



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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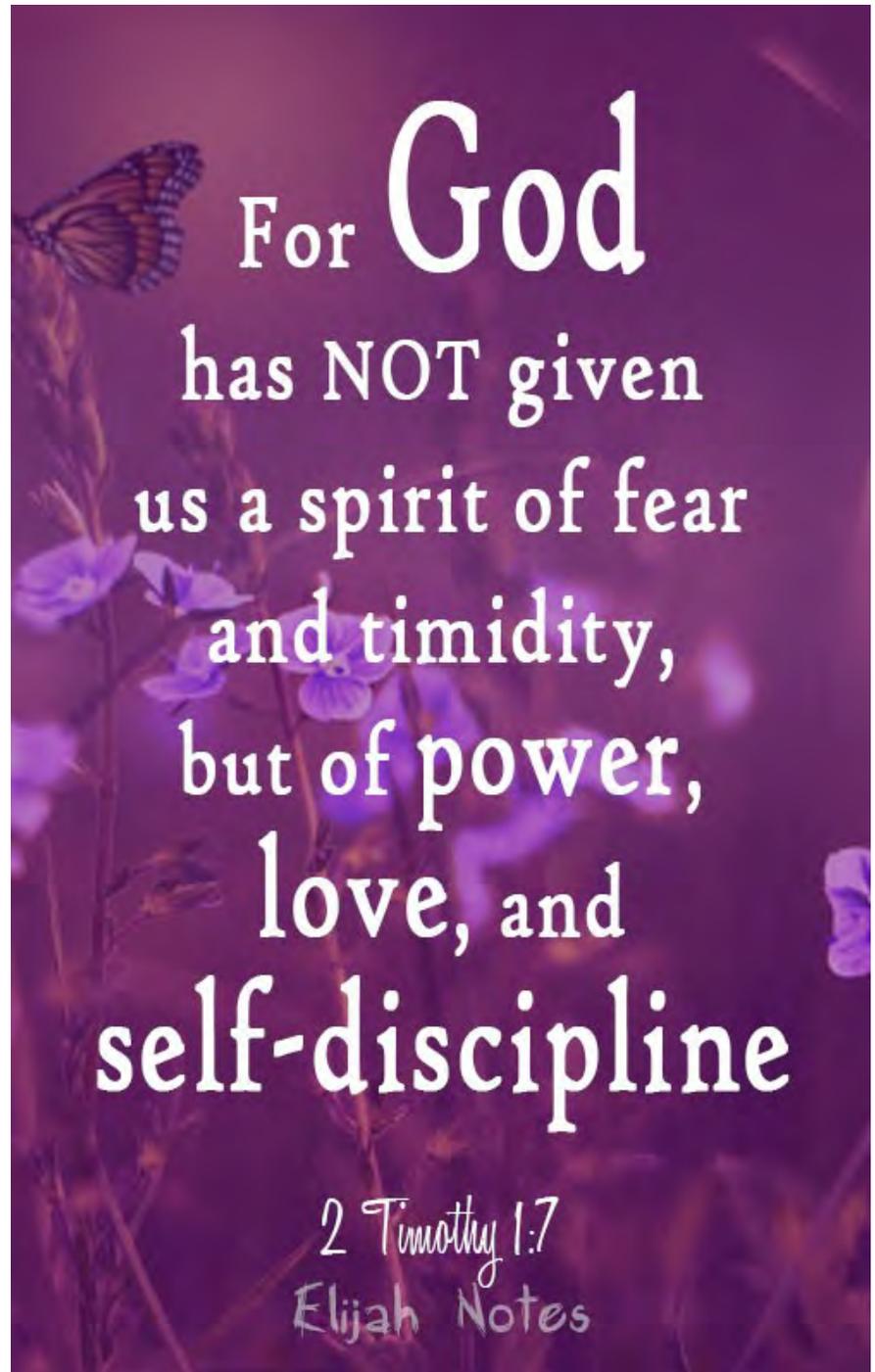
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Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16





Mike's Message

John 4:23: ***“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”***

One of my favorite stories from the Gospels is in John 4, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan women at the well. I'm taking for granted that most people reading this are well familiar with the story but if not go read it first and then come back to this. Jesus and his disciples were heading back to Galilee and Jesus decided to go through Samaria, which was shorter. This was something that Jews didn't do, they would go a much longer, indirect route because of their hatred of the Samaritans. The Samaritans were descendants of the Israelites of the Northern kingdom who had intermarried with foreign settlers and were considered defiled and unclean. Apparently, if a Jew encountered a Samaritan they risked being ritually unclean from, I guess spiritual germs.

