



# Light of Christ Anglican Church

## THE BEACON

P.O. Box 609 • Heathsville, Virginia 22473  
9500 Northumberland Highway  
804 580-4555 • email: [lightofchristva@gmail.com](mailto:lightofchristva@gmail.com)  
[www.lightofchristva.org](http://www.lightofchristva.org)



## July 2020

*In this issue:*

Page 2

Mike's Message

Page 3

Senior Warden's Report  
Thank You

Page 4

G.O.A.L. Mission Trip

Page 5 & 6

Looking Back 50 Years  
Tad deBordenave

Page 7

In The Lord's Service



Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:16





## Mike's Message

Romans 12:9-16

### Marks of the True Christian

*“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”*

The older I get, the more I think about those in my life whose lives and character have affected the way I see or do things. It usually causes me to pause and thank God for those he has put in my path to teach, encourage, and bring correction to me. One person that I always thank God for is Ben Myers. I think I may have mentioned him before, but I have gotten to the age where I tend to repeat the same stories over and over. If that's true here, please bear with me as I reminisce.

When my father was alive and I was in town, he always invited me to join him and his friends for a prayer breakfast every Saturday morning at Famous Anthony's restaurant in Roanoke. All the men were considerably older than me and had very diverse backgrounds. Most of the men were wealthy and successful and well respected in the community. This was not Ben Myers' story. For much of his life he had been an alcoholic, drug and sex addict. He was one of those that often woke up lying in a curb in downtown Roanoke. He had spent his share of nights in the Roanoke City jail for being drunk and disorderly. Thankfully someone saw him through the eyes of Jesus and befriended him. The Lord opened Ben's heart and he ran into the welcoming arms of Jesus and held on, knowing that this was his only hope. He had been to Rescue mission and Salvation Army meetings and usually went there for the meal. This time was very different, and you'll never see a more dramatic conversion than Ben's. He fell in love with Jesus and wanted everybody to know what Jesus did for him. He was given a full-time job as the janitor of Green Memorial United Methodist Church in downtown Roanoke. It's a very large cathedral

complete with chimes in the bell tower that rang or played music daily. Ben became a fixture there and always shared his story with those who came into the church. When he wasn't at work at the church you could find him talking and praying with those who were caught in the same cycle of addiction and despair that he had been. One of the Saturday morning crowd invited Ben to join us for the prayer breakfast and we all took turns paying for his breakfast. It was an honor. There was something about Ben's passion for Jesus and simplicity of faith that I found very compelling. We always sang songs of praise before our time of prayer and Ben would always raise his hand and request that we sing his favorite song, "Jesus Loves Me." This well-known Christian song, usually sung by children would bring tears to Ben's eyes every time. It was his story and it never grew old for him. I found out one day that the reason that Ben usually didn't have much money in his pocket was because he gave away any extra that he earned to those who were hungry, sick or in need. One Saturday Ben asked us to pray for him because he found out that he had cancer. It was advanced and he didn't have a lot of time. He still wanted to sing his song and there was still this passionate joy in his praise. Not long afterwards we heard that Ben was in the hospital and would soon move to his sister's house in Manassas. I knew that we would never see him again once he left, so Teresa, Amy, and I went to the hospital to pray with and for Ben, and hopefully cheer him up a bit. When we entered his room, he broke out in a big smile and we felt the peace of God and a holy calmness that we had hoped to bring him by our visit.

We stayed maybe 20 minutes because he was so weak, but that time was taken up by Ben sharing what Jesus had done for him and how much he looked forward to seeing him face to face. We sang Jesus Loves Me together and left. As we departed, I knew that I had been in the presence of someone who truly lived in gratitude and love for his Lord. The subject of the love of Jesus never grew old or too simplistic for Ben, because it was the greatest truth that he knew.

I'm asking God to bring back the simplicity of the gospel message of the love of Jesus for sinners. That really is the rock that we stand on. A pandemic doesn't change it, nor does a society falling apart or a political system gone crazy.

This is a great time to sing "Jesus Loves Me" and to make it our business of sharing our story of his love.

Peace.





## Senior Warden's Column

The Vestry sends its love and condolences to the Carstensen Family for the loss of our brother and close friend, Al. May God strengthen Marie during this time.



The vestry had an informative discussion with the Morrises during the June meeting concerning their plans for the Northern Neck Christian School. The vestry decided to continue the discussion with the development of a memorandum of understanding that clearly states the responsibilities of both the school and the church. Carl Smith and Randy Smith will be working with the Morrises on this.

