



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON



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The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector

June 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

I want to begin by thanking everyone who provided financial and prayer support for Bart and I on our recent trip to GAFCON in Kigali, Rwanda. It was an amazing trip full of many aggravations and profound blessings! The conference itself was wonderful as 1302 Anglicans from 52 nations gathered to praise and worship our God and King. The Holy Spirit gathered in and around his people as in humility we bowed down before God in repentance and faith. In turn the Spirit raised us up in song and joyful acknowledgement that God was so clearly present. Over and over I was reminded of Psalm 22:3-5 where the Psalmist expresses the joy of God being tangibly present with those who offered him the praise he is most assuredly due.

"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame."

It reminded me of what it will be like in the New Heavens and the New Earth when God's redeemed gather together before the Throne of Grace. There were people from around the world enjoined in the certainty of the promises and goodness of God. I wept, I laughed, and I drank deeply of those moments that someday will be normal as we live in the presence of God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For many who were attending it was a wonderful respite from a life full of uncertainty of their safety and well being from one day to the next. Together we worshipped the God who is our hope, our joy, our strength, and salvation.

I was honored to be with our brothers and sisters who gathered under the commonality of the Anglican Communion. We came together as those who were committed to covenant faithfulness to our Holy God and His Holy Word.

Since returning home on April 23rd I have been processing the 4 ½ days of GAFCON 2023. It wasn't until we were on the way home that I realized that what happened at GAFCON 2023 was an important historical event not just for Anglicans around the world but for Christians everywhere. Let me explain.

The opening service was spirit-filled from the music sang by the Rwandan choir to the powerful opening address by the GAFCON chairman and our Archbishop Foley Beach. He encouraged to be a "repenting church, a reconciling church, a reproducing church and a relentlessly compassionate church. This is the church we want to be."¹ This wasn't intended to be a new direction but a reminder that the purpose and mission of the church has always been to make Jesus Christ known to a lost and dying world. This is the good

Continued

news of the gospel that we remind ourselves every week in the Eucharist of the mystery of faith: *Christ has died-Christ risen-Christ will come again*".

We were reminded that we are 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. It seems so simple and clear and yet is where many professing Christians within the Anglican Communion have gone astray.

Our conference theme for 2023 'To Whom Shall We Go?' (John 6:68), along with our Bible studies in the Letter to the Colossians, 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).

We were welcomed and addressed the opening night by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, the Right Honourable Edouard Ngirente, who spoke of the significance of our gathering. Everything was so wonderfully planned and executed, and we were grateful for the extraordinary hospitality extended by Archbishop Laurent Mbanda and the Anglican Church of Rwanda.

We left the opening conference on Monday night with glad hearts and a new sense of purpose and commitment. I looked forward to the next meeting on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday morning we were shocked and grieved to hear that Laurent and Chantal Mbanda's son Edwin had gone to bed the night before and never awoken. He was only 31. That morning the Mbanda family left the conference that they had so carefully and wonderfully put together to fly to the United States where their son had lived.

We were led into a time of prayer for the family and there was weeping throughout the Colosseum even among those that likely didn't personally know the family. It felt like we were family with God as our Father and Jesus as elder Brother. The time of mourning then turned into a time of praise and worship. I thought of Psalm 30:11, "**You have turned for me my mourning into dancing.**" I was undone. It was a reminder that even though we had gathered to praise and worship our God and to recommit to the calling each of us had, the reality was that we still lived in a fallen world where bad things happen, and we lose those that we love. Oddly enough I think it strengthened our resolve to continue seeking the one who heals our broken hearts and binds our wounds.

As GAFCON 2023 ended, there was a clear sense that what happened there was of great importance. There was a clear delineation between those who were in GAFCON and the Global South with those who were in the Church of England and under the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury. At

issue was the authority of the word of God. The Kigali Commitment expressed it this way.

"The Authority of God's Word

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). 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).

GAFCON made a stand and proclaimed that the Archbishop of Canterbury was no longer the head of the Anglican Communion as he and those willingly remaining under his authority are no longer fit to lead the church they have abandoned in favor of the culture. These are exciting times but make no mistake about it we must stay the course. As I have said many times- It's Jesus or Not Jesus. Shalom

¹ The Kigali Commitment 2023

SENDING OFF A CHILD TO SCHOOL

Child of my heart,
may the blessing of the Holy Trinity
go with you today.
May the Father's strength keep you secure.
May Christ our true Wisdom guide your learning.
May the Holy Spirit make you glad and good.
May the enfolding of the Trinity
hold you and bring you, at day's end,
safely home.

