



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON



P.O. Box 609 • Heathsville, Virginia 22473
9500 Northumberland Highway

804 580-4555 • email: lightofchristva@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/lightofchristva/

The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector

January 2023

In this issue:

[Page 1](#)

Mike's Message

[Page 2](#)

Vestry Nominees

[Page 3](#)

Gospel is for All
Be of Good Cheer
Grandma's Christmas
Strategy

[Page 4](#)

Paul's Dilemma
He Has no Servants
What I Love About Being a
Christian
Just One Request

[Page 5](#)

Northern Neck Christian
School

[Page 6](#)

In The Lord's Service

[Page 7](#)

Forms Needed by
January 15th

[Page 7](#)

Upcoming Events



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



Mike's Message

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” James 1:17 ESV

I have noticed down through the years that one of the most often heard comments at the beginning of the new year is “I sure hope that this year will be better than last year.” Many have suggested that it would almost have to be better than last year. 2022 brought with it a great many changes in our country and in our world. The news is filled with depressing stories of violence around the world and in our own country, political unrest, economic woes, pandemic, and a dizzying array of lies, half-truths, innuendos, and misinformation.

Years ago I was given a devotional book, “The Imitation of Christ”, by Thomas á Kempis that was published in Latin in the 1400s. Several people have translated the book, but I would like to share with you the 1881 translation into English by Reverend W. H. Hutchings. It contains the following passage about human suffering:

“No one is so touched with heartfelt sense of the Passion of Christ, as the man whose lot it has been to suffer like things. The cross, then, is always at hand, and everywhere awaits you...You cannot escape it, run where you will; for **wherever you go, you take yourself with you, and you will always find yourself.”**

Perhaps you've heard a common version often heard today, “Wherever you go, there you are.” I have found that little truism helpful because it reminds me that sometimes, dare I say most times, the change that I desire must begin with me. Turning back to the Book of James 1:19-20 helps describe this need.

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

As we move forward into 2023 perhaps we should ask God to change us so that those around us would experience the love of Christ dwelling within us. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:13-14 (Message). **“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive us quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.”**

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could help others have a better 2023 than they had in 2022 because Christ brought change within them through our love and witness. Shalom!



Betty Dillingham

I was born in Nashville, Tennessee and spent my younger days there. Married young and had three daughters before the marriage ended. I spent the next few years as part of the 1970's culture. Even though I was a believer, I was leaning too much on my own strength.

Then in 1978 God sent a good man my way. Over the next few years, Morris and I struggled to blend two families together. Thankfully, we finally invited God into our marriage. I realized we could live our lives "equally yoked", something I had never experienced before. It was such an amazing feeling. Not that it was easy but we didn't feel alone anymore.

In 2003 we left the crazy life of Northern Virginia and retired to the Northern Neck. God has been guiding us each step of the way. The funny God-incidence is Morris looking on the computer to see what churches were available in the NN. Lo and behold, up pops a picture of Jeff Cerar who had been a seminarian at our Franconia church. We both knew then this decision was exactly where God was leading and it's still true today.

Prior work history was mostly in Office Manager and Treasurer positions. That has continued at our church with my serving from 2009-2015 as Treasurer and 2016 to current day as Assistant Treasurer.

Father Mike's message has been to ask God to "use you" however He sees fit. There's an opportunity for service as a Vestry member. I would like to contribute if that's where I can also serve.

Thank you for considering me. Betty Dillingham



Pam Smith

Born oldest of three kids and raised in northern MD to loving, outdoorsy parents. Worked out of school at Edgewood Arsenal CRDL where I met Herb and we married.

The next 56 years included living in NC, FL, TX, GA, MD, VA, CA, Panama and included being an Army wife, veterinary practice manager/assistant, farmer, camping companion, step-mother off and on. Worked for Microbiological Associates as client services manager for 18 years before we retired to the northern neck where my journey towards my relationship with my Lord and Savior started to grow with Pastors Jeff and Mike.

Enjoyed many years working at the church thrift shop and all the wonderful volunteers. We belonged to St. Mary's and St. Stephen's. Then Light of Christ came into being, where I am home and will stay. Blessings. Pam



E. Tom Sennott

I grew up in Washington, D.C. and baptized in 1947. I graduated from University of Maryland with B.S Psychology, College Park, MD in 1963.

