



# 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.facebook.com/groups/lightofchristva/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/lightofchristva/)  
The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector

## August 2022

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## Mike's Message

Philippians 4:4-8, *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

Recently Teresa and I were talking about things going on around this country and around the world. Often the news found on the internet, news channels on TV, emails sent by others, or within the newspaper not only inform us of recent events that are hard to believe but they serve to bring on anxiety and a sense of doom. Sometimes the reality of how far we have sunk down in our morals serve to remind us of how far we have fallen as a people. It seems like we are actors in a very poorly written B-grade Sci-Fi movie. For us one of the reasons for concern is our granddaughters, Emma and Lily and the kind of world they are growing up in. Recently, in talking with our son Ben, he told us some of the deconstructed history they are learning in their charter school in Colorado Springs. Sometimes there is the tendency to feel overwhelmed by all that has happened and is happening. So what do we do?

I'm often reminded of the advice of an Anglican bishop in Rwanda to Teresa and me during a dinner we attended together. The Lord was asking us to step out in faith into an area of life totally unfamiliar. He told us the story of how God enabled him and his family to escape into Uganda during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. They lost everything, their home, car, bank account and personal belongings. They had to travel at night and hide out during the day. As he was crying out to the Lord one day God spoke and said, *"Focus on me and glance at the problem."* Basically God was telling our friend to put his faith and trust in God and not deny there was a problem but to not allow it to overcome him. God was saying, *"I got this"*.

He told us that was a principal he never forgot because when they entered into Uganda with nothing and nowhere to go, a friend met them at the border at 5 pm and by 8 pm they had a house to stay in, a car to drive, clothing to change into, and money for expenses. Focus on God-glance at the problem became our credo as we moved in faith and it has served us well too.

Continued

Many Bible scholars believe that the Apostle Paul wrote the epistle to the Philippians while under house arrest in Rome. That gives added weight to his words to the church in Philippi. He wanted the church to know that whatever was going on around them that their focus must be upon the Lord who was always at hand. Because of that they should be confident in God's mercy and willingness to listen to their supplications and receive their praise regardless of the situation they were in. Paul had found that is where the peace of God that you might think wouldn't be available actually was there in abundance. Why would this be important? Because that peace from God would guard their minds and hearts from the lies of the enemy and the seeming hopelessness of the situation at hand.

Paul is teaching them the same principle that he taught the church in Corinth. In 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, ***"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ."***

Jim Conley reminded me recently the importance of knowing the wiles and methods of the enemy. He is crafty and doesn't use the weapons that men employ in warfare, he works in our thoughts to change our perception of what is going on, and strives to bring us to react in ways that don't reflect the type of warfare we are in. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to use the weapons given to us by God and to take captive every thought or attitude out of line with the truth's of God's word. In our passage from Philippians 4:8 Paul instructs them how to bring every thought captive. They were to refuse to accept the lies of the enemy whispered into their minds and replace them with those things worth focusing on.

In other words, "Focus on the things of God and the promises that he has made in Christ and take the problem to the foot of the cross." Shalom!

### THOUGHTS FROM MIKE

Greetings!

As many of you are aware there is often something going on at Light of Christ. In the spring of 2021 we started hosting Dinner and a Movie every 4th Friday night. We have Bible studies going on during the week and have a tent and table set up on the Saturdays when there is a Farmers' Market. When working the Farmers' Market those who come by our tent receive a decorative bag with information about our church and a copy of "The Beacon" our monthly newsletter.

Our newsletter reflects what is happening in our congregation and of course there's always a riveting article from the pastor.

Continued

We invite our members and regular attenders to send in articles for the newsletter. They are due by the third Sunday of the month via email, and I would like for those who have a story of how God has moved in their lives or in the lives of friends and family (make sure they are okay with that). There are so many negative articles and stories that we hear or read about every day. So I would like to have a section about answered prayer or blessings. Things that the Lord might be teaching you or something funny that you want to share (keep it clean).

We also have need of volunteers to serve as ushers, lay Eucharistic ministers (help with Communion), and crucifers (carry the cross).

We need readers for the Scripture lessons and the Prayers of the People.

When we have funerals, weddings, or other special occasions we need people to help with set-up and clean-up.

If you are willing to be of service please contact Joyce at the church.

Blessings!  
Mike

### GLORY TO GOD!

A few weeks ago we were privileged to get a glimpse into the vastness of our universe thanks to the James Webb telescope. What amazes me (besides the pictures) is that while these scientists comment on the details of the pictures and the discovery of the birth and development of a star (often ignoring the amazing development of a baby in the womb), they remain clueless as to whom is the creator of all these wonders. There was no mention of the one who gave them their gift of knowledge.