Because of this there would have been an enormous religious barrier between this woman and Jesus. Instead of pulling away, Jesus initiates the conversation with the woman which of course surprised her. As you read the story it becomes increasingly obvious that there were a lot of barriers between the woman and Jesus or for that matter, between the woman and those in her own town. She had been married four times and was currently living with a man who was not her husband. That's why she was coming to the well during the heat of the day. She wasn't welcome to come in the cool morning to be with the other women in town who considered themselves more respectable. Jesus had come to knock down the barriers and invite the woman to be a worshipper of God in both Spirit and truth.

Actually, the differences between the Jews and Samaritans were not so great that there should have been hatred and antagonism between them. In fact, the Samaritans also worshipped God and held to Moses' writings in the Pentateuch.

Jesus not only initiates conversation with the

woman but asks her for a drink of water from a ladle that she had in her hand. He wasn't concerned about spiritual germs or her lineage or the fact that she was immoral, he had come to set her free. The really amazing part of the story is the conclusion. After her encounter with Jesus, she ran back to town and told everyone of her encounter with him. They came from the town and had their own encounter with Jesus. He stayed with them for two days and many more became believers in him. The very person who had been the outcast, became the first evangelist because that's what an encounter with Jesus can do.

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about the issue of "social distancing." I know it's necessary for now and I'm not trying to discourage it. It's just that it feels like the opposite of what our goal is with presenting Jesus to those who are lost, or suffering.

Today, Joshua, a young man from around here came to the church looking for help for himself and his little family. He has a job but didn't have money enough to buy food, diapers, formula for his baby and gas for his car. He wasn't wearing a mask (Joyce and I were) but he kept his distance while sharing his story. I decided not to worry about it. He had a need financially, but his greatest need was for someone to see him - really see him, - and to care enough about him and his family to help. I helped him financially and then prayed for him. He had such a sweet spirit and when I finished he had tears streaming down his face and looked relieved. He said that he was dreading going home today with nothing in his hands to help relieve the stress of poverty. When he left, I felt God's love for him and thought of Jesus' response to the woman at the well.

No matter who you are, when you come into the presence of God, you come as one who needs him desperately. It's a level playing field at the foot of the cross and none of us comes bringing anything that God needs. The truth is that we all need to be seen - really seen and for someone to listen and respond with the love of God. There is no shortage of people needing God's children to listen - really listen and then help if they can.

The one thing that the Coronavirus has taught us is that Covid-19 is not a respecter of persons. We all need to be careful but not to the extent that we miss the opportunity to be Christ to those around us. Shalom!



Senior Warden's Column

Your vestry and other church members have been busy working with Mike to get LOC open for services again. We have firm guidance from Governor Northam and Bishop John Guernsey on how to safely open churches, and we are implementing these guidelines to ensure a safe and pleasant environment when we open the church on May 24th.

We do have Bishop Guernsey's approval to open on Sunday. We will stay in touch with church and Virginia government officials to ensure we comply with current guidance and changes that may occur in the future. Sound complex?? Not too complex to help keep our parishioners healthy.

We know some of you want to be extra careful and we will continue to provide online weekly services, including communion, as we have for the past several Sundays. Covid-19 has and is presenting leadership challenges heretofore unknown or even considered. The Lord has encouraged us to "think outside the normal box," and we are doing that so we can provide church services safely.

The vestry has and continues to review operating expenses to reduce costs as much as possible. With your generous support we are staying in balance with our approved budget. Please continue to support LOC as you have in the past.

If you have questions about Sunday services, please ask, and we will do our best to address them. Lord willing, we will have a special time of worship and fellowship on May 24th and each Sunday thereafter.

Blessings,
George Beckett

**Bless
God,
America!**



Dear Ones,

These past weeks have been an incredible period time for me. Despite anxiety and the pain of separation, there have been so many blessings. God does provide- even the small things. My cup runneth over.

Your encouragement, faithful prayers, and support have been so touching. They have been a source of comfort to me and our family.

It was very humbling to see so many of you on the hill and parking lot on Saturday. I shall keep that memory always in my heart always. I also felt the presence of many of you who were with me in spirit.

My only regret was my inability to stay at church to give you a hug and express my gratitude. However, once again, the plague on our land intervened.

You, my cherished church family, have been a shining example of the love of Christ to our family.

*May our Lord bless each and everyone of you.
Barbara*

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their overwhelming love and support during this difficult time. We are richly blessed to have had such an amazing father, and also wonderful parents that shared a fairy tale life together. There are not enough words to let you know how grateful we are for all the compassion for our mother, who has been wrapped in the warmth of your prayers, comforted by your beautiful stories and deeply touched by the kind messages that have been overflowing.

*With love and many blessings,
Richard IV, Jeff and Jennifer*

Wyld Life



Thank you for your continued support of Northumberland Wyldlife and Young Life! We pray that you are continuing to stay healthy and safe during this time. We wanted to share with you how we have been able to serve students in Northumberland County over the past month.

