

April 2021

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

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## From the Pastor

The whole of the Lord's life in the world from earliest childhood consisted in constant temptation and constant victory. The last was when on the Cross He prayed for His enemies, and so for all people in the whole world. (Secrets of Heaven 1690:1)

We begin the month of April celebrating Easter. For many Christians, Easter is about the cross. The crucifixion. The Lord's willing self-sacrifice. But the real point of the story is not that He died, but that He lived. In fact, the entire Gospel narrative would be unnecessary if the only reason Jesus was born was to die. The good news told in the New Testament is not merely that the Lord died on the cross for you, but that He lived His entire life on earth in constant struggle. For you.

*But the real point of the story is not that He died, but that He lived.*

And He fought those struggles from a human perspective. Because He was divine as to His soul, He was able to decisively win every single spiritual conflict. But the humanity He inherited by being born of a human mother on earth meant that He went into these temptations without any certainty of their outcome. That is the very nature of spiritual temptation: without doubt--and even despair--about the end, it isn't really a temptation at all.

And He faced these doubts, over and over again, continually from earliest childhood. While He was healing the sick, He was battling doubt. While He was feeding the hungry, He was fighting off despair about the future. While He was teaching people, He was under attack in His own mind. And while He was being secretly plotted against and openly challenged by naysayers, He was struggling to keep moving forward with a plan He was not sure would succeed.

An omnipotent being surely never needs to suffer. But He chose to take on a form that would expose Him to attack, because He loves us. And He won. Not just the final battle, but *every* battle.

That's what we celebrate when we celebrate Easter. The Lord took on battle after battle for our sake, and He won every one of them. So we can be free to choose His kingdom.

This year, like last, will be an Easter during a pandemic. So things will again be a little different. We will have an **online-only service for Good Friday** (April 2nd, at 7 p.m. at [youtube.com/c/WashingtonNewChurch](https://youtube.com/c/WashingtonNewChurch)), during which you are invited to participate in

Holy Supper from your homes. Then on Easter Sunday we will have an in-person worship gathering (also available live on our YouTube channel) at the church at our usual 11 a.m. time. We welcome offerings of flowers, but this year for health and safety reasons we will not have a processing; instead, you are invited to bring your plant offering to the front of the church yourself when you first arrive.

But whether you join us in person this year or choose to worship from your homes, I hope you all have a beautiful Easter celebration, full of appreciation and gratitude for the Lord's love.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier  
Pastor, Washington New Church

## From the Principal

This month I have two key updates related to re-opening the school for in-person classes and staffing for next year.

**Re-opening:** As vaccines began to roll out, the political pressure in Maryland has gradually shifted towards some pressure to re-open the schools. From an educational quality perspective, this is a no-brainer for us: in-person is superior. However, transitioning in the middle of the year is yet another change in an already complicated year. Of course, the virus is also still a factor.

Our teaching staff is well on its way to being fully vaccinated.



These vaccines continue to deliver very encouraging results, including growing confidence that they make the vaccinated person much less likely to transmit the disease to other people (in addition to avoiding illness him or herself). I watch the local infection rates daily, hoping to

see a dramatic drop off in cases as the rate of vaccination in the county grows (currently 16% have received their first shot).

Until the virus abates, our re-opening plan comes with a commitment to maintain a very cautious set of safety protocols on campus. This includes symptoms and exposure monitoring in each of our homes and an abundance of caution in asking people to stay home

through what likely is just the sniffles. Our full plan is published on the website ([www.wncschool.org](http://www.wncschool.org)) and it was developed using the guidance from the joint publications of the Departments of Education and Health. One little positive in navigating these complicated guidance documents is that I have found the county Health Department representatives to be great. They answer the phone, they are friendly, encouraging, sympathetic and knowledgeable. This experience leaves me happy to call for support anytime we have theoretical or real situations emerge which requires special guidance.

For several reasons, we began our re-opening with just short days for three of our classrooms (the other three classrooms will open on April 12<sup>th</sup>). This transition period has allowed us to work out the remaining logistics of our plan and also get in the practice of maintaining our protocols before we have all the students back in the building. On the one hand, I can complain that I still want to see the student's faces without masks and that I want to let the students interact between classrooms (rather than just in their classroom cohort) however, it is gratifying to see already the pleasure of both students and teachers to be together again in person. There is a bit of awkwardness to shake off but within the first days teachers were already delighting in how much more is possible in a classroom together than through a computer screen.



