

March 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

I've been thinking a lot about what we measure and what maybe we ought to measure, and I want to share three ratios from *The Church Growth Ratio Book*, which collects findings from a study of what differentiates growing churches from stagnant and declining ones. The three ratios are 5:100, 1:4, and 3:4.

The first ratio: “At least 5 of every 100 persons in a Sunday morning worship service should be visitors from the church’s ministry area.” In other words, if we average all of the first-time visitors--excluding “ringers” who are visiting from out of town--and divide that by our overall average worship attendance, our goal should be to have about 5% visitors. We are not there, but we can get there. At our current levels of attendance, this means two or three visitors a Sunday. The three main ways of increasing the rate of first-timers are: advertising, special events, and personal invitations. As part of our strategy, we are already doing advertising, and I am working on additional ways of getting our message out to the public that advertising will coordinate with. What I need from you are the personal invitations. And then, together, I want to work with you to



organize community service events that we can use to serve our neighbors while also inviting our neighbors to help us serve.

The second ratio: “1 of 4 first time visitors within a reasonable driving distance should be assimilated into the life of the church within a year.” In other words, if only one out of four first-timers are still with us a year from now, we are doing very well compared to the average church. The way to influence this ratio is to make the worship experience accessible, impactful, and welcoming to strangers.

The third ratio: “3 of 4 second, third, and fourth time visitors should be active within a year.” So: start with the 5:100 ratio of first-timers, and consider that the majority of them will not come back a second time. Then out of that even smaller 1:4 group who *do* come back a second, third, and fourth time, the *majority* should

be sticking around as active participants in our community a year later. And the way to work toward this 3:4 ratio involves how we reach out to these returning seekers, including what we invite them to participate in, who we introduce them to, and how we inquire after and serve their needs.

All three are important. We need to grow the first in order to grow the second, in order to grow the third, in order to help people become full participants in our community. And as at each stage the numbers get smaller, they also represent people who are more and more receptive to what we have to offer.

**Please join me in the work of reaching out to our neighbors, by inviting first-timers, making our worship experience a positive one for them, and helping them connect with others in our community.** And do it knowing that many will give us a try, but if even only a few keep coming back, we are doing a good job.

### **Pastor's Council**

The Pastor's Council meets monthly to provide the Pastor with vital input on the leadership of the church. At each meeting there is opportunity to bring feedback to the Pastor regarding the "pulse" of the congregation. In addition, the Pastor updates the Council on any ongoing developments in his office. Finally, each month there is some larger topic of discussion that allows the Pastor to plan and to adjust operations. Very often these topics are directly related to the strategic plan. In our March meeting, we discussed community building as it fits within the plan.

If you are ever curious about the goings on within these meetings, or have information you would like to pass on to the pastor through the Council, you are welcome to contact any member of the Council. The current Pastor's Council are: Candy Quintero, Carina Heinrichs, Curt Moore, George Cooper, Hanna Hyatt, Jana Sprinkle, John Croft, Pat Sweeney, and Sharon Kunkle.

Mac Frasier, 2020-02-25

## ***From the Principal,***

Though mostly mild in weather, February held several key meetings for me, making it a surprisingly busy month.

I spent a little time working on the religion curriculum, with a team in Bryn Athyn, though my teammate for work on the fifth grade curriculum is in South Africa. There's never a *good time* in the school year to work on curriculum, but it remains a very useful exercise to try to think above the daily lessons to the overall flow and purposes of our curriculum. For now, the General Church continues to use a platform called Atlas, which electronically stores the curriculum for all our subjects. The curriculum has been updated iteratively over the last decade by teams. This is a great service to the school system, but the hopes that the platform would be a highly collaborative work space for teachers have not yet materialized.

The function of the Atlas program was one of the topics taken up at a second set of meetings for General Church school administrators. These meetings were very well received by the school heads from all of our North American schools. The participant schools were: Glenview, Caryndale, Toronto, Rochester, MI, Pittsburgh, Kempton, Mitchellville and the Bryn Athyn boys and girls high schools and elementary school. The training portion was focused on leadership concepts and techniques, but the break-out discussions were especially appreciated given how practical and supportive they were as each of us faces very similar situations in each of these schools.

One theme of discussion was the hiring and training of New Church teachers. In our conversations local to WNCS, this has been a key topic on our minds as we watch our core faculty move towards retirement. Sitting around a table with other school administrators highlighted the obvious: we all have faculties disproportionately representing baby-boomers, so this will put pressure on the system as we all look to hire the next generation of teachers.

