

January 2020

ECHO ECHO

Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

www.theWNC.org • 301-464-5602

Pastor: Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier
11801 Chantilly Lane; Mitchellville, MD 20721
Mac.frazier@gmail.com

~~~~~  
Principal: Rev. Brian D. Smith  
11503 Chantilly Lane  
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2126  
Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org

WCNJ Inc. Treasurer

Mr. Brent Hyatt

[bhhyatt@verizon.net](mailto:bhhyatt@verizon.net)

WCNJ Inc. Co-Treasurer

Mr. Wynne S. Hyatt

[wynneshyatt@aol.com](mailto:wynneshyatt@aol.com)

WCNJ Inc. Investment Treasurer

Mr. Edward Simons

[simons@safewareinc.com](mailto:simons@safewareinc.com)

WCNJ Inc. Secretary

Sharon Croft

[croft.cooper@verizon.net](mailto:croft.cooper@verizon.net)

Echo Editor

Bonnie Cowley

[Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:Bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

Echo News Notes Editor

George Cooper

[cooperpatents@verizon.net](mailto:cooperpatents@verizon.net)

**To donate, go to: <http://giving.ncsservices.org/dl/?uid=ncs-2818>**

### From the Pastor: “The Word Is Love”

I love The Beatles. Their great talent combined with their large catalog allows for all sorts of fun games. For instance, I have long considered challenging a certain fellow-pastor (and Beatles lover) to see who could come up with the best sermon series with individually titled sermons all inspired by a single Beatles album. It’s re-

markably easy to match Beatles titles and lyrics to important theological concepts. And it helps that one of their most written-about topics is love.



All you need is love. But of course, money can't buy you love. And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make. I love you, but I'm lazy.

Well, okay, not every line about love is deeply inspiring. But in

the song "All You Need Is Love" a strong yet simple argument is made for the overwhelming importance and power of love in the face of all other concerns and endeavors. And yes, we might be tempted to quibble that love is not *all* we need--wisdom is just as needed, after all. But I find it instructive that we are given nearly relentless reminders in the Word of the Lord that faith alone--the elevation of truth above good--is the root of the downfall of every attempt humanity has ever made at connecting with and following God, and yet there seems very little energy behind reminding us that good apart from truth is also problematic.

Because it is. Good apart from truth is well intentioned but often foolish. Sometimes damagingly so. But the overwhelming and obvious thrust of the teachings for the New Church almost single-mindedly point toward the preference for truth over goodness as the main foe to be vigorously resisted.

The problem is that truth is easily turned to whatever purpose our hearts desire, whether that purpose be for good or for evil. Truth is graspable, studiable, manipulable, and yet powerful. People can use truth to control, to take, to bully, to injure, to threaten, and to punish.

But what of love? The good side of the equation is actually harder to twist, because it is quiet, unobvious, subtle, and, by many people most of the time, completely misunderstood. There are many great quotes about love, but one of my all-time favorites (easily top ten

if not top three), is this: “People know *that* love is, but not *what* love is.” (*Divine Love and Wisdom* 1)

But let me tell you what love is. Love is the single most powerful way of growing a church. It may be the only way of growing a church properly. If you, like me, sometimes pray for the extension of the New Church movement to reach more and more people, let me gently suggest that you add to that a personal prayer: that you become better and better at extending true love to the people you meet.

“Love is old, love is new, love is all, love is you.” - The Beatles, “Because”

With love, Rev. Mac Frazier, Pastor

***Thanks!***

*For myself, for Gillian, and for our family, I'd like to thank everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift you all gave us this year. We feel extremely blessed to have joined this great community, and look forward to the new year with you all. - Mac Frazier*

*"Brian, Janine, and family would like to express our thanks to the WNC congregation for the lovely Christmas bonus! Even more so, we feel much gratitude for the continued welcome and inclusion into this congregation where we hope to spend many years to come." ~ Brian*

## **Announcements**

**Christmas Centerpieces:** Many thanks to all who purchased centerpieces this season. We sold 31 pieces, and made **\$565** for the Church Operating Fund. We hope you feel good about supporting the Church, while enjoying your decorations. ~ Mary Cooper

**2020 Echo Directory:** It is finally ready! The new directory is hot off the press and should be mistake free (OK no one's perfect). Directories are available at the church in the lobby. They are also available as a PDF, just contact the office and I will send you a

copy. I am also willing to mail it to those unable to easily pick them up. Just send me a request by email. ~ Bonnie

**Apartment to Rent:** 2 Bed Room Rental, adjacent to the church. (12106 Sondberg Ln).

Newly renovated 2 bedroom living space, right next door to the Washington New Church available in the 2020 New Year. (Preferential pricing considered for church members). Call Brian Smith (301 850 3029).

**Please Join us for our Swedenborg' Birthday Banquet**  
Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm

This year's speaker will be Rev. Scott Frazier – Head of Religion