Bishop Guernsey and the DOMA Staff are in process of developing a consolidated property and liability insurance program that will provide necessary coverage at a reduced cost to the 45 diocesan churches. We have provided the requested property information to be included in the study.

Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba has requested our support to assist in the feeding of many Ugandan people who are truly suffering during the current medical pandemic. The people of Uganda are under a strict quarantine and cannot work. Therefore, many are short of funds needed to purchase food. Please consider providing financial support to our Ugandan friends with a donation. Make your check out to Light of Christ Anglican Church and write "Uganda" in the memo line.

Thanks to each of you for your support of the very successful Wyldlife Yard Sale. Great Christian Effort!!

Blessings,  
George



*Dear Light of Christ Family,*

*Words are not sufficient to express our deep appreciation for the outpouring of love and prepared food you have showered on us. At least, --my words are not. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts" sounds trite and totally inadequate. Your wonderful foods were the opposite of inadequate – they were all very special, beyond delicious to the last bite, just what we needed at the moment we ate them, as they represented your love and caring.*

*Jim has yet a ways to go to regain his health, and we are blessed he has very good doctors. Your continuing prayers for him and for them will be much appreciated also.*

*We look forward to the time we can all be together again, praising our Lord for His goodness and caring and healing.*

*With blessings to all,  
Dixie & Jim*

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**Thank you to Joy Gwaltney and Wendy Smith** for making masks for their family and friends.

**Thank you to Randy Smith** for hauling away items from the thrift shop that were too big and heavy for the ladies to deal with.

**Thank you to Bob Norman** for "weed whacking" the weeds in the thrift shop parking lot.

**Thank you to Anna Brennan** for accepting the position of Altar Guild Chairman! It's a big job and we are so indebted to her.

**Thank you to our thrift shop volunteers** who have enabled us to re-open the shop. We are now open Thursday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.

## *G.O.A.L. MISSION TRIP*

Back in February, you may remember that Light of Christ commissioned Tom and Ellen Zamaria before they headed to Uganda on a mission trip. This was the fourth such mission trip since 2016. Their sending organization is G.O.A.L., which stands for Global Outreach for Addiction Learning and Leadership.

For the past two years GOAL has been funding a program, in conjunction with the Church (Anglican) of Uganda, that aims to put drug education and prevention programs in EVERY school founded by the Church of Uganda. This includes over 1,000 schools all through the country.

The purpose for this trip was to see whether their efforts have been met with success, and to what extent. The Zamaria's partner, Ezra Napoleon, is the principal driver of the program. Ezra is a Ugandan with a heart for those who are touched by the scourge of addiction to drugs and alcohol. Ezra "beats the bushes" to find Ugandan partners to support the work that is already showing impressive results. On a previous mission trip, Ezra and the Zamarias went to see an official at the National Drug Authority. They made it clear to the team that their program would not receive any support from the Government. How pleased the team was to meet with them again, and to be promised new educational materials and some assistance with transportation!

The biggest event of the entire two weeks was the "Launch." Conceived and brought into existence by Ezra, he filled a high school athletic field with teens from ten different schools and staged the launch of the "Drug Free Schools" program like an epic Hollywood production. The event was covered by the press and television. The Archbishop's address kicked things off and was followed by a marching band and scores of teens following right out of the stadium, through the streets of Kampala and back into the stadium. Each of the schools did a presentation about the harm that can result from drug and alcohol use. Several were skits, and there were two different poets who astonished everyone with their works. A big favorite was the debate. Four different high schools were represented as they debated: "Which is worse: to use alcohol or to use drugs?" The Zamarias will tell you the answer if you are not sure.

Tom and Ellen were surprised to hear that one obstacle to getting this program into every school is resistance from the school's principal. "You want

to come speak to the students about drugs?! We do not have a problem with drugs or alcohol at MY school!" Ezra is an experienced professional who has been able to make inroads with several principals thus far.

The mission team's conclusion after almost two weeks was: this program is sorely needed. Many of these teens have been personally associated with someone who has overdosed or died from drugs/alcohol. Ezra sorely needs a vehicle to reach the schools that are located outside of Kampala. The team renewed its commitment to support this mission for another year. Our task will be to raise \$10,000 to pay Ezra's salary and provide educational materials. If God puts it on your heart to help support this program that helps give children the knowledge they will need to make the right decisions about drugs and alcohol, please contact Tom ([tomzam61@gmail.com](mailto:tomzam61@gmail.com)) or Ellen Zamaria ([ellelzamaria@hotmail.com](mailto:ellelzamaria@hotmail.com)).



