

February 2024

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  
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)

**To donate, go to: <http://giving.ncsservices.org/dl/?uid=ncs-2818>**

### From the Pastor

Did you know there are black bears in Maryland? And did you know they don't actually properly "hibernate"? They just have an extended lazy period when they "den," which means...well it means they stay in their den and don't go out for months at a time. Personally, I get it. I don't think I could possibly sleep through the whole winter. I don't always manage to sleep through the night. So, I know how poorly it would go if I attempted sleeping an entire

season! Getting the covers and heat levels just right is a constant battle. And my dog Henry would wake me up at least four or five times a day, every day. So, I get it. Denning sounds like a good compromise.

It does take some planning. Stocking up on food. Bear dens must have big pantries. Bears don't read, though, nor do they play computer games or post on social media, as far as I know. So it's a little perplexing to think what they actually are doing the whole time they are denning but not actually sleeping. Presumably, they talk. Tell dumb bear jokes. That sort of thing.



But man, that would get old.

Anyway, I've been thinking. I'd kind of like to give "denning" a try. As I have written here before, I hate February. It's dark, dreary, cold, has little to look forward to, and the warm glow of Christmas is fully faded. It's the month when many people confront the fact that no, this is not the year they will journal every day, or go running every morning, or quit smoking because, well, they've already gone a couple weeks without doing those things already. The one good thing I can think of that happened in my life in February was the birth of my daughter (a very good thing indeed), and the rest is all a gray flavored blur in my memory. [Note: I just ran this by my wife, who reminds me we were betrothed in February. So, two good things.]

But staying home, eating, lowering my heartbeat to just barely moving, maybe drifting in and out of naps—that sounds like a proper way to get through a month so blah we've all agreed to make it shorter than any other month. Oh, and speaking of which, this is one of those years when we are punished with an extra day in February as sort of a shot across the bow reminding us that this is also an election year. Bleh.

But who would preach, you ask? No worries: I've got it all worked out. I'm going to find one of those lazy bears to cover for me. It's not like they're actually hibernating. And what good have they

done us all these years? It'll be good for one of them to finally feel a little useful this winter.

Still doubting there are bears in Maryland? I assure you; they are out there. One news story I googled for the sake of this article told me that there may be as many as two thousand black bears in the state now. And that's way up from maybe two to three hundred a few decades ago. You might even say Maryland has a growing bear PROBLEM. And it's not just in the western part of the state. Bears have been seen in Baltimore County, near Frederick, and in other surprising places. I feel like I might have seen one on the mall during a recent protest, but that could have just been a badly costumed Viking.

Speaking of which, did you know that there is a strong correlation between bigfoot sightings and local bear population size? (Another true fact I looked up just for you.) You know what that means, right? Either people are seeing bigfeet (bigfoots?) and thinking they're bears and so not reporting the sightings, or sasquatches are using bear populations to camouflage their movements. Either way, I'm worried about what the Maryland government is going to do about the impending monster problem we so clearly are facing this election cycle.

Okay, I took a break after the last paragraph to do some more research. It turns out, bears tend not to be viewed very positively in the Bible. Generally speaking, bears represent the literal sense of the Word divorced from its internal, spiritual sense, as well as the fallacies people derive from being too literalistic in their reading of the Word. So, a bear preacher is out, I'm sorry to say. Just as well, I suppose. Imagine the scandal if it later turned out I'd accidentally hired a sasquatch to cover my pulpit?

I hope you all are finding ways to keep warm, useful, and happy and dry this month. And if you see a bear, don't say I didn't warn you.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2024-01-24

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

The Board met for its regular monthly meeting on January 9. Following the Pastor's Report, summarizing the Christmas season and upcoming plans, the Board heard a report on Building, Facilities and Maintenance, presented by Bill Kunkle, prepared together with Eric Genzlinger. Bill summarized many notable accomplishments from the past 6 months, including repair of the church tractor, the Enterprise Road sign renovation, upkeep of various equipment in the school, repairs to the boiler, and continued work on the sound system in the nave. Future projects include water drainage issues related to the roof and gutters. We appreciate the incredible support that Bill and Eric, along with their team of volunteers, have provided to the church and school. Thank you!

A brief school report led to a planning discussion for the upcoming Winter Society Meeting, which will focus on the strategic plan for the school. Building usage and rental policies were discussed, and the board agreed that due to upcoming renovations of the front bathrooms, we will minimize rentals in the near term, while working on updates to the policy.

