

Beth' CORNER