Major and Sacred Languages at the Bryn Athyn College. In addition to teaching Hebrew, Latin, and Religion, Rev. Frazier works for the General Church of the New Jerusalem as a translator of Swedenborg's theological works.

To receive a discount for the banquet please contact [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org) to reserve you tickets before Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Money Matters

It may not buy happiness, and its only connection with spiritual life

is that it *represents* knowledge, but we all know how necessary money is for a balanced, healthy, useful life in the world. It's the same with the church. We need financial resources to accomplish the uses of the church, and the more we have the more useful we can be.



With this short article we are pleased to announce the formation of a new Contributions Committee, and to introduce its members.

It's a three-person committee, including Jean Allen, Bob Newkirk and myself, with Treasurer Brent Hyatt acting as our consultant. Now that I'm retired the board of trustees has invited me to take the leadership of the committee, but all of us will be collaborating on the material we present to you. Here's what we hope to do:

- Provide information monthly in the Echo about the church's needs and – more importantly – about the vital uses and programs your contributions support;
- Inspire you to contribute regularly, even if only a little, and show you – from our New Church teachings – why this is so important in your spiritual life;
- Invite your consideration of painless and creative ways to make your contributions;
- And occasionally offer special opportunities to contribute, possibly for special projects approved by the board.

So watch for regular communications from us beginning in the New Year, and in the meantime, in the spirit of the holiday season, please remember the church in your giving and give back at least a little in acknowledgement of all that the Lord gives YOU every day.

Thank you! ~ Jean, Bob and Mike

## **All The News than would Fit:**

### ***Setting the Table:***

To set the mood for Christmas, **Phil and Jana Zuber** once again hosted the Society on December 9<sup>th</sup> for an introductory talk to our celebrations concerning “remains”, followed by energetic singing of Christmas hymns accompanied by Jenny Smith and Carole Waelchli on the piano and interspersed with many good conversations and good things to eat and drink. This was followed a few days later by an open house at Mac and Gillian Frazier's new home on Chantilly Lane, accompanied by more good conversations and good things to eat and drink. Thanks to both for bringing on the season's good cheer.

## *Christmas Tidings:*

We have it on good authority that Santa Claus arrived in town during the past month and avoided entanglement with the numerous rooftop solar panels he encountered. We trust that his visit was satisfactory to all.

More importantly, we have it on even higher authority that the celebration of the Lord's birth was observed throughout the Society and produced an excellent level of satisfaction. Those who had the good fortune to attend the marvelous Tableaux presentation on Sunday evening, the peaceful and beautiful Candlelight service on Christmas Eve and the inspiring Christmas Day service were especially fortunate.

Special thanks and appreciation to all the folks responsible for the Tableaux this year. Kudos to **Janine Smith & Sharon Kunkle** who did the planning and organizing, to Pastor Mac and his beautiful commentary on the scenes, to those who designed and built the scenery and handled the lighting, to Gillian Frazier and Mary Cooper who worked as costumers and to the many volunteers who served as costumees.

And more of that special thanks and appreciation to **Mary Cooper,**



**Jana Zuber, Kathy Johns, Gillian Frazier, Amanda Hyatt and Erin Stillman** who did the marvelous decorations for the chancel. They maintained our long tradition of candle-lit Christmas Eve services in fine style.

**The annual WNCS Christmas program** on Dec. 19th was outstanding, as usual. Darling kindergarteners singing, lovely coral and bell pieces with a special focus on the 5th and 6th graders who played over 20 parts of Dickens' Christmas Carol with only 5 actors - to an overflowing crowd of admiring family members. Good Work!

### *Seasonal Visitations:*

**The Quintero family** was happy to have everyone home for the holidays. Emily came in from Portland, Oregon; and Stefanie from Madison, Wisconsin (where she moved to in early November). They all had to fly away on Christmas day, so they had an early Christmas on the 24th.

**Dallas and Cathlin Hendricks** visited the Brent & Amanda Hyatt's for the holidays with their new baby boy, Juniper.

**James and Jeanette Roscoe** entertained daughters for Christmas - Renee from South Carolina, Nora from Bryn Athyn and Amanda from home, temporarily, preparing to take up a Fulbright Scholarship in Malaysia in the new year. Their timing was excellent, for they arrived in time to ensure maximum participation in many of our Christmas Services.

Janine Smith's parents, **(Rev.) Nathan & Elise Gladish**, visited from Tucson right after Christmas, along with other family members from the much cooler east coast.

Based on the large number of young and familiar faces that appeared at the Christmas Eve service it is estimated that there was a large influx of seasonal visitors who must go unnamed here for reasons of shortness of memory, but who were and are welcomed.