*Look how many kids are in this picture; and that was only about 25% of the children at the school.*

## Looking Back - 50 Years



50 years ago today (May 16) the Bishop of Virginia at a rock church deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia ordained me into the priesthood of Christ's Church. John Rodgers was the preacher. In the black and white picture I'm one on the left. In the center is my father, known as Froggie. (You got it. Tadpole...) He was also a French Baron, though he never wore a beret. (You got it, that makes me... But my sisters assure me that I am no count.) My mother carried her unordained role with her memorable gifts of style, wisdom, and deep faith.

After two years there, Constance and I moved to Brewton, Alabama, with responsibility for two churches. Life away from Virginia was new for us but made sweet by the friends we made there.

Our family expanded to three children: Channing, Maria, and Eve. All are now nearby, grown with their own families. The delight that they brought us when at home now has new dimensions with their friends, careers, gardens, and more. And the richest part of life with them, four grandchildren: Sydney, Drew, Ethan, and Cyane. These bring the new world to us with excitement and charm, and often with them wondering why so many ordinary things seem strange to us. They are happy to explain.

A few reflections on the 50 years of my priesthood, with an emphasis on the influence of two men.

The first man to turn my life 90° got me in trouble.

This was Peter Doyle, Rector of the church in Leesburg, where my girlfriend lived. I squeezed in a conference at the Diocesan Conference Center where Peter was the speaker. That weekend interrupted my weekly Zen Jungian dream analysis group and the Sunday School class I taught.

Peter gave talks on the Trinity. My religious quest had taken me deep into the abyss of Eastern religion, despairing of a God who speaks, cares, and helps. Peter spoke of the God who does. This God has a face, I learned, shown in the manger in Bethlehem. He still speaks and He helps. With Peter's influence I became a student of the Bible and Jonathan Edwards.

The problem with this legacy came with my desire to be ordained. The people supervising the psychiatric hurdles were not convinced that my faith was real. To them I was transferring stuff onto this God that I talked about as a way of hiding the real me. In fact, four of them told me that I should not pursue ordination before getting psychiatric help.

I decided to pass on that, but I did have that many speech therapists. They were good, but I found that the most improvement for my stuttering was leaving parish ministry.

My friendship with Peter has yielded two dividends. First, my girlfriend who was his parishioner is still in my life. Second, his brother Wright and I have traveled together for the past 55 years, sharing our calling in mission and enjoying close friendship in many ways.

The other man who left a legacy was David Barrett. He was the leading researcher on world Christianity. David's work exposed the enormous gap in the church's mission: 7,000 ethnic groups that lack their own self-sustaining church, and nearly 2 billion people who have never heard of Jesus Christ.

When I learned that he lived here in Richmond, I maneuvered myself into his inner circle. I studied his writings, digested his maps, his insights, and his conclusions. During that period my calling changed from parish ministry to advocacy for mission to the frontiers.

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I saw this omission as scandalous and, with that deep conviction, the next obvious step was to found Anglican Frontier Missions as a channel for the Episcopal/Anglican world to the unreached. That I did in 1993. By the grace of God and the wise and determined leadership of my successors, Julian Linnell and Chris Royer, AFM continues to serve this vision after 27 years.

I retired from AFM. Given time and about two decades of frontier mission thinking, I started writing.

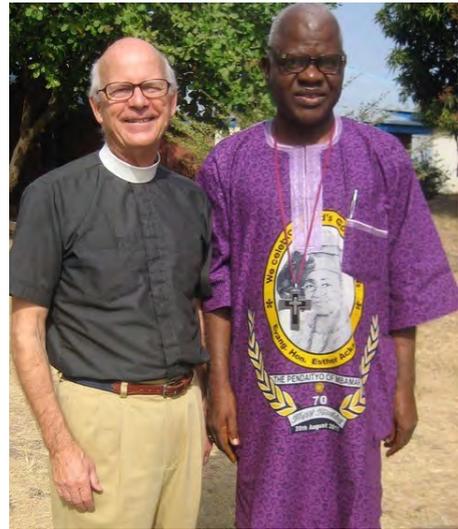
So three books: THE GLOBAL GOSPEL OF ST. PAUL, showing the call to the nations at the center of all that he wrote; THE YEAR OF PAUL'S REVERSAL, tracing his move from defending the Jewish borders to seeing God's grace for all sinners; ROADMAP TO UNHARVESTED FIELDS, naming the reasons for not going and adjusting them to mission to unreached territories.

