

September 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

I know, I know summer isn't over. YET. But sadly, it soon will be as this is the last weekend of summer. Have you had a good one?

**Mine was a bit mixed:** good stuff, but also some unwelcome curve balls. After school ended, we had a June 19th celebration for which I cooked a lot of barbecue, a July 4th celebration at Erin



Stillman's (for which I, once again, cooked a lot of barbecue), a week of rather intense clergy meetings (no barbecue this time), plus a scramble to adjust to a cancelled family vacation.

Yeah, that last bit wasn't fun. The plan had been to go directly from clergy meetings to a week or more on the beach, reading, relaxing, resetting. But then the place we were supposed to be staying at had a bit of a mishap involving burst pipes and all kinds of damage to ceilings and walls, and...well, no beach for us. So, while mourning the loss of something I had really been looking forward to, I pivoted to an emergency plan B. With all four kids at home for a week before one of my sons had to go back to Pennsylvania for work, we did a couple of day trips into the city to see some museums, a zoo, and to do some walking around our nation's capital.

And we enjoyed it, even though it was quite different from what we had been expecting. Also, my wife and I still had our "romantic getaway" later in the summer, and that was a lot of fun! We saw birds and waterfalls. We hiked up and down beautiful gorges. We had interesting meals at interesting restaurants. And I somehow messed up my foot. Still glad we went, though!

**But what about the church?** What has been going on here?

Well, after a COVID-induced break, the Summer Camp returned to our facility, and with more kids enrolled than ever before. I like having them around, and I like how many new people are made aware of our church and school because we rent space to them.

We've also been working on our new music program. This involves getting singers together, getting musicians together, and most recently getting both groups combined, all to prepare a slate of musical offerings to enrich our worship services in the coming year. It also has involved continuing work on our sound system, which is almost (but not quite) complete, now. And it has involved creating a space specifically for choral groups and musicians at the far-right side of the sanctuary.

You may have noticed many weeks ago when the first pew was removed. That was us testing to see what would be involved in uninstalling them. Since then, we've been waiting for transportation to be available for a rug to help define the space a little better and to improve the acoustics a bit. Well, that rug has finally arrived, so this past week we finished the job and uninstalled the other pews in that far section. When you come to church this fall, you will immediately notice the difference.

This is a change that has been in the works for an awfully long time, by the way. I have mentioned it here and there in group and individual settings, and before solidifying the plans I spoke with Pastor's Council about the plan and why I thought it was a good idea. Now that we are finally able to put the plan into motion, let me share with you how we got here:

As I have brought up at society meetings over the last couple of years, we are a smaller church than we once were. And it is important to accept that, and then to move forward from it as our new starting point, rather than get stuck thinking about the past and what we "once were". Part of that is acknowledging that we have a lot of empty seats every Sunday. We have, objectively speaking, a good-sized group of people that gather to worship the Lord every week. But the way our worship space is laid out, it has been demoralizing to many to have it feel like we are in an essentially empty sanctuary.

So, one motivation for removing some of the pews is to tighten up our seating so we aren't so spread out and empty feeling. But just leaving that space blank would still be a problem. And so, since we are also planning on bringing in musicians and choirs, it made sense to rededicate that side of the room to music, to give it a well-defined use within the larger worship space.

And that leads us to today. As you will see, things look quite different. I hope that you can see this change with the excitement I view it with. For me, this is an important step toward redefining Washington New Church for the next generation of its existence. But I also know that change is hard. I think, though, that I have been very slow and gentle about asking for change so far, so I hope

you will bear with me. We can't continue to look and act exactly as we have in the past and expect to have much of a future going forward. That's not because the past was wrong, but circumstances change and call for new approaches. And whatever other changes we end up adopting over the next four or five years, know that the core of our church--its use, its doctrine, and its focus on the Lord--will never change. Now, on a separate topic.

### *Children's Talks Are Back*

First, now that summer is over, we are **returning to having full services with separate children's talks**. This means that this Sunday there will be a talk for kids (about bread), after which they will be dismissed to go play.

### *Holy Super Sunday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>*

Second, during the time allotted for the adult sermon portion of worship, following the dismissal of the children, we will be **celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Holy Supper** following readings about what holy supper is and why we do it. This will be in place of the regular sermon.

**I hope you had a great summer, and I look forward to what comes next!**

~ Rev. Mac Frazier

### **WNCS - Smaller but Healthy**

It was a cool sunny morning as I walked down Chantilly Lane to the first day of the 53<sup>rd</sup> year at the Washington New Church School. Though it was still quite early, several cars were already pulling into the parking lot with excited and anxious students.

