

November 2019

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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From the Pastor

The Word teaches that a church (and really any community of people) can be looked at as being in the **human form**. One way of describing how a church works is by grouping its activities into "systems", similar to the various systems of the human body. All the systems interconnect and support one another, but require different organs and tissues and mechanisms to do their special jobs.

There are different ways of defining **the systems of a church**. The model I am currently working from looks at Washington New Church as being comprised of ten systems. Six of these systems are directly involved in performing the uses of our church. Four of them (at the end of the following list) are “support” systems—they are not the essence of what we do, but rather they work behind the scenes to enable our core systems. Here they are:

### **Core Systems**

- **WORSHIP-** Sunday worship, holidays, weddings, memorials, baptisms
- **GROUPS-** small groups, youth groups, discussion and reading groups, classes
- **SERVICE-** community service, pastoral care, support for people in crisis
- **SCHOOL-** Jr. K through 12th grade
- **RECREATION-** social gatherings and events
- **COMMUNICATION-** newsletters, bulletins, social media, audio and video

### **Support Systems**

- **LEADERSHIP-** *strategy formation and execution, executive decision making, boards*
- **STAFFING-** *recruiting, hiring, managing, both paid staff and volunteers*
- **MARKETING** - *advertising, branding, public relations*
- **RESOURCES-** *fundraising, tuition, bill paying, grant writing, facility upkeep, finance*

All throughout September and into October, during our Sunday worship gatherings, we looked at what the doctrines have to say about love, wisdom and use in light of the function of a church congregation. **If you missed any of those sermons, I encourage you to give them a listen at our website.** ([washingtonnewchurch.org/worship/audio-recordings-from-mitchellville/](http://washingtonnewchurch.org/worship/audio-recordings-from-mitchellville/)) I am working on having transcripts made from the audio recordings, as well, for those who prefer to read.

We at the Washington New Church will be a successful and obedient part of the Lord's family to the extent that we fulfill these three human needs.

In that five part sermon series we observed that everything the Lord does and everything He creates comes in threes: love/wisdom/use, charity/faith/good works, end/cause/effect, substance/form/motion, soul/body/activity, and so forth. As beings created by Him according to this plan, each one of us has three things we need in our lives for a healthy mind

and spirit: **connection, meaning, and purpose.** We need these just as much as our bodies need food, water and exercise. And a primary means by which the Lord provides these three things is the **church society.**

A church society is a community where people can go to love and be loved, to learn deep truths about themselves, the world, and their Creator, and where they can learn and practice service to other people. **We at the Washington New Church will be a successful and obedient part of the Lord's family to the extent that we fulfill these three human needs.**

In October I began the process of looking at each of our ten church systems to see where each one was doing well and where each one was lacking, with regard to how we provide connection, meaning and purpose to the people in our congregation, and to the people in our surrounding community. I have been talking with various individuals, doing my own investigations, and working with the **Pastor's Council** on this task. If I have not yet heard from you personally on this subject, I very much would like to. **Visit my office, call or text (512-694-9474), or email (Mac.Frazier@gmail.com) me. Tell me where you think we are doing well, which systems are missing parts, what programs need to change or end, and what things need new life breathed into them.**

In November we will begin the process with the **Board of Trustees** of examining our current strategic direction and then putting

together an updated roadmap for the coming year or more. Everything you share with me will be an input to that discussion. I think there are exciting and fulfilling things ahead of us that involve some interesting choices, but before I lead in any of their directions I want to be sure I've heard from all of you. So please do find some time in the coming week or two to drop me a note or stop by for a visit. Thanks!

Mac Frazier, 2019-10-23

## *Thank You*

*We began serving here with the Washington Society on July 1, 2005. During the past few years we've made many, enduring friends here. We have had a wealth of fun, exciting experiences with you all. You've welcomed us into your homes, shared lunch or dinner with us, invited us to Christmas parties or to the movies or to the Kennedy Center...the Rams Head...the list goes on and on...Thank you for the retirement party on October 13. It was indeed a pleasure to again see your smiling faces and eat some really tasty dishes. Thank you for all the wonderful gifts. As I've said, when asked about what I'll do in retirement - well...go to work. We're still here. We're committed to serving here in any way that we possibly can. We've set our hearts upon contributing to the uses of the Church as the New Jerusalem is descending upon us right now before our very eyes.*

