

January 2025

ECHO

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**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

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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)

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## From the Pastor

The start of a new year often brings a sense of hope and renewal. We set resolutions with the best of intentions—to eat healthier, spend more time with loved ones, deepen our spiritual practice, or break a bad habit. But how many times have you made a resolution, only to slip up within days or weeks? It's frustrating, even

disheartening, to find yourself falling short of the goals you've set. If this sounds familiar, let me offer some encouragement: slipping isn't failing. True success lies in what you do after the stumble.

The story of Noah offers a powerful illustration of this principle. After the floodwaters receded, the Lord made a covenant with Noah and his family, promising never again to destroy the earth with a flood. Noah represented the remnant of an old, failing church small group who still held some connection to the Lord amid widespread spiritual decline. From this remnant, the Lord began something new.

But Noah carried with him the same spiritual heritage that had led to the failure of the old church. This is why, after his hopeful new beginning, Noah stumbled. He became drunk and fell asleep naked in his tent. His son Ham reacted with mockery, while his other sons, Shem and Japheth, respectfully covered their father's shame. This moment teaches us two important lessons: first, we cannot escape our past entirely, as its habits and tendencies remain with us. Second, we can correct our flaws, just as Shem and Japheth did by acting with respect and care.

We often approach New Year's resolutions with the mindset of a "Noah after the flood" moment: imagining a fresh start where all the old difficulties will magically fall away. But like Noah, we bring our full selves into every new beginning. This includes not only our aspirations but also our weaknesses and the circumstances that led us to seek change in the first place.

This is why so many resolutions fail. We aim for perfection and then beat ourselves up when we fall short. But the truth is, falling short is part of the process. What matters is how we respond. Do we give up entirely, or do we get back up and try again?

The New Church doctrine of repentance provides a framework for navigating these moments of stumbling. The steps of repentance are:

1. **Examine yourself:** Identify what needs to change. Be honest about where you've gone off track.

2. **Acknowledge sin:** Recognize and admit that what you've done is wrong.
3. **Pray to the Lord:** Ask for His help and strength to make the change.
4. **Begin a new life:** Commit to living differently, aligning your actions with the Lord's teachings.

When we stumble after committing to a new life, this doesn't mean repentance has failed. It's part of the ongoing process of growth. Each time we slip, we're called to reflect, pray, and recommit. This repeated effort is how true change happens over time.

One of the most beautiful aspects of repentance is the assurance of the Lord's forgiveness. The Lord bends everything evil into good for those who turn to Him. This doesn't mean our mistakes don't matter, but it does mean that they're not the end of the story. The Lord is always ready to help us get back up and try again.

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Think about the story of the woman caught in adultery. When the crowd brought her to Jesus, ready to condemn her, He said, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." The Lord's mercy didn't erase her wrongdoing, but it offered her a path forward. His forgiveness was not a dismissal of her actions but an invitation to change.

So, what does this mean for your New Year's resolutions? First, expect to stumble. Change is hard, and old habits die slowly. When you slip, resist the urge to label yourself a failure. Instead, see it as an opportunity to practice perseverance. The most important thing isn't avoiding every misstep; it's developing the habit of getting back up.

Second, involve the Lord in your efforts. Pray for His guidance and strength. Recognize that true transformation comes not from willpower alone but from opening your heart to His influence.

Finally, extend the same grace to others that you hope to receive. When you see someone else stumble, respond with understanding and encouragement, just as Shem and Japheth did for Noah. The Word teaches that those who live with charity focus on the good in others and seek to support them in their struggles. Imagine how different the world would be if we all adopted this approach.

As you look ahead to the coming year, remember that the goal isn't perfection. The goal is progress. Every time you get back up after a stumble, you're taking another step on the path of spiritual growth. The Lord is with you every step of the way, ready to forgive, guide, and strengthen you. And as you extend that same mercy to yourself and others, you help create a world that reflects His love and forgiveness.

Here's to a year of trying, stumbling, and trying again—a year of moving closer to the person the Lord created you to be.

