready and available,
You’re never out of season.

So, don’t think you’re escaping, Mike,
Don’t ease off on the clutch,
You’re going to be our go-to guy.
You can’t relax too much.”

The party went on late into the balmy June evening and everyone seemed to be having a good time. Thanks again to Brent & Amanda for hosting. As Kathy Johns said in her poem to Mike and Ginny

“Ten years have passed with you at the helm
We’ve benefited from your studies of the spiritual realm.
Our thanks for your service, oh good and faithful servant.
Best wishes to you and Ginny on your well-deserved retirement!”

Mike’s Rebuttal – Ode to WNC *(Of course he has a rebuttal)*

True to Mike’s character he couldn’t help but write an ode to us. The ode began,

“A lot of trees have fallen since I came to Mitchellville;

A lot of folks have left us and some new ones now attend.
The school has also changed and we're a much better blend
Of people from all walks of life and genuine goodwill.

(It continues speaking of the many achievements of the past 10 years, too long however for these pages, but I love how it concluded as it began.)

A lot of trees have fallen since I came to Mitchellville;
A lot of houses have been renovated, sold and bought,
And a lot of spiritual battles have been fought,
But we enjoy a spirit of determination still.

So now, my friends, now that *my* service is done,
It's time to anticipate some new leadership,
And new perspectives as we get a new grip
On how we can serve God *and still have some fun.*

It may be a challenge but we sure see the need
To build the foundations of heaven on earth,
Diligently striving for all it's worth
To honor the heavenly doctrines we read.

In closing therefore let us pray for His blessing
And work every day to co-operate
So that no matter what *we can regenerate*
And do all the good things we've been addressing."

Lots of Summer Changes!

New Pastor - At this writing, Mike is busy clearing out of his office and Mac is poised to move in and their family has finally move into the neighborhood.

New Teacher – Judah Synnestvedt – our new high school coach has also just moved his family into the neighborhood and will be living in one of the Brian Smith apartments.

He will be moving into Michael Ferrell's office and Michael will be relocated to another part of the building for when he comes in to the school to help with classes and prepare for his preaching days.

Re-modeled Library – Currently the library is a disaster as the center computer tables are being demolished, boxes of books are being removed from shelves and those shelves removed to be replaced with redesigned ones. New carpet is being chosen and we continue to seek out a capable carpenter to rebuild lots of shelves.

MNRI Workshop - Wystan Simons has leased some space for the last week in June for a workshop featuring Neurosensory Reflex Integration techniques.

Forested Workshop - tentatively Lincoln Smith has reserved two classrooms for the week of Aug. 19-24.

Don't forget, the front of the church and school will be in use on weekdays all summer from June 17th until August 24th for a children's **summer camp**. If you need to access the building please be mindful of this use **and wear a name tag so that the camp leaders know who you are**. This is not just a matter of courtesy but it is really necessary for the safety and security of the program. **Bonnie will have tags for you in the office**.

Yoga – Saturday yoga with Jen Mullins continues throughout the summer – Chair Yoga at 1:30 – 2:15pm and All Level for 2:30-3:30pm. **All welcome!**

Floor Maintenance - And if that were not enough, somehow we need to empty the classrooms and offices for floor refurbishing. With all of the other disruption in the building this will not only be an exercise in complex logistics but will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience.

Mac, Brian & Bonnie will be away the week of July 20 – 27th. Mike has kindly offered to not only preach again on the 21st but also to be on call for the building that week (he can be reached at 301-461-3521 or mdgladish@gmail.com.) As always you can contact Bonnie any time via her cell phone at 301-518-3628.

Dear Friends,

I want to tell you how special your retirement send-off was for me. I felt very much affection in receiving the

awesome pendant (which I have admired for years), the sweet note that came with it, and the special treats made with recipes to cater to my food allergy. It was a new feeling to have a party at the end of a pastorate without the sadness of leaving friends once more! Thank you all for all the thought and effort put into that occasion!

~ Love, Ginny

Thanks for Everything

As I enter the strange new world of retirement I want to thank you, the members and friends of the WNC, for all your encouragement and support over the last decade, and for your friendship and generosity as well. It has been quite a ride, and I am grateful for all that you have taught me as well as the opportunity to serve.

