



The Rev. Connie Clark
Vicar

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LeAnn Mitchell (Class of 2025)

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Buck Mountain Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 183
Earlysville, VA 22936
434-973-2054
www.buckmountainchurch.org

Diane Shelden, newsletter editor,
may be contacted at:
bmeacadassist@gmail.com or
434-973-2054

From the Vicar

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

My title above is a hymn title, found in our *Hymnal 1982* and designated as appropriate for Thanksgiving Day worship. Its lyrics are a bit old-fashioned, even antiquated in terms of style, but worth pondering during this time of the year:



Verse 1: Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of
 harvest-home:
 All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
 God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be
 supplied;
 Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of
 harvest-home.

Written in the 19th century, the lyrics describe a provision that is remote for most of us. Most of us don't experience an agricultural harvest happening. We don't put food by (drying, canning, storing) for winter or worry about stockpiling fuel for heating. The images of "harvest-home" for us have faded, and I'm guessing we rarely thank God for a successful harvest.

The celebration of Thanksgiving Day can remind us of God's abundant provision for us, even though that provision comes in very different forms than it did in 19th-century England. If you have lived through one of the great Earlysville power outages without a generator, you KNOW how wonderful it is to have electricity!

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am thinking not only about the provision God has made for Guy and me, but also his generous provision for Buck Mountain Church. The Holy Spirit has moved our hearts to give generously each year to our church, even during the worst, most isolated times of the

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Buck Mountain is a Spirit-led, inclusive community of faith, living out God's unconditional love with each other, our community, and the world through worship, outreach, spiritual development, youth formation, and fellowship.

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pandemic. The result? Our parish operations have largely been well-funded, and our most significant outreach ministry, the Food Pantry, is well-provided for, not only by Buck Mountain members, but by our very generous community. Our Endowment Fund continues to grow so that future Buck Mountain members will have the resources for ministry. We are well-provided for.

I am very grateful for the generosity of Buck Mountain members and friends, but ultimately our gratitude must be focused primarily on God, who gives ALL good gifts and provides for his people. This Thanksgiving, I'll be giving special thanks that we have come through the worst of the pandemic (or so it appears, and may it be so, Lord), and that we have much to look forward together.

Thank you for being a part of this amazing Christian community. I thank God for you.

In Christ,

Connie

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Bible 101 Launched!

On Wednesday, November 2, about 20 Buck Mountain-ers enjoyed a dinner provided by new member and chef, Lauren Black. Then, Rev. Connie provided an overview of the Bible's origins. We met again on November 16 and looked at the Bible's contents and the types of literature appearing in it.

Our next meeting will include dinner and address informed approaches to reading the Bible. We'll touch on problems of translation and interpretation -- which is not as stuffy as it sounds!

Join us by letting Diane (bmecadassist@gmail.com) or Connie know you're coming for dinner. All are welcome!

Planned Giving Corner Expanding Our Ministries

End of Life Seminar

On May 7 the Planned Giving Committee hosted a morning seminar on planning for the End of Life. In the Episcopal church we believe your estate and end of life planning should reflect your values. The goals of this planning are: 1) that you can leave a legacy to earthly work that is important to you and 2) to ensure that your loved ones are cared for after your death.

We are blessed as a church to have knowledge and expertise in these areas within our parish community. The seminar covered three topics:

Kate Daniels presented Medical Directives

Reverend Connie discussed Planning Your Funeral

April Martin taught about Organizing Your Financial Life, including writing your will

Despite the serious topics being discussed, it was a pleasant morning with over 25 participants including people from the wider community. The presentations were lively and informative, with good Q&As. There were even donuts.

Videos of the three portions of the presentation can be found on the bottom of the Planned Giving page of the Buck Mountain website, under the Giving tab, along with the accompanying handout for the seminar.

<https://buckmountainchurch.org/planned-giving/>

Please take advantage of these great resources and start your planning. There is no time like NOW.



- The Planned Giving Committee

Gail Peters

Janet Wiley

Leslie Richard

Mike Gibson

Buck Mountain Women's Retreat

The 2022 women's retreat on Spiritual Friendship and the Friendship of Women was held November 4-5 at Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. A group of 12 women ranging in age from 17 to 80+ gathered to share time together and learn from each other. We studied women in the Bible as examples of friendship qualities and also looked back into Jesus' relationships with his friends and what they could teach us about friendships with Jesus himself and with others. Activities varied from study and sharing to intercessory prayer, mixing friendship bread starter, and taking an Emmaus Walk -- a shared walk with a friend exploring the weekend themes. The retreat closed with liturgy in the beautiful Bishop's Chapel. Each year the theme is different for the retreat but it is always filled with deepening relationships and faith. Next year's date is set for October 20-21, 2023, so mark your calendars now.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24
 4:30 p.m. Family-Friendly service
 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Holy Communion

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 No 5:00 service

New Year’s Day: Sunday, January 1
 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist
 No 5:00 service



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Stuffed Animal Collection

Tara and Laila Scott are collecting stuffed animals to share with our Food Pantry neighbors at the distribution on December 14. Please leave your new, medium-sized “stuffies” in the tubs near the Chrismon tree in Deese Hall.



The Autumn

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Go, sit upon the lofty hill,
 And turn your eyes around,
 Where waving woods and waters wild
 Do hymn an autumn sound.
 The summer sun is faint on them --
 The summer flowers depart --
 Sit still -- as all transform'd to stone,
 Except your musing heart.

How there you sat in summer-time,
 May yet be in your mind;
 And how you heard the green woods sing
 Beneath the freshening wind.
 Though the same wind now blows around,
 You would its blast recall;
 For every breath that stirs the trees,
 Doth cause a leaf to fall.

Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth
 That flesh and dust impart:
 We cannot bear its visitings,
 When change is on the heart.
 Gay words and jests may make us smile,
 When Sorrow is asleep;
 But other things must make us smile,
 When Sorrow bids us weep!

The dearest hands that clasp our hands, --
 Their presence may be o'er;
 The dearest voice that meets our ear,
 That tone may come no more!
 Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,
 Which once refresh'd our mind,
 Shall come -- as, on those sighing woods,
 The chilling autumn wind.

Hear not the wind -- view not the woods;
 Look out o'er vale and hill--
 In spring, the sky encircled them --
 The sky is round them still.
 Come autumn's scathe -- come winter's cold --
 Come change -- and human fate!
 Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,
 Can ne'er be desolate.

**Buck Mountain Episcopal Church**

4133 Earlysville Road, PO Box 183 • Earlysville • Virginia • 22936
www.buckmountainchurch.org (434)973-2054