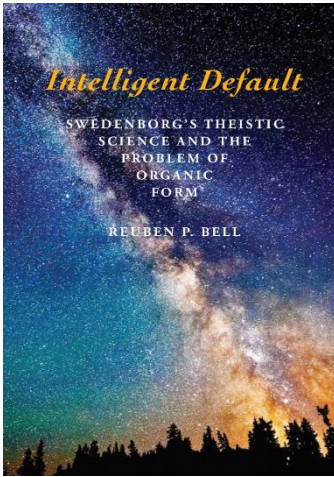
*~ Michael & Janet Ferrell*

## **Science and Religion**

Good News for Both, by Mike Gladish

In 2011 Dr. Ian Thompson (PhD), a nuclear physicist in California published a book titled "Starting Science from God." In it he proposed rational scientific theories capable of explaining many of the mysteries of modern science based on the operation God in the orderly steps and stages of creation. It was the beginning of a new era of study we now call "theistic science."

Now this work has been complemented by another book just published by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, titled, “Intelligent Default,” by the Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell (PhD).



In this new work Bell makes the case for Swedenborg’s theistic science in relation to “the problem of organic form.” As he says, it’s not a question of whether God created and maintains the world, it’s a question of HOW, and he answers that question in excruciating scientific and philosophical detail.

Both of these books were featured at a conference held in Bryn Athyn, PA, on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, where several other high-level scholars joined the authors in addressing a very privileged audience of about 35 men and women on everything from influx and correspondences to molecular biology and quantum physics, showing, again, in detail, HOW God works in the natural world.

In response to a question during a panel discussion, the speakers all said that their work was not an attempt to prove the existence of God to the atheists among us; but it was and IS a humble attempt to provide answers to many of the questions that science simply can’t answer without recourse to certain illogical assumptions, or axioms, as, for example, that the world was created out of nothing, or that incredibly complex life forms arise and continue to exist “by chance.”

The concept of intelligent “default,” in particular marries the principle of orderly spiritual influence with the seemingly random distribution of physical matter such that life flows in when the forms are ready to receive it, and that they are made ready through an aggregating process embodying the love and wisdom of God in every sub-atomic, quantum detail! This is not “creationism,” nor is it

pure Darwinian evolution, but a whole new approach to the mysteries of how the world works based on the revelation for the New Church.

It is deep stuff, and as one who attended the conference (and labored to understand the books) all I can say is that it is incredibly interesting and convincing – if you have the patience for it. It is also incredibly inspiring, and useful not only for confirming one’s belief in God but also for answering the unanswered questions of science – in the language itself of science!

So if you’ve read this far and any of this interests you, or if you know someone who might benefit from the conversation, see the advertisements elsewhere in this issue, or call or email the Rev, Alan Cowley, in Boynton Beach, Florida, to find out about the regular meetings of the “theistic science study group” at that church every Monday at 10:00 AM. Participants, including Drs. Bell and Thompson, “Skype” in from all over the country, and new members are always welcome. Do you have to be a genius to participate? No. But it helps to know a little something about science and the Heavenly Doctrines. Rev. Cowley can be reached by phone at (561) 704-2199 (cell), through the church at (561) 736-9235 or by email at [amcowley@gmail.com](mailto:amcowley@gmail.com).

You can also watch video recordings of the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> conference including all the panelists at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIt4Nj7CMpTs8ncgKwKvnbQ>.

## **Announcements**

**Passing of a Dear Friend:** On Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> our beloved friend and teacher **Vera Kluss** passed peacefully into the spiritual world while in hospice care. She was 96 years old.

Vera came to the US from Germany as a young adult, was hired to teach in David and Winnie Stebbing’s school and later taught at WNCS. Even after retiring from teaching she tutored many children at her home. WNCS alumni will remember her with fondness especially when she would visit the school, where a long line of

children would form immediately to greet her (and get a small piece of candy).

Our thoughts are with her adopted family – the Stebbings, Allens, Hyatts and so many of her dear friends.

**TAG News & Info:** Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) has lots of exciting projects and opportunities coming up in this holiday season! We'll kick things off with a meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> to make some decisions about the events we help with in November and December, as well as discuss future ideas and planning for TAG moving forward. All women are welcome to attend!

