

Summer 2023

# ECHO ECHO

## Newsletter of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem

**[www.theWNC.org](http://www.theWNC.org) • 301-464-5602**

Pastor: Rev. Glenn (Mac) Frazier  
11801 Chantilly Lane; Mitchellville, MD 20721  
[Mac.frazier@gmail.com](mailto:Mac.frazier@gmail.com)

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Asst. Pastor, Principal: Rev. Brian D. Smith  
11503 Chantilly Lane  
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2126  
[Brian.smith@washnewchurch.org](mailto: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

Mr. George Cooper  
[cooperpatents@verizon.net](mailto:cooperpatents@verizon.net)

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)

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### From the Pastor

Sensual thought is the lowest of all, and is material, and corporeal. In such thought are all those who are in evils of life, and thence in falsities of doctrine, however learned and clever they may be supposed to be, and although they can arrange their falsities attractively, and clothe them in choice and eloquent language.

*(Apocalypse Explained 580:1)*

We humans have a number of glitches in how we process information. It's a topic I love exploring for some reason. Some examples:

- We're bad at grasping probabilities.
- Very large numbers make us stupid.
- Randomness doesn't behave the way our intuition expects it to.
- Our faculty for pattern recognition can cause us to see relationships that aren't actually there.

Today, the glitch I'm thinking about is how we tend to perceive things that are *well said* as therefore *true*. And I'm not quite sure why we do this. I mean, is there any logical reason to actually suspect that a thing well said is necessarily true, or that a thing poorly expressed must be false? And we know that clever wording can't be trusted, because we have sayings that warn us of this:

"Don't judge a book by its cover."

"Beware of the flatterer: he feeds you with an empty spoon."

"A smooth talker isn't to be trusted."

"Oratory is the power to talk people out of their sober and natural opinions."

"Eloquence may set fire to reason."

And speaking of instructional quotes, consider the following example of human wisdom:

"Actions speak louder than words." So true! And yet... "The pen is mightier than the sword." Isn't it?

Everyone knows that "Slow and steady wins the race," but...isn't it generally accepted that, "Fortune favors the bold"?

It's beautiful to think that "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," isn't it? Although now that I'm thinking about it, don't they say, "Out of sight, out of mind"?

And when Coco Chanel (of all people) said, “The best things in life are free,” did they not realize that “You get what you pay for”?

And then there’s this great bit of relationship wisdom, uttered by many a nodding head when discussing the attraction of one person to another: “Opposites attract”. So true! So wise! So...contradicted by the famous avian saying, “Birds of a feather flock together.”

And speaking of wise words from great thinkers, I have always found curious the claim that “Great minds think alike,” given the also quite well-said warning that “Fools seldom differ.”

Is this just a lazy way of using a bunch of famous quotes to pad out an article in my quest to write a newsletter article that is in danger of being overdue? Well, sure, of course it is.

But as the saying goes, “Necessity is the mother of invention.” In our pursuit of understanding the world around us, we often turn to the wisdom of others, distilled into these memorable and thought-provoking quotes. However, these nuggets of wisdom can sometimes be contradictory or even misleading, reminding us that context is key, and that true understanding requires critical thinking.

As we explore the quirks and glitches of our human nature, let’s not be swayed by eloquence alone, but rather strive to question, analyze, and appreciate the complexity and nuance that lies beneath the surface of well-crafted words.

Because, after all, “Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you’d have preferred to talk.”

So, as we continue to navigate the world of wisdom, clichés, and contradictory sayings, let’s remember to approach them with a healthy dose of skepticism, and perhaps most importantly, with an open mind.

And as a wise man once said, “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”

Rev. Glenn “Mac” Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2023-07-03

## Announcements

**Wednesday Evening** is the happening summer evening.

Beginning at 5:30 PM your friends gather at the church to play volleyball. Come play or bring a folding chair to watch and enjoy the company!

Are you musical? The church music group gathers at 7:00pm to practice – they can always use more musicians and singers.

Don't leave too early for at 8:00pm the fire at the fire circle is lit and folks come together to visit, share what's on their minds, or just get to know each other better.

**New Church Vineyard Update:** General Church Education is excited to announce an update to our New Church Vineyard website. New Church Vineyard is an online library of resources to help children and adults learn about the Lord, His Word, and the purpose of life. The new interface, which has just been launched, offers a more visual, streamlined experience for users and a wealth of new materials. Visit the site at [www.newchurchvineyard.org](http://www.newchurchvineyard.org) to see our new collections, browse resources on key spiritual topics, and subscribe to our highlight emails. Let us know what you think.

Rachel Glenn, [vineyard@newchurch.org](mailto:vineyard@newchurch.org)

**Duty Roster:** *The summer roster with this Echo may not work for your summer vacations. PLEASE call and switch with someone else if you can't do your duty. Do not just fail to show up.*

Thanks to our new usher head, George Cooper, we now have some new ushers that he has conscripted. Thank you, George, and the willing volunteers!

We need to fill many more slots on the "Duty Roster". Take for example...

- Chancel Girls. Mary Cooper will happily train your daughters who are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or up.
- Flowers: Would you like to make flower arrangements to occasionally grace the Sunday services?

- Video: Maybe you would be willing to help the live streaming of our services by sitting in the AV booth and operating the system. Mac will happily educate you on how to use the equipment.
- Coffee: Our foodie people make incredible food for after church but don't often have time to prepare coffee, tea, and water to go with it. Please volunteer for coffee.

If you think you ought to or want to volunteer, drop an email to [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org).