Speaking of staffing changes, Judah Synnestvedt has communicated his intention to leave the high school coach role this summer. I'm very grateful that he was willing to come for a short period of time to help launch the program, though I had hoped for another year or two before losing him. Still his help with the launch created space for Jana Sprinkle to step up, and express her vision and enthusiasm for the goals and potential of the program. The Board of Trustees has affirmed the recommendation of the hiring committee to move Jana into to the HS coach position.

I'm pleased to have Jana's experience, creativity and love fueling the next stage of the program. She will be working into the planning for next year, and providing input on the workshop we're sharing at the General Church Retreat in Bryn Athyn this June. Finally, I would like to highlight and affirm the work of the small committee which has been meeting to prepare for the celebration of WNCS's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next September and already gathering contact lists and laying out plans. It is a great help to have a team of skilled people already thinking through the program. If you are inspired to help in some way, let Kathy Johns know so she can help slot you in.

~ Brian Smith

## *Memorial Service*

For

**Vera Kluss**

*January 19, 1923 ~ Oct. 25, 2019*

Will be held on

**Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 2:00pm**

Reception at the church immediately after the service  
in the multi-purpose room.

*Please join us to celebrate the life of "Tante Vera"*

Rev. Lawson Smith, Officiating



## TAX RELIEF and CHURCH GIVING

You may have noticed that so far this year we have not said anything about tax deductions for your giving to the church. This is because the new “standard deduction” for a married couple already exceeds the amount most people give. This does NOT mean you get no tax advantage for giving; ***it means your gift is already being credited to you in tax relief.*** In other words, it means that if you don’t give to the church (or some other charity) you are essentially getting free money, money that you could have given to that special cause you believe in!

This applies to all but the wealthiest among us, but it should be of special interest to those of us on modest or even low incomes. As you know, we do not preach tithing in the New Church *in the literal sense*. But we know that the tithe (10% of one’s earnings) represents something that is enormously important, and that is “ALL,” i.e., ***all that we are able to give*** out of respect for ALL that the Lord gives us. For one person that may be 20%, for another only 2%. But think about it: even if you can only give \$2.00 a week (the cost of a cheap, Dunkin Donuts coffee) that would amount to over \$100 in a year, and quite honestly you would never miss that money. On the other hand, if even 10 new donors would do this it would add up to \$1,000 and it would be a tremendous boost to the congregation to see the increase in the number of committed supporters.

This can work for even for those who are young or don’t have much income. In coming months we hope to show you, on the other end of the spectrum, how if you are over the age of 72 ½ and you have a required minimum distribution (RMD) from some deferred savings plans, you can donate from THAT income ***and get additional tax relief!*** Stay tuned, or if you want to learn more about this at any time feel free to consult our treasurer or anyone on this committee.

Thank you again from your contributions team.

~ Jean, Bob and Mike

## MARCH 2020

*A very busy month*

Mon. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> • School Board Meeting – 7pm

Weds. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> • Morning Arcana group at Gladishes – 10am

Fri. Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> • Society Pot Luck & Winter Meeting – 7pm

***Entrée: S – Z, Salad: A – F, Dessert: G – R***

Fri. Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> • Acton Park Corporation Meeting – 9:30pm

Sat. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> • Pancake Breakfast and Work Party – 8am

Tue. Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> • BoT meeting – 7:30pm

Thu. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> • **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Play!** – 7pm

Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> • **WNCS SPRING BREAK**

Mons. Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> • Evening Book Study at Coopers – 8pm

Thu. Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> • Pastor's Council Meeting – 7pm

Sat., Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> • TAG Service Project (tentative)

Sun., Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> • Memorial Service for Vera Kluss – 2pm

***Reception following service in the multipurpose room***

Tue., Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> • **WNCS OPEN HOUSE** – 7pm *please join us!*

## Summer Camps

**2020 Medieval Summer Camp** registration is now open. Children



who are 9 or 10 years old are invited to join us at the Glencairn Castle in Bryn Athyn PA for a fun-filled week of exploring the culture of the Middle Ages (lodging is not provided).

