



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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



Mike's Message

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." C.S. Lewis
*"The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
³ Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.
⁴ His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.
⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.
⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory."* Psalm 97:1-6

I was born and raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwestern Virginia and spent a lot of time hiking through the woods and climbing up the sides of mountains. One of my favorite mountains is off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Peaks of Otter. The mountain is called "Sharp Top" and the top elevation is 3862' above sea level. When the weather is nice, there are always a lot of people climbing up to the top where you can see all around the countryside. As a child, I thought Sharp Top was a really tall mountain until one day, we traveled down the Blue Ridge Parkway into North Carolina. We went to the top of Mount Mitchell, elevation 6683' and I thought that was a really, really tall mountain. Of course, since then I've been to Pikes Peak, elevation 14,114' and Mount Rainer, elevation 14,410'; and I thought to myself they were extremely tall mountains. They are but, while in Nepal in March, I could see Mount Everest in the distance, the tallest mountain in the world at 29,029' above sea level. After having seen these other mountains, my perspective on Sharp Top has changed quite a bit. It's still beautiful and worth the climb, and it still reveals the beauty of God's marvelous creation; but I no longer see it as all that high up because I now see it through the comparison of much higher mountains.

The same idea can be applied to our problems, which can seem so huge until we see them in light of our understanding and experience with God. If we focus our concerns on the enormity of circumstances and let them fill our vision, then we lose sight of our God who is so much greater than any situation or problem that confronts us. When we develop the habit of focusing on God and his greatness, power, glory, kindness and compassion, then those mountains of problems and concerns that seem so overwhelming simply become molehills. I have found that when I am fearful or feeling overwhelmed, it's usually because I have lost my perspective on what's true and instead, focused on a lie of the enemy. Problems then become opportunities for me to exercise faith and see what God will do.

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As I look back over the past year, I have the choice of focusing on all the ways that our culture has continued to self-destruct and all the losses we have experienced both personally and as a church or I can focus on how God has met every need that we had and how he has revealed his love to us time and again. As we prepare to enter 2019, we are facing situations that will be challenging and will require wisdom and a deep abiding faith in God who has sustained us and who is never undone by anything.

This year our focus must be on the God of power and glory that we read about in Psalm 97, the one who reigns in power and whose glory is proclaimed throughout all creation. Let 2019 be the year when the people of Light of Christ Anglican Church live in the power and authority of God like never before. We are promised victory over every obstacle if we will focus on the power of Christ.

I love Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:10-12, *"so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."*

It's in this light that we are to see everything else. Blessings!



Deacon's Corner

This past month, we had two events which required the hands of many servants! On November 11, we hosted a Veteran's Day celebration to honor and remember all veterans. Some of our friends from First Baptist Church joined us for lunch and a program. Thank you to Carl Smith for organizing and planning this event, and to Sandi Ward and Wendy Smith for setting up the display table and decorations. Members of Hospitality Team 2 (Ruth) stepped in to handle the setting up, kitchen duties and clean up. Thank you to Wendy Smith for overseeing this with the help of Peggy Lassanske, Priscilla Williams and Marie Carstensen (from Team 1). Many others helped in various ways and many brought food offerings. Thank you to all who helped make this a successful event.

On November 15, the Light of Christ Women sponsored the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project. The weather was horrible that day, so there were fewer present to put together the boxes, but the refreshments were delicious, the fellowship warm, and we still contributed 44 boxes to help children around the world at Christmas.

Thank you to Donna Soule for organizing the refreshments. A huge thank you goes out to Julie Pritchard, who is our representative for this worldwide ministry. She oversees this project year after year and is dedicated to helping us contribute to this worthy project! Thank you to all who brought items for the boxes, or did a box to add.

At the Diocesan Synod a few weeks ago, I attended a meeting on Child Protection. Protecting all children who come to Light of Christ must be in the forefront of our minds. This is a topic that our bishop is adamant about, especially in light of recent national events. The diocese has an excellent policy which we need to comply with and we have some specific policies for our church. These will be included in coming months of The Beacon and dates for training will be posted soon. Although, we have only a few children on a regular basis, we are often not in compliance with our own policies!

