



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector



April 2023

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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

Two years ago Brian Zimmerman, a friend of mine from Roanoke was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. It had entered the lung through the esophagus which is also cancerous. Many of you likely remember because I have asked for prayer for Brian and his family. One of the ways that he has dealt with this terminal diagnosis is to pursue God in prayer and write a weekly blog chronicling the journey. He has delved into the scriptures to have a greater understanding of how a believer should face the reality that death is eminent. I wanted to share Brian latest article. You can read them yourself at dyingman.org.

Acts 3:14-15 14 *"But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, [the one] whom God raised from the dead, [a fact] to which we are witnesses."*

We continue to look at Peter's sermons in the book of Acts as he points the finger at his countrymen, holding them responsible for the death of Jesus. Peter uses a number of titles for Jesus in this sermon: the Christ, (God's) servant, the Holy One, the Righteous One. The title that seems most important to Peter in his accusation (the one he uses in the passage I quote above) (vs. 15): "[you] put to death the Prince of Life..." Another possible translation for "Prince" is "Author", so we would read: "... the Author of life."

How can one who is in charge of, or the one who created life itself be put to death? It would seem impossible to do. Yet Jesus, who brought about life in the universe at the beginning of creation and begins again with new life in the new creation, still died on a cross. Though He was God, Jesus was also a man and so subject to death, and could be executed by His own people as Peter says. But God the Father raised Him from the dead. Death could not hold Jesus because of the power of the Spirit. This escape from death was not imaginary, fictional, or a wishing and hoping dream. It was "a fact to which we are witnesses."

Peter declares that just as a flesh and blood Jesus died and was put in the ground, so is the fact that a flesh and blood Jesus woke up and became the Author of life yet again, this time of a new life of immortality, one no longer subject to death or decay.

Once more, we who are still subject to death and may have already (or definitely will receive) a terminal diagnosis, now have the certainty, hope, and even joy of knowing that we have not just a great example or teacher, but the author of life who cannot be held by death. That hope has been attested to as fact, His new life proclaimed by His earliest and closest disciples. These who found new courage to speak of this work of life had that courage because of this new life. They proclaim it to others who are also in great need of hope to escape their fear as well as their certainty of death. Peter pronounces

Continued

not just an accusation of guilt and condemnation but offers the blessing of a springtime of never-ending life. We must reflect on that message when we receive our terminal diagnosis, or whenever we have the opportunity to share this fact with those who live still under the shadow of death, a sad place of despair and darkness.

Blessings

Why Do Bible Study?

Is this a silly question or does it deserve a little attention? Actually, Bible study is a fundamental and indispensable part of the life of the church (Acts 2:42). Bible study is where we should really be able to have fellowship with one another in the context of God's Word. Here we are sharers in the Holy Spirit leading us into all the truth. It is not an academic exercise, but a honing of our understanding and discernment in the Spirit.

I recently started another study at a church in Essex County. We decided to begin with the Gospel of John. The reason for this is because John's gospel uniquely shows Jesus interacting on a profoundly personal level with a wide range of people. The Lord isn't so much performing miracles as He is drawing out the deepest questions people have. In most cases they have questions they aren't even able to articulate, but Jesus still draws it out of them. He also gives them answers in such a way that they are led to keep searching and reflecting. We see clearly here that Jesus very much approves of questions and reflection. Jesus is pleased with our searching. I should be the normal orientation of people serious about the faith. He is not pleased with us reducing the faith to something simplistic and formulaic. There is also another example in John where Jesus heals a man whom He comes to find has no serious questions. Jesus strongly reproves the man for his indifference. This is not who we are though. C. S. Lewis once said that every Christian is a theologian. It is our life's work to seek and reflect on the knowledge of God. We can do this alone of course, but it is also important for us to do it together.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to everyone to join us Thursday afternoons here at Light of Christ. Our discussions are always lively and informative. We often discuss questions people may not have fully considered or understood. We also often discuss how to read the Scriptures because that is not always as self-evident as might be assumed. We try to connect all the dots in Scripture. This is a time of fellowship in the Spirit. There is no cause for anyone to feel left out, uncomfortable, or consigned to the sidelines. Please join us. We believe you will be glad you did.

Todd Lewis



Senior Warden Report

Sweet Light of Christ family,

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go down to the house of the LORD". Ps 122:1

This was the opening verse for morning prayer on my phone app Sunday morning. I was instructed to briefly meditate on the verse to prepare my heart. "I was glad". The first thing that came to me was I didn't feel that glad to go to church. After asking God for forgiveness and help for my heart, I then meditated on "the LORD." The LORD, maker of heaven and earth. The LORD, ruler of the universe. The LORD, Father of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ "who loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God". Eph 5:2. The LORD, who gives us His Word and lives in us by His Spirit so that we can grow in grace and knowledge of Him.