Several parents rolled down their windows to cheerfully greet me. A few more, whom I had not seen all summer engaged me in conversation slowing my approach to the front door. All were delighted to be returning to WNCS.

Some nervous new students clung to their moms while a veteran kindergartener, smiling ear to ear bounced into school ahead of her parents. The lobby quickly filled up with parents and teachers meeting, greeting, and even hugging while older students, some

who must have grown a foot over the summer, high fived their classmates.

The summer of 2022 saw the decrease of ten students at WNCS and one retiring teacher. However, we did pick up five new students and a new teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades. We are smaller and we look a whole lot different than we did just 15 years ago. Now we are much more a reflection of the local community.



Yet, we still operate like we have in the past. As in the past we had parents join us for the first chapel of the year. We took the whole school photo on that first day, we continue to start each day with morning worship, we still have religion classes and teach all other classes from the foundations of the New Church.

Whether from New Church families or the community, all these children come to us as gentiles giving us more than just academics to teach them. This year the school's theme is "Be a blessing" taken from Gen 26:4

*"And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."*

This year our students will be encouraged to "be a blessing" to one another, to the school and the community. And the school itself

will continue to be a blessing to the world by educating all children in our care in the light of the Lord's Word.

We may be a bit smaller, but with our diligent teachers & staff, the strong supportive society and supportive school parents I believe WNCS will continue to be a blessing to the world.

~ Bonnie Cowley



**Please Join Us for our 1st Theta Alpha Guild meeting:**

Dear Ladies,

WELCOME to a new year of the Theta Alpha Guild! The Theta Alpha Guild (TAG) is a group of women who support and organize events for the Washington New Church and School. Coming to TAG meetings is a great way to help a very worthy cause and to support and enjoy friendship and community.

Whether you are new to the school or are a longstanding TAG member, you are warmly welcome to join us for our first meeting of the business year. The meeting will be:

**Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

We'll be meeting at the Washington New Church and School:

**11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville**

We'll meet outside at the fire pit. In case of bad weather, we'll meet indoors in the all-purpose room. At this meeting, we will discuss upcoming events and how we can help. Bring your ideas to help the school! The annual dues are still just \$10.00.

We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

Anne Ball, secretary

*If you do not want to be on the TAG notification list, please respond to me, Anne Ball, at [agball6262@gmail.com](mailto:agball6262@gmail.com), or reply to this email and I will remove your name from the list.*

## **General Church Education Contract Illustrator/Artist Wanted**

General Church Education is seeking a contract/project-based artist to illustrate stories from the Word. The illustrations will be published in a hard cover book of stories from the Word. The position is project-based, and entails researching historical garments and landscape elements relevant to each story and creating illustrations to highlight key aspects of each story.

The position requires an openness to direction and oversight by General Church Education staff and the project sponsor, as well as flexibility to incorporate requested changes to artwork.

This position will be established as an independent contractor and not an employee of the General Church. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and ability.

Interested candidates should send samples of your work that include human figures and faces, along with a cover letter and suggested contract rate (hourly or deliverable-based). Please send responses to:

Rachel Glenn, Coordinator of Religious Educational Programs

267-502-4959 - [rachel.glenn@newchurch.org](mailto:rachel.glenn@newchurch.org)

General Church Education  
1100 Cathedral Road - P.O. Box 743  
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 USA

### **ALL THE NEWS:**

Well, maybe not all. With your news noter, various reporters, and even more non-reporters taking time off over the past couple of months a lot of non-remarked-upon, if not unremarkable, not revealed things occurred that remain known only to a privileged few. (What did he say?) However, we can say with assurance that summer 2022 did occur – and technically is still occurring – and we sincerely hope you all had marvelous times in the ocean, on the

beach, in (or on) the mountains, and/or traveling to exotic places, and are now refreshed and renewed and ready for what autumn will bring. Leaf-raking, school, and elections come to mind as important things to be endured or even enjoyed if you are of such a mind. And football season, the World Series, cooler weather, and such are also there to enjoy. So welcome back, y'all!

### **Fun Times:**

The great July 4<sup>th</sup> party at **Erin Stillman's**: A beautiful summer



day – one of the first times in memory there was not a thunderstorm to dampen the celebration – and a large crowd of hungry and happy partiers

congregated to play and celebrate. It was great to see people relaxing in wind-conditioned shade and eating BBQ prepared by Pastor **Mac Frazier**, or playing volleyball, or sliding down the hill, or eating, or just enjoying the fact that for the first time in years we could congregate.

At the end of July, we were privileged to attend the renewal of wedding vows of **Amy and David Glenn**, with their son, Rev. **Richard Glenn** joyfully presiding. Congratulations, David, and Amy!