*"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." – Lily Tomlin*

### News notes

“Being able to provide arguments to support whatever you want is not intelligence; intelligence is being able to see that what is true is true and what is false is false.” *Emanuel Swedenborg, True Christianity 334.*

### **WNCS Graduation:**

So, the Writings provide us with still another good reason to support New Church education: providing knowledges of truth and falsity, so that arguments don't just sound intelligent, but may actually be that. And thus, in June the WNCS celebrated another graduation; over 50 years of spreading the seeds of essential knowledges around and watching hopefully for the harvests. The details were reported in the June version of the Echo because we were scooped by the school Principal. But we still get to offer our congratulations to the sole graduate, **Shaunti Smith**, who graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (with honors), and to all the others who managed to successfully complete another year, and to the various award winners: so, congratulations to all of you.

### **Another Graduation:**

And while on the subject of N.C education, congratulations to **So-haila Smith**, who graduated from ANC HS this past June.

## **Rare Correction:**

You should have received (via email) a corrected version of the June news notes. Apparently, we have gremlins. Sorry about the errors in the original version. (Corrections are rare not because we don't make them, but because we rarely catch them.)

## **Local News:**

The Strickland Funeral Home is on its way – and just in time for some of us. It will replace the one-time tobacco farm at the corner of Enterprise and Belvidere Roads (across Enterprise Road from the general location of the Church.) The application awaits approval by the MNCPPC and then the County Planning Board. Details are posted on the Church bulletin board.

The Church, the nearby Harmony Retirement Community on Enterprise Road, and the funeral home form a Bermuda Triangle for some old folks.

**Sharon Kunkle** reports that she finally drilled down to get an answer on the proposed new traffic signal at Enterprise and Chantilly. Peter Campanides of the State Highway Administration writes they anticipate "completion of the design of the proposed traffic signal this Summer. Construction of the traffic signal is scheduled to be completed by Spring, 2024."

## **It's Vacation Time!**

**Janna And Phil Zuber** flew off to California for a week or so to visit son Devin and family. A good time was had by all, it is said. Then the travel bug got them big time: as soon as they got back from CA, they took off for Annapolis, but this time they decided to stay there: they bought a house not far from (daughter) **Kira and Joe Jenkins**. Smaller house, smaller yard, closer grandkids. Hmmm. We regretfully get it. It turned out not to be exactly vacation news.

**Sharon and John Croft**, with **Anders and Ivan** ran off to the beach for almost two weeks of camping in the sand while reining in the local wild horses in Assateague National Park. They were joined by **Dave and Christine Cooper** with **Angie and Zia**, as

well as **James and Melissa Cooper** with **Meghan and Ryan** to assist with the horsing around.

**Steve and Anne Ball** are celebrating their 35th anniversary in Franc and congratulations!

**Carina Heinrichs** went to France with her parents & family.

**Craig and Laura Cooper** with **Madison, Garrett, and Benjamin** spent a few days enjoying the Outer Banks – more particularly in Kitty Hawk. While there, they had fun on the beach building a sandcastle or splashing around in the waves. They also visited the Wright Brothers' Monument to see where the first flight happened, and where Craig's career was born.

**Brian and Janine Smith** and family intended to fly away to Martinique for a Gladish family reunion and destination wedding, but tropical storm Brett had other ideas for them. It took aim at the island and managed to cancel the Smith flight. They eventually got there but missed some days of family fun on the island. Since reunions are contagious, they decided to go to Canada for a Smith family gathering.


A trip to Asheville (see "Wedding" below) ended up being a great vacation/reunion for **Bonnie and Dave Cowley** and family. Six of Bonnie's 11 Alden brothers and sisters as well as lots of nieces and nephews and grandchildren camped with them in the same KOA. Most of them stayed for a good part of the week following the wedding enjoying campfires, tubing and of course fishing. Bonnie reports: "For Dave and me it was a special treat to have all of our children (and a good number of grandchildren) also camping there. One evening before we all left, our children came to our cabin to have a family dinner and celebrate (one month early) our 50th wedding anniversary."

Congratulations, Dave, and Bonnie!

### **Wedding congratulations:**

There was quite the convergence of Roscoes, Actons, Aldens & Cowleys on June 26th in Asheville, North Carolina for the marriage of **Robbie Gardner** and **Renee Roscoe**, oldest daughter of **James and Jeannette Roscoe**. Of course, as often happens at outdoor weddings, it started with a rain shower where all but the

wedding party got wet. As the weather cleared up the bride and groom were brought by horse and carriage to a lovely stream side grove where Rev. Alan Cowley officiated the service. A few notable attendees in addition to the family were **Isaac and Brynna Smith, Keith & Monica Hyatt, Ed & Wystan Simons**. It was a beautiful wedding and a wild reception.



### *July & August Anniversaries*

*“With people who are in a state of truly conjugal love, their union of minds increases, and with it their friendship.*

*~ Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 214 ~*

*July 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Brent & Amanda Hyatt ~ 36 yrs.*

*July 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Michael & Michelle Kappert ~ 11 yrs.*

*July 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Dave & Bonnie Cowley ~ 50 yrs.*

*July 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Michael & Janet Ferrell ~ 19 yrs.*

*August 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Chuck & Candy Quintero ~ 38 yrs.*

*August 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Ed & Jana Sprinkle ~ 32 yrs.*

*August 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Royce & Cynthia Harvey ~ 44 yrs.*

*August 17<sup>th</sup> Todd & Shannon Wawrzeniak ~ 16 yrs.*

*August 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Phil & Janna Zuber ~ 50 yrs.*

*August 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Mac & Gillian Frazier ~ 28 yrs.*

*August 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Casey & Jillian Collins ~ 8 yrs.*

*August 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ James & Jeannette Roscoe ~ 43 yrs.*