Having been on the “inside” for 46 years, looking at the church from a pastoral and administrative point of view, I am especially looking forward to finding out how it feels to be on the “outside” looking in – attending things, volunteering, reading all the various communications that come out, and so on. Please know that I am still here, and still happy to be of service (I’m not much good at sitting around), but that I will be taking all my cues from the new pastor, and will not assume any leadership, teaching, pastoral or preaching responsibilities without his direction. So if you have any specific requests, I ask that you consult with him first.

Oh, and by the way, Ginny and I are planning some vacation travel in August, and I will continue to serve as a regional pastor for the bishops (though not for WNC) and to visit pastorless congregations monthly through the school year, so if you don’t see us every Sunday it’s only because we are away on other adventures.

And finally – but not least – thank you for a fabulous retirement party on the night of June 15th. We enjoyed all the remarks (especially the funny ones), and your special gift to finance a wood-working school holiday in Virginia was extra nice and thoughtful.

The photo album is also a treasure, covered as it is in wood inlay work representing our new chancel! Don’t forget to have a look at

this in the church lobby, and continue to add YOUR photos and comments if you haven't already done so.

May you all experience many blessings under your new pastoral leadership, and may the church itself thrive and grow!



More Thanks

To our school parents and local community,

I want to thank everyone who participated in Teacher Appreciation week and the end-of-year gifts for the school staff. We enjoyed lunches, flowers, coffee and other treats in May and then received a generous monetary gift at the end of the year. Wow! I certainly felt appreciated and I can't thank you enough. I feel blessed to have such wonderful parents and coworkers to team up with in educating the children given to us by the Lord.

Thank you! Sincerely, Jana Sprinkle

New Notes

All the News, and then some:

Graduations congratulations:

WNCS held its annual graduation celebration on June 15, 2019 with four now former eighth-graders bidding farewell to the school to move on to other educational pastures. The graduates were: **Nimi Ojikutu, Abi Oreagba, Stephen Simons & Sohaila Smith (with Honors)**. Since we did not have any 10th grade graduates this year, we missed hearing their usual speeches, but we did get to hear **Lincoln Smith** deliver a farewell to the graduates.

This year Levi D. Cowley Sportsmanship awards went to **Jaiden Joseph** and **Adelaide Smith**, the Appreciation Awards went to **Sohaila Smith** and **Serah Oladapo**, and the Long time Service Award went to **Amanda Hyatt**.



Also at the WNCS graduation, **Bonnie Cowley** was honored by the General Church with a very nice letter from Bishop Brian Keith, and received a lovely pendant in recognition of her 25 full time years of employment.

A former WNCS student, **Rachael Fields** (daughter of former WNC members Angela and Charles Radcliffe) graduated from the Academy of the

New Church Girl's School in early June. She will be attending Temple University in the fall.

And under the category of "then some" **Anji Cooper** (daughter of former WNC members Dave & Sherri Cooper) also graduated from the Academy Girl's School. Anji was valedictorian and was awarded the Theta Alpha Gold Medal. She will be attending the University of Delaware next year, where her first semester will be spent in Madrid, Spain.

Curt Moore, Jr. (CJ) was honored to be given the Alumni Recognition Award at the 2019 graduation ceremony at Kennedy Krieger High School. CJ, who graduated from the high school in June 2016, spoke about what he has been doing since graduation and encouraged the graduates to believe in themselves and that they can do whatever they put their mind to do.

Congrats to all the graduates – including all those we don't (yet) know about.

Graduation Recital:

Following a week's study at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, **Meghan Cooper** (daughter of James & Missy Cooper) participated in a Classical Music Workshop final concert on Sunday afternoon, June 23rd, singing two operatic excerpts with piano accompaniment. Good work, Meghan.

Certificates of Completion:

The Wednesday Morning class on the Book of Revelation wrapped up in June, with reading of (or in some cases from) both the Apocalypse Revealed and the Apocalypse Explained, while a week or so later the Monday Night class completed its study of The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrines. The Monday Nighters will resume in September with a study of Brief Exposition, and welcome anyone who would like to join them. See George or Mary Cooper.