Now my heart was warming up! I then thought about how the psalmist said, "let us go to the house of the LORD". Let us go to our sweet church where we gather as a community, together, with one another, to worship this amazing God. Together, we hear the reading and preaching of the Word which saved us and changes us. We share the family meal of Holy Communion. We sing as a congregation. We pray "prayers of the people" and share our testimonies of what the LORD has done for us so, as Lydia said, we can be encouraged like iron sharpening iron. No wonder the Psalmist was glad when they said to him, "Let us go down to the house of the LORD"!

What a privilege and gift it is to worship in such a church as Light of Christ! We want to share that with our community. The Vestry noticed there were only 8 visitor entries in the guest book for the last 4 1/2 months. So the Vestry started the "8 in 8" initiative. Please join us in asking God to add 8 or more visitor entries to our guest book in the next 8 weeks. Ask your friends, neighbors or strangers on the street to come to church. Better yet, bring them.

Come and work at our booth at the Heathsville Farmer's market the third Saturday of each month between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. starting April 15th. We will have a sign up schedule of volunteers posted in the Fellowship Hall Sunday. It is a lot of fun and you get to invite people to church! We believe that God is going to grow us. People will be coming to Christ and will be baptized. We are trusting God to advance His kingdom by using our church. What better way is there for our sweet church to be the Light of Christ to the community than by having our community come to church to "taste and see that the LORD is good!" Ps. 34:8.

God bless,
Doug Ludeman

My Psalm by Betty Cralle

My God, My God where art Thou
I need to feel your Presence,

I look but I do not see You
I listen but I do not hear You
I need you Lord.

I search my soul for your Holy Spirit
And there You are
Alleluia, I can see You
Alleluia, I can hear You
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Peace comes surely
Like a warm, gentle breeze across my face
My love that had died, You rekindled it

First a spark and then the flame
My heart beats calmly.
I hear the words, I will fulfill your every need.
I will never leave You.
Thank you my Lord

Go Ahead and Use Some Profanity

Several years ago a friend of mine was being transported by ambulance for treatment at an emergency room. He was suffering with intense pain. One of the attendants on the ambulance, as he sensed my friend's discomfort, suggested to him, "Go ahead and use some profanity." He assured my friend this would make him feel better.

Today's society is more accepting of profanity than perhaps ever before. It has not been many years ago that honorable men would refrain from using crude language in the presence of women. Now both men and women freely use profane and filthy language, even in public.

We find in the Scriptures many warnings relative to the danger of inappropriate language (cursing, profanity, etc.). The following is a sampling:

- "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." Matthew 15:11).
- "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place." (Ephesians 5:4).
- "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless." (James 1:26).

Continued

You and I need to be conscientious regarding abstaining from using inappropriate language. Jesus cautioned, "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Psalmist David prayed, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and redeemer." (Psalm 19:14). One writer commented on this verse. "David closed this glorious psalm with a humble surrender of his mouth and heart to God. He knew that real godliness was not only a matter of what a man did but also what he said and thought in his heart.

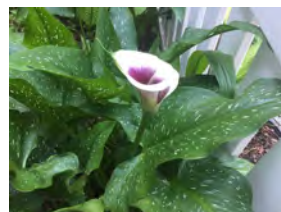
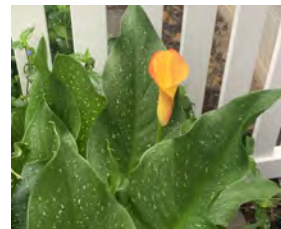
Theodore Roosevelt wisely stated, "Profanity is the parlance of the fool. Why curse when there is such a magnificent language with which to discourse."

Bruce Ligon

*Bellville Church of Christ
Bellvill, TX*

Calla Lily Bulbs

I have many calla bulbs available for the taking. There are the typical solid white callas as well as the Picasso variety (white with purple inside) and a few of the Flame variety (orange/red color). I can either bring them to church or you can pick them up near Kilmarnock. Let me know if you'd like some.



Betty Dillingham

Planting Seeds

I'm no poet, but I certainly appreciate those who can create thought-provoking and vivid images with the words that they write. I came across an ever-so-brief poem recently that has made quite an impression on me. It is called, "Forecast" by Luci Shaw:

"Planting seeds
Inevitably
Changes my feelings
About rain"

There are numerous helpful insights here, many of them theological in nature.

First, a new perspective on adversity. Commonly, rain is seen as a nuisance. Of course we all acknowledge that such is necessary for life, but rare is the person who is thankful the ballgame was rained out. Unusual is the person who picnics, ride bikes, drives convertibles, or plays golf in the rain. Many avoid doing much of anything if it happens to be raining.

However, we should be reminded that disappointment and adversity can build character. We are all going to go through difficult stages in life. When we do, let us look for the good. "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Heb. 12:11).