I graduated four-year program in Education for Ministry from University of South, School of Theology, Sewanee, Tennessee. The classes were held at Grace Church in Kilmarnock in 2020.

Carol and I married in the Episcopal Church, Clinton, MD, 47 years ago and we have three grown children. I was church choir director for three years at Battlefield Baptist Church, Broad Run, VA. I have been a Real Estate Broker for 50 years and still active.

I hope to be a contributor in carrying out the mission of Light of Christ.

Thank you, Tom Sennott



Hoyt Wheeland

I was born (1937) and raised in Chillicothe, Ohio. I attended University of Michigan (B.S., Master of Forestry) and The Ohio State University (Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics).

I married Joan Shoemaker in 1962, now deceased. We had three children, one (Stacey) surviving, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Work experiences include: Research Forester for the U.S. Forest Service 1962-67. Branch Chief for National Marine Fisheries Service 1967-1975. Consultant in information systems for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1975, 1980, 1983. Manager of Information Resources for the National Marine Fisheries Service from 1976-1991. Professional staff on Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, 1991-1993. Watershed Project Coordinator for Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 1994-2003.

Churches: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Heathsville, VA (Vestry); St. James Episcopal Church, Taos, NM; St. David's Episcopal Church in Aylett, VA (Lay Eucharistic Minister); Beulah Baptist Church, Aylett, VA (Elder); Light of Christ Anglican Church.

Ministries: Helping the homeless in downtown Richmond; food banks in Aylett and Burgess, VA; Meals-on-Wheels in King William, King&Queen, Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties; Bible study at Lancaster County Jail.

Thank you for considering me.

Hoyt

New Members- Inquirers Class January 22, 2022

I'll be offering a new members class for those who have expressed an interest in joining Light of Christ Anglican Church. Some who haven't yet made up their minds are also invited to gain more understanding of our Anglican distinctives and history.

Our devotion to Historic Anglicism gives us a deep commitment to the truths found within God's word and the purity of doctrine that has fashioned the people of God from the Apostolic teaching, the foundational Creeds, through the English Reformation and the Church of England.

You will find that we want to be diligent in reaching out to those without Christ, but we are not caught up with seeking to please our culture. Our heart is that our faithfulness to Jesus Christ will invite the culture to find new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ found through the word and Spirit of God.

We'll be discussing how to use our Book of Common Prayer and the resources found within our website. Each person attending will be given a notebook with our core beliefs and a summary of the distinctiveness of historic Anglicanism. This class is also available for those who are members but would like a refresher course on our identity. This will be a good opportunity to get to know others in our church community.

The first class will be after church on January 22nd, 2023. You will be given enough time to benefit from the culinary delights found at coffee hour. The class will be approximately an hour, but can run longer depending on the amount of questions. It will be held in the library or the adult classroom, depending on how many will be taking advantage of this offering.

Please let me know if you will be attending so that we can have enough books.

Blessings!
Mike

Message from the Office

Fortunately, we can put the 2022 rollercoaster behind us. I may not have known everyone's situation, but you were all in my prayers. And I thank you for yours, as my family was hit multiple times. I've said it before, the first day I started working here I found my home. You have been a true blessing in my life and I thank God every day for guiding me to LOC.

As with everyone else, 2022 was a year of challenges. My family had their share, but we not only survived, but we are so very thankful for all the good times we experienced. What joy!

I wish you the very best for the New Year.

Love, Joyce

The Gospel is for All

The gospel of Christ is:

Free. Even the poor can obtain it: "The poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).

Plain. Even the uneducated can understand it: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge" (Ephesians 3:1-6; cf. 2 Timothy 2:7).

Equalizing. The humble are raised by it and the proud are humbled by it (Peter 5:6; James 4:10).

Powerful. The weak are strengthened by it: "It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16).

Encouraging. The depressed are encouraged by it: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Comforting. The sorrowful are consoled by it: (Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Compensating. Obedient believers are rewarded by it for their works of faith and labors of love (Mark 10:28-30).