At the end of November, we'll be raffling off a basket as well as doing a bake sale.

In other news: A small committee has started planning for the Women's retreat in February, so be on the lookout for more information about that as we settle on timing and a location. ~ Carina Heinrichs, TAG President.

**Potluck Supper & Semi-Annual Society Meeting:** Friday *November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm* will be a potluck Supper (Entrée: A – F, Salad: G – R, Dessert: S - Z) followed by our fall society meeting. Come and see what the plan is for our church and school year.

**Fall Pancake Breakfast & Work Party:** Come out and join us Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and help us keep the building and premises working and looking good for the holidays.

Breakfast begins at 8:00am – work to follow breakfast.

**Free for the taking:** Toshiba flat screen TV. It's smallish, at 32" diagonally, on a stand, and it works perfectly well, but it's not HD. Contact Mike Gladish – [mdgladish@gmail.com](mailto:mdgladish@gmail.com).

**COMING SOON! Well... Next September:** WNCS will be celebrating its **50th Anniversary** with a weekend celebration September 11-13, 2020.

*This is a SAVE THE DATE* ~ Spread the word!

Early planning includes gathering ideas and forming some committees. Here's a list of possible activities

- Friday evening social event - BBQ with Alumni Musicians' Showcase
- Saturday - Out of town guests DC tour or Pool party
  - Banquet with Bishop Buss Speaking - already on the calendar

**Projects:** Relocate School Bell and design plaque to commemorate 50 years, plant memorial trees and/or place memorial benches, Alumni art show, online auction fund raiser.

If you feel any energy around any of these or have great ideas you don't want to organize – please contact:

Kathy Johns: [kcjswim@aol.com](mailto:kcjswim@aol.com)

### **Veteran's Day at WNCS – Monday, November 11th:**



WNCS will honor Veterans' day beginning with a special morning chapel service at 10:40m followed by flag pole ceremony.

We would love to have our veterans, friends and neighbors join us. There will also be special music by the students. Please join us!

### **Join Us at the Boynton Beach Retreat, January 26-30, 2020:**

This five day convocation will gather to hear presenters Dr. Devlin Zuber, Professor at the Graduate Theological School in Berkeley, CA, Chelsea Odhner, Director of Productions for *Off the Left Eye*, Bruce Henderson, author of several books and editor of *New Church Life*, and Rev. Alan Cowley, Pastor of the Boynton Beach Society. An added attraction will be a report by Steve David on his work with the New Christian Bible Study.

You will enjoy this opportunity to socialize, to meet old friends and make new ones while attending exciting sessions from speakers respected in their fields. For information about registration costs and staying at the Duncan Center, call Bob Brickman, Director at [561-278-6037](tel:561-278-6037), or email him at [BBRetreat@newchurchboyntonbeach.org](mailto:BBRetreat@newchurchboyntonbeach.org).



## Church & School Events in November, 2019

**Sat, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 PM**– Memorial Service for **Dolores Soderberg** here at the church.

*No Yoga Saturday, November 2nd*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

**Mon, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** – School Board Meeting.

**Mon, the 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 PM** – Heavenly Doctrines book group at Coopers, reading Brief Expositions #s 99-115.

**Tue, the 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** – Acton Park Board Meeting.

**Wed, the 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 PM** – TAG Meeting at Dorothy Radcliffe’s

**Mon, the 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:40 AM** – WNCS Veterans’ Day flag pole ceremony – all welcome!

**Tue, the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** – Board of Trustees Meeting

**Wed, the 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** – Morning Arcana Class at Gladishes.

**Wed, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM** – WNCS Closes for Parent-Teacher Conferences beginning at 12:45 PM.

**Wed, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM** – Quilting Class

**Thu, the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM** – Pastor’s Council Meeting.

**Fri, the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM** – Potluck Supper followed by **Semi-Annual Society Meeting** at 8:00 PM.

**Sat, the 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:00 AM** – Pancake Breakfast followed by the fall Work Party at 9:00 AM.

