

December 2024

# 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

~~~~~  
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

"And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

(1 Kings 19:11-12)

Christmas can sometimes feel like a time of grand gestures. We think of big, decorated trees, elaborate feasts, and the rush to create a perfect holiday experience. But what do we actually remember most about Christmas? More often than not, it's the little things—the warmth of a quiet hug, the sound of a favorite carol, or the smell of cookies baking in the oven. These simple moments are often what make the season truly meaningful, setting the stage for the deeper connections we share with our loved ones.

One of my fondest Christmas memories was a year I visited my parents and younger siblings when they were living in Belgium. We couldn't find a full-sized Christmas tree and ended up buying something between a big bush and a small, scraggly, Charlie Brown style tree. When we got the tree home, it was a huge challenge to get standing upright in the living room. My two brothers and I ended up jury-rigging a series of ropes and cables that somehow got it vertical—at least for a while. It was kind of a disaster of a tree. My memory of laughing with my brothers, along with the exasperated reactions from our parents and sisters, is something I will always cherish. It's silly and small and in itself not especially spiritual-seeming, and yet, it holds within it treasures of connected affection and memories I will hold forever.



There's something deeply meaningful about these small, everyday moments. They remind us that we don't need to wait for something extraordinary to feel the love and peace of Christmas. The Lord physically coming to earth as a human being is one of the most significant events in history. Yet, He chose to do so in the humblest of ways—born in a stable, greeted by simple shepherds, as an infant, a symbol of innocence. In this humility, we see that the greatest acts of love often come quietly, without fanfare.

In the same way, He reaches us today in the humblest parts of our lives, not just in the big celebrations or grand acts of devotion. In

those small moments, He works in ways that we may only begin to understand over time, gradually revealing His love and presence.

This Christmas, I invite you to notice and appreciate the small moments. Look for the smile of a stranger when you hold the door open, the sparkle in a child's eyes when they see the first snow, the warmth of a shared cup of tea or coffee or chocolate with a friend. These moments are gifts—small reflections of the Lord's love in our everyday lives.

And perhaps, in the spirit of the simple humility of that first Christmas, we can share moments of kindness with those around us. A kind word, a bit of our time, a listening ear—these are the true gifts of Christmas, and they bring light into a world that so often can feel dark to some.

May you find joy this Christmas in the little things, and may those small moments bring you closer to the Lord's presence.

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2024-11-25

**Christmas Reading Group:** On Monday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m., we are hosting the first of three Monday Night Online Christmas Reading groups. We will then meet again at the same time on December 9th and December 16th These are casual online get-togethers that last between an hour and ninety minutes, where we read a portion of the Christmas story together, discuss it, and enjoy spending time checking in with one another and helping everyone mentally and spiritually prepare for Christmas. No homework! Just log on and enjoy! The zoom link for participating is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86902418508?pwd=WrmxGGILFvQw-TayzS3oQtTlllbz6BL.1>

Society Meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>

Topic: General Church – WCNJ Relationship Statement.

This winter's society meeting will provide members with an opportunity to discuss the proposed Relationship Statement between the General Church and the Washington Church of the New

Jerusalem. The General Church is asking all societies to sign a Relationship Statement to formalize the understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities and establish realistic understanding of what we can expect from one another. You might be surprised to hear that the relationship between the General Church and the individual societies is primarily based on customs, past practice, and our culture.

The Board of Trustees will present background information about the Relationship Statement and will be able to answer questions about what entering into such an agreement will mean for us.

The Board generally supports signing the Relationship Statement but seeks member input, feedback, and support before formalizing aspects of our relationship with the General Church through signing the document.

The current draft version of the Relationship Statement and additional background information will be circulated by email before the society meeting. A formal agreement between us is a way to provide predictability and stability in our relationship.

David Radcliffe – Board Member WCNJ

## **DECEMBER TAG report**



Ten members of Theta Alpha Guild met on Monday, November 18, with our new mix of in-person and online members (turns out the pandemic benefitted us by allowing for expanded community via Zoom, for night meetings!)

After an encouraging treasurer's report from Kathy, we discussed some changes to the wording of our Purpose and Organization, which will be sent out to full membership soon as an executive summary. We expect to vote on these at the January meeting, so check them out when they hit your inbox.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing volunteer opportunities to support all the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday events at the

Church and School. A sign-up sheet was circulated in the meeting and will be sent out to the full email list just after Thanksgiving.

