

April 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

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” *Isaiah 43:19*

Spring is here, and Easter is just a few weeks away. The weather is getting warmer (in fits and starts), and soon we will see new life begin to bloom all around us.

We also appear to be emerging from a sort of COVID winter into a gentler season of the pandemic. I won't say that we are done with the coronavirus, but things seem to be shifting into a new phase with regard to how we manage things. Masks are coming off in many places (including, optionally, at our worship gatherings on Sundays), infection rates seem to be in long-term decline, and while the disease is still showing up, it is not threatening to overwhelm our health services the way it was this past winter.



And so, emerging from all this, I am looking around and wondering about our little church community. This society has seen some things in its history. You are all and those who came before you have not only witnessed much, but also accomplished a great deal. And I want to honor that history. And I also want to move forward from it.

I worry that we sometimes look around and see where we are now, primarily in terms of where we once were. We have fewer members, fewer students in our school, and fewer people in worship on Sunday. In terms of numbers, we were declining even before the pandemic hit us hard, as it has so many other churches and other organizations. But the pandemic was like tossing an anvil to someone struggling to swim. It accelerated a process that has been impacting church attendance worldwide for some time now.

And now I worry that our view of empty pews may distract us from seeing the people who *are* here, today, worshiping and serving in *today's* church. I worry that a desire to “get back up to zero” could be a weight that holds us back, putting us in a mode that seeks more to survive than to thrive. Friends, we are never going “back” to the way things used to be.

But we *can* go forward. Look around you. The people you see

*Please join me in looking for ways to take this approach. In putting away reminders of past “glories” to make room for new dreams of our future.*

serving, worshiping, and recreating together *today*—this is the church. This is where we *start*. Call this the new day zero, the new square one. Let’s draw a line across the ledger and begin again.

And think about this: if we were starting a brand-new church (a monumental task, I can tell you from experience), then being able to start it with the people and resources we currently have would feel like a tremendous blessing! What could such a newly planted church accomplish?

It’s a new day, and a new spring for us at the Washington New Church. Please join me in looking for ways to take this approach. In putting away reminders of past “glories” to make room for new dreams of our future.

And yes, this is a warning that changes will be coming. We should honor the past that got us this far. But we need to move forward from there and not chase what once was. I invite you to help create the next generation of this church. And I ask for your patience as we experiment with new ways of doing things. And not everything will change. Our dedication to the Lord and to His Word as the center of what a church is all about will not go away.

*... this is a warning that changes will be coming. We should honor the past that got us this far. But we need to move forward from there and not chase what once was.*

Personally, I find it exciting to enter into the new day not knowing exactly what will come of it, only that it is ours to make of it what we will! I hope you are able to feel that excitement with me. Let’s try some stuff out. Let’s build a new church. And let us trust all the while the Lord’s final words to

His followers in the Gospel of Matthew:

“And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - *Matthew 28:20*

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier  
Washington New Church, 2022-03-24



## **Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Services:**



**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am** – The church will hold a family festival Palm Sunday service. Palms will be provided for pick up in the lobby to be used in a procession during the first hymn.

**Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm** – will be an adult in-person only Holy Supper/Good Friday service (no virtual).

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am** - will have a family festival Easter service. The congregation is encouraged to bring flower offerings for a procession during the 1<sup>st</sup> hymn of cut flowers or potted plants. *(a list of preferred landscape plants on P.??)*

### **From the Board of Trustees:**

The Board met for our regular monthly meeting on March 1, 2022. The Pastor reported on status of the mask mandates for church, the recent Talent Night, discussions with the General Church Governance Board, and plans for building community in the spring.

Bill Kunkle joined the meeting to present options for software solutions to manage board and committee files and activities. The Treasurer reported that we are looking at another deficit this year, based on current rates of donations, expenses, school enrollment, etc. He also presented a rough draft for FY23 budget, which will be prepared and presented at the spring Society Annual meeting (date to be announced).

The principal covered masking policies, and potential school grant opportunities. Sharon Kunkle joined us to report on Acton Park activities. The Investment Committee is still in need of members and a new head, please contact John Kern if you are interested. Sharon Cooper agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee for members of the Board of Trustees and School Board. If you are interested in serving on a board, please contact Sharon or any member of the Board. The next meeting will be on April 12.

~Sharon Cooper, WCNJ, Inc. Secretary

## **When You Weren't Looking**

*By Bonnie Cowley*

The Washington New Church is a busy organization. With a church, a school and 80+ acres of land under the auspices of Acton Park, Inc. there is so much to do. How is it that we manage to maintain so much of these uses? Fortunately, we are lucky to have two pastors, two volunteer organists, a diligent school staff, and active board members on all three boards. There are certainly others who give so much, like our building head(s) and treasurers, but what about all the supportive things that miraculously happen? ... what about the little stuff?