**Staffing Next Year:** Our biggest staff adjustment going into next year is Brenna Sweeney's move from full-time to part-time. We're pleased to have part of her time next year, focused in her favorite area – early language skills in first and second grade.

We are also pleased and grateful to have hired Ariel Martin (from Bryn Athyn) as a full-time replacement. Ariel's training and love is especially in the teaching of music and so we will work to set up the schedule to maximize this strength area, while she also takes core subjects in the seven and eighth grade room.

Our need for music expertise is precipitated by Erin Stillman's gradual reduction in teaching time as she works to hand off her art and music courses. With Ariel in music, we are pleased to bring Lauralyn Cooper on to test the waters in teaching art, which is an area she loves. If we are all very nice to her perhaps we can convince her to expand this role over the coming years.

All the other teachers have re-signed 15-year contracts with the option to extend to 30 years. (Unfortunately, I'm just kidding).

While I'm talking staff, I'd like to acknowledge Carina Heinrich's work finishing her Master of Education, with a focus on literacy.

Brian Smith, ([brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto:brian.smith@washnewchurch.org))

## White Horse Academy

White Horse Academy has continued in full swing all year, but now we get to be in person! We are happy to be back and see each other face to face on a regular basis. The students have been continuing on in their courses. You can ask them about temptation and regeneration, about atoms and elements, about the differences between a supplement, over-the-counter medications and prescriptions. They could tell you about *Screwtape* and *Wormwood*, as well as *Death from The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. They have been using their own agency to learn about working in a garden, building a computer, planning a trip to South Korea next year, and learning to play the piano. Our students, with their varied interests have each found something they enjoy doing and learning. Finally, despite frequent



cold and rain in the previous three months, the students have made wonderful progress in the outdoor worship center project. We are hoping to have it ready to use by the beginning of summer.

I will leave you with something else to look forward to - bake sales and other fundraising for next year's Junior Journey to South Korea!

--Jana Sprinkle, Education Coach

**Renovations:** The Board of Trustees is moving forward on upgrades and possible remodeling of the front restrooms at the church. These were not changed when we did the major renovations in 2013, so it's time to improve our 50+ year-old bathrooms. Stewart Smith will be designing the spaces according to PG County codes. Then we will have contractors bid the job and hopefully the work should be done over the summer in time for the new school year. If you would like to offer any input, please feel free to contact Kathy Johns or Gillian Frazier. ~ Kathy Johns

Earmarked donations for the project would be welcomed.

### **From the Theta Alpha Guild**

Theta Alpha Guild is still in business in spite of Covid. We tried to spread some cheer this winter in the form of "sunshine" cards to those who could use a lift and "We Care" cards to young people in the area. This year for our Bryn Athyn students, since we couldn't collect for care packages, we sent gift certificates for Campus Cash. If you would like to donate, please leave your cash contribution marked TAG treasurer with Bonnie. TAG is still looking for a vice-president to fill out our executive committee. Carina Heinrichs will continue as president, Anne Ball/secretary and Kathy Johns/treasurer.

The WNCS 50th Anniversary Celebration is still on hold. The next possible date would probably be in September. But as for a firm commitment, it's just too hard to call with travel and group events involved.

Several people have asked about having our Church Yard Sale this year. The usual date is the first Saturday in May. If we can hold it outside only, we may be able to pull it off. So, save all your boxes of stuff reorganized during quarantine and hopefully you will be able to donate it to the yard sale. Stay tuned...



## Easter Flower Offering

Every year for Easter we have a tradition of bringing flowers to the Church as an offertory. **The Landscape Committee** would like to continue to improve these beds and perhaps do some additional new plantings in places like the wet and muddy 'Nile' as the kids and teachers like to call it. As such, we would like to offer a list of desirable plants for anyone who would like to donate a plant or two but may not know what to get. This is not an exhaustive list, just some ideas, and if you have any of these in your own garden you could feel free to divide them and donate that way too!

Some of these plants may not be at your local nursery. If you are virtual at church anyway you could go to an online nursery and have a plant shipped to us.

