



Sunday School continues with the children's study focusing on Advent and Christmas. Parents, thank you for bringing your children. Teachers spend their free time preparing and enjoy having a good number in their classes.

A Children's Christmas Eve Service will take place on **December 24th at 1:30 pm**. This brief service will remind children and their families of the real meaning of Christmas. Join us in the Sanctuary for this special time.

There will be no children/youth Sunday School on Sunday December 30th. The adult Bible class will meet, but all other classes will take a one-week break. **All Classes resume at 9:30 am on January 6** when we begin a study of the Wedding at Cana.

The children will present their Christmas program December 23 during the worship hour. Ashley Ange along with other parents have taken the lead in this. Save this date for a special reminder that Christmas is about the most precious Child coming to us...shared in the voices and faces of our children. Rehearsals are 12/15 at 10:00 am and 12/22 at 10:00.

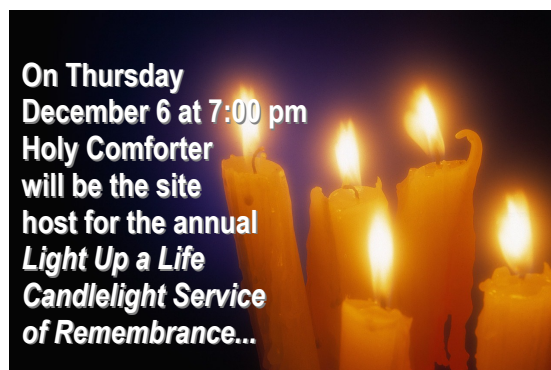
Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Sunday, December 23rd at 3:30 pm. Meet at the church to carpool to some of our home-bound members to take them some of the joy of the season. We will be back at the church by 4:45 pm. For those who would like to go, the **KidsClub** has planned to walk through McAdenville following the Christmas caroling.

KidsClub will meet December 15 at 10:00 am and will include a brief pageant rehearsal as well as some *KidsClub* fun.

Thoughts on Advent and Christmas: If just for a brief time we are able to slow down and remember the precious gift of Christ in our lives, we can truly experience Christmas. If just for a brief time, we can

do for someone less fortunate than ourselves, we can truly experience Christmas. If just for a brief time, we can see the world through the color blind eyes of a child and know that all are precious in God's eyes, we can truly experience Christmas. If just for a brief time we can put away differences and celebrate uniqueness, peace will come and we can truly experience Christmas. Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar or a season of the church year...Christmas is a way of living our faith daily. This year, may you experience Christmas and live your faith daily so others may know the Grace of God.

Peace to you and yours,
Beth Brittain, Christian Education



...for Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region. This is a community service and **one need not have used Hospice services to participate.** During this time of year when all are in a celebratory mood, it can be difficult if you are grieving the death of a loved one. Plan to join us for this special time of remembrance and comfort. A refreshment reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

Reminder: The nursery workers are asked to be in the nursery by 9:15 am on your assigned morning:

December 2: Caroline Nault & Aaron Armstrong

December 9: Need Volunteers

December 16: Need Volunteers

December 23: Need Volunteers

Sign-up sheet is in the nursery.

Holy Comforter Comment

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7-8

Communion Opportunities For December

December 2 First Sunday in Advent

December 23 Lessons & Carols Service

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Jane Deaton, Reporter
Volume 33, No. 12

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Office Hours Monday-Friday
8:30 am—3:00 pm



Thank you to Pastors Jack & Linda McHenry
for serving our congregation this past November and this
upcoming December!

We appreciated your being with us as we transition from
having a full - time pastor to an interim pastor.
Best Wishes to you both as you continue to serve God here
and at other churches.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

HOLY COMFORTER YOUTH

December 2, 5:00-6:30 pm

Bring a gift for a Boys & Girls Club
family (details to follow).



December 16, 5:00-6:30 pm

HCY Christmas Party!

Bring one wrapped gift worth \$10+/- for
a "white elephant" gift exchange.

Questions: Call 704-678-0137 or email
Kristen at keclanton@gmail.com.

Kristen Clanton, Youth Advisor



10:00 am December 15

Children's Christmas Play practice
KidsClub meets after practice

10:00 am December 22

Children's Christmas Play practice

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	October	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$18,559.25	\$185,592.50
Actual Expenses:	18,690.75	180,660.11
Offerings Received:	<u>16,067.00</u>	<u>176,831.60</u>
Loss for Month:	\$ 2,623.75	
Loss Year-to-Date:		\$ 3,828.51

REMINDER: All annual reports from Com-
mittees are due to Dianne. Please turn in as
soon as possible so the annual report for the
congregation can be completed.