Here is the secret – it is a little organization called the Theta Alpha Guild that quietly busies itself with all the minutia of society life. TAG is dedicated to the uses of the church society and New Church Education. When the school has a need, TAG does it's best to fill that need, whether it be providing refreshments for an open house, making sure there is coffee for the teachers or funds to help a new teacher set up her classroom. There are everyday things that are quietly taken care of, like flowers on Sundays, food, or drinks after church (when there is not a pandemic). Invisible TAG elves come out of the woodwork during holidays – the church always looks so festive; tableaux would not happen if it were not for the costume people ironing garments and dressing shepherds or wise-men of varying sizes. On Thanksgiving and Easter chancel girls show up to collect food or flowers. Then others find ways of donating the food or helping the school children plant the flowers. Somehow palms always show up on Palm Sunday. And we cannot forget the ladies who work behind the scenes making precious New Church Day gifts.

TAG has been a small fundraising arm of the church too. The annual yard sale, “souper” Sundays, bake sales and centerpiece sales all have benefitted the church either directly through money earned from the fundraisers or the useful things TAG can support with money raised. “Souper” Sunday brought in \$866 this year donating half of it directly to the operating fund. Centerpiece sales reached over \$600 this year, all of which went to the WCNJ operating fund.

With a portion of the money earned through TAG dues and our fundraisers, TAG was able to give a \$500 Christmas gift to help the church buy a portable sound system used in the Tableaux and for all future events. The outdoor worship center created by our students was funded by TAG as well.

There are suppers and banquets, though fewer because of the pandemic. There are the cooks, the ladies who set tables and clean up... someone always shows up.

When a visiting pastor or candidate minister comes to town TAG finds them a place to stay.

Lastly there are the small but special and personal things TAG does. Goodies are collected to give to new teachers or people just moving into the area, also the yearly care packages sent to our BAC & ANC students. "We Care" cards are sent out to young adults in our area and [for the last couple of years] our first responders. These cards are handmade and often include a small gift card. And whenever TAG hears of someone sick, hospitalized or struggling, TAG sends frequent sunshine in the form of a personal greeting card.



I am sure there is much more! So, to the Theta Alpha Guild, **a huge thank you** for your quiet service. And to those of you who wish to join this "exclusive" club... Just contact the TAG president Carina Heinrichs [carina.heinrichs@washnewchurch.org](mailto:carina.heinrichs@washnewchurch.org).

## **Announcements**

**FOR SALE:** Our home on Enterprise Road ½ mile from the Washington New Church in Mitchellville will be listed for sale this May. The property is 1 1/3 acre with a two story 2600 square foot custom house. Open floor plan, 3 bedrooms with great master suite, attached 2 car garage, green house and pool. Any interested buyers can contact Kathy by email at [kcjswim@aol.com](mailto:kcjswim@aol.com) for further information. Brad & Kathy Johns

**Group Volunteer Opportunity:** There is a volunteer opportunity to help set up group homes for refugees from Afghanistan, and I thought it would be fun to get a group from the church and school to volunteer their time together. It looks like the housing is in the Landover area, and involvement could be as simple as spending a couple hours cleaning or transporting furniture, painting.... If you are interested in joining a group let me know. Gillian 512-694-4403. For more information check out the link below. There is also a link to volunteer at the top of that webpage if you love the idea and want to volunteer regardless of whether other people are interested. <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3413785.jsp>

**An Open Invitation:** Hello all! On May 28th at 4 pm we will be celebrating Anne and Steve Ball's 60th birthday! We are hoping to gather lots of people who might want to come celebrate these lovely people. We'll be gathering on WNCs grounds. There will be food and drinks aplenty, and we hope to see you there. All are welcome, but please no presents and no kids. See you there!

Questions? Contact [justin.ball101@gmail.com](mailto:justin.ball101@gmail.com) - Justin Ball Glover

**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 May 31, 2022, for those hoping to attend in the 2022-2023 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 May 31, 2022, for those hoping to attend in 2022-2023. Please send your application to:

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

**Work Party: *This Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>***

This work party includes a pancake breakfast at 8am. Lot and lots of fun community indoor/outdoor work begins at 9am. Be there or be square!



**YARD SALE:** Keep saving your stuff.

The yard sale is still tentatively on for May 14<sup>th</sup>! And, if you can help with the sale, *please contact* Kathy Johns 240-476-5058.

**EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS:** Every year for Easter we have a tradition of bringing flowers to the Church as an offering.

**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. Here is a short list of some plants that could be planted in the “rain” garden:

Goats Beard, Joe Pye Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Turtle Head, Forget-me-nots, Cardinal flower, Blue Lobelia, Rain Lilies, Dog Tooth Lilies or Camasses. 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!





## All The News That Will Fit:

It turns out that there wasn't much lion in March – unless you happened to live in Eastern Europe. The dark evil of war saddens us all and causes one think about the infinite mercy required to permit such things to happen in the name of human freedom. This freedom was provided to allow humanity to choose to do good, but too often is used as an excuse to do evil. The battle to overcome evil is not finished; there is much for us to do.

