

January 2022

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

~~~~~  
Asst. Pastor, 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. Chuck Quintero

[c.quintero@alum.mit.edu](mailto:c.quintero@alum.mit.edu)

WCNJ Inc. Investment Treasurer

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

Well, here we are, heading into another “new” year. It is typical in January to cast eyes toward the coming year, to make plans, to speculate, and to generally think about what comes next. And it’s good to make plans. But it is also foolish to assume that our plans will survive contact with the random and unforeseeable events that inevitably await us just around the corner. *Divine Providence* talks

about humanity's desire to—as well as inability to—see the future, in the chapter with the very long title, “It Is a Law of Divine Providence That a Person Not Perceive or Sense Anything of the Operation of Divine Providence, but Still Know about And Acknowledge It” (nn. 175-190). The case is well summed up in number 175:

“Since a foreknowledge of future events takes away fundamental humanity, which is to act in freedom in accordance with one's reason, therefore it is granted to no one to know the future. But it is permitted everyone to employ his reason to form conclusions about things to come. Reason with all its constituents is then engaged in its life. It is because of this that a person does not know his lot after death or know any outcome until he arrives at it. For if he were to know, he would no longer consider in his inner self how he should act or live in order to arrive at it but would think only in his outer self that he was approaching it; and this state closes the interior constituents of his mind in which the two faculties of his life mainly reside, the faculties of freedom and rationality.”

And it goes on to say that desiring to know the future is in fact harmful, but it can be mitigated by building up a trust in the Lord:



“A desire to know the future is innate in most people, but it is a desire that takes its origin from a love of evil. Consequently, it is taken away from people who put their trust in Divine providence, and they have imparted to them a confidence that the Lord is directing their lot, so that they do not wish to know it beforehand lest in some way they inject themselves into Divine providence. This the Lord teaches in several ways in *Luke 12:14-48*.”

So how do you do that? How do you get to a place of trust and faith in the Lord's handling of the future such that you can make plans but hold them lightly and without fear of how they may be

impacted by unforeseen (by you) events? Through prayer and repentance. Since we are told that the desire to know the future is at its root evil, we can repent of it. Note it in yourself. Observe ways in which it causes suffering, for you or for others through you. Ask the Lord for help in trusting Him, praying as did the father of the possessed child in *Mark 9:24*, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Commit to approaching the future differently, with trust in the Lord and acceptance of whatever may come in His providence. And when you are in temptation, pray, and bring the Lord’s presence into your mind to fight the battle for you.

And still make plans. Still use your reason to make reasonable predictions so you can live your life. Plans are not evil, only the arrogant insistence that all our plans come to fruition is. Enjoy the moment you are living, appreciating all the good there is in it. Trust the Lord, and His providence will see you through to a good end.

Mac Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2021-12-29

*Brian and Janine Smith want to express their appreciation for the congregation's care and support for the pastoral team, including a nice Christmas bonus.*

**From the Board of Trustees:**

The Board met jointly with the School Board on Tuesday, December 7. The Pastor highlighted plans for the Christmas holiday season, and the Treasurer reported that we finished fiscal year 2021 in good shape, but that we are somewhat behind on contributions for the current year. School discussions included building maintenance and upgrades needed; available grant opportunities; and proposed tuition for next year. Updates to our Scholarship fund documents are in work. Grounds maintenance options were discussed, and bids will be reviewed at our next meeting. The Board will next meet on January 11, 2022.

Sharon Croft ~ BoT Secretary

## ***Why should They have all the fun?***

*An Editorial by Bonnie Cowley*

Like always, Christmas is a very busy time of year. In fact, this has been a very busy year for me. Even though I am creeping up in years, the **opportunities** to be a useful part of this society has only grown.

If you take the time to look around, you may notice that certain people are always taking advantage of these opportunities to be useful. For example - Carole Waelchli has singlehandedly kept the music going for Sundays, special services and at least two memorials. Mary Cooper, our tableaux costume lady managed to costume much smaller actors this year (how many years has she been the costume lady anyway?). No matter what is going on, (an unexpected memorial service [there have been two since Fall] or some other activity), Sharon Kunkle has been there cleaning, sorting, and doing just about anything anyone needed to have done.

Then there are the quiet types like Bill Kunkle, Eric Genzlinger & Andy Cooper that sneak in on weekends, rebuild the boiler pipes, fix the parking lot lights, and keep the physical and IT aspect of church and school working.



This is just a partial list, but one thing these people have in common is that none of them are under 50... most over 60. It is true, these people are doing what they can for ***“the love of the use”***. They love the church and want the uses of the church to continue, and yes, they love what they are doing. But why should they all have the fun?

There is enough of this fun for everyone! We have committees that need people, especially younger people [Mary and I just can't heft those heavy costumes up into the closets any longer], ushers [could someone please give George Cooper a break]. We have begun after church coffee & snacks and need help. We need building and landscape help too... there is no end to the **fun** you could have. Please join the club!