### **Plants for the wet spaces:**

Chelone Glabra - turtle head

Toadlilly

Cardinal Flower - lobelia cardinalis

Ilex verticillata (winterberry)

Joe Pye Weed

- eupatorium maculatum

Lilly of the valley

Christmas fern

Clethra alnifolia

Ligularia dentata 'Britt-Marie Crawford'

Yellow trout Lilly

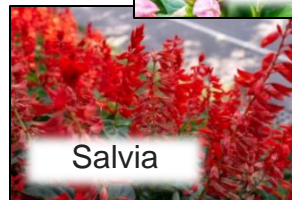
Solomon Seal?

### **Perennials for other beds:**

Agastache

Heliopsis

Salvia



## Perennials

Liatris

Penstemon

Coreopsis

Baptisia

English Lavender

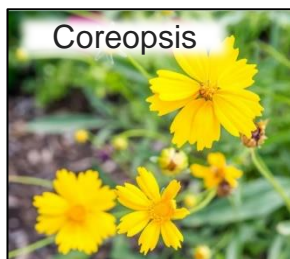
‘Little spire’ Russian

‘Pink chintz’ thyme

Great blue lobelia

Butterfly weed

Turk’s Cap Lilly



## Big News from the Gladishes

When I retired I really thought Ginny and I would continue living here indefinitely. We made the former manse our home and fixed it all up just the way we like it. I felt settled. But then a funny thing happened. Rather suddenly we began to realize that a long-term plan to live in the Retirement “Village” in Bryn Athyn might work better in the short term, so we made some inquiries and discovered that there is only one apartment available, and no others are likely to become vacant any time soon. So, we have decided to take the apartment this summer.

There are a LOT of details still to work out, including the sale of the house here, so what will likely happen is that Ginny will move this summer and I will follow when all the arrangements here can be completed. I have details about the house for anyone who might be interested.

Meanwhile we want you all to know that we have thoroughly enjoyed our 12 years with you, we have both learned a LOT and gained tremendously from the experience. We hope to have many more visits with you before we leave, and many more afterwards, too. If you have questions or comments, feel free to reach out to us. Thanks for everything!!

Mike (and Ginny)

### *April Anniversaries*

*“Love belonging to the spirit, and the body as a result of the spirit, is in the souls and minds of married partners, together with friendship and mutual trust.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg – CL 162*



*Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Sharon Croft ~ 25 yrs.*

*Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Pam & Andy Cooper ~ 31 yrs.*

*Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Curt & Wanda Moore ~ 30 yrs.*

### **Announcements**

**Job Opening at Bryn Athyn College:** The Business department at Bryn Athyn College invites applications for the position of Instructor or Assistant Professor of Business to begin July 1, 2021. This position is classified as percentage-time; the individual hired will carry a course load of 5 to 6 class units over an academic year that includes 3 terms. (A full-time faculty load is 9 course equivalents.)

For more information about Bryn Athyn College and its mission, see [www.brynathyn.edu](http://www.brynathyn.edu). OR... see full job notice on the church bulletin board or email Bonnie for a copy.

**SE District Scholarship Fund:** Southeastern District Scholarship Funds are available to anyone who lives in the SE district who would like assistance with paying for education at the Academy High School, the Bryn Athyn College or the Theological School.



**Note** - these grants are also now available for students attending the **WNCS high school**.

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2021, for those hoping to attend in the 2019/2020 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

**Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund:** Levi Cowley Scholarship Funds are available to graduates of the Washington New Church School who would like assistance with paying for education or books at any school of higher education (college).

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they plan to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2021, for those hoping to attend in 2021/2022. Please send your application to:

Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, Attn.: Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund; 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, MD 20721.

**Monopoly Cards:** Erin Stillman is collecting Monopoly cards from Safeway stores for the school again. If you don't want to use yours please drop them in her mailbox in Mrs. Cowley's office. We've already won a couple bucks!  
Thanks! ~ Erin J. Stillman

**Plant Swap:** Please join us for a perennial plant swap, Saturday May 1st at 10:30am at Mac and Gillian's back yard, 11801 Chantilly Lane, parking in driveway or on both sides of the street. Bring a perennial or two from your garden to share, if possible label with pertinent info: name, color, bloom time, light requirements... don't be late we will start the exchange as soon as everyone has a chance to look over the offerings. Rain date Sunday May 2nd at 2:30PM. Hope to see you there. Questions? Contact Gillian Frazier – [gillianfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:gillianfrazier@gmail.com).