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 2 First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am **Sunday School**

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

5:00 pm **HCY in fellowship hall**, bring a gift for
Boys & Girls Club family (details later)

Monday, December 3 Morning Circle/WELCA

10:45 am Meet to carpool to home of Doris Meekins.

Bring a side dish to share and a wrapped "white
elephant" gift. All women are welcome! For info
call Sonja Kreitzer at 704-825-5951.

Sunday, December 9 Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am **Sunday School**

10:30 am The Service, **Church Council meets after**

Saturday, December 15

Kids' Club Play Practice, then Activities

Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am **Sunday School**

10:30 am **Hanging of the Green** Service

4:00 pm Children's' Ensemble

5:00 pm **HCY in Fellowship Hall** (Bring wrapped
\$10 Gift for "white elephant" exchange
Handbells)

Saturday, December 22

10:00 am Children's' Christmas Play Practice

Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am **Sunday School**

10:30 am Children's Play w/Holy Communion

3:30 pm **Children's' Ensemble Christmas**
Caroling, McAdenville walk after

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

1:30 pm **Children's' Service**

10:10 pm Church Choir

10:30 pm Prelude begins

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 30 1st Sunday after Christmas

No Children's Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am Church Service

Sundays: 10:10 am Choir

4:00 pm Children's' Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

HCY on 1st & 3rd Sundays

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye + Sandra Cline

ACOLYTES: Cody Koehler, Becca Gatlin

CRUCIFERS: Hannah Carnes, Noah Rogers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Beverley Mauney, Co-Captain

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Harvey Elliott

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)

Sherry Alexander

Charles Mauney

Fran Holland

Dee Smith

EUCARIST PRESENTERS:

December 2: Brian & Lucy Mitchell

December 23: Tim & Shelia Kelly

December 24: Need Volunteers

GREETERS:

December 2: Pat Koehler

December 9: Trudy Whitener

December 16: Pat Long

December 23: Need Volunteer

December 24: Carmen De Nicholas

December 30: Need Volunteer

USHERS:

Gary Rogers + Volunteers

FLOWERS:

December 2: The Naults

Tim & Shelia Kelly

December 9: Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant

December 16: Mark & Rebecca Yount

December 23: Greg Garrison

Julia Gunter

December 24: Jack & Laura Tench

Greg Garrison

December 30: Jack, Laura & Sarah Tench

Mark & Rebecca Yount

All information and articles for the January Newsletter are
due to Dianne by December 17, 2012.

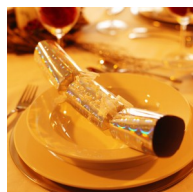


Birthstone: Blue Topaz/Turquoise
Birth Flower: Narcissus

- 1: Hans Christian Andersen published his 1st book of fairy tales. 1835
- 1: Sherlock Holmes first appears in print: "A Study In Scarlet." 1887
- 1: Game of Bingo invented by Edwin S Lowe. 1929
- 3: 1st official US flag raising (aboard naval vessel Alfred). 1775
- 7: Thomas A Edison demonstrates the gramophone. 1877
- 7: The last Ford Model A was produced on this day. The Ford motor works were then shut down for six months for retooling. 1931
- 7: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. First Japanese submarine sunk by a US ship (USS Ward) 1941
- 10: Martin Luther publicly burned papal edict demands he recant. 1520
- 10: Melville Louis K. Dewey, created Dewey Decimal System for libraries. 1851
- 11: First visit to a Lutheran church by a pope (John Paul II in Rome). 1983
- 13: "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens published, 6,000 copies sold. 1843
- 13: Clip-on tie designed. 1928
- 16: Boston Tea Party occurs when American colonists board a British ship and dump overboard more than 300 chests of tea to protest high taxes. 1773
- 16: The Battle of the Bulge begins in WWII as Germany launches a surprise counter-attack against Allied forces in Belgium. 1944
- 21: The first crossword puzzle (with 32 clues) printed in New York. 1913
- 21: 1st feature-length color & sound cartoon premieres (Snow White). 1937
- 25: 1st recorded celebration of Christmas on December 25 occurs in Rome. 0336

MUSIC NEWS

Special words of thanks to all those who assisted in the Community Thanksgiving Service of worship. The church was beautifully decorated, and our church choir led the service, providing inspirational music. We had so many positive comments from visitors in the community who had never been inside our walls.