## Announcements

**Christmas Centerpieces Success:** Much appreciation is due to all who purchased centerpieces this year. You helped raise over \$600 for the Washington New Church Operating Fund. Although that is but a “drop in the bucket”, and not quite as much as in previous years, it is a respectable amount, and “every little bit helps”! Thank you, and Happy New Year! ~ Mary Cooper

**Home Looking for a Family – Advance Notice:** The home at 4214 Glenn Dale Road has been part of the New Church community for half a century, since my parents, Winnie, and Dave Stebbing, moved there in 1972. Many friends remember it as Tante Vera’s house. My daughter, Jessica, who lives there now, wants to move to a smaller place. She plans to start shopping for a house late winter, so the property could be available this coming spring. I would be delighted, and I’m sure my parents would be also, if a New Church family chose to live there.

The house is large, 3612 sq. feet, and unique, a split level, with 17 rooms and a built-in two-car garage. It has four bedrooms, four full baths, a living room, family room, rec room, DR, kitchen, and more. Located about a mile from the church and school, the house sits on five acres, and has a rental property in the back (Ariel knows I’m placing this notice). Heating is by oil (new boiler a few months ago) and cooling by heat pump. The Kitchen is all electric.

To a New Church family, before placing it on the market, I’d offer the house in the high 500s (roughly \$165/sf). For comparison purposes, most single-family homes for sale in Bowie right now cost \$220-250/sf, and most are on quarter acre lots.

If family or friends might be interested, please spread the word. Thank you. You can reach me in Asheville, NC, at (828) 251-1525. ~ David Stebbing

**From Michael Ferrell:** Thank you! - to everyone who purchased CDs - Reach for Him (In the Word). Your support is priceless. A part of the proceeds will be donated to the Church and School. FYI - more CDs are available. ~ Rev. Michael E. Ferrell

**General Church Publications:** Mike Gladish has recently become involved with the GC Publication Committee, and one of the initiatives he is now working on involves advertising and promoting some of the thousands of books GC has in Bryn Athyn for sale, or even in some cases, for free.

Mike will send us monthly ad of the some of the books available. Here is this month's ad.

LITURGIES: Did you know that the Bryn Athyn Cathedral bookstore has literally thousands of copies of the blue, 2005 edition of the Liturgy for sale at just \$8 each? You can order them easily by going to [www.newchurchbooks.com](http://www.newchurchbooks.com), or, if you wish, anyone visiting BA can pick them up and schlep them back home for you.

PRAYER & PROVIDENCE: This very latest book published by the General Church is a collection of 40 sermons by the undersigned. It has been selling well and is available also through the Cathedral bookstore at \$15 each, or you can order it directly from the author by writing to him at [mdgladish@gmail.com](mailto:mdgladish@gmail.com).

Mike Gladish (publication committee volunteer) 3039 Huntingdon Pike, Box 550, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009. Cell/text: 301-461-3521.

**Souper Sundays Continue:** January/February bring more opportunities to make, bake or buy soup and bread.



This has been not only a lucrative fundraiser for the Church and TAG but also delicious for the buyers. The quality and variety of soup and bread this past fall was wonderful.

Here are the dates for Sunday sales: January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup> (“Chili” Sunday for the Super Bowl) & 27<sup>th</sup>. If you want to make or bake, please contact me at 301-518-3628 or [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org). We can always use help preparing the soup and bread.

As before, you can also pre-order soup or bread by emailing me.

~ Bonnie Cowley

## JANUARY NEWS NOTES – concerning December

Well, that was an exquisitely forgettable year. A few things happened, but mostly it was a stay-at-home-and-avoid-everybody-because-if-you-don't-you-might-get-sick kind of year, unprecedented in our collective lifetimes. Let's hope the worst of it is behind us, but the reports of increasing infections in our region don't provide much hope for that happening any time soon. However, the Writings tell us that we humans are capable of rationality, so perhaps we might eventually find a way to use that gift to overcome this dark cloud.

One can tell from the amount of colorful paper ending up in landfills that the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> year of this century has been unwrapped and discarded, and we are about to take another crack at making something good and useful out of a January. We have not been too successful with Januarys the last couple of years, and it looks as though '22 may present some issues, so maybe you will want to consider delaying your resolving for a few weeks. My resolution for this year was going to be to stop procrastinating about cleaning out the attic, but now I think I will put that off for a while.

### “Tis the Season...”

**For Singing:** Thanks to TAG president **Carina Heinrichs** for arranging for an enjoyable Christmas Sing around a roaring fire on a cold and dark early December night. This year the roaring fire was outdoors instead of in the traditional Zuber fireplace, and about 25 people braved the elements to start the Christmas season with a song – or two or three – led by **Ariel Martin** and her cold-proof guitar.

**For reading:** Too Bad: if you missed it – **Pastor Mac Frazier's** weekly Zoom discussions of the Christmas Story were most enjoyable. The format was informal and wide-ranging in scope, as often-overlooked parts of the story of the Lord's birth described in all four Gospels were reviewed. Thanks, Mac.