Would that their minds could be renewed as those who have encountered Jesus Christ as Lord. I could tell them about our awesome God-the one who knows the number of stars in the heavens and even the number of hairs on our heads. I can also tell them that an amazing thing happened to me in the past few weeks. God has been threading my needle, incredible?

You see arthritis has made it very difficult for me to use my fingers to pick up anything or hold a needle, much less thread it. I don't even recall asking this time. God, the creator of the universe knows every need of his children. He knows every little detail. Even in what might appear most insignificant to the world. In his amazing grace and unfailing love I have been able to thread my own needle as his hands have guided me.

Glory to God!  
Lydia Boyd



## TO MY LOC FAMILY

Please accept my sincere "Thank You" for your cards, calls, emails and comments concerning my knee replacement. Your love and encouragement have been most helpful in managing the pain. The doctor has declared success: no more appointments, and "get on with your life."

Again, Thank you.

Love in Christ,  
George

## SAVING FAMILY FROM DIFFICULT DECISIONS

Would you like to be sure your final arrangements for your funeral or memorial service were what you wanted?

People accept that planning weddings can take months or even years. However, planning a funeral service generally has to be handled within days. Trying to plan a funeral for a loved one at the last minute can be very difficult when family members are scattered all over the country or even the world. The stress of arranging all the details of a funeral while everyone is grieving makes decision making difficult, especially when everyone has different opinions. It can even cause conflicts among the closest families.

Over the past few months, I have had people comment on what they liked about other services they attended. Some even said they thought it would make it easier for their families if they made plans now.

So if you would like to, call me and set a time to meet. I have a form that we can fill out and make all the plans, such as requesting scriptures that are most meaningful to you or list your favorite hymns. On completion, you can have copies for your family and one will be kept at the church.

Constance McDearmon  
804-453-3085

## THE TIME TO TRUST

When nothing whereon to lean remains,  
When strongholds crumble to dust;  
When nothing is sure but that God still reigns,  
That is just the time to trust.

## PERFECT LOVE

In his book, "Written in Blood", Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked.

Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room-- Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when they met, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With ordeal almost over, his voice slightly shaky, broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?" Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he'd agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life. In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Johnny, fortunately, didn't have to die to save his sister. Each of us however, has a condition more serious of Mary's, and it required Jesus to give not just his blood, but his life.

Thomas Lindberg, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Leadership, Vol. 5, No. 1

## FIRST

The Bible tells us to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). There is so much more involved with this than just attendance. "Seeking first" is an attitude as well as a commitment to the cause of Christ. "Seeking first" means such things as:

- § Putting others first (Phil. 2:3,4)
- § Being willing to give up things for the sake of others (1 Cor. 8:13)
- § Being wronged rather than going to court with a brother (1 Cor. 6:7)
- § Going the extra mile for another (Matt. 5:41)
- § Doing without things so you won't stumble (Matt. 5:30)

Is the kingdom important to you? Is it so important that you are willing to put it **FIRST** in your life?

- by Roger Shouse

## PRIVILEGES

from "The Valley of Vision"  
Puritan Prayers and Devotions

"O Lord God,

*Teach me to know that grace precedes,  
accompanies, and follows my salvation,  
that it sustains the redeemed soul,  
that not one link of its chain can ever break.*

*From Calvary's cross wave upon wave of grace  
reaches me,  
deals with my sin,  
washes me clean,  
renews my heart,  
strengthens my will,  
draws out my affection,  
kindles a flame in my soul,  
rules throughout my inner man,  
consecrates my every thought, word, work,  
teaches me thy immeasurable love.*

*How great are my privileges in Christ Jesus!*

*Without him I stand far off, a stranger, an outcast;  
in him I draw near and touch his kingly sceptre.*

*Without him I dare not lift up my guilty eyes;  
in him I gaze upon my Father-God and Friend.*

*Without him I hide my lips in trembling shame;  
in him I open my mouth in petition and praise.*

*Without him all is wrath and consuming fire;  
in him is all love, and the repose of my soul.*

*Without him is gaping hell below me, and eternal  
anguish;  
in him its gates are barred to me by his precious  
blood.*

*Without him darkness spreads its horrors in front;  
in him an eternity of glory is my boundless horizon.*

*Without him all within me is terror and dismay,  
in him every accusation is charmed into joy and  
peace.*

*Without him all things external call for my  
condemnation;  
in him they minister to my comfort, and are to be  
enjoyed with thanksgiving.*