The Winter Society Meeting was held on January 26, following a delicious meal prepared by Washington New Church School alumni. There were around 45 members and friends in attendance, and Mac Frazier and Brian Smith led engaging discussions on the school's vision and mission, and implementation plans, including small group sessions, feedback, questions, and dialogue.

The next regular Board meeting will be on February 13, and the monthly special topics are the Investment Committee report, proposed budget for next year, and Nominating Committee.

Sharon Cooper ~ Secretary, WCNJ, Inc.



### **TAG Corner**

Spring is just around the corner and that means a busy time for TAG ladies. We will be sending care packages to our 3 ANC/BC students (look for an ad

P. 10 ) bring your donations by Feb. 8.

Elections for TAG President May 13<sup>th</sup>. And... **TAG Banquet** will be on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> with Greg Henderson as our guest speaker, see more in the March issue of the Echo.

## Announcements

**IN SEARCH OF:** A volunteer to adjust sound levels for our church band. It's an easy job, with free training included! Requirements: show up on one Friday night and one Sunday morning per month, listen to some good music, and adjust instrument levels on an iPad as needed. This will make a huge difference to our sound capabilities, including vast improvement to our live stream experience! ~ Ariel Martin



**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.

Applications should include the name of the student, 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, 2024, for those hoping to attend in the 2024-2025 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 name of the student, 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, 2024, for those hoping to attend in 2024-2025. Please send your application to:

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

**The Exhibition Hall and Craft Fair at the 2024 Assembly** is an opportunity for New Church institutions and creators to connect face-to-face with Assembly-goers to build awareness or share information about different causes, efforts, showcase and sell New Church art or crafts, or otherwise engage the audience

**EXHIBITION HALL INFORMATION:**  
An opportunity for NC institutions and creators to connect face-to-face with Assembly-goers to build awareness or share information about causes, efforts, societies, projects, schools, jobs, research, etc...

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH  
HEILMAN HALL**

To register please contact:  
nicole.bau-madsen@ancss.org

**CRAFT FAIR INFORMATION:**  
An opportunity for New Church artists and creators to sell, display, and/or promote their artwork and talents. All displays must have a religious/New Church component.

with the nature of your work.

We were wondering if you would be interested in having a table at this event to share information about your society.

Who can register? -- New Church societies and organizations or creators/artists whose work has a religious component.

More info, see: <https://forms.gle/HRneKweRPe1bRMK59> or reach out to me with any further questions. Nicole Bau-Madsen, (215) 292-4282

**The 2024 Echo Directory:** I applogize for the delay in getting out this year’s directory in a timely fashion. Months ago I sent out a PDF of the 2023 directory and asked for any mistakes, ommissions or additions that people would like to see. I did receive some responses and I appreciate those of you who have checked and responded.

I will be sending out that PDF again with hopes that more people will check and get back to me. However, if I have not heard from you soon, I will go ahead and publish what I have.

**Welcoming our New Acton Park Neighbors:** The Mothershed family just moved into the Zuber home on Progress Lane. We will be collecting items (at the church) for a welcome basket. Feel free to contribute!

**Coffee House**  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup>  
7–10pm

**College Age on Up**

To help Contact  
**Aubrey**  
301-379-3469

The Washington Society would like to invite you to the 2024 Coffee House Concert right here at the church. We are privileged to have our very own extremely talented classical guitarist, Grayson Zuber, and equally talented vocalist and songwriter, Reade McCardell along with Ethan Daum performing sets for us.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with any of the following: Lending comfy chairs, small couch, folding card tables or light weight coffee tables; table clothes for card tables. Like to bake? Make us a luscious dessert. We would love set-up/clean-up help. Contact Aubrey Hernandez by calling or texting 301-379-3469.

**“Souper” Sunday** is winding down with our last Sunday sales on February 25<sup>th</sup>. *However*, February 11<sup>th</sup> [Super Bowl Sunday] is our annual **“CHILI” SUNDAY**. We hope to have lots of chili and cornbread makers. Varieties so far: Meat/Bean Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Mole Chili, and corn muffins. It is likely that we will have other varieties; so, Pre-Order if you can so our makers will know how much of what kind to make.



## Frozen News Notes

“Whose woods these are I think I know,  
His house is in the village, though,  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.”

Robert Frost

**Happenings:** Snow. And more snow. The middle of the month reminded us of what “winter” means, with a few days’ worth of snow and really cold weather, and with the temperature staying below freezing for days on end. Funny how what used to be common occurrences are now newsworthy (on otherwise slow news days, anyway). But in spite of the cold wind, there was much to be said for walking in the woods and listening to the quiet of winter.