**Late mailings of New Church Life:** Apparently, the mailings of *New Church Life* have become much slower than usual, and we

apologize. We have been told by our printer that the U.S. Postal Service has cut all overtime across the board, and this has slowed everything. Hopefully, the situation will improve soon. Meanwhile we will make an effort to get each issue out earlier. Thank you for your patience. ~ Bruce Henderson, Editor

*P.S. Current issues are always available online at [www.new-church.org](http://www.new-church.org) under “Publications”. – Ed.*

## The News

### News Marches On:

That sure was a winter to remember! Although it is still snowing in a few places, “not here” is the operative term that means winter is finally gone for a few months and it is time to think about planting and weeding gardens, mowing lawns, and sitting in the sunshine. So welcome, spring. And with vaccination in full swing, welcome everyone to a new, new normal.

### Into April:

**Get well (or at least well-er):** We hope that the arrival of better weather will herald a reduction in our sick-bay contingent – it was getting a little crowded in there. So best wishes for continued recovery to **David Glenn, Pat Sweeney, Michael Ferrell, Jean Allen, Stewart Smith, Anders Croft** (whose Covid attack led to a bout with Scarlet Fever and a strep infection) and any others who have been under the weather or even feeling a little blue.

**Jean Allen responds:** “Thanks to all the people who reached out with prayers, notes, calls, socially distanced visits, and meals while I recovered from my surgeries. My heart is filled with love for all.”

And the **Ferrells:** “Thank you all for the cards, emails, and phone calls. We are doing very well. Michael has responded favorably to his treatments. Janet is busy each day at the hospital lab. We’re waiting for the pandemic to eventually subside. And then we will see you all again. If you want to get in touch - email, text or call (if you get the voicemail, just leave a message). In the meantime, take care and be safe. We miss you.”

**Retirement:** **Wynne Hyatt's** retirement as the church's assistant treasurer has recently occurred and his constant presence in that job, or in the job as treasurer, or before that as the school treasurer, will be greatly missed. When his many years as Acton Park treasurer, and as the treasurer for the investment committee, are added in, his tremendous contributions to the Washington Society become evident. These tasks have been relentlessly unending and demanding, and even as assistant treasurer in recent years he actually did most of the Treasurer's work (by the treasurer's own admission). His hand in all these tasks was sure and dependable for innumerable years (50 comes to mind, but maybe more). Mere thanks are insufficient, but words fail us. Think superlatives.

**Chuck Quintero** now assumes the title of assistant treasurer and has a tough act to follow. Thanks to Chuck for taking this on.

**Grand Visitations:** **Anne Ball** spent the school holidays in Philly helping with child care for their grandson, while Derek and Hanna went to visit her dad and step-mom in Grove City, PA, in Mid-March - and had a great time wearing out their hosts with grandchild activities.

**Virtual Visitations:** On Friday, March 12th, **Lincoln Smith** got to be part of an online conversation with some incredible forest gardeners from France and China. The Forest Garden, by the way, is active now that the weather has warmed up, and you should see his new pond down in the forest behind the golf course!

**Actual Visitations:** **Brad and Kathy Johns** enjoyed a fabulous Amtrack experience on their way to Florida for a spring vacation.

**Nancy Alford** has flown off to Scottsdale AZ to visit sister Barbara Fiedler and plans to return via sister Linda Klippenstein's home in Missouri. And **Bill and Sharon Kunkle** headed north at the end of Spring break week, to enjoy a day trip to Kennett Square PA's

Longwood Gardens with son John and his wife, Becca. The Gardens are beautiful despite their mostly "sleeping" status, with witch hazel trees, snow drops and lawns of purple croci beginning the



spring awakening. They enjoyed finally having ACTUAL "face time" with family and look forward to warmer weather and more visiting!

***Virtual Gatherings:*** Added to the ongoing Monday evening Conjugal Love classes and Wednesday evening Easter readings, we now have the Better Late Than Never Wednesday morning Arcana study group, finally starting an experiment with Zoom meetings for its 1½ hour discussion sessions. Let Pastor Mac Frazier know if the Conjugal Love class interests you, and let Itinerant Preacher Mike Gladish know if you'd like to join the Arcana group.