There are two one-week options:

Week one: **June 15-19**, 8:30 am-12:30 pm daily

Week two: **June 22-26**, 8:30 am-12:30 pm daily



**June 25 - July 1, 2020:** If you are completing eighth grade or any year of high school, you can join us on at the Ecology Retreat Centre near Mono,

Ontario. Our theme this year is ~ **Light** ~

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." ~ John 8:12 ~

For information or to register contact -

Steph Kuhl at (519) 895-1891 or [stephkuhl@live.ca](mailto:stephkuhl@live.ca)

**ANC Summer Camp in Bryn Athyn, PA – July 12 - 18, 2020:**

Registration for ANC Summer Camp is open! This is a great week for all current 8th and 9th graders to learn more about The Academy of the New Church. All information is available on our website at:

<https://www.ancss.org/about/summer-programs/anc-summer-camp>

**Laurel Summer Camp in Western PA - July 12- 18, 2020:** This year's theme “Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” <https://laurelcamp.org/register/>

**Tools 4 Life Camp in Bryn Athyn, PA – July 21 – 27, 2020:**

Sophomores and juniors, you have an opportunity this summer to attend Tools4Life! It's a summer camp offered to help prepare you for life after high school. You will be given many opportunities during the week to explore options, meet professionals and connect with the greater world through service, college visits and career day.

Cost \$600 - If you register before March 1, 2020 it is just \$550. And remember you can reach out to me if you need help with the cost or have any questions. Ali Durand (267)-615-152

**GATHERING LEAVES 28 - 31 August, 2020:** Gathering

Leaves, the international retreat for Swedenborgian/New Church women, will take place at the Purley Chase Centre, in Warwickshire, England. The theme for the event is "Fruits of the Spirit."

There will be a variety of activities, and time for connecting. Room



and board fees for the retreat for everyone are being covered by generous donations, at the Early Bird rate. Details about the event, and about booking in, are on the Purley Chase Centre website ([purleychasecentre.org.uk](http://purleychasecentre.org.uk)).

You will find more detailed fliers on all camps hanging on the church bulletin board.

## Announcements

**Wanted:** Simons' still need boxes, esp. 2' X 3' and 3' X 3' – and thanks for all the wonderful boxes you have been leaving on our doorstep!! Smooch! ~ Wystan

**Chest Freezer:** Make an offer to Barry or Erin Stillman by emailing – [barryanderin@verizon.net](mailto:barryanderin@verizon.net). You will need to haul away.

**New Address:** David and Amy Glenn, and Liz and Mike Lewis are moving on March 14th. Our new address is 112A Hastings, Lane Pasadena, MD 21122. Our Cell number won't change but we are dropping our Land Line.

**Guest Preacher** – Our retired Pastor Mike will be preaching for WNC on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. His sermon topic: "Generalizations and Stereotypes in the Word" and will answer the question, "Why is the Word and why are the Writings specifically so judgmental about whole classes of people - like Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Quakers and so on? What lessons are we meant to take from this kind of discussion?" - MDG

## WCNJ Retreats



**Several women of the Washington society** recently enjoyed a weekend of relaxation and community on Kent Island. The ladies enjoyed a breakfast casserole by Sara, a sculpting project lead by Bronwyn Simons, and worship and meditations throughout the weekend.

Amy Odhner kicked off a discussion on the life changing effects of gratitude by talking about her experience with gratitude journaling. Sharon Croft helped everyone gain a greater understanding of how to use essential oils for health and wellness. Whether they came for a day or the weekend, everyone left uplifted and renewed.

~ Amy Odhner

**MEN:** Plans are already underway for our next church men's fall weekend retreat - to be held on November 6th - 8th in a brand new venue near Luray, VA. We will publish some pictures next month to whet your appetite. This will be near the peak of fall colors in the Shenandoah Valley, so despite the longer drive from Bowie it should be a fabulous weekend. Mark your calendars!! ~ Mike

### ***Another walk in the woods***

***By Wystan Simons***

It's sundown. The Western sky shows pale through trees, and under my feet shades of pale brown and beige and ivory crunch as Owen, Trum and I take our evening walk through the beech leaves. The Acton Park woods is slowly becoming a beech forest. Already in parts the pale grey trunks form a cathedral, rising skyward, sur-



rounded by open the forest floor. No weed seed can compete under a beech canopy. Looking sideways along the trail from the upper field the junior beech trees can be seen, rising through the forest, a band of beige-pink, half the height of the taller tulip poplars, announce their ascendancy.

I love beech trees. I love their soft gray smooth bark, their brilliant yellow green leaves, and the way dappled light filters through them in summer, the beautiful brown browns underfoot. They seem perfectly

happy with roots in the wet. Well adapted to us here, at the edge of a wetlands.