Note: Lydia Boyd saw this prayer and after many requests has shared it with us.



Senior Warden Report

Sweet Light of Christ Family,

Recently, I read the response of Jesus to some Sadducees when they tried to engage Him in a theological debate with a hypothetical question. Jesus said, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God," Matthew 22:19. Jesus exposed what these religious leaders should have known but did not-The Word of God and His power.

Thankfully, our two new Bible studies will prevent this from being said of us!

The first study is "Dust to Glory"- a teaching series by R.C. Sproul of Ligonier Ministries. We meet on Wednesday at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. This fantastic study provides a panoramic view of the content of the Bible and what God is doing. We watch a video lecture, do some workbook application and have stimulating discussion. With this overview we have a solid framework to "know the Scriptures." As R.C. says, *Dust to Glory* will encourage, stimulate, and assist you to master the Scriptures so that the Scriptures may master you."

The second study is "Behold Your God." This meets Tuesdays at 6PM, also in the Fellowship Hall. Most of us have heard of this one as it has been offered before. It is worthy of an encore! This also involves a video lecture, workbook application and lively discussion to help us know the God of the Bible. The first question we discussed was, "What comes to your mind when you think about God?" By knowing the God of the Bible, we will "know the power of God."

Even though these studies have started, it is not too late to come! Ask Mike for a workbook this Sunday. Bring friends, family and neighbors. Both studies are opportunities for blessing that you don't want to miss!

God Bless,

Doug Ludeman

with the inmates like Matthew 6:19-21. The evening of May 16, thirteen inmates joined the Bible study, up from 4-6 just a few weeks ago. The Holy Spirit is clearly working in this ministry – praise the Lord!

Recently, Jim added music to the message with a small laptop, which the prisoners seem to appreciate. Jim's assistants are Ken Waller of New St. John's in Kilmarnock, and Hoyt Wheeland. There is also a women's ministry led by Ken's wife, Patricia. Recently there have not been women prisoners to teach – praise the Lord!

If you would like to assist with either of these ministries, including the purchase of bibles, please see Jim Conley.

Hoyt Wheeland

Todd's Corner

Since Bible study is a key feature of the life of the church, I thought we might review a little history. Many years ago Jeff Cerar asked me to coordinate Christian education here at Light of Christ, though it was still St. Stephen's then. The first thing I did was make up a survey of what people thought would be the most important or interesting topics to study. There were about two dozen subject areas listed. We passed out the survey to everyone and received a very good response.

There was one subject in particular that stood out. By a fairly wide margin people wanted to understand how to reconcile the Old Testament and the New. This was good because it opens a very wide door to study the unity, consistency, and pre-figuring nature of Scripture. The Transfiguration presents this very thing to us showing Moses as representing the Law and Elijah as representing the prophets being revealed as the witnesses of Jesus' identity. This is stated plainly in places such as John 1: 45, Acts 28: 23, and Romans 3: 21-22, and elsewhere.

Our earlier plans to develop this area of study got sidetracked as we became embroiled in the church split, the lawsuit, and the building project. However, we have continued all along to address these important themes in our Thursday afternoon Bible study. Again, we extend an invitation to anyone interested in discussing the broad themes of Scripture so that we might have a unified grasp of God's Word. This is always interesting and enlightening. Please join us.

Todd Lewis

A Joy to Serve

"You can't take it with you," or Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This is just one of the scriptures discussed with inmates at Lancaster County jail every Tuesday evening at 6:30. Jim Conley comes to the jail loaded with Bibles and a message to share

Continued

Quotes

"Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action." - Benjamin Disraeli

Happiness is an inside job." - William Arthur Ward



Northern Neck Christian School



Bingo with Blaise, one of our 1st Grade students came to Bingo with his parents and helped call the numbers. Standing with Blaise are the May 13 winners!

Come and join us the 2nd Friday of every month at the Woman's Club in Lottsburg. The cost is \$15 for 15 games. Bring some friends and have a fun evening.



Outside Picnic for everyone!!

Finally the weather was nice and the whole school had a picnic outside. The 3's and 4's lunched in tents for shade and the Kindergarten and 1st Grade ate under a big tree.