*Praise be to thee for grace,  
and for the unspeakable gift of Jesus.*

Recommended by Ernie Proctor

## THE COVERING OF LOVE

Our current culture is not grounded in a social structure of forgiveness. It seems as though the Biblical truth of mankind's sin and its remedy of forgiveness by the Creator is not on many people's radar. For example, if someone in the political arena is discovered to have said something offensive recently or in years past, they are pounced upon and condemned as a bad person. The "woke" culture and the "cancel culture", on the left and right, stand ready at the guillotine with a cry of "Off with their heads!" Slips of the tongue, unintended snubs, as well as truly inappropriate comments are all thrown together into the bubbling cauldron of offenses. Even if the guilty party apologizes, it's not enough.

Why is there such a loud outcry for punishment if a public offense has been committed? Perhaps the answer lies in a lack of awareness of grace. If the majority of a people don't believe they are sinners yet they see sin in others, someone must be punished and it ain't gonna be them. There is also a lack of awareness of redemption. There is an assumption that the offender will always behave in the same way. This cynical world view arises from a lack of experience of forgiveness and grace.

The gospel of the world seems to be – "Not all have sinned and fallen short, (Some of us are perfect. It's always the other guy.) and there is no glory of God. We have to be perfect because there is no cover for sin. We must have a scapegoat so that the sin of the evildoers is gone."

On the other hand, the Gospel is – "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. God's love covers a multitude of sins. Sin is wiped away by the blood of Jesus."

Ahh! what a breath of fresh air to hear that:

"Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5.  
"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered." Romans 4:7

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God covered their sin and shame with animal skins and thus there was the first shedding of blood.

Let us humble ourselves and know who we are – sinners in need of a Savior.

"Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

– Mary Atwood, churchletters.org

# IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

## Lesson Readers

Aug 7 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Hoyt Wheeland (P)  
Aug 14 Constance McDearmon (L),  
Marie Carstensen (P)  
Aug 21 Jim Conley (L) Susan Read (P)  
Aug 28 Jeanne Hickey (L) Teresa Moffitt (P)

## Acolytes

Aug 7 Sandi Ward  
Aug 14 Anna Brennan  
Aug 21 Marie Carstensen  
Aug 28 David Gwaltney

## Chalice Bearers

Aug 7 Constance McDearmon  
Aug 14 Tony Blackstone  
Aug 21 Constance McDearmon  
Aug 28 Tony Blackstone

## Chiming of the Hour

Aug 7 Phyllis Parrish, Doug Ludeman  
Aug 14 Jim Conley  
Aug 21 Elizabeth Lambertson, Pam Smith  
Aug 28 Bill Andrulot, John Parrish

## August Birthdays

Aug 8 Bart Morrison  
Aug 10 Mike Moffit  
Aug 18 Cindy Fife  
Aug 20 Jane Wrightson, Tony Blackstone  
Aug 24 Charlotte Hundley  
Aug 29 Jeanette Cralle  
Aug 31 Anna Brennan

*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.*

## Altar Guild

Aug 7 Anna Brennan  
Aug 14 Constance McDearmon, Sandi Ward  
Aug 21 Wendy Smith, Suzy Norman  
Aug 28 Julie Pritchard, Elizabeth Lambertson

## Tellers

Aug 7 Betty Dillingham  
Aug 14 Betty Dillingham, Jan Beckett  
Aug 21 Betty Dillingham, Pam Smith  
Aug 28 Betty Dillingham

## Vestry Person on Duty

Aug 7 Doug Ludeman  
Aug 14 George Beckett  
Aug 21 Doug Ludeman  
Aug 28 Sandi Ward

## August Anniversaries

Aug 20 Dana & Bill Bloom

*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.*

## Help Stop the Confusion!

Please let me know when you will be unavailable to cover your ministry duties so I can post the monthly schedules in the Beacon accurately.

During the month, if you cannot cover your duties, please find someone to cover for you and let me know, **no later than Wednesday prior** to your scheduled day. This gives me time to make the change before the bulletin is printed.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.  
Joyce



# Northern Neck Christian School

## Update on the 2022-2023 School Year

In 2019 the NNCSC had 6 students and this coming year we've registered 40 students. We are so grateful that more and more parents are finding the school and making the decision to invest in their child's future by choosing this Christian school. Additionally, we have a waiting list for the 3 and 4 year old classes.

This year is our last year at Zion Church as there are no more rooms for the school. To accommodate our growth, we are taking out a wall to make 1 room out of 2 rooms. We are very grateful that we were given permission to perform this minor construction.