At Light of Christ, we do everything we can to protect children. As a body of Christians, each of us is needed to help provide a safe and trusting environment for every child. There is a Five Step Plan for Child Protection in place, as well as Supervisory Plans specific to LOC for nursery and school age children. You can find these policies on the bulletin board in the parish hall, or the church office. Please take time to get acquainted with our policies even if you are not involved with ministry to children. Training is required for those who do work directly with children and all who serve in a leadership role. We will be updating our records and training in January. If you see any behavior regarding a child that causes you to have concern, please speak to a member of the clergy, so we can provide the necessary monitoring and/or intervention.

The following excerpt is a portion of Step 4, located in the Five Step Plan for Child Protection:

MONITORING allows us to detect problems before they turn into an incident of abuse and helps adults avoid wrongful allegations of abuse when none has occurred. Research confirms that off-site activities increase the risk of abuse. **Vestry, clergy, staff and volunteers must be diligent in monitoring and supervising children's and youth activities in all settings at all times.**

Our monitoring practices include the following:

- All children and youth activities shall be designed to be supervised by two or more screened and trained individuals
- No child will ever be left unattended during or following a church activity
- Clergy, staff members, and volunteers should not conduct unobserved meetings or interactions with children

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- In a discipleship or mentoring relationship, the interactions should occur in a public place or where other persons are present
 - Watching for and responding to policy violations
 - An open invitation for parents to visit at any time unannounced
 - A careful review of new programs and/or significant changes to a program structure
 - Keeping interaction with children in full view of others at all times. Keeping unused rooms locked where possible
 - Keeping children and youth in supervised areas
- An onsite or offsite written Supervisory Plan, that includes all items **detailed in the DOMA policy**, shall be in place for all educational, pastoral, recreational, or other programming that involves youth or children

Deacon Mary Swann

Injury/Incident Reporting: Any injury or incident is reported to the child's parent/guardian. If the situation is urgent, the parent will be pulled out of the church service. The vestry person on duty or the ushers can assist in contacting the parent. If the situation is not urgent and the child can be comforted, the parent is notified upon picking their child up from the nursery. The vestry person on duty and the rector or deacon will also be informed of any incident and documentation completed if indicated.

First Aid/Medication Procedures: No medication will ever be administered to a child by staff or volunteers. There are basic first aid supplies in the nursery, such as bandages. No oral medications of any kind are kept in the nursery. The parent/guardian is notified immediately if the child cannot be comforted or if the situation requires more than a simple bandage.

Reporting Concerns: Any concern or incident observed by nursery staff/volunteers, or any concern verbalized by a parent/guardian should be communicated to the rector or deacon. This includes any disciplinary issues that may arise.

Release of Children: Children will only be released to the person who signed them into the nursery.

Light of Christ Anglican Church Supervisory Plan- Sundays Nursery (age 4 and under) October, 2017

Registration: Parents/guardians will fill out a registration form for each child. These forms will be available in the nursery and may be filled out and returned to the nursery staff/volunteer.

Sign-in Process: Children will be signed into the nursery by a parent/guardian. A cell phone number is requested in case an emergency arises during the church service. Name and location of the parent in church is important.

Personnel: Only screened staff and volunteers may work in the Nursery. No one under the age of 18 may be hired as paid staff and no one under the age of 16 may volunteer.

A minimum of two personnel are assigned to provide supervision at all times.

Friends or family members who have not been screened and trained may not assist in supervision of the nursery.

Supervision: On Sunday mornings, the Vestry Person of the Day will unlock the doors to the nursery, if not already unlocked, and insure that the nursery is fully staffed before the service. The vestry person will also conduct random checks of the area to provide monitoring and assistance as needed. Nursery personnel should arrive no later than 9:45 a.m..

Ratio: The nursery will have at least 1 staff/volunteer per 5 children and never less than 2 staff/volunteers at all times.

Physical Environment: The window in the door of the nursery should never be obstructed. Toys, furniture, books, rugs, etc. will remain clean. Hazardous and dangerous materials will be removed. The nursery personnel will clean and disinfect all surfaces and items used after the children have been picked up. Doors will be locked upon leaving.