**The steps of a man are established by the LORD,  
when he delights in His way;  
though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,  
for the LORD upholds his hand. (Psalm 37:23-24)**

Rev. Glenn "Mac" Frazier, Pastor  
Washington New Church, 2024-12-27

**Friday, January 24 – Winter Society Meeting – 8:00pm, this is preceded by a society supper (or Potluck) at 7:00pm.**

**Topic:** 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 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 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



*(More photos on P. 12)*

### **Carina Nichole Heinrichs**

As most of you know by now our dear friend, teacher and colleague passed away Christmas Eve after a fierce battle with cancer.

Carina came to us in 2011 as a new teacher, freshly minted from Bryn Athyn College to accept the job of teaching our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. By the time Carina left us in May 2024 to begin her battle with cancer she had taught for 12 years... a full cycle of the Washington students who came to WNCN in 2011 and graduated 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

From the very beginning it was clear that Carina loved her 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. By the end of her first year, she already had a small pile of students clamoring for her cozy loving lap. As the years went by, and those students moved on to higher grades they knew Miss Carina's door was always open for a visit or a hug.

Miss Carina's teaching style was that of love and patience. A beautiful day would not go by without her taking her little ones to read in the sun or perched in trees. On other occasions, she would bring the outside into the classroom... a tent or an igloo in a corner of the room, plants always on the windowsill and even baby ducks and a goose for the children to raise. During the pandemic when all classes were held virtually, she offered class every Friday morning outdoors in the Forest Garden.

Our teenagers counted on Miss Carina as a friend and mentor. Whether going out to Starbucks or Panera with them or taking a few girls on a late evening drive, Carina was always available to give her time.

Her colleagues here at the school loved her sense of humor and deep heartfelt laugh. Yet she was never shy of a good argument, academic, religious, or political.

There is much more to share about our friend that would take the entire Echo and more. We will miss her terribly here at WNCS & WCNJ. More will be shared at the memorial service being held - **Saturday the 4th of January at 4pm** at the New Church at Boynton Beach. This will be live streamed on the Churches YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/@thenewchurchatboyntonbeach>

## *You are Invited*

Join us at The Washington New Church and School to watch the live-stream service. All (families & children) are invited - 4pm on Sat. January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Following the service, we are setting up an informal area with refreshments and time for anyone who wishes to share their memories of Carina with others.

If you are interested in helping with the Washington Church local memorial, please email or text Janine Smith at: [janinegracesmith@gmail.com](mailto:janinegracesmith@gmail.com) or 240-334-8454

## **Announcements**



**Christmas Centerpiece Sales:** Many thanks, once again, to all who purchased, helped make, and donated materials or extra dollars for, the Christmas Centerpieces this year. We sold 25 arrangements, and you helped add \$620 to the

Washington Church operating fund.

As always, if you do not particularly wish to keep materials like containers, glass chimneys, or other non-perishables from the centerpieces, we would be very happy to have them donated back for next year's effort.

Happy New Year, and thank you again,

Mary Cooper



American Red Cross

BLOOD  
DRIVE

**Blood Drive Reschedule! Monday,  
January 20, 2025, 11:00am to 5:00pm  
in the church’s multipurpose room.**

As many of you know this is a holiday for MLK Day. Many people take the MLK holiday as a “Day of Service” in memory of Dr. King. Giving blood is a great way to be of service.

January 20<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner so take some time today to sign up to give blood by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and entering: **WashingtonNewChurch** to schedule an appointment.

**Questions? Contact Jeannette Roscoe [iroscoe@safewareinc.com](mailto:iroscoe@safewareinc.com) or Bonnie Cowley [bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org](mailto:bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org)**

**Job Opening:** The Academy of the New Church (ANC) and the General Church of the New Jerusalem (GC) are seeking a seasoned legal professional to serve as General Counsel and Secretary of ANC.

This part-time, exempt role is central to advancing the mission of ANC, which encompasses its Secondary Schools, Bryn Athyn College, Glencairn Museum, and Cairnwood Estate. The successful candidate will also provide legal guidance and support to the General Church, which oversees congregations and schools worldwide.

This role is ideal for a legal professional with strong corporate governance experience, a strategic mindset, and a passion for service within faith-driven educational and spiritual organizations.

**More details** are available from the Washington secretary’s office or posted on the bulletin board in the Lobby.

**Spring Plant Sale:**

Your gardens may be mulched and frozen for the next few months but before you know it, we will be getting ready to have our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Plant Sale to benefit the playground, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.