Second, a new perspective on labor. Hard work pays off. The investment of time and energy pays off, even if it may not be immediate. So, take the time to plant seeds. Plant seeds of kindness. Plant seeds of the Gospel. The difficult and uncomfortable conversations matter and they make a difference. Paul planted seeds (1 Cor. 3:6). The Lord often used the imagery of planting seeds in His ministry. From the way people would receive the Good News (Matt. 13:1-23) to the way the Kingdom would grow (Matt. 13:31-32).

Third, a new perspective on hope. Let us be patient with God and His plan. Sometimes it is difficult to see past the storm clouds. However, without the rain, there is no growth. We must learn to trust God to bless us with blue skies after the storm. "He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps. 126:6).

Bart Warren
South Green Street Church of Christ
Glasgow, KY



Hope Happy makes
you smile today!

The Color of Love

Purple was the robe,
the beaten Jesus wore (John 19:2)
Brown, the thorny crown
which in much pain He bore (Matt. 27:19)

White, the sinlessness
from which He didn't shrink (Heb. 4:15)
Yellow, the bitter gall
that He'd refuse to drink (Matt. 27:34)

Green, the lovely plants
nearby Calvary's hill (John 19:41)
Red, the precious blood
that today heals us still (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

Orange, the noon-day sun
before it was covered o'er (Luke 23:45)
Black, the darkened sky
as black as ne'er before (Luke 23:44)

Gray the ashen hue
of a dying Man's face (Luke 23:46)
Blue the beautiful heav'n
whence came God's saving grace (1 Pet. 1:10-12)

How vivid Calv'ry's scene
emblazoned from above (Rom. 5:8)
The stark hues and colors
remind us of God's love! (1Pet. 4:10*)

(*note: "manifold" or "varied" in 1 Pet. 3:10 actually means "multicolored")

Edd Sterchi
Broadway Church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY

Improvement Requires Focus

Warren Buffett reads all day to build the knowledge necessary for his investments. Stephen King writes 1,000 words a day, 365 days a year. Athlete Eliud Kipchoge makes notes after each training session to establish areas that can be improved. Habits, repeated hundreds of times over the years, are powerful. The benefits of these non-negotiable actions compound and lead to extraordinary achievements. Read your Bible daily. Do something positive daily. Pray consistently. Teach someone the gospel each week.

On the Lighter Side

A man went into a jewelry store and asked to look at a piece of jewelry. The jeweler showed him the article for \$100. "Oh no", the man said, "That's too pricey." The jeweler showed him more all the way down to \$20 jewelry. The man said he would like to see something really cheap and the jeweler handed him...a mirror.



Northern Neck Christian School
Member of the Anglican School Association

April 2023



NNKCS Newest Volunteer

Eugenia Linden has blessed us mightily by bringing her music skills to us during Chapel. She knows many songs and has a gift of getting children and adults to sing with enthusiasm. We thank her for her ministry.



What does **412** mean to 1st and 2nd grade students?



It's the number of additional pages they read this past week in their books.



The challenge was to read more than 300 pages which was last weeks additional pages read.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Apr 2 Constance McDearmon
Apr 6 Ed Feddeman
Apr 7 David Gwaltney
Apr 9 David Gwaltney
Apr 16 Anna Brennan
Apr 23 Marie Carstensen
Apr 30 Ed Feddeman

Lessons/Prayers

Apr 2 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Jim Conley (P)
Apr 6 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Apr 7 Jeanne Hickey (L)
Apr 9 Marie Carstensen (L), Susan Read (P)
Apr 16 Ed Feddeman (L), Julie Pritchard (P)
Apr 23 Jim Conley (L), Constance McDearmon (P)
Apr 30 Susan Read (L), Hoyt Wheeland (P)

Chalice Bearers

Apr 2 Constance McDearmon
Apr 9 Tony Blackstone
Apr 16 Hoyt Wheeland
Apr 23 Marie Carstensen
Apr 30 Ed Feddeman

Chiming of the Hour

Apr 2 Phyllis Parrish
Apr 9 Jim Conley
Apr 16 Elizabeth Lambertson
Apr 23 Bill Andrulot
Apr 30 Pam Smith

April Birthdays

Apr 2 Chris Cralle
Apr 3 Eleanor Semerjian
Apr 22 Agnes Burke

*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

Apr 2 Anna Brennan
Apr 6 Anna Brennan
Apr 7 Anna Brennan
Apr 9 ?
Apr 16 Constance McDearmon
Apr 23 Anna Brennan, Wendy Smith
Apr 30 Elizabeth Lambertson, Julie Pritchard

Tellers

Apr 2 Betty Dillingham, George Beckett
Apr 6 Betty Dillingham
Apr 7 Betty Dillingham
Apr 9 Betty Dillingham, Mickey Jennings
Apr 16 Betty Dillingham, Phyllis Parrish
Apr 23 Betty Dillingham, Susan Read
Apr 30 Betty Dillingham, Pam Smith

Vestry Person on Duty

Apr 2 Ed Feddeman
Apr 9 Hoyt Wheeland
Apr 23 Doug Ludeman
Apr 30 Constance McDearmon

April

Apr 1 Charlaine & Bill Andrulot
Apr 28 Courtney & Doug Ludeman

O God, our times are in your hand.