Vacation News:

The Stillmans had a bodacious vacation on Lake Ontario, went fishing, caught many salmon, saw Niagara Falls, took a tour of the lock system for the Erie

Canal, and generally had a wonderful time. Erin reports: "I had fun spending my society present on a new dress. Thanks!"

Sharon, John, Anders and Ivan Croft were joined by her brother Dave and his daughters Zia and Anji for 10 days of camping in the sun and sand at Assateague National Park. They were protected from the ocean by the dunes, but the wild ponies were not deterred by anything.

Curt and Wanda Moore visited family and friends in Pearland, TX to attend Wanda's brother and his wife's 50th wedding anniversary. They were joined in the celebration by two other couples from their church that were all married in 1969 in the month of June. It was a grand celebration of 150 years of marriage with more than 225 family and friends. Wanda was honored to speak on behalf of her brother's family and shared some of her memories of growing up with him.

Unscheduled Travels:

Sara Smith went to Glenview, Illinois to see her Mom and sister in mid-May. She's very glad she did, as her mom, **Kathleen (Katy) Lee Fuller**, passed away peacefully on June 1st, at 103 years of age. Sara went back to Glenview for a week and then was

joined by Matt and her mother's namesake (Matt and Sara's daughter, Kathleen Alyssa Smith) for the memorial service, given by Jay Barry on June 8. Matt and Sara's oldest son, Joram, and family also made the trip from the St Louis area. All 7 of Katy's children were there, as well as an impressive number of her 21 grandchildren and 24 (soon to be 25) great grandchildren!

Unfortunately, **Sanya Ojikutu**, 8th grade graduate Nimi Ojikutu's dad, who was scheduled to give the parent speech at graduation, was called to Nigeria when his mother had a stroke.

And sadly, **Candy Quintero** also made an unscheduled trip, this one to Chicago for the memorial service for her older brother Rusty Rose, who passed away June 25th after a losing battle with cancer. Daughter Stefani helped Candy drive to the service.

Welcome News:

Mac and Gillian Frazier and family have arrived and are safely moved into their new home in the Washington Society. Welcome to you all – we are happy to have you on board.

Judah and Lydia Synnestvedt have also arrived and are now unpacking at their new home.

Mixed news:

Ed Simons reports that he has successfully completed a series of aneurism repairs, and hopefully is done with that. Meanwhile **Wystan** is caring for her broken right arm. Mary Ellen Kern is recovering from a broken ankle, and we hear that Bea Newkirk is progressing well and is back home. So recovery is kinda maybe good news, right? But enough is enough; we need good health for all of you out there: stay well and stay cool through the upcoming heat waves. Autumn is not far away.

And what is your good news?

Summer Anniversaries

“The two eyes make one sight, the two ears one hearing, the two nostrils one smell, the two lips one speech, the two hands one labor, the two feet one walking, the two hemispheres of the brain one dwelling place of the mind, the two chambers of the heart one life of the body by means of the blood, the two lobes of the lungs one breath. But the masculine and feminine when united in love truly conjugal make one life completely human.

Emanuel Swedenborg, Conjugal Love 316

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July 11th ~ Brent & Amanda Hyatt ~ 32 yrs.

July 14th ~ Michael & Michelle Kappert ~ 7 yrs.

July 21st ~ Dave and Bonnie Cowley ~ 46 yrs.

July 24th ~ Michael & Janet Ferrell ~ 15 yrs.

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*Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Chuck & Candy Quintero ~ 34 yrs.*

*Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Ed & Jana Sprinkle ~ 28 yrs.*

*Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Royce & Cynthia Harvey ~ 40 yrs.*

*Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Judah & Lydia Synnestvedt ~ 9 yrs.*

*Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Edward & Wystan Simons ~ 28 yrs.*

*Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Todd & Shannon Wawrzeniak ~ 12 yrs.*

*Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Phil & Janna Zuber ~ 46 yrs.*

*Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Mac & Gillian Frazier ~ 24 yrs.*

*Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Casey & Jillian Collins ~ 4 yrs.*

*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Mike & Ginny Gladish ~ 50 yrs.*

*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ James & Jeannette Roscoe ~ 39 yrs.*

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