We had a great sale last year with lots of donations of help and plants. Even with the rain it turned out to be a wonderful community activity for us, our school families, and our surrounding neighbors.

If you would like to help, whether planting seedlings, donating pots and soil, running concessions, cashiering or so many other ways you can volunteer, contact Erin Stillman – [barryan-derin@verizon.net](mailto:barryan-derin@verizon.net) or text: 301-801-3905.



**Dessert and Hors d’oeuvres contest RETURNS!!** Mark your calendar for **Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**. Brent and Amanda Hyatt welcome all (college and up) to come to their home for the Dessert and Hors d’oeuvres contest. It has been a few years but it’s back!! Start planning your entry [unseat the past repeat winners] by making your signature special dessert or Hors d’oeuvres. Or just enjoy the company and food!

## Happy News Year:

*“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits.” (Mark Twain)*

Since it is that time of year when we (well, you) are in the business of making resolutions for the New Year, it must therefore be the right time to spend some seriosity on the subject of doing good. And Mark Twain has some suggestions for that, too: “To be good is to be noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble.” So, we trust that you all will be working on that and that you will thereby have a trouble-free and most Happy New Year. Success in that might be another matter, of course.

## Condolences:

We are saddened to have to start out the year with the news of a loss of a dear friend of the Society. **Carina Heinrichs** lost her battle with cancer on Christmas Eve. She spent many years here as a

beloved teacher in our school, where she will be greatly missed. *(see P. 3 for more on this).*

We were sorry to hear that **Jim Needer** involuntarily relocated to Adventist Hospital for a while with a heart issue. Mid-December is a particularly bad time for that kind of hospital – ity. It took a few days to get him squared away, and we wish him well.

And a heart-felt “get well” to all those unnamed folks who also succumbed to the seasonal freezing weather and rain mixed with snow and sleet in some areas and had to take unwelcome time off to take care of a cold or a flu or two, or worse. We hear, on good authority, that the new year will gradually bring longer bouts of sunshine, so things will improve.

### **Happenings:**

Many thanks to **Mary Cooper**, with assistance from **Erin Stillman**, **Gillian Frazier**, and **Laura Cooper**, for decorating many homes with her lovely and colorful annual Christmas centerpieces, and to the same people further including **Amanda Hyatt**, **Siobhan Frazier**, and **Janna Zuber** for their transformation of the church chancel for the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Their efforts help make that traditional service extra-special for everyone.

And thanks, as well, to **Mac and Gillian Frazier** for entertaining us on a cold Saturday evening in late December with good food and drink (that hot cider hit the spots), good friends and a good many calories which fortunately don't count when Christmas trees are blinking somewhere.



After a bit of crunchy rain during the day, our Christmas Eve candlelight service at the Church arrived with its usual splendor and joy, reminding us of why we celebrate this most important

occasion. Even after many decades we still stop to look at the small Nativity Scene with its nearby star and think for a few moments of the profound impact that event has had on our lives.

### **About-to-Happenings:**

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to the New Year as it will be celebrated at **Chuck and Candy Quintero's**. We trust everyone was and will continue to be happy.

### **Other News:**

**Janna Zuber** reminds us that former neighbors **Jerry and Deena Odhner** recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary, which is notable for many reasons, including the fact that they were the first couple to be married in our current church building.

**David Radcliffe** retired from the Federal Government after just shy of 30 years of dedicated public service. David played an important role in various policy and strategy positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served mostly in the Pentagon. He was at the Pentagon during the terrorist attack on September 11th, 2001, and was recognized for going back into the burning building to assist survivors and support the Secretary of Defense during the crisis. He was widely known and respected as a serial entrepreneur and established new defense programs, drafted, and passed major legislation, and introduced innovative ways of making our world more secure through partnerships with our international friends. Most recently, he established the cyber program at the Defense Security Cooperation University where he led the Department's efforts to build institutional cyber capabilities among our international allies and partners. David plans to spend less time traveling, more time with Heather and the family, and do a lot more hiking, swimming, and mountain biking in his retirement. He may also do some part-time consulting work but look for him in Acton Park where he plans to wander the woods, ride his bike, work on the trails, and fight invasive species. Congrats, David!