***Actual Gatherings:*** Yes! They do exist. At 8:00pm every Wednesday evening (except when it is raining too hard) actual people gather around a fire pit next to the parking lot at the church for warm conversations of the neighborly sort. Try it.

***April in WNCs:*** After a year's worth of awful emptiness, the school building and its classrooms are beginning to return to life, a few grades at a time. Welcome back kids! And stay well; we don't need any relapses. April rules, and all shall be normal once again.

***Congratulations:*** are on order for Carina Heinrichs in celebration of her acquisition of a master's degree (see p. 5)

### **April On Duty**

| <b>DUTY</b>                 | <b><i>Good Friday<br/>Virtual Holy<br/>Supper</i></b> | <b><i>Easter<br/>Sunday</i></b> |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>APRIL</b>                | <b>2</b>                                              | <b>4</b>                        | <b>11</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>25</b> |
| <b>Preacher*</b>            | GMF                                                   | GMF                             | BDS       | GMF       | GMF       |
| Chancel                     | Mary C                                                | Mary C                          | Mary C    | Mary C    | Mary C    |
| <b>ORGAN</b>                | Jenny                                                 | Carole                          | Jenny     | Carole    | Jenny     |
| <b>FLOW-</b>                | Erin                                                  | Janna                           | Mary      | Erin      | Janna     |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Usher</b> | ----                                                  | Brian S                         | Lincoln S | TBA       | Glenn F   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Usher</b> | ----                                                  | ----                            | Marcellus | Elias H   |           |
| <b>Video</b>                | Bill K                                                | Brian S                         | Glenn F   | Lincoln   | Bill K    |

# The Washington New Church and School Calendar

April 2021

| Sunday                                    | Monday                                   | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                                                                              | Thursday | Friday                                                                                | Saturday                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                           |                                          |                                |                                                                                        | 1        | 2<br>Good Friday - WNCSClosed<br>7:00pm Good Friday Holy Supper Service – Online ONLY | 3<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class  |
| 4 Easter Sunday<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF) | 5 Easter Monday - WNCSClosed             | 6<br>7:30 pm School Board Mtg  | 7<br>10am Wednesday Arcana Group Via Zoom<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church  | 8        | 9                                                                                     | 10<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 11<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)              | 12                                       | 13                             | 14<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church                                         | 15       | 16                                                                                    | 17<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 18<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)              | 19<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 20<br>7:30 pm Trustees Meeting | 21<br>10am Wednesday Arcana Group Via Zoom<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church | 22       | 23                                                                                    | 24<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>2:30 pm Yoga Class |
| 25<br>11:00 am Worship (GMF)              | 26<br>8:00 pm Monday Night Reading Group | 27<br>ECHO DEADLINE            | 28<br>8:00pm Community Fire Circle @the Church                                         | 29       | 30                                                                                    |                                                |

**Echo Subscriptions:** Each year we request that those who wish to continue to get the Echo send us the year's subscription fee of \$15, primarily to cover postage. If you would like to receive the Echo **via email ONLY**, please send me your email address. If you no longer wish to receive the Echo, please email me and I will cancel your subscription.

Mail fee attention to: WCNJ, 11914 Chantilly LN; Mitchellville, MD 20721.

Email correspondence to: [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)

## **Used New Church Books**

*free if you will USE them*

Mike G. is finally coming to grips with his huge collection of used books of the Writings and collateral NC literature, and would like to offer, only for those who will use them, such things as

- ★ a full set of the old standard translation of the Writings
- ★ lots of miscellaneous volumes of the doctrinal works, including CL, AR, AE, DP, HH and so on
- ★ various editions of the old red Liturgies & Psalmodies
- ★ a whole bunch of books written by ministers on various topics, including...
  - Life of the Lord and A Harmony of the Gospels, by Bishop deCharms
  - many pocket-sized editions of the Writings, quite a few of them in light, leather-bound editions.
  - old (in good condition) Helen Keller's "My Religion"
  - at least 5 copies of the big book about the BA Cathedral
  - the massive 300th anniversary book of essays on Swedenborg
  - and a lot more.

Mike collected these over the years to give newcomers and inquirers, but now it's time to let go. Please text him at 301-461-3521, or email at [mdgladish@gmail.com](mailto:mdgladish@gmail.com) to inquire or express specific interest in any books, whether you see them listed here or not.