



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



May 2023

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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

The other day someone on Facebook posted this: "If Paul could see the church in America today, we'd be getting a letter."

As many of you know Bart Morrison and I traveled to Kigali, Rwanda to attend the "Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) held April 17-21. It was a powerful time of worship, teaching, and fellowship. There were 1302 people from 52 countries attending comprised of 315 bishops, 456 other clergy and 531 laity. This was the fourth GAFCON conference. The first and third were held in Jerusalem in 2008 and 2018 and the third held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2013.

Our conference theme for 2023 was 'To Whom Shall We Go?' (John 6:68), and our daily Bible studies were from Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Throughout the week we focused our attention on Jesus, the one in whom all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form, the Lord of all creation and the head of his body, the church (Colossians 1:15-19; 2:9).

Our Archbishop Foley Beach who has been the chairman of GAFCON since 2018 opened the conference. His opening address encouraged us to be a repenting church, a reconciling church, a reproducing church, and a relentlessly compassionate church. This is the church we want to be. We were reminded that the purpose and mission of God's people is to make known to a lost world the glorious riches of the gospel by proclaiming Christ crucified and risen and living faithfully together as his disciples.

Throughout the week we were reminded that unless we follow the clear teachings of Scripture we will end up following that which is not scripture. That statement would seem to be obvious, and it should be; but unless we keep our eyes upon Jesus we will find ourselves following what is often merely a different gospel that sounds like it could be the truth of God. Those who have walked away from the authority of God's word often use words that are familiar and sound Christ-like words like unity, love, compassion, and peace; but what they mean is often the antithesis of the meaning to be gleaned from Scripture.

Last week I sent out an email to our church pointing to the "GAFCON Kigali Statement" released on April 21, 2023 at GAFCON IV Kigali, Rwanda. The following text is from that statement:

"The current divisions in the Anglican Communion have been caused by radical departures from the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some within the Communion have been taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies of this world (Colossians 2:8).

Continued

Such a failure to hear and heed God's Word undermines the mission of the church as a whole.

The Bible is God's Word written, breathed out by God as it was written by his faithful messengers (2 Timothy 3:16). It carries God's own authority, is its own interpreter, and it does not need to be supplemented, nor can it ever be overturned by human wisdom. God's good Word is the rule of our lives as disciples of Jesus and is the final authority in the church. It grounds, energizes and directs our mission in the world. The fellowship we enjoy with our risen and ascended Lord is nourished as we trust God's Word, obey it, and encourage each other to allow it to shape each area of our lives. This fellowship is broken when we turn aside from God's Word or attempt to reinterpret it in any way that overturns the plain reading of the text in its canonical context and so deny its truthfulness, clarity, sufficiency, and thereby its authority (Jerusalem Declaration #2).

Despite 25 years of persistent warnings by most Anglican Bishops (Primates), repeated departures from the authority of God's Word have torn the fabric of the Communion. These warnings were blatantly and deliberately disregarded and now without repentance this tear cannot be mended.

The latest of these departures is the majority vote by the General Synod of the Church of England in February 2023 to welcome proposals by the bishops to enable same-sex couples to receive God's blessing. It grieves the Holy Spirit and us that the leadership of the Church of England is determined to bless sin."

The only way anyone can believe that God blesses same-sex unions is to depart from his Holy Word and follow after a god of their own making. For a minister of the Gospel to teach such deception and craft prayers that invoke blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is to willingly deceive those who are ignorant of the God of Scripture and who follow blindly the teaching of those they trust.

Public statements by the Archbishop of Canterbury and other leaders of the Church of England in support of same-sex blessings are a betrayal of their ordination and consecration vows to banish error and to uphold and defend the truth taught in Scripture.