Activity: There will be Christian education materials in the nursery in addition to other appropriate materials for the age group. Children are always under the supervision of at least 2 screened and trained adults.

Bathroom Procedures: Parents/Guardians of toddlers will be asked to take their children to the restroom before leaving them in the nursery. Parent should leave diapering supplies for those in diapers, but we will keep some supplies on hand in the nursery for needs that may arise. There is a child-size bathroom inside the nursery with a half door for privacy and supervision. Any diapering needs will be provided by female staff/volunteers in an observable area.

Scheduling of Meeting Space/Time

Please let Joyce know when you plan to have a meeting at the church and where you plan to have that meeting. The dry erase wall calendar will be moved shortly to the church office wall, where you can check the times available and add your meeting times. Joyce will coordinate this. We most likely will not have a problem finding space to meet, but it will be very helpful to know who is coming and what to expect!

Scheduling for Sunday Service

We have noticed some overlapping and confusion in the scheduling of those in service on Sunday mornings. Please do your part to keep this running smoothly!

Joyce sends an email to those who are scheduled early in the week, usually Monday (or a phone call if you don't receive email). Please check this if you think you are on duty in any role.

If you are scheduled and cannot be present, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and let Joyce know who that will be. She has the bulletin done by Wednesday. Last minute changes will be addressed by the vestry person on duty that day.

Here's how the scheduling works for now:

Doug Smoot - ushers and greeters

Priscilla Williams- Altar Guild

Steve Proctor- Altar Rail Ministers

Dave Gwaltney - Acolyte

Coffee Hour - volunteer sign-ups for now (Volunteers needed for remainder of this year and through 2019.)

Joyce Olverson- nursery, eucharistic ministers, lesson readers, vestry person on duty

Everything passes through the church office, so be sure Joyce has the correct information in a timely manner, so that she can coordinate.

WYLDLIFE NEWS!



The Lord is on the move in Northumberland WyldLife!! We brought 18 middle school students on our WyldLife Weekend trip to Great Wolf Lodge this past month. Kids got to have adventures (without their phones!), build relationships with new friends, and hear about why Jesus died on the cross for them. This weekend was a great launching point into growing our Campaigners group, which is the WyldLife term for small group bible study. We currently have about 10 students participating in Campaigners who are excited to learn about Jesus and read and digest scripture! It is amazing to watch them dive into the word and hear what God is saying to them through it. I feel so blessed to be able to witness to these awesome kids!!!

We currently have **sixteen students** signed up already for summer camp next July. This is *double* the amount of students we took last year and its only December! Praise God for all He is doing in this ministry to open doors to opportunities to spend time with kids, for parents who are excited about WyldLife, and for the supernatural energy He gives me to keep up with these kids!

If you are interested in supporting a student for WyldLife camp, please talk with me and I would love to share about some of my friends who can't afford to come to camp, but who the Lord loves and is pursuing! I would love to be able to say to 10 students this year that their camp trip is covered and that they can come to camp. Money is the number one reason why students from lower socioeconomic and diverse backgrounds don't come to camp, and I pray that you would consider helping us break down that barrier! Consider giving the gift of summer camp to one of our students for Christmas this year by giving to our camp scholarship fund.

Our students have been hard at work selling wreaths and other Christmas items to raise money for summer camp! We had to place our order in full case amounts so we have a lot of inventory left over. If you would like a beautiful wreath, garland, Christmas candle holders, or evergreen centerpiece, let me know as soon as possible and I can make sure that you will be able to purchase one! Prices range from \$15-32.

THE WISH LIST

Item #1 - Commercial Coffee maker. The ladies in the kitchen have a hard time lugging around the 2-gallon coffee pot and it has been suggested that the commercial coffee maker is the perfect solution. It would be installed in the kitchen near the water source that would feed it. Once the coffee is brewed, it would be transferred into the provided 1-gallon pump dispensers and placed on the counter. Meantime more coffee is made ready for transfer. You can see these types of commercial coffee makers at many convenience stores.