In the coming year we are actively looking for property that can accommodate the long term plan for the school. We are developing a phased approach for buildings that will allow us to grow in a smart way. We are asking for your prayers that God will guide us as we go through this process. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.



## The Year In Review With Pictures



## IN THE DOING OF IT

Nothing will motivate us more than becoming better at what we do. As we dedicate ourselves to having Jesus at the center of our thoughts, our actions, and our words, we will begin to be motivated by “Christ being formed in us” (Gal. 4:19). This does not happen by accident but it has EVERYTHING to do with the doing of daily following Jesus. The more we follow, the more we are motivated to follow more closely. The more we follow closely, the more we love the Lord and are motivated to follow Him. The reason why so many people find a joyless Christianity is because they might be dedicated to *hearing*, but not *doing* (James 1:22).

What becomes joy is when you and I have followed Jesus for so long, that we have His mind and His heart (Gal. 5:16-26). We long for His grace and we long to show His grace to others. We clearly identify sin and choose what will glorify God most. We choose what is best based upon the word of our Savior. There is great peace and great surrender in having a daily attitude of, “what does my Lord want me to do?” So it’s not a matter of having to remember the “rules” all the time, but rather, so closely following Jesus that what is right becomes a necessary consequence of that. It comes through the doing (cf. 1 John 3:18; 1:4). Two keys to remember about motivating us in faithfully following Jesus:

**Express in your words and actions that you understand the difference Jesus makes to you (Luke 5:5).** For example: Instead of getting in the fight with husband or wife (or mom or dad or kids or coworker, etc.), say, “my Jesus wants me to honor Him by how I respond to you, therefore, I need to cool off before I say something. I love Him and I love you.” There is joyful liberation in Christ-honoring speech that can help us in motivating more Christlikeness in our life.

**Even when you fail in your words and actions, demonstrate the grace of Jesus extended to you by learning from the experience and seeking forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35).** The worst thing might be forgetting the grace God has shown to the point where we become unmerciful to others. You’ll never find, nor will you ever be, a person full of joy like that. The Lord wants you to be fully, and lovingly motivated to follow Him. Get motivated in the doing of it!

*Andy Baker  
Graeber Road Church of Christ  
Rosenberg, TX*

## Some Quotes Worth Pondering . . .

“Sometimes when I consider that tremendous consequences come from little things, I am tempted to think there are no little things.” “A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.”

## THE TODDLER’S CREED

Children are special people, especially toddlers. They have a rather unique view of the world. Someone has shared this insight into their thinking, called, “The Toddler’s Creed”:

*If I want it, it’s, mine.*

*If I give it to you and change my mind later, it’s mine.*

*If I can take it away from you, it’s mine.*

*If I had it a little while ago, it’s mine.*

*If it’s mine, it will never belong to anyone else, no matter what.*

*If we are building something together, all the pieces are mine.*

*If it looks just like mine, it’s mine.*

Every parent of a toddler knows that this is an accurate description of the world as they see it. While we expect this self-centered trait in toddlers, we find it very repulsive in older children and adults.

Many people live almost exclusively for themselves. Extreme self-interest is called “narcissism.” The narcissist thinks the world should revolve around them...everyone should focus on them, elevate them, cower to their wants and demands, and yield to their emotional manipulations.

Self is at the center of all sin. There is no room on the throne for Christ as long as self is king. Dying to self is essential to serving Christ. The apostle Paul taught that we should “count others better” than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

Sadly, toddlers are not the only ones who suffer from self-centeredness. Our culture worships at the alter of self. Our insatiable demand for fun, entertainment, and comfort leaves us approaching almost every issue with thoughts of how we are affected, not what effect our choices may have on others. Narcissistic Christianity is not Christ-centered, but is self-centered, and will ultimately destroy itself.

*Al Behel*

*The Great Smoky Mountains church of Christ  
Pigeon Forge, TN*

## THIEVES OF TIME

- Dwelling on past mistakes...
- Failing to make decisions...
- Failing to follow through on plans...
- Procrastinating...
- Laziness...
- Not sticking to the task at hand...
- Doubting God’s ability to help...

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

## *The Beacon*

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

*The deadline for the Beacon is the  
third Sunday of each month.*



### **Upcoming Events for August 2022**

**August 5, 19, 26**  
**FaithYoga - 1:30 p.m.**

**August 20**  
**Heathsville Farmers' Market**

**August 26**  
**Dinner & Movie Night - 5:30 p.m.**

### **Upcoming Events for September 2022**

**September 7**  
**New Bible Class Starts - "The Nature & Work of the Holy Spirit"**