We'll meet again on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, so put it on your calendar to be there. We'd love to see you in person, but don't let that stop you from coming (regardless of weather, night driving or anything else that might make it more convenient to show up online – we'd love to hear what you have to contribute and look forward to our next get-together! (Laura C. & Sharon K, TAG Co-Presidents)

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 21st!**

**Come celebrate Christmas in the pastor's home!** Gillian and Mac would love to see as many of you as can make it the



Saturday night before Christmas. There will be cookies and desserts, hot cider, and music, and most importantly, one another.

If you'd like to bring a dessert, you're more than welcome to.

Kids are welcome too!

**WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 21, 2024**

**WHERE: Mac and Gillian Fraziers' house, 11801 Chantilly Lane, Bowie, MD 20721**

**WHAT: Festive happy joyful sweet, tasty, fun Christmas cheer with friends and neighbors.**

They hope to see you there! Feel free to bring friends. It would be helpful for their planning if you would kindly **RSVP to Mac**

via [Mac.Frazier@gmail.com](mailto:Mac.Frazier@gmail.com) or by texting or calling 512-694-9474. Thanks!

## Celebrate Christmas at Washington New Church



**Sunday, Dec 1** — We start the season with Sunday **Worship** and the first of several Christmas-themed sermons, at 11:00 a.m.



**Monday, Dec. 2** — A small group will meet online to read through and discuss the **Christmas Story** together. Join us at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be sent out via email—if you aren't on our mailing list, see the pastor.



**Sunday, Dec. 8** — **Worship** the Lord and hear a sermon about His coming into the world and into our lives, at 11:00 a.m.



**Monday, Dec. 9** — We meet again online via Zoom to continue reading through the **Christmas Story**, starting at 7:30 p.m.



**Sunday, Dec 15** — Instead of our Sunday morning worship service, we will have our annual **Christmas Tableaux** service in the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m., with a potluck to follow. Don't forget to sign up at:

<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/WHTQ0108>



**Monday, Dec 16** — We meet one more time online to finish reading through the **Christmas Story** together, starting at 7:00 p.m.



**Saturday, Dec 21** — Come enjoy food, cider, music, and friendship at a **Christmas Party** at the Fraziers' home. Bring a dessert to share if you like. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m.



**Sunday, Dec 22 — Worship** the Lord and hear a sermon about another part of the Christmas story, beginning at 11:00 a.m.



**Tuesday, Dec 24 — Celebrate** the Lord's birth at our **Christmas Eve** worship gathering, starting at 7:00 p.m. Note: there is no morning service this week.



**Wednesday, Dec 25 — Come and worship** the Lord and celebrate His advent into the world at our **Christmas Morning** service, starting at 11:00 a.m.

## Announcements



### CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECES

Christmas centerpieces, with fresh greens, candle, ribbon bow and other decorations, will be available after Dec 1, for your decorating or gift-giving. To order, please fill out an order form, and place it in the basket in the church lobby, or call Mary Cooper, at 301 390-6292.

Small arrangements (6-8" diameter) are \$15; large, (10-12") \$25; large with glass chimney, \$30. If paying by check, please make it out to WCNJ, but give it to me, so I can keep track of sales. This annual fund raiser benefits 100% the Washington New Church operating fund. Your participation is much appreciated. Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Mary Cooper

**Teacher Wanted:** Job Description - Full-Time Teacher, First and Second Grades.



Washington New Church School (WNCS) is seeking applications for a grade 1 and 2 homeroom.

teacher for the 2025/26 school year. This position may include a few duties in other subjects and age groups but will be primarily focused on the core curriculum for grades 1 and 2.

**Responsibilities:** All teaching responsibilities include prep and planning, managing student behavior, record keeping, assessments and communications with families and other faculty.

***Personal and Professional Requirements:***

- Love of students
- Knowledge of New Church Educational principles
- Baptized in the New Church
- Active Participant in the Organized New Church
- Ability to work collaboratively with other teachers, parents and community groups.
- Commitment to marriage as defined in the Word and Heavenly Doctrines
- Strong classroom management skills
- Bachelor's degree

***Helpful Experience and Skills***

- Conventional classroom teaching
- Strong written, oral communication skills
- Strong interpersonal/networking skills
- Firm and friendly boundary setting and classroom management ability.
- Strong organization and follow-through.
- Specialization in any of the following: PE, art, performing arts and math.