### *Other Visitations:*



**Judah and Lydia Synnestvedt** welcomed a non-seasonal (as in permanent) visitor; they had a new baby girl on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and named her **Aurella Grace**. Congratulations! And welcome Aurella. We like permanent visitors.

**Glenn and Linda Klippenstein** (along with many other old friends) visited during and after the service for Sonny Alford last month, and Barbara Fiedler also spent at least a week with Nancy Alford following that service.

**Mike Gladish and Mac Frazier** paid a visit to our sister church in DC last month and enjoyed a very friendly and collegial visit with their pastor, Rev. Rich Tafel. If you haven't seen that church you

should visit sometime - at 1611 16th St, just south of R Street. It's a very impressive building with gorgeous stained glass, and the members have been doing extensive renovations in several of the rooms there.

*Other Things of Note:*

**John Alden**, a pillar of the Pittsburgh Society and patriarch of a far-flung clan that includes our own Bonnie Cowley and Jeannette Roscoe, made his transition to the other world on November 30<sup>th</sup> at age 94. The service in his memory was held in the Le Roi church in Pittsburgh on Friday, December 6th. Our condolences to the Cowley and Roscoe families.

It's great to see the **Undeutschs** back at church after a short tour of duty overseas.

Congratulations to **Jared Hyatt**, who graduated from the University of Maryland in December with a double major in electrical engineering and computer science. Way to go! Now keep us safe from spammers.

The Sweeney family is happy to share that **Bryan** graduated from Towson University on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> with a degree in Exercise Science.

Congrats, graduates!

**Dr. Bill Radcliffe** was recognized at November's society meeting for his extensive work (and sponsorship) of major renovations at the church's cemetery. If you haven't been back there for a while you should see how nice it looks, with a new fence and even a new sign that says "Washington New Church Memorial Park." Great work, Bill!





There is a new Contributions Committee with a bunch of new ideas. Please see page 4 for introductory details. They will be in touch.

**Brad Johns** has been getting around quite a lot lately, for example visiting Atlanta with Kathy for an event in which he was honored for his "voice-over" work on an animated Christmas film.

**Lincoln Smith** and his landscape committee have announced plans approved by the church board to plant two rows of pecan trees in the playground between the church and the swing set, and build a series of benches where people can visit in the shade of the trees as they grow. If you'd like to help with this project, contact Lincoln.

As promised by our pastor in last month's Echo, we are once again enjoying some special music in our worship services, especially choirs of young people filling the space with their delightful voices. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

**The pastors** - both the active kind and the (inactive?) retired kind - banded together again this year to present the society a small gift after the tableaux. It was a cordless electric leaf blower that can be used any Sunday or on other occasions to tidy up the entrance to the church. It will be kept on the high shelf outside the lobby restrooms, and the battery charger will be in Bonnie's office. Anyone who notices a preponderance of leaves or leaf-looking matter is welcome to try the new machine out. We aim for spiffiness, so thanks, Pastors. And yes, you can use it when you arrive or when you leaf.

In case anyone needs them please note that the telephone number for Bishop Brad Heinrichs is 267-502-4944, and the number for Bishop David Lindrooth is 267-502-4910. In addition, their executive assistant in the front office is Kelley Treacy, and her number is 267-502-4901. Also, Mike and Bonnie both have PDF copies of the new Bryn Athyn Church directory for 2020, which they can email to you if you wish to have one.

And now it is 2020. How many times will you write the wrong year on a check before it sinks in that another decade has whizzed by? Time to get busy on the “To-do” list.

## *Happy New Year*

### **January 2020 Events**

Monday, January 6, at 7:30pm - **High School Town Hall meeting**

At 8:00pm – **Heavenly Doctrines Book Group** at Coopers – reading “The White Horse”

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am – **Morning Arcana Study group** at Gladishes.

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm – **WNC Trustees meeting.**

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm – **Theta Alpha Guild meeting**

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm – **Pastor’s Council**

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm – **Heavenly Doctrines Book Group** at Coopers

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am – **Morning Arcana Study group** at Gladishes.

#### ***Looking ahead:***

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm – **Swedenborg’s Birthday Banquet**, featuring Rev. Scott Frazier.

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00pm – Annual Dessert & Hors d’oeuvres Contest at Brent Hyatt’s

## *January Anniversaries*

I keeping with the “LOVE” theme that Mac began with, I want to remind you of why I post the anniversaries of folks in our congregation. Marriage can be hard, yet recognizing the achievement of another anniversary can help us all support and celebrate the continuation of marriage in each other. Here’s to another year!



*“A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences.” - Dave Meurer*

For some reason our congregation does not have any anniversaries to mention for January – then again perhaps I have not been told about their anniversary. If you would like to see yours in these pages, please email me your anniversary and how long you have been married.