**For watching sheep:** The shepherds were huddled around an open fire on a cold, crisp, clear, and starry night a week before

Christmas as the WNCS students (with assistance here and there) played out the story of the Lord's Advent in our new, and perhaps becoming traditional, venue of the great outdoors. A large and closely bundled crowd of people enjoyed the numerous scenes portrayed by the students, the Gospel readings of the familiar stories of the Lord's birth, and the accompanying music. Kudos to director, Janine Smith, to all who put in the time and hard work building the scenery (thanks, Bonnie et al), rounding up the kids (thanks Janine), costuming them (thanks, Mary), writing the music (thanks Janine), performing the music (thanks, Ariel, Carina, and Lincoln), and to Pastor Mac and to all who braved the chill to support this artful and beautiful rendering of this beloved story.

***For Worshipping:*** The moving Christmas Eve candle-lit service was, well, just that – moving. We have been having Christmas Eve services in this church building since 1965 – 61 years! – but the celebration of the Lord's birth remains timeless. The chancel was beautifully decorated and, although masked, the singing of those familiar songs was good for



the soul. (*Photo thanks to Lincoln Smith*)

### **Travels:**

Brad & Cathy Johns report that they spent their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on a road trip to Islamorada, Florida for a fishing celebration. Kathy says, “we hooked some nice snook, redfish and snappers (which they could keep) while soaking up the warm sun in the Keys. We hopscotched our way there and back visiting friends and family. Somewhere along the way home the dreaded COVID caught Brad and he is battling the evil virus. We'll have to wait to celebrate Christmas with the kids and grandchildren until after we complete quarantine prison. In sickness and in health...we're in it together, forever.”

**Nancy Alford** joined family members including the Brian Klippensteins on a sailing cruise in the Caribbean, where they spotted a



lot of water and its contents and had a jolly time. We trust that no pirates were spotted from the yardarms.

**John and MaryEllen Kern** enjoyed their annual trip to Williamsburg, VA for the Grand Illumination which signals with bonfires



the start of the Christmas season. **James and Jeanette Roscoe** followed them to Williamsburg for the celebration of Christmas Day, enjoying the beautifully decorated old town initiated by the Kerns (and others).

### **Condolences:**

We are sorry to report that Dorothy Radcliffe’s sister Silvia has passed away. Our condolences to Dorothy and family for their loss.

**Dorothy also** reports that “unfortunately Bill picked up COVID somewhere and I soon joined him in our isolation. Our family has been good about not only dropping off presents in our garage (at a distance) but making sure we have a stocked larder with a meal dropped by. And thanks to Emily for dropping off presents in the form of food from Charles and Angela who are presently enjoying the warm air in St. Croix.”

We keep hearing of more people falling victim to COVID. This thing is everywhere among us, and our condolences go out to the many other unlucky folks who found themselves quarantined or sickly or otherwise inconvenienced by the ’21 version of the plague. Y’all get well soon – and completely – please.

### **Other things:**

**Bill and Sharon Kunkle** enjoyed a wonderful Christmas week with John and Becca plus nephew Ian, which featured great food, time for games, worship together, walks and hanging out, plus a prolonged tour of the Festival of Lights at Watkins Park (hard to find a less-crowded time slot in the week before Christmas!) They send their best wishes to friends near and far for a happy, healthy New Year!

They were among the fortunate ones who did not have their Christmas travels and/or family gatherings postponed or outright cancelled. Next year will be better!

A token of our appreciation was presented to organist extraordinaire **Carole Waelchli** for taking on full-time duties during Jenny Smith's illness. Thanks Carole! It was good to see Jenny back for a while, but unfortunately the illness caught up with her again.

Thanks also to **Mary Cooper** for making her Christmas greens centerpieces available once again. (See how much she raised (*p. 5*).

**Michael Ferrell's** new CD is out and about, with Michael singing Michael's songs, accompanied by Michael's instrumentation along with other local musicians. Songs written and sung with affection for the Lord and the Church, and nicely done Michael. You all should try it – you will like its quiet moments of reflection and praise.

It is reported that **James Cooper** is feeling pretty good about the recent successful launch of the James Webb Telescope. Seems he (along with a few others) was Lead Mechanical Engineer for NASA in the design and construction of the sun shield for the telescope, so they now await the critical part of the mission: its deployment out in the midst of the universe.

And now it is January. Cold, windy, snowy (??) January. Yes, it really is time to get going with at least some – or one – of those things you kept promising you would do. Like getting back in the habit of attending church, where you are truly missed when you don't make it. Or helping a friend who needs a hand. Or you could try sitting down with a cuppa tea for a few quiet moments of reflection about the good things that are going on in your life, and those happy moments that occurred during the past outwardly chaotic year. What can you do to make sure they happen again?

Did **you** miss seeing your name here even though you did something unique and earth-shattering (or even kinda fun) last month? I bet you forgot to tell the News Notes editor about it. There's still time!

Meanwhile, we hope that you all – each and every one of you – will have a joyous, prosperous, healthy, and of course Happy, New Year.