Speaking of traveling to exotic places, we hear that **Dave and Bonnie Cowley** drove to Rochester, Michigan to visit their son - Oak Arbor's pastor **Alan Cowley** and to tour their community, church, and school. It was only the second time they heard their son preach – a real treat. They enjoyed visiting with old Acton parkers like **Monica Hyatt** (I know she does not live in Oak Arbor but just happened to be visiting Erika who does live there) and



lunching with **Craig & Sarah McCardell** and daughter **Kelsi** and her husband and daughter.

**Candy and Chuck Quintero** spent time on a lake in Wisconsin this summer. Daughter **Emily** and her fiancé **Killeen** joined them from Oregon and **Stefanie and Anthony** from Madison, Wisconsin. It was a beautiful lakeside spot with wonderful stargazing and bird watching opportunities!

**Sharon Kunkle** attended a Lee Cousins reunion in Glenview, IL, in mid-July. She reports "there are lots of us!" and enjoyed renewing connections with her far-flung relatives. "We took a tour of the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie, on the site of the old Glenview Air Station, led by our own Kent Fuller himself! His encyclopedic knowledge about the species of plants, wildlife and systems kept me enthralled - I could have spent hours wandering around the prairie as well as the LEED-certified interpretive center. Our wise reunion planning committee left plenty of time for intrafamily visiting as well as events to mingle with the larger group. There was also time to visit the nearby cemetery where our grandparents and many other family members and friends from the Glenview New Church are buried. Cousins shared stories and memories as we strolled among the beautiful landscaping and markers. A cemetery can be quite a lively place when you have such guides with you! We enjoyed a group dinner event that included a photographer capturing all the various family groups as well. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and many voiced the hope that this will be first of an ongoing tradition of gatherings.

### **Best wishes for speedy recoveries:**

Around the same time the 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations were winding up, **Jim Needer** wound up with a heart attack to spoil his days, but he was repaired by a promptly installed stent and is recovering (recovered?) well.

Others followed less invasive routes to getting time off from work by way of Covid quarantines and other assorted ailments, while some are starting or continuing treatments for longer term issues. Our condolences to all the summer sufferers.

## Did You Ever Wonder?

The imagery of the Book of Revelation puzzles many people. Be enlightened by joining The Monday Evening Reader's Group, which is studying Apocalypse Revealed, and will rezoom its biweekly Zoom classes on September 12th at 8:00 PM. They are now on Chapter 12, but that is a good place to start. Contact Pastor Mac to be put on the reminder list.

## Local News:

“And how is Acton Park doing these days?” you might ask. “About 60%”, would be the reply. And we at the News Center are somewhat relieved, for not everything is going even that well these days, it seems. Our unimpeachable source: an Acton Park community meeting in August with Alder Energy Systems, LLC, the contractor who is designing, permitting, and installing a solar renewable energy facility on A.P. property. Alder is in the permitting segment, now, and expects that to be completed by the end of 2022. Construction/installation and electrical connections and testing should be complete by early next summer, at which time the project will begin to supply enough electrical energy to support 150 homes on the BG&E network.

Also, you might ask how long the ceiling in your house is supposed to last, and maybe you should look up once in a while just to make sure. **Carole Waelchli** discovered that at least one ceiling has (had!) a much shorter lifetime than she had planned, when the entire living room ceiling in her house decided to deposit itself on the floor in one fell swoop. Fortunately, she was elsewhere at the time. What a mess! Many good Samaritans rushed to her aid and have restored her house to its accustomed trim. Thank you, helpers!

**Amanda Hyatt** has a few things she would like to give away.



- 1) A budgie named Necco (with cage and food)
- 2) A very sturdy foosball table
- 3) A hutch
- 4) A 52" fan

If anyone is interested and wants more info, please text (301-325-9623).

**Lincoln Smith** has become famouser! The August 15<sup>th</sup> Washington Post Magazine contains an article that features Forested (among others) with a full-page photo of Lincoln. As of the publication date of this Echo, you can find the article at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2022/08/15/wild-foods-foraging-eating-healthy/>

### **Did You Notice?**

School is open, welcome to a new year of frenzied but joyous activity.



## *September Anniversaries*

*“People are created so they can become more and more interior, and in this way can be introduced into more intimate love.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg ~ CL 123*

*~ ~ ~*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Daric Jamie Simons ~ 8 yrs.*

*Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ (Edwin) & Nancy Alford ~ 66 yrs.*

*Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Steve & Anne Ball ~ 35 yrs.*

*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bill & Sharon Kunkle ~ 38 yrs.*

*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ (Fred) & Carole Wealchli ~58 yrs.*

*Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Lachy & Kate Maxwell ~ 19 yrs.*

*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Brad & Christine Johns ~ 5 yrs.*

*~ ~ ~*