The church choir will celebrate with their annual Christmas party at the home of Tom & Shirley Causby. The date is Saturday, December 15 at 5:30 pm. After our meal we will progress to

Greg's home for dessert.

Sunday, December 23rd we will gather in the fellowship hall at 3:30 pm to go **Christmas caroling**. The children's ensemble invite children of all ages to join us in this very special ministry. This year will obviously be in the daylight, but should be no less meaningful to those who give, and those who receive.



Invite your friends and family to our 95th annual Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion service. The prelude begins at 10:35 pm. The church Choir will present "Tapestry of Light," a Celtic Christmas Celebration featuring accompaniment for organ, flute, violin, and cello. Come early if you want a good seat. This is the most beautiful and talked about service of the year.



Greg Cline

In The Spotlight



For over five years Holy Comforter has been blessed with the faithful service of **Jane Deaton** as our reporter for the *Holy Comforter Comment*. Consistently, month by month, Jane has interviewed and written the *Spotlight* articles featuring members of the congregation and reporting on activities of the church.

Sadly, this is Jane's last month to serve as reporter. She has decided to retire from this position as of the end of December.

I hope **all of you** will make it a point to tell Jane how much you appreciate her efforts from the past five + years and let her know she has made a big difference by her service to Holy Comforter. Jane served *behind the scenes*, but was **always dependable** and never missed an article or a deadline!

As one who will especially miss her and her contributions to the newsletter, I wish her the very best on her *retirement*.

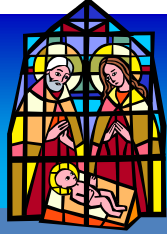
Sincerely, Dianne Lail
Office Manager/Communications

RETIREMENT FOR PASTOR MIKE



Sunday, October 28, 2012 was Reformation Sunday AND **Pastor Mike's last day with us as our pastor**. The sanctuary was filled to capacity as 263 folks came to attend his last sermon & worship service. Surprise visitors who had attended Holy Comforter sometime during the past 33 years came to say goodbye and wish him well on his retirement. Everyone was invited to attend a reception after the service and, thanks to all the church members who provided the food, there was more than enough. **God bless and God speed Pastor Mike.**





DECEMBER 2012



We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of December. We are thankful for the life and spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School is at 9:30 am each Sunday, NO Children's Sunday School on December 30						1
2 1st Sunday of Advent 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm HCY in Fellowship Hall Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	3 10:45 am Morning Circle Meets to carpool to home of Doris Meekins. Bring a side dish to share and a wrapped "White Elephant" gift. All women are invited!	4 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	5	6 Light Up A Life Candlelight Service of remembrance for Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region 7:00 pm Holy Comforter Sanctuary Refreshments after	7	8 8:30 am Confirmation Philadelphia, Dallas
9 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Church Council after 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	10	11 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	12	13	14	15  10:00 am Play Practice/ KidsClub Fun activities 5:30 pm Church Choir Christmas Party
16 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am Hanging of Green 4:00 pm Children/Youth En. 5:00 pm HCY Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	17	18 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	19	20	21 St. Thomas, Apostle	22 10:00 am Christmas Play Practice in Sanctuary 
23 4th Sunday of Advent 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am Children's Play with Holy Communion 3:30 pm Children/Ensemble Christmas Caroling 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	24 Christmas Eve 1:30 pm Children's Service Christmas Eve 10:10 pm Church Choir 10:35 pm Prelude begins 11:00 pm Candlelight Service	25  Merry Christmas!	26 St. Stephen, Deacon, Martyr	27 St. John, Apostle, Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29
30 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	31 New Year's Eve					

December 1	Madison Kelly
December 5	Aaron Nault
December 6	Rhonda Tucker
December 8	Nathan Kelly Brian Wallace
December 9	Bob Koehler
December 10	Melissa Lingerfelt Caitlan Reese Marguerite Shive Denise Wiegand
December 11	Beth Brittain Monique Estelle
December 12	Janet Achor
December 15	Greg Cline
December 19	Pamela Abernethy Dennis Tucker
December 21	Denise Jenkins
December 23	Harvey Elliott
December 24	Kurt Rogers
December 26	Beverly Robinson
December 28	Molly Koehler
December 29	Trudy Whitener
December 30	Blake Harper Elizabeth Tench Luke Via

NOTE: If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office.