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

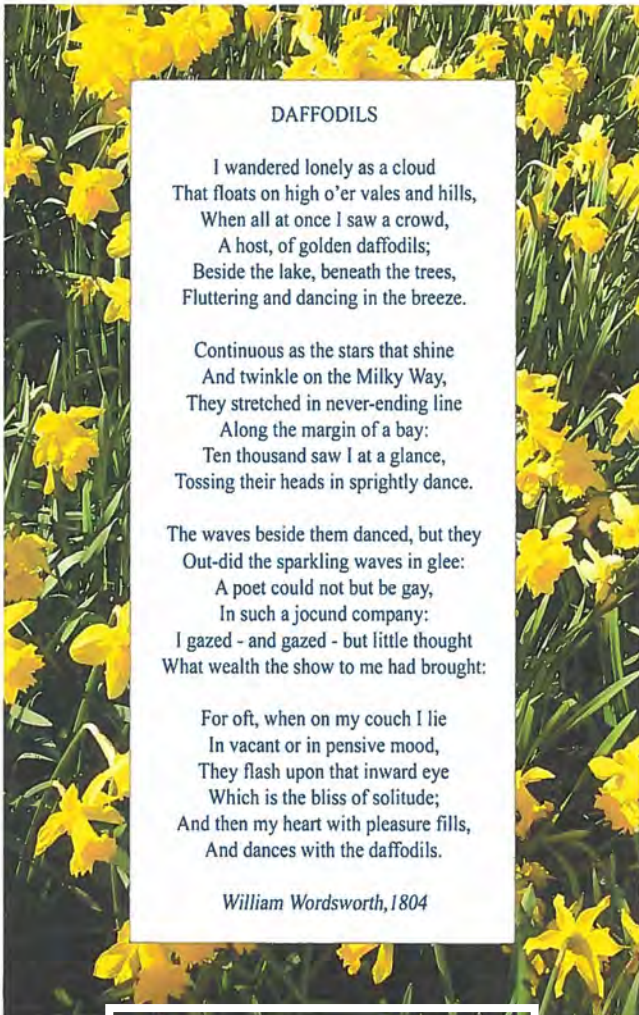
CALENDAR

Updates in blue

APRIL:

Sunday - 2	Palm Sunday	10 a.m.
Thursday - 6	Maundy Thursday Service	6 p.m.
Friday - 7	Good Friday Service	6 p.m.
Sunday - 9	Easter Service	10 a.m.
Monday - 10	Office Closed	
Tuesday - 25	"Behold Your God" Bible Study at LOC	6 p.m.
Wednesday - 12, 19, 26	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 12	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory" at LOC	1 p.m.
Thursday - 13, 20, 27	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 14, 21, 28	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Saturday - 15	First Heathsville Farmers' Market	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friday - 28	Free Dinner & Movie - "I am Potential"	5 p.m.

Special Note: 15th - 22nd - Mike and Bart at Gafcon in Kigali, Rwanda



DAFFODILS

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth, 1804

Contributed by Joy Gwaltney

Voice and Song



Do you love to sing? Please pray about joining our Sunday choir. We **rehearse weekly on Sunday morning starting at 9:00A.M. for the 10:00A.M. service.** If you are interested, please email Jan Beckett at: JanBeckett2@outlook.com



The LOC Ringers have too many bells and not enough arms.

HELP!!!

We need more ringers

Beginning February 5th, we practice on Sunday's at 12:00-1:00. There is no requirement to read music. If you can count to 4 and know your right hand from your left hand....you can be a fabulous ringer. Let Leslye Morrison know if you want to try it out (703-725-2997) .

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

The Beacon

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



Bible Quiz: Revelation 21:17-27

1. The wall measured _____ cubits.
2. "The construction of its wall was of _____; and the city was pure _____, like clear _____.
3. The twelve gates were of what precious gem? _____
4. "The city had no need of the _____ or of the _____ to shine in it, for the glory of God _____ it. The Lamb *is* its light."
5. "But there shall by no means enter it anything that _____, or causes an _____ or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of _____."

Quotes

"We are dealing with God's thoughts: we are obligated to take the greatest pains to understand them truly and to explain them clearly." D.A. Carson

"The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian." A. W. Tozer

"The most vital, creative, and positive thoughts are those stated in the Bible. Its words are alive and form powerful thought processes." Norman Vincent Peale, *Have a Great Day*