It was an honor and joy to listen to the sound exposition of God's word by men who have personally paid the price for faithfully following Jesus Christ. Rather than bemoan the fact that it has cost them dearly they are celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ as their highest joy and gladly follow Him wherever He leads them. I was so glad that God led them to Kigali, Rwanda last week. I have added them to my "Cloud of Witnesses". Hebrews 12: 1-2, "Therefore, since we

are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Beginning our Journey



Ben Kwashi and Mike



GAFCON 2023



Senior Warden Report

Sweet Light of Christ family,

This week I read "6 Church Members Who Build Up a Church" by Pastor Chopo Mwanza of Zambia. Mentioned among the builders of a church were those members who attend, pray, serve, etc. The church member that stood out to me is the church member who encourages. "The encouraging member commends, recommends, praises, thanks, comforts, urges, supports and compliments other members," he wrote.

Sincerely encouraging one another builds the church by lifting one another up. Who among us doesn't need encouragement? We all are struggling in some way or another. We all have our places of brokenness and hurt. "Encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all," 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Encouragement is affirming and restorative. Encouragement is Godlike. "May the God...of encouragement grant you to live in.. such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 15:5. God's word is encouraging. "The faithful love of the Lord never ends," Lamentations 3:22.

How encouraging is that! Light of Christ has encouraging members. I see this when we tell of the ways God has helped us before the church services each Sunday morning. When Jim Conley preached in Mike's absence, I saw an eagerly encouraging congregation with all the back and forth that went on. Marie Carstensen's faithful prayer e-mails are another example. How encouraging is it to know that we are being prayed for! This is a sweet encouraging church!

One opportunity we have to be encouraging is coming up Sunday, May 27. Mike and Teresa are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary the day before. This is a big deal!! We want to honor them and celebrate with them after the service with an all church fellowship time. We are asking you to write down something that you think would be encouraging to them--either a memory, Bible passage or a note of thanks for their faithful friendship and service to us. ALSO, please write down your best advice that you can impart to them to help them make the next 50 years more blessed than the first 50!

We also want to hear from those of you who have moved or now worship with us by live stream. E-mail Joyce at the church office or give to Constance McDearmon or me. We will also have a box on the vestry table.

One last thing, don't forget to invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to church!

Encouraged by you all,

Doug Ludeman

The One Year Experiencing God's Presence Devotional

by Chris Tiegreen

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

The Presence of the Spirit within is not just an individual experience. God inhabits the community in a way that requires individuals to access Him there. He has faces we can't see unless we see them in each other. The fellowship of believers is an essential part of knowing God.

Why doesn't God give us as individuals everything we need in our relationship with Him? Because He absolutely refuses to put us in a position of independence and self-sufficiency. He created us not only to be dependent on Him but to be interdependent with others. That's why He distributes spiritual gifts among His people rather than equipping any one person with all of them. The body of Christ has many parts; He will not allow them to be in a position of functioning separately.

If you want a full experience of the Presence of God, spend plenty of time with other Christians. Benefit from their gifts. Listen to their experiences. Search for His face in theirs. Each person experiences His heart uniquely. The more we share in those experiences with other, the broader our own experience with Him becomes. God is present in a unique way in the collective body of His people.

Seek fellowship-at church services, in small groups, in spiritual friendships-as a means to experience God. If you think you can do without gatherings, think again. God attends our meetings. He is present at our tables. He shows Himself in a variety of ways through a variety of people, and only by encountering them can we encounter Him in those ways.

Spirit, I want to see You in the faces of others. I want to connect with You through their gifts and experiences. Please help me see the ultimate treasure--You--in them.

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Page sent in by Jeanne Hickey

God in Our Families

Happy moments: praise God (James 5:13).

Difficult moments: seek God (Psalm 63:1).

Quiet moments: worship God (Psalm 4:4).

Painful moments: trust God (Psalm 7:1).

Every moment: thank God (Psalm 100:4).

God is in Control!

When the Israelites were escaping from slavery with the Egyptians in hot pursuit, they stopped at the Red Sea. It seemed they were now between a rock and a hard place. But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today" (Exodus 14:13). God then parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites crossed it safely and then it closed on the advancing Egyptians. In essence, Moses' words to them were: "Don't worry. We are right where God wants us to be. God is in control. Trust in Him. Just you wait and see."