The week’s worth of frigid weather and a couple of day’s worth of snow resulted in unexpected vacation hours (or even days) for the school’s teachers, as schools closed or opened late all week. It had been almost two years since we enjoyed measurable snow amounts, and the wind chill made the week memorable.

Also memorable was the kind neighbor who plowed driveways unbeknownst to recipients. Thank you!

The Society Special Winter Meeting became a victim of the winter snow and cold, so it was postponed until a summer day occurred in late January – a week after the snow. Some of the old-timers did not express shock at such fickle weather patterns in this area and suggested that changes from 8° wind chill to 80° actual temps within a couple of days were old hat, or maybe even normal...in olden times.

**Andy Cooper** tried to avoid some of the winter part by attending a Board of Trustees meeting of the American Waterworks Association in Sedona, Arizona. So, it snowed there, too. But he managed an adventuresome side trip to the snowy Grand Canyon – a sight to behold – and also managed some hiking in the red rock country with **Bishop Peter and Lisa Buss**.



**Bill & Sharon Kunkle** enjoyed a short getaway in January, traveling to Longwood Gardens near Kennett Square, PA, to take a class on growing and caring for citrus plants. They came home with 2 Meyer lemon trees, which they will now attempt to keep alive.

**How to Get Well:**

**Janna Zuber** reports on a new therapy for pneumonia recovery: a trip to Puerto Rico with husband **Phil**, on his last law firm retreat. Of course, timing is everything; it turned out that returning from such therapy in the midst of a January snowstorm is counter-productive, unless you have a son-in-law who is OK with 3AM airport rescue missions.

And speaking of Joseph Jenkins, he spent a lot of time at College Park hospital keeping vigil with his mother who had been in the ICU. Pleased to report that "mom" was transferred to Georgetown Hospital, where she is no longer in the ICU.

**Profusions:**

A first profusion is one of thanks to the special musicians who provide special music during Church services, making regular services, well...special.

And a second profusion of thanks is being distributed to the WNCs alumni who prepared the delicious supper prior to the (postponed) Special Winter Meeting of the Society. (It turns out



that January was a special month.) They did a great job even after the rug got pulled out from under their initial plans by the normally fickle weather. There were too many of them to name in the

allotted space, but it was a kitchen full, and they seemed to be enjoying themselves almost as much as we were enjoying the product of their efforts. So, thanks to you all. And we were really happy to have them stay for, and participate in, the meeting.

### **Congratulations:**

To **Meghan Cooper** (James & Melissa's daughter), who in December graduated from Washington College (in Chestertown) a semester early and on the Dean's List. She earned a BA in Art & Art History with a minor in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship. Meghan's senior thesis was an analysis of discrepancies between text and images of angels in the Byzantine Age. She is thrilled to have started a 6-month paid internship at the Library of Congress.

### **More News:**

**Hanna Hyatt** reports that **Hugo** has that entrepreneurial feeling—he's trying to make himself into a Baker who hosts Bake Sales. He loves the idea of selling cookies after church. (Hanna sends her regrets in advance but notes that this phase may pass.) She says that he has even asked for permission to sell cookies and baked goods, and some very kind adults gave him a go-ahead. It is bringing him a great deal of joy to consider having a product to sell that would make people happy— so feel free to tell him what you'd like him to offer after church! Be on the lookout for an eager 7-year-old and his bake stand.

Did you know that the State Highway Administration actually responds to reports of potholes on State roads? In one day! Contact them online at [Maryland.gov](http://Maryland.gov) and go to the SHA page, then scroll down to "Report A Problem" and fill out the request form. Also, potholes on county roads in Prince George's County can be reported online at [PGC311.com](http://PGC311.com) and select "Request" and "Street and Sidewalk Conditions." The county response time is unknown, so far.

**Care Packages for our ANC & BC students:** We have **3 students** in the high school and college dorms this year. Let's give them some love from home.



This is last minute but please try to get your donations to the church for the 3 care packages **no later than Feb. 8.**

The student love the homemade goodies but also healthier options as well.

## *February Anniversaries*

*Feb 12<sup>th</sup> ~ John & Mary Ellen Kern ~ 47 yrs.*

*“Conjugal love in its essence is nothing else but the wish of two that their lives become one life.”*

*Emanuel Swedenborg, CL 162*