We have continued to use technology to meet with students. We had two Club meetings using Zoom with about 10 students joining us each time. In addition to a Zoom version of our Clubs, we've been having virtual hang outs, including a couple of girls' spa nights and a night of building blanket forts. Every Friday afternoon, students have joined us for Campaigners, our small group Bible study. This month, we started a series on the "I Am" statements that Jesus makes about himself in Scripture. Also, we did another Bible study through the YouVersion Bible app called "The Beginners Guide to Connecting with God." Through the study, one student said that they've learned that God "will always be with us and He never leaves our side."

During this time, we ask that you continue to join us in prayer. First, for our fundraising efforts. Our virtual banquet was successful, but we are still in need of securing the last bit of our budget. Second, for our summer camping trip. While we are unable to have the traditional Young Life camping experience this summer, we are prayerfully considering safe alternatives, either regionally or locally. Lastly, please pray for wisdom as we look into starting ministry in the summer. While we are eager to get back to spending time with our students, it is important that we are mindful of the health and wellbeing of everyone, as well as state and local health guidelines. Thank you for your continued partnership in God's work!

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



Can't go inside Light of Christ to worship Jesus? Try outside! Begin at the Flag: "Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation." While you are walking thru the labyrinth, the names of the plants and their Biblical verses are along the sides of your path. At the end of your meandering is a bench facing the cross on the church. All the plants are not planted yet, as I am having a hard time finding the ones I am looking for. If anyone wants to contribute please call me; I have a list. The Meditation Walk is not quarantined and is available 24/7!



Volunteers are urgently needed to be part of LOC's participation in the county's Meals On Wheels program. Interested? Contact Lynn or Howard York at 804-529-5622.



We are hoping to soon re-open our thrift shop with our wonderful Spring clothes - look for the announcement that we are opening.

In the meantime, be thinking about becoming a volunteer if you are new to our church. We are open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Shifts are four hours long: 10:00-1:00 or 1:00-4:00 and you can either work at the register or work in the back, sorting donations. Please call Suzy Norman for more information - 436-6364.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

NOTE: This schedule is based on regular services. Due to Covid-19, we may have to make adjustments. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.
Joyce

Acolytes

June 7 Ed Feddeman
June 14 Jane Wrightson
June 21 Marie Carstensen
June 28 Anna Brennan

Lesson Readers

June 7 Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley (P)
June 14 Julie Pritchard (L) Ed Feddeman (P)
June 21 Jeanne Hickey (L) Bart Morrison
June 28 Tony Blackstone (L) Joan Blackstone (P)

Eucharist Ministers

June 7 Tony Blackstone, Lucy Logan
June 14 Constance McDearmon, Tom Zamaria
June 21 Frank McCarthy, Lucy Logan
June 28 Constance McDearmon, Bart Morrison

Ushers

June 7 Tom & Alison Kimmitt
June 14 Jim Logan, Howard York
June 21 Doug & Courtney Ludeman
June 28 Ed Feddeman, George Beckett

Altar Guild

June 7 Suzy
June 14 Anna
June 21 Wendy and Donna
June 28 Julie

Altar Rail Ministers

June 7 George Beckett, Agnes Burke
June 14 Steve Proctor, Donna Soule
June 21 Teresa Moffitt, Ernie Proctor
June 28 Walt & Phyllis TeStrake

Greeters

June 7 Julie Pritchard
June 14 Lynn York
June 21 Anna Brennan
June 28 Cheryl Swann

Editors Note: Thank you to all who submitted their stories in last month's newsletter on how they were keeping up with their spirituality during this time of social distancing; they were truly inspirational. I neglected to mention that the idea to ask how you were keeping up your spiritual life during this lockdown time came from Margaret Radcliffe. She is always giving me encouragement and ideas. Bless you, Margaret.

Tellers

June 7 Courtney Ludeman, Bob Norman
June 14 Courtney Ludeman, Jan Beckett
June 21 Courtney Ludeman, Priscilla Williams
June 28 Courtney Ludeman, Pam Smith

Vestry Person on Duty

June 7 George Beckett
June 14 Anna Brennan
June 21 Alison Kimmitt
June 28 Carl Smith

Nursery - closed

June 7
June 14
June 21
June 28

June Birthdays

June 1 Lynn York, Betty Cralle
June 4 Luke Riddell
June 6 Susan Read
June 15 Sophia Hamlett
June 18 Fred Wimberly
June 20 Tommy & Timmy Kimmitt
June 21 Lyn Conley, Ellen Zamaria
June 23 Lynne Cerar
June 25 Christopher Cralle
June 28 Judy LeHardy, Jeanne Hickey,
Fr. Edward Moore

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.

June Anniversaries

June 5 Katrina and Daniel Mochamps
June 7 Ellie and Max Knight
June 9 Sandra and Ben Ward
June 15 Eleanor and George Semerjian
June 24 Tom & Elaine Price:
Priscilla and Harrison Williams

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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Suzy Norman, Editor



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