Friends, this is a message that needs to resonate well within us today--God is in control. It doesn't matter what is happening in the economy. It doesn't matter what the election results are. It doesn't matter what immoralities are now being allowed by law. God is in control.

And still we fret and worry about our lives. But Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life" (Matthew 6:25). And still we grumble and complain about things not going to our liking. But Paul said through inspiration, "Do all things without complaining" (Philippians 2:14). And still we waste time and resources trying to rectify matters beyond our control. And God says, "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand" (Isaiah 24:14).

Look at it this way. God's job is to keep control of the situation--and He's always on the job. Our job is to trust in Him and praise Him all the day long. Someone once noted "Things don't always go our way, but they always go God's way--and His way is best."

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Ed Sterchi
Broadway Church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY

How Good is the God We Adore!

How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend;
his love is as great as his pow'r
and knows neither measure nor end.
For Christ is the first and the last;
his Spirit will guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come.

Joseph Hart
found in the Bulletin Digest

Mother's Day is Remembrance Day

by Helen Steiner Rice

We pause on the path of the year
To pay honor and worshipful tribute
To the Mother our heart holds dear...

For, whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide,
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside...

Time cannot destroy her memory
And years can never erase

The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face...

And, when we think of our Mother,

We draw nearer to God above,

For only God in His Greatness

Could fashion a MOTHER'S LOVE.

Mom's Dictionary

Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

Feedback: The inevitable result when your baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Full name: What you call your child when you're made at him.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Hearsay: What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

Impregnable: A woman whose memory of labor is still vivid.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Ow: The first word spoken by children with older siblings.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterlize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Top bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman pajamas.

Two minute warning: When the baby's face turns red and he/she begins to make those familiar grunting noises.

Verbal: Able to whine in words.

Whodunit: None of the kids that live in your house...

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

May 7 David Gwaltney
May 14 Constance McDearmon
May 21 Anna Brennan
May 28 Marie Carstensen

Lessons/Prayers

May 7 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Betty Dillingham (P)
May 14 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
May 21 Jeanne Hickey (L) Susan Read (P)
May 28 Jim Conley (L), Julie Pritchard (P)

Chalice Bearers

May 7 David Gwaltney
May 14 Constance McDearmon
May 21 Anna Brennan
May 28 Marie Carstensen

Chiming of the Hour

May 7 Phyllis Parrish
May 14 Jim Conley
May 21 Elizabeth Lambertson
May 28 Bill Andrulot

May Birthdays

May 1 Trevor Elmore
May 10 Bill Andrulot
May 14 Joan Blackstone
May 16 Sandi Ward
May 21 Tashia Elmore
May 23 Ed Feddeman
May 26 Betty Dillingham, Joyce 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.*

Altar Guild

May 7 Anna Brennan
May 14 Constance McDearmon
May 21 Anna Brennan, Wendy Smith
May 28 Elizabeth Lambertson, Julie Pritchard

Tellers

May 7 Courtney Ludeman, George Beckett
May 14 Courtney Ludeman, Mickey Jennings
May 21 Courtney Ludeman, Phyllis Parrish
May 28 Courtney Ludeman, Susan Read

Vestry Person on Duty

May 7 Ed Feddeman
May 14 Hoyt Wheeland
May 21 Doug Ludeman
May 28 Constance McDearmon

May

May 12 Gail & Ed Feddeman
May 23 Saunee & Wayne Hamlett
May 26 Teresa & Mike Moffitt (50th!)

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.



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

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.*



Bible Quiz: Revelation 22:18-21

1. "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the _____ of this a _____."
2. "If anyone _____ to these things, God will add to him the _____ written in this book..."
3. Those who take away from the words of the book God would take away his _____ from the Book of _____.
4. Who is the one who testifies to these things that are written?
5. "_____ I am _____ quickly."

Quotes

"If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain." Emily Dickinson

"Patience is the companion of wisdom." Augustine

"Patience make lighter what sorrow may not heal." Horace

"Wise men learn from other men's mistakes, fools by their own." H. G. Bohn

"Action may not always bring happiness, but there is no happiness without action." William James