3-MONTH CALENDAR

****Every Thursday, Starting Thursday, June 1 at 2 p.m.: Mike will be in Covenant Care Group meetings and unavailable.**

JUNE:

NOTE: Tuesday - 6-13 Mike on vacation

Tuesday - 6	Red Cross Blood Drive	12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday - 1, 20, 27	"Behold Your God" Class	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 7, 14, 21, 28	Intercessory Prayer	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 14, 21, 28	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 2, 16, 23, 30	Zoom Night Prayer	7:00 p.m.
Friday - 22	Dinner & Movie Night	5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 18	Vestry Meeting	
Sunday - 18	Father's Day	

JULY:

Tuesday - 4	Independence Day - Office Closed	
Tuesday - 11, 18, 25	"Behold Your God" Class	6 p.m.
Wednesday - 5, 12, 19, 26	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 5, 12, 19, 26	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 6, 13, 20, 27	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 7, 14, 21, 28	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 28	Dinner & Movie Night	5:00 p.m.
Saturday - 15	Heathsville Farmers' Market	9:00 a.m.

AUGUST:

Tuesday - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	"Behold Your God" Class	6 p.m.
Wednesday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 4, 11, 18, 25	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 28	Dinner & Movie Night	5:00 p.m.
Saturday - 15	Heathsville Farmers' Market	9:00 a.m.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Jun 4 David Gwaltney
Jun 11 Constance McDearmon
Jun 18 Anna Brennan
Jun 25 Marie Carstensen

Lessons/Prayers

Jun 4 Charlaïne Andrulot (L), Susan Read (P)
Jun 11 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Jun 18 Jeanne Hickey (L) Betty Dillingham (P)
Jun 25 Jim Conley (L), Julie Pritchard (P)

Chalice Bearers

Jun 4 David Gwaltney
Jun 11 Constance McDearmon
Jun 18 Hoyt Wheeland
Jun 25

Chiming of the Hour

Jun 4 Phyllis Parrish
Jun 11 Jim Conley
Jun 18 Elizabeth Lambertson
Jun 25 Bill Andrulot

June Birthdays

Jun 1 Lynn York, Betty Cralle
Jun 6 Susan Read
Jun 15 Sophia Hamlet
Jun 18 Fred Wimberly
Jun 20 Tommy & Timmy Kimmitt
Jun 21 Lyn Conley
Jun 23 Lynne Cerar
Jun 28 Jeanne Hickey

*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

Jun 4 Anna Brennan
Jun 11 Constance McDearmon
Jun 18 Anna Brennan, Wendy Smith
Jun 25 Elizabeth Lambertson, Julie Pritchard

Tellers

Jun 4 Pam Smith,
Jun 11 Pam Smith, Mickey Jennings
Jun 18 Pam Smith, Phyllis Parrish
Jun 25 Pam Smith, Susan Read

Vestry Person on Duty

Jun 4 Ed Feddeman
Jun 11 Hoyt Wheeland
Jun 18 Doug Ludeman
Jun 25 Constance McDearmon

June Anniversaries

Jun 5 Katrina & Daniel Mochamps
Jun 15 Eleanor & George Semerjian

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.



Introducing 2 new LOC Ringers



Saddie Piggott and Elizabeth Lambertson
They have learned the ringing techniques very fast.
Welcome Saddie and Elizabeth!!



Blood Drive **Northumberland Chapter**

Light of Christ Anglican Church
9500 Northumberland Hwy
Heathsville, VA 22473

Tuesday, June 6, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: northumberland to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Do good this summer! Come give in June for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of your choice.

Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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 22:6-11

1. "And the Lord God of the holy _____ sent His _____ to show His servants the things which must shortly take place."
2. "Behold, I am _____! Blessed is he who keeps the _____ of the _____ of this book."
3. Did the angel allow John to worship him?
4. "For I am your fellow _____, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship _____."
5. "Do not _____ the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at _____."

Revelation 22:12-17

1. "And behold, I am coming _____, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his _____."
2. Jesus said He is the _____ and the Omega, the Beginning and the _____, the First and the _____."
3. Those who do His Commandments will have the right to the _____ of _____."
4. Jesus calls Himself the _____ and the _____ of David.
5. "Whoever _____, let him take the water of life _____."