Are you following the true gospel of Christ?
Author Unknown

Be of Good Cheer

You cannot be *sour* and be a Christian! True Christianity chases gloom. Solomon said, "A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones" (Proverbs 17:22), and again in chapter 15:13, "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance." More than once Jesus commanded his disciples to "Be of Good Cheer."

The industrious bee does not stop to complain that here are so many poisonous flowers and thorny branches in his road passing by the places where it is not. There is enough to complain about and find fault with, if you have the disposition. We often travel on a hard and uneven road. But, with a cheerful spirit and a heart to praise God for His mercies, we may walk therein with comfort and come to the end of our journey in peace.

*via Waurika Church of Christ
Waurika, OK*

Grandma's Christmas Strategy

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks.

When asked what caused the behavior change, the grandmother said, "Simple. This year I didn't sign the checks."

Paul's Dilemma

As we read in the New Testament of Paul and his constant thoughts of his final goal, we can maybe see ourselves when we reach those golden years. Sometimes we might question the label of "golden years" when we suffer the aches and pains of old age and loss of abilities that we took for granted as younger Christians. But Paul rightly decides that it is good that he is still functioning for good purpose in his temporary body, working via power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes.

I have a friend with whom I frequently exchange emails. I began to see that he was really distraught over the frequent bad news and his inability to do anything to turn it around. He is a veteran and hero to me as his military career was highlighted by flying a rescue helicopter from a Navy ship off Vietnam. Those downed airmen must have really thought of him as a hero long before I did. I came across this scripture in my bible reading and it seemed to apply to all of us who are reaching that age where we look to the final goal of seeing God face to face. I reminded my friend of his service, how he had done more for his country than most Americans and sent him the Philippians verses, telling him that God may still have a purpose for us, even at 83 years old. His response was "You nailed it!"

Philippians 1:21-24

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

I believe that we are still active and working for Christ at Light of Christ Anglican Church, no matter what our age. Our support and financial assistance to the next generation of Americans via the Northern Neck Christian School is something to be joyful about, even at 83 or whatever age we may be.

In this time of celebration of Christ's birth, we should keep in mind that

It all began with a child.

God's peace to you all,
Mo

He Had No Servants

Jesus had no servants, yet they call Him Master.
He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, but they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Author Unknown

What I Love about Being a Christian

I love being a child of the King! Why?

First, Christians have a family. God designed the physical family in the paradise of Eden (cf. Genesis 2:7; 18). Most of us enjoy that blessing from God. In the New Testament, God gave us a second family--relationships with other church members. If our physical family fails us, especially, God has given us the substitute of a family in Christ (cf. Mark 10:29-30). Christians love to sing of this truth:

*We're part of the family, that's been born again,
Part of the family,
whose love knows no end, For Jesus has saved us,
and made us His own,
Now we're part of the family that's on its way home!*

Second, Christians have a function. Our foremost purpose in life is to bring glory to our Father (cf. Matthew 5:16; Peter 2:12). Therefore, our aim is to do "in word or deed" all we do by the authority of Jesus Christ (cf. Colossians 3:17; Acts 4:7-10). Our speech (Colossians 4:6), attitudes (Philippians 2:1-5), clothing (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4), and daily work (Colossians 3:22) should reflect Jesus (1 Peter 1:1-9; Romans 6:22). Truly, I know not what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow!

A family, function, and future--all free. Jesus is still taking followers!

*Rodney Nulph
Gospel Gazzett*

Just One Request

Dear Master, for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing...
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master, make me swift to hear
and ready to obey,
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be.
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

via Cisco Church of Christ, Cisco, TX



Northern Neck Christian School

Member of the Anglican School Association

January 2023



The Northern Neck Christian School presented “Sing a Song of Christmas” on December 10, 2022 at Light of Christ Anglican Church. The program featured students singing familiar Christmas Carols, narration of the Christmas story, a poem and many Bible verses to the great pleasure of a standing room only audience of family and friends of the school. Thank you everyone!



The video is on Youtube, just search on Northern Neck Christian School. Special thanks to Randy Smith and Wayne Hamlett who managed the audio and video recording.