Please submit resumes and/or questions by January 17, 2025, to:  
Brian Smith, Principal  
brian.smith@washnewchurch.org  
301-850-3029 (cell)  
301-464-5602 (office)



11914 Chantilly Ln, Mitchellville, MD. 20721

**From the General Church Book Center:** We want to spread the word about the refreshed site and new inventory of our book center. Please Check out what's new -

[New and improved newchurchbooks.com](http://newchurchbooks.com). Or you can go to the New Church Books home page - [newchurchbooks.com](http://newchurchbooks.com)

### **End of the year Notes**

OK, the last time I checked it was May, and the temperature was in the mid-80s, and the sun was shining brightly all day. Then it was October, and it was still 80°. Now suddenly it is in the 30's, it is dark at 5:00pm and it is December, and we wonder what happened to November. But then we did have Thanksgiving and did some traveling to feast with friends and relatives and (hopefully) remembered from Whom came all the good things in our lives, so the opportunity to truly give thanks made November memorable enough to keep around for another year.

### **Happenings:**

The school had its Harvest Festival on November first; a really good excuse to spend a lovely fall afternoon outside celebrating the season by making apple cider, decorating pumpkins and more.

Did you make it to the work party? If not, you missed a good opportunity to spend a Saturday morning in the crisp autumn sunshine working with a crew of friends doing the annual and necessary work of outdoor cleaning and fixing around the Church property. The main tasks were eating a great pancake and eggs breakfast (Thanks, **Bonnie, and Erin**), rebuilding the shed/backboard by the playground, making use of **Eric Genzlinger's** cool front-end loader to spread wood chips under the playground equipment and trying to weed gardens after over a month without rain. Great work, everyone!

Speaking of rain, we finally got some while everyone was trying to head over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house for Thanksgiving. We trust everyone had a marvelous time.

Can you be a 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grader for a moment and design a “Da Vinci bridge”? You will have to ask one of them for the details on what that is. Apparently, it has something to do with building a curved, self-supporting bridge out of popsicle sticks and no fasteners. Theory will be translated into reality in the form of a real bridge that will support real people over real water on the forest trail this spring. Stay tuned!

We are sorry to hear that Hurricane Helen found **David Stebbing’s** house in North Carolina and managed to do some serious damage to it and his surrounding property, in addition to turning off his power for 16 days. He was one of many in his area that suffered major damage, and he says that as a silver lining, the shared disaster has brought out people’s neighborliness in many ways.

### **Travelers:**

**Andy Cooper** added to last month’s report on his and **Brad Johns’** recent trip to Scotland by reporting that highlights included recovery of Roman and Medieval coins, and a visit to Stirling Castle. Lowlights(?) included getting through Heathrow customs with metal detecting equipment. Visit “The Scottish Detectorist” on YouTube for documentation of their amazing trip.

### **Visitors:**

It was nice to see **Bishop Brian Keith** and wife **Gretchen**, on his official annual (or annual official?) visit to meet with our pastoral staff and with our Board of Trustees and the Pastor’s Council.

It was also good to see **Carina Heinrichs** and her parents **Bob and Janina Heinrichs** passing through on their way to Bryn Athyn for the Thanksgiving holiday. We look forward to seeing Carina on a more permanent basis as soon as she completes her recovery.

And welcome to all the Thanksgiving weekend visitors – too many to name, which is a good thing. Come again and stay longer!

### **Thanks:**

This past Sunday the **5th - 8th grade choir** sang for us at church. They were led by teacher Ariel **Martin** and were accompanied by

**Dominick Asare**... a former WNCS parent and accomplished pianist.

Then four talented singers treated us to a postlude at the Thanksgiving Day church service with a song composed by **Rev. Michael Ferrell**, who accompanied on the piano. Thanks, all.

**Looking Ahead:**

Don't forget to order (as in "purchase") your Christmas centerpiece, lovingly hand-made, with proceeds benefitting the church.

And check out the calendar for all the marvelous activities planned for the next few weeks in celebration of the Lord's birth. Join your friends to help make this a special time for everyone.

## *Merry Christmas!*

And then it will be 2025, and you will all be able to have a Happy New Year.



### *December Anniversaries*

*"The blessings of conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, full trust and a mutual desire of mind and heart to do the other every good."*

*Emmanuel Swedenborg, CL 180*



*Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> ~ George & Mary Cooper ~ 66 yrs.*

*Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Brad & Kathy Johns ~ 43 yrs.*

*Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Avi & Aubrey Hernández ~ 19 yrs.*

*Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ (Joel) & Didi Trimble ~ 61 yrs.*





# *Happy New Year*

You are Cordially invited to  
Quintero's Annual

## New Year's Eve Open House!

When: December 31<sup>st</sup> @9:00pm

Where: 11907 Chantilly Lane;  
Bowie, Maryland 20721

Who: All welcome, college age  
on up.

*Please feel free to bring some  
food to share!*