Price installed- Approx. \$2500

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Dec 2	Hannah Hamlett
Dec 9	Constance McDearmon
Dec 16	Dave Gwaltney
Dec 23	Jane Wrightson
Dec 24	Dave Gwaltney
Dec 30	Ed Feddeman

Lesson Readers

Dec 2	Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley (P)
Dec 9	Charlaine Andrulot (L) Marie Carstensen (P)
Dec 16	Tony Blackstone (L) Joan Blackstone (P)
Dec 23	Betty Dillingham (L) Ed Feddeman (P)
Dec 24	Phyllis TeStrake (L) Ernie Proctor (P)
Dec 30	Jeanne Hickey (L) Frank McCarthy (P)

Eucharist Ministers

Dec 2	Tony Blackstone, Priscilla Williams
Dec 9	Harrison Williams, Lucy Logan
Dec 16	Lucy Logan, Suzy Norman
Dec 23	Bart Morrison, Constance McDearmon
Dec 24	Fred Woodard, Lucy Logan
Dec 30	Frank McCarthy, Phyllis TeStrake

Ushers

Dec 2	Barbara and Dick Seed
Dec 9	Stan Rasberry, Ed Feddeman
Dec 16	Doug and Courtney Ludeman
Dec 23	Bill and Charlaine Andrulot
Dec 24	Chris Cralle, Stan Rasberry
Dec 30	Dave Gwaltney, Jim Logan
Jan 6	Pam and Herb Smith

Greeters

Dec 2	Cindy and Dave Peresluha
Dec 9	Fred Wimberly, Peggy Lassanske
Dec 16	Doris Myers, Phyllis TeStrake
Dec 23	Lynne and Howard York
Dec 24	Peggy Lassanske
Dec 30	Ernie Proctor, Julie Pritchard
Jan 6	George Beckett, Alison Kimmitt

Altar Guild

Dec 2	Bill and Charlaine Andrulot
Dec 9	Suzy Norman, Priscilla Williams
Dec 16	Barbara Seed, Anna Brennan
Dec 23	Marie Carstensen, Priscilla Williams
Dec 30	Julie Pritchard

Nursery

Dec 2	Doris Myers, Jeanette Cralle
Dec 9	Julie Pritchard, Alison Kimmitt
Dec 16	Saunee Hamlett, Jeanette Cralle
Dec 23	Doris Myers, Julie Pritchard
Dec 30	Saunee Hamlett, Alison Kimmitt

Coffee Hour

Dec 2	Tashia Elmore, Phyllis TeStrake
Dec 9	
Dec 16	
Dec 23	
Dec 30	

We need volunteers for Dec. 9 through 2019. Please sign up or call/email Joyce.

Counters

December	Betty Dillingham, Bob Norman
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Altar Rail Ministers

Dec 2	Ernie Proctor, Donna Soule
Dec 9	Sam and Gayle Marston
Dec 16	Walt and Phyllis TeStrake
Dec 23	Jim and Lyn Conley
Dec 30	Stan Rasberry, Mary Swann

Vestry Person on Duty

Dec 2	Bart Morrison
Dec 9	Harrison Williams
Dec 16	Alison Kimmitt
Dec 23	Barbara Seed
Dec 24	David Peresluha
Dec 30	Alison Kimmitt

Happy December Birthdays!

Dec 2	Bob Norman, Fred Woodard
Dec 5	Bonnie Odend'hal
Dec 10	Jim Logan
Dec 17	Daniel Mochamps
Dec 18	Carl Smith
Dec 23	Veronica Brennan Walsh
Dec 26	Ernie Proctor
Dec 27	Jan Beckett, Ward LeHardy, Hannah Hamlett
Dec 28	Marion Mitchell

Happy December Anniversaries!

Dec 13	Constance McDearmon and Doug Smoot
Dec 19	Veronica and James Walsh
Dec 22	Herb and Pam Smith
Dec 28	Joan and Tony Blackstone, Linda and Rich Riddell

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.



The Beacon

LIGHT OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
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December 2018

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars

December	3	Pick up WyldLife Christmas items, 3:30-6
December	7	WyldLife Club, 6-8
December	9	Annual Congregational Meeting
December	19	WyldLife Christmas Party, 5-8
December	24	Christmas Service 3:00