Our Kindergarten—2nd grade students amazed and delighted shoppers in Kilmarnock on Dec 14, with Christmas Caroling throughout the town. We had lunch at Anna’s followed by more caroling at Walmart. Shoppers were thrilled to see children singing Christmas songs. Don’t be surprised if you see us next year while you’re shopping.



IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Jan 1 Anna Brennan
Jan 8 Marie Carstensen
Jan 15 Ed Feddeman
Jan 22 David Gwaltney
Jan 29 Constance McDearmon

Lessons/Prayers

Jan 1 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Jim Conley (P)
Jan 8 Constance McDearmon (L), Betty Dillingham (P)
Jan 15 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Jan 22 Marie Carstensen (L), Julie Pritchard (P)
Jan 29 Jeanne Hickey (L), Susan Read (L)

Chalice Bearers

Jan 1 Anna Brennan
Jan 8 Marie Carstensen
Jan 15 Ed Feddeman
Jan 22 Tony Blackstone
Jan 29 Constance McDearmon

Chiming of the Hour

Jan 1 Phyllis Parrish, Doug Ludeman
Jan 8 Jim Conley
Jan 15 Elizabeth Lambertson, Pam Smith
Jan 22 Bill Andrulot, John Parrish
Jan 29 Sandi Ward

January Birthdays

Jan 4 Pauline Edmonds, Steve Proctor
Jan 5 Doris Myers
Jan 6 Caitlyn Cralle Berg, Tom Sennott
Jan 10 Patricia Brennan
Jan 17 Lydia Boyd
Jan 18 Teresa Moffitt
Jan 19 Al Myers
Jan 27 Charles Wrightson, William Tracey
Jan 29 Leslye Morrison

*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

Jan 1 Anna Brennan
Jan 8 Constance McDearmon
Jan 15 Wendy Smith, Anna Brennan
Jan 22 Julie Pritchard, Elizabeth Lambertson
Jan 29 Constance McDearmon

Tellers

Jan 1 Courtney Ludeman
Jan 8 Courtney Ludeman, Jan Beckett
Jan 15 Courtney Ludeman, Pam Smith
Jan 22 Courtney Ludeman
Jan 29 Courtney Ludeman

Vestry Person on Duty

Jan 1 Constance McDearmon
Jan 8 Ed Feddeman
Jan 15 Doug Ludeman
Jan 22 Ed Feddeman
Jan 29 Sandi Ward

January Anniversaries

Jan 24 Lynn & Howard York
Jan 25 Phyllis & Walt TeStrake

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;

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.



Help is Needed

We need more people to handle various ministries. Please pray on it, and let us know if you want to make a big impact by serving God in some small way.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.
Joyce

FORMS NEEDED BY JANUARY 15TH

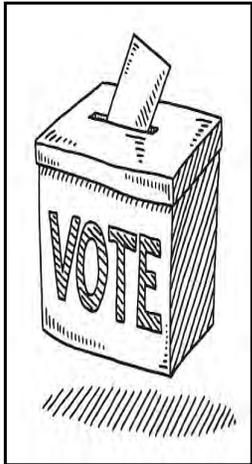
**Light of Christ Anglican Church
2023 Financial Pledge**

In thanksgiving to God for all that He has given us,

I/we pledge \$ _____ per week (or) **YES** **NO** I would like offering envelopes.
\$ _____ per month (or) Please send information on
\$ _____ per year bequests and long-term giving.

Print name(s) _____ Signed _____

*Please bring this pledge to church on or before Sunday, January 15, 2022
and place it in the offering basket
or mail it to the church office (P.O. Box 609 Heathsville VA 22473).*



**Vestry
Elections**

Sunday,
January 15
following our
10:00 a.m.

**2023 Vestry Nominees
Please vote: Circle 2**

Betty Dillingham

Pam Smith

Tom Sennott

Hoyt Wheeland

Drop you slip in the Vestry box in Narthex

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 January 2022

January 2 - Office will be closed

January 15 - Congregational Meeting

**January 22, 29, February 5, 12 - New Members Class
Everyone interested is invited**

(dates & title TBD) - New Bible Class