**Sun, the 24<sup>th</sup> after church** – TAG Annual Bake Sale.

**Thu, the 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM** - Thanksgiving Day Worship

## News Notes

### Changes of (Natural) State



Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> was a very special day for the Washington New Church as we gathered after church service to officially celebrate **Rev Michael Ferrell's retirement!** To begin, the school children present sang the beautiful round "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Grant Us Peace) as a tribute to the loving peace that Michael

has so often brought to those around him. Following that, family, friends and neighbors moved just up the hill to the Quintero home, where a potluck lunch spread provided something for everyone to feast on. Though clouds threatened sprinkles, visiting continued outdoors and soon it was time for speeches. Our new Pastor, Rev. Mac Frazier, began his own short tribute by telling us that he knew Michael from years ago when they were in Theological school together! After that we heard from Candy Quintero (Mrs. Q), (retired Pastor) Mike Gladish, Marie Kazeem, John Croft, Aaron Smith, and lastly Anne Ball and Jana Sprinkle presented gifts from us to Janet and Michael for their 12 very full years of dedication to the Word of the Lord and the uses of the Washington New Church and School. They also received a beautifully inlaid memories book full of pictures and messages from congregation members, assembled by Bonnie C. and a team of helpers. "May the Lord bless and keep you in the strong arms of His love"!

**Phil Zuber** reports that he has taken on the job of being both the Secretary and General Counsel for the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, PA. As Secretary to both the Academy Corporation and the Board of Trustees, he will be attending Board and Corporation meetings, and handling the myriad duties of that office, while as general counsel, he will bring in-house some of the

legal work previously handled by outside counsel. He will spend two days a week on campus (in Pitcairn Hall) to provide counsel to administrators in the schools, to help with contracts with vendors, to assist with new board and member orientation, to oversee any claims or litigation, to be a resource and support for the Vice Chair of the Board and otherwise to provide whatever legal assistance is needed by the Academy.

**Healing States:**

It was reliably reported that **Mary Cooper** was spotted at the local Wal-Mart doing a spot of shopping just two weeks to the day after knee replacement surgery. It seems that she is recovering well, and she credits that to the tender loving care of friends and neighbors who so generously provided meals and good wishes. No doubt her recovery was hastened by her husband's demonstrated lack of skill in properly loading the dishwasher. Thanks to all!

And it was great to see **Bea Newkirk** up and about and recovering.

**Other News:**

The fourth annual **Washington New Church Men's retreat** was held the final weekend in October this year. Like the earlier retreats, this one offered the men attending doctrinal presentations,



stimulating discussion--both formal and informal--and a wonderful sense of fellowship. This year's theme was "Government" (civil, moral and spiritual). We looked at what the Heavenly Doctrines tell us about the

Lord's government--how the Divine Providence works in His unceasing effort to lead each individual to Heaven, while allowing us the freedom to choose Hell if that is our desire. We also considered

how truth drawn from the Word can be applied to issues of our civil government, and to government in the Church.

Each of the four men's retreats has differed, in topic, and in the make-up of those attending (some years we have enjoyed a larger share of younger men than others, for example). But all have exhibited the warmth of camaraderie which is one of the most important outcomes of the weekend. All of us coming together, working together in cooking (the meals are always first rate), cleaning up, spending free time enjoying each other's company whether in discussions, games, or trips to near-by sites. And, of course, considering important doctrinal studies as a group, each finding insight and support from all attending. ~ David Glenn

**Jana and Edward Sprinkle** are proud of their son, **Jonathan**, who completed his course at Orleans Technical College in Philadelphia to become an electrician; he was second in his class. He has been hired by Response Electric, Inc. and will continue to live and work in the Philadelphia area. Way to go Jonathan!

**The Assan Family** would like to give a big "Thank you" to the WNCS family for reaching out to ensure Bryce gets dropped off at school. Transportation has been a serious issue (welcome to the Washington metropolitan area!) creating a hectic scene at the Assan household.

### **New News:**

**Emily (Ball) and Frankie Maple** welcomed their second child and first daughter into the world on October 15. **Charlotte Deanne Maple** weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz., and was 22 inches long. She's a peaceful, quiet baby with a head of dark hair and long, delicate fingers--so unlike her big brother, Weston! Emily says that our own Charlotte Radcliffe provided the inspiration for the first name and the middle name is a combination of her two grandmothers' names, Denise and Anne. Proud grandparents, Steve and Anne Ball, say baby Charlotte is a beauty and they can't wait to see her again soon.

**No Gnus:** And that is good news.