“Wars are permitted ... for it is according to Divine providence that everyone be allowed to act from freedom in accordance with reason.” (Div. Prov. 251)

### Is there any good news?

It turns out that it was February that behaved like a lion – with a Talent show for the ages – all ages, from K to post grad. Too bad if you missed it. It was advertised as a “Virtual Talent Show” but from all appearances it was more of an “actual talent” show. Thanks to **Bonnie Cowley** for the idea, and to lots of people for the execution thereof – not only the participants but **Jordan Kinsey** for putting together the video part of the show. And who knew that **Pastor Mac** was a card sharpie? Thanks, all, for brightening a cold, blustery evening.

Did anybody notice that spring arrived in the nick of time? Otherwise, the Cherry blossoms couldn't have bloomed. All we had to do was turn our clocks ahead by an hour and suddenly there were blossoms everywhere. I wonder how that works. Rejoice all you gardeners; the time for digging and planting is here. And just think we get to mow the lawn in a couple of weeks – and for the next six months.



Spring has sprung, the grass is riz; I wonder where my mower iz?

## Out of Town News:

From the far west comes news that the **Crofts – John, Sharon, Anders and Ivan** – enjoyed spring break with a bit of traveling. Starting in San Diego (well, actually starting in Upper Marlboro) they have visited the Salton Sea, the Mohave Desert, Joshua Tree and Sequoia National Parks and the spectacular mountains in between and returned home by way of Los Angeles.

## Sad News:

Our condolences to the family of **Philip D. Coffin**, who passed away in January of this year in a care facility near Boulder Colorado. Phil was a long-time, long-ago member of our Society and resident of Acton Park.

We are sorry to report that the danger of the Chantilly Lane/Enterprise Road intersection has once again made itself known. This time one of our school kids (8th grader **Jovan Makutchang**) ended up in Urgent Care for evaluation, but the rest of the people in the car (Micheline Makutchan, Favor Etiendem, a kindergarten cousin who goes to our school, and Micheline's baby) were OK. Most of the damage was to nerves and automobile components. Yet another complaint was lodged with MD traffic safety; that intersection has been bad for many years, and they know it, but nothing has been done.

## **BUT – There is Such a Thing as Good News.**

After the aforementioned accident and complaint, **Bonnie Cowley** finally received the following reply from MDOT:



“Thank you for your service ticket regarding your request for a traffic signal at the above subject location. The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) appreciates the opportunity to be of assistance to you. The MDOT SHA is pleased to inform you that a traffic signal is being proposed for the intersection. **The anticipated completion of the installation and operation of the traffic signal is Fall 2022**”

Thank you, Bonnie!

## **Bad News:**

It was on Facebook, so it must be true: It seems that **Brad & Kathy Johns** are in the process of selling their house (*see p. ?*) and moving away. Will we miss them?

Yes. More than a lot.

## **Sound Thinking:**

Those of you who have had the opportunity to watch a Sunday Church service on YouTube probably have noticed a seeming lack of participation in the service by those in (live) attendance. That was only an appearance, however – the attendees do participate, and are quite lively. But there are no microphones available for recording that fact and transmitting it to the airwaves (more accurately, the “wirewaves”). **Bill Kunkle** and crew are about to fix that: parts are on order; installation to follow; switches to be turned on! Soon. Or as soon as the vendor gets the parts needed.

Here’s the pitch: microphones, mixers, cables, and the like are actually quite expensive. Therefore, those of you who either do or do not use the streaming service on YouTube are invited to make a special (as in “extra”) contribution to the Church to help cover this cost. Those with ears will thank you.

## **Speaking of Which:**

Contributions is which. While you are making that “extra” contribution, it is profoundly to be hoped that you will also remember that “regular” contribution to the operating fund you are planning to make, for we are fast approaching the June end to our fiscal year, when we tally up income vs. the expenses of operating our Church. Will you help make that tally a positive number by positively remembering to make that contribution?

**TAG:**A special time was Saturday. That is, Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, when TAG threw a banquet and about 40 people showed up to have a great meal and listen to a great presentation by **Angela Radcliffe**. It has been a long time since we gathered in such a large group, and it felt good. Let’s have more of that! Thanks for thinking of us, TAG.

## Help Wanted:

May will be upon us before long, and with it will hopefully arrive the annual WNC Yard Sale. Your participation and even assistance will be gladly celebrated; watch for emails and other such missives for more information. And start collecting your extra valuables, your knicks, and your knacks for contribution to and participation in the sale.

## Reminder:

Don't forget to tell us about the fun and/or important events in your life – some people rely on the News Notes for actual news. Otherwise, we will have to resort to weather reports (see above concerning “spring arrival”).



### *April Anniversaries*

*“Conjugal love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven – and the fundamental of all the delights and joys of heaven.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg – AE 993*



*Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Sharon Croft ~ 26 yrs.*

*Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Pam & Andy Cooper ~ 32 yrs.*

*Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Curt & Wanda Moore ~ 31 yrs.*