How I will miss these woods. For thirty years now, and especially for the past ten, this has been my daily walk, good therapy for

body, mind, and spirit, up and down over the hilly terrain. It is never the same, I never grow tired of it. I often think of John Pitcairn, and thank him for his generosity: most of my life I have wandered fields, woods, and greenspaces purchased with his money, in three different parts of America. I wonder if he would be pleased to know it. I often think of Janet Doering, who also walked here daily. And of my neighbor Justin Zuber, and his walking staff, now walking trails in heaven. We startle deer, smell skunk, and find droppings on the bridge. I look for alphabet shapes in the tree roots as we climb toward the Forest Garden gate.

Owen, Trum, and I often start our walks together in cranky moods. Owen's movement dysfunction causes him to resist, to slow down and stop though he is longing to walk hard. Trum is pulling too much, not listening. I usually don't want to go, too tired, too busy...But once we get going, we feel so good, tramping along. Usually we come home friendly again.

In Bryn Athyn there is a trail, but it's flat, using the former railroad tracks along the Pennypack Creek. "We'll have to create our own woodland trail, with hills," I tell Owen.

So much beauty, so much history, so much exciting future, for the beech cathedral aisles of Washington New Church.

## **Nothing but Gnus**

### **Sad News:**

Sadly, **Michael Ferrell's** oldest brother passed into the spiritual world on Monday, Feb. 5th after a brief illness and hospitalization. Unfortunately, a few weeks later Michael and Janet were unable to make it to his memorial service due to a very long day of cancelled flights, changing airports and more canceled flights. Our condolences to Michael, Janet and family.

### **Moving Stories:**

**David and Amy Glenn** have announced that they are moving to Pasadena (the Maryland version), where they will be sharing a house with Mike and (daughter) Elizabeth Lewis. The moving date is apparently Saturday, March 14th. Fortunately, it is only 20 miles

from the church. Congratulations to the whole family. Their new address is 112A Hastings, Lane Pasadena, MD 21122. Their Cell number won't change but we are dropping our Land Line.

Meanwhile, as noted in the Principal's report, the **Rev. Judah Synnestvedt** and family have decided to move back to Kempton, PA, in June, where Judah will resume his first love of podcasting about the Arcana Coelestia. We will miss you all.

### **Motion Stories (as in not so moving):**

**Rev. Brian Smith** made a pastoral visit on the traveling ministers' circuit to Seattle over the holiday weekend, Feb. 14th - 17th. Besides preaching there he took the opportunity to see his brother, Garrett, who lives out there.

Rev. Mike Gladish also made a couple of pastoral trips last month, visiting Vancouver over the weekend of Feb 21st - 24th and Boston at the very end of the month. He and Ginny also had a brief overnight visit from their son, Brett, on his way home from another Antares rocket launch at Wallops Island on Valentine's Day.

### **Really Moving Stories:**

Congratulations to **Jonathan Sprinkle and Gretchen Roscoe**, daughter of John and Jane Roscoe and niece to James and Jeanette Roscoe, recently announced their engagement.



Congratulations to **Michael & Michelle Kappert** on the birth of their third child and second daughter, **Ella Grace**, on Thursday, Feb. 13th. The baby weighed in at 8 lbs., 3 oz., and her name is derived (and in honor of) Michelle's mother, Angela, and all is well! Big brother Bennett and big sister McKenna couldn't be prouder!

Congratulations also to **Bradley and Christine Johns** on the birth of their newest treasure, **Evelyn Marie Johns**, at 11:29 pm on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say, Brad and Kathy are ecstatic at being eligible for the first-time grandparent's club. Essential details: 7 lbs. 7 oz., and a 20" beautiful brunette.

## Upwardly Mobile Story:

Congratulations to **David Radcliffe**, our amazing local climber. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> he accomplished the rare feat of climbing all 46 “high peaks” in the Adirondack Mountains of New York - in the winter. He climbed four of them on that day! He reports that more people have climbed Mount Everest or have swum the English Channel than have summited the 46 peaks in winter. It has taken him years to do this, and in the understatement of the year, he says “it was hard”. You think? And by the way – he also completed the 46 when it *wasn't* horrendous winter weather. That sounds very much like climbing 92 mountains because they were there. That actually deserves multiple congratulations.