And, may I say, they are really good, every one of them. I still enjoy reading and re-reading them. One thing that comes through over and over is the author's humility.

In these 50 years almost 45 of them have been connected with St. Matthew's Church in Richmond. I arrived there in 1976 as Assistant and have moved through all the chairs until now taking a place in a pew. Virtually, of course. These years have been the richest for friendships and growth. This has been the place of our deep friendships and deep roots for our faith. A real home for us all.

There was a ten-year break when we lived near the Potomac River, when I followed my dear friend, the Rev. Jeff Cerar. That took us frequently to the golf course and more importantly to Light of Christ Anglican Church in Heathsville. I also learned that my years there cost me an honorary degree. Nominated in June and denied in the Fall, apparently for attending an Anglican church. Tut tut.

All the underpinnings of mission to Muslims were shaken loose by the national leadership of the Episcopal Church. Time to move. I found a church home under the leadership of one of Nigeria's foremost missionary leader, the Rt. Rev. N. N. Inyom, in the Diocese of Makurdi. That is now my home diocese and he is my Bishop. (I'm the one on the left.)



What has sustained me for these decades? Who has brought fun, given strength to pick up and move on, shown flaws without made to feel stupid? Time to point to the one who is kind and forgiving, wise and better. Yes, of course that would be the "One who is high and lifted up." But He has kindly sent into my life another, and that would be my girlfriend of 55 years and wife of 52, Constance. Wise, forgiving, better, and kind. And in so many ways!

What better companion to all my flighty stuff than one whose chief delight is "a sense of joy and wonder in all thy works." She has it. She carries that into every sphere of God's creation, peering within sea shells, loving the overlooked, and photographing every evidence she encounters. When I am on, I find treasures within her and how she sees, and by God's grace, some have worn off on me.

The glow of her joy and wonder make it into her paintings. Before you read my books, you must see how she has put this in her art--for refugees, for water and watermen, for the homeless, for children, and other tokens of His presence. [www.ArtByCdeb.com](http://www.ArtByCdeb.com)

The great hymn "Joyful, joyful we adore Thee" has this line: "*Hearts unfold like flowers before Him, praising Him their sun above.*" That is the thread of this continuous journey--having His undeserved love unfold a bit more and more of what He wants this sinner to be. The Sun above gently unfolds me, giving a better vision of Christ's redeeming love for me radiating through His cross.

+Tad deBordenave

# IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

## Lesson Readers

July 5 Constance McDearmon (L) Ed Feddeman (P)  
July 12 Bart Morrison (L) Betty Dillingham (P)  
July 19 Jeanne Hickey (L) Bart Morrison (P)  
July 26 Ed Feddeman (L) Constance McDearmon (P)

## Altar Guild

July 5 Suzy Norman  
July 12 Wendy Smith  
July 19 Anna Brennan  
July 26 Julie Pritchard

## Acolytes

July 5 - David Gwaltney  
July 12 - Ed Feddeman  
July 19 - Constance McDearmon  
July 26 - Jane Wrightson

## July Birthdays

July 1 - Howard York  
July 11 - Phyllis TeStrake  
July 15 - Al Carstensen  
July 19 - George Kranda, Donna Soule  
July 23 - Stan Rasberry, Jim Conley  
July 27 - Connie de Bordenave  
July 28 - Constance McDearmon

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Tellers

July 5 Betty Dillingham, Bob Norman  
July 12 Betty Dillingham, Jan Beckett  
July 19 Betty Dillingham, Bill Andrulot  
July 26 Betty Dillingham, Pam Smith

## Vestry Person on Duty

July 5 George Beckett  
July 12 Anna Brennan  
July 19 George Beckett  
July 26 Anna Brennan

## July Anniversaries

July 10 - Lucy and Jim Logan  
July 13 - Pauline and Bobby Edmonds  
July 17 - Lyn and Jim Conley  
July 30 Morris and Betty Dillingham

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



Those who leave  
everything in  
**GOD'S HAND**  
will eventually see  
God's hand in  
everything.

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LIGHT OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 609  
9500 NORTHUMBERLAND HIGHWAY  
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473

Suzy Norman, Editor



Be Still  
AND KNOW  
THAT I AM GOD

-PSALM 46:10