## Multiple Stories

**The Rev. Scott Frazier** (our pastor's brother, a professor at the Bryn Athyn College) gave an enlightening, thoughtful and very entertaining presentation on February 1st to commemorate Swedenborg's birthday. He spoke on "the Ishmael rational" state of eight prominent men of the 17th and 18th centuries as providing background for the revelations of the Second Coming. This followed an unusually well attended banquet prepared by several men of the society, led by Dave Cowley. Good food, great time had by all. Thanks to all involved personnel.

It has been great getting to see **Barbara Fiedler** when she comes to visit her sister Nancy Alford and brother John Allen. Barbara was here for at least a week in February.

Profuse thanks to **Eric Genzlinger and Bill Kunkle** for their prodigious work on the Church's heating system. They worked all day on Saturday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> repairing leaks in the 3-year-old water pipes supplying heat to the building. It seems that the leaks were the result of human (actually inhumane) errors during installation resulting in multiple leaks in nearly unreachable pipe joints and lots of water in places it didn't belong – like in the boiler and boiler controls. Kudos to Eric and Bill. Not so much to the installers.

Also, thanks to the **mystery man** (*hint – Let's hope he holds a patent for his work*) who finally installed new lights in the rest rooms

near the main entrance to the Church. Now we can clearly see what 55-year-old décor looks like. New paint, anyone?

The annual winter "**Women's Respite Weekend**" was held at the Brickman house on the eastern shore from February 7th thru 9th. See more P.9

Speaking of which, the **5th annual Men's Weekend Retreat** has already been scheduled for next fall, November 6th - 8th at a fabulous new venue near Luray. More info in future Echos.

Post-graduation, **Jared Hyatt** has started a new job at the Appian Corporation in Tyson's Virginia, doing software engineering for development of efficient business processes. Good work, Jared. Also, new email for Jared – [jaredhhyatt@gmail.com](mailto:jaredhhyatt@gmail.com).

Speaking of school (weren't we?) our school, **WNCS**, took two days out of its normal classwork to experience some hands-on STEM activities and projects. This included a great, full-day field trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, beginning with a big yellow bus ride to the aquarium, a pizza lunch there, an IMAX movie and of course lots of great aquatic animals to sea. The story is that it was a wonderful day. The National Aquarium is a real treasure; everyone should find the time to go there.

Once again, the **annual dessert and hors d'oeuvres contest (20<sup>th</sup> Annual!)** was held at Brent and Amanda's gracious home on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. A welcome midwinter gathering, with prize-winners and everything. Too much delicious food – very hard to choose winners, but here they are:

#### **Hors d'oeuvres:**

#1: Bonnie Cowley (Chinese Soup dumplings –Xiao Long Bao)

#2: Lisa Martin (Mardi Gras shrimp and muffins)

Hon. Mention: Frank Maple (bacon sprouts) (missed #2 position in random draw tiebreaker)

#### **Desserts:**

#1: Emily Maple (triple chocolate mousse cake)

#2: Sophie Hyatt (lemon curd tartlets)

Hon. Mention: Marisa (baklava)

Have you checked out the General Church's "**Grand Human Project**"? It's an online community resource offering live group meetings on various topics on a weekly basis - especially useful for people who live at some distance from a church center, or who have trouble getting out to church events. Information can be found on the GC website, [www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org).

While you are at it, check out our very own website at [www.thewnc.org](http://www.thewnc.org) and listen to that sermon you missed last week.

And don't forget the memorial service at the Church for **Vera Kluss**, at 2 PM on Sunday, March 29th, with the Rev. Lawson Smith officiating. Details on P.5.



Come one, come all to hear Sister Anna narrate the delightful little tale of how Robin Hood rights the wrongs of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham's Representative, Thomasina Allard.

Come see the magnificent 7th and 8th grade WNCs students' retelling of *Robin Hood* by Dan Neidermyer, produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on **Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.** Until then, good morrow and God speed.

## *March Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love in its essence is nothing else but the wish of two that their lives become one life.” ~ Emanuel Swedenborg CL 215*



*Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Bill & Dorothy Radcliffe ~ 60 yrs.*

*Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Jean Allen ~ 51 yrs.*

*Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Aaron & Eva Smith ~ 24 yrs.*



We had to  
cancel the  
fall  
work party;  
so there is  
lots to do



Indoor &  
Outdoor  
Skilled and  
unskilled.  
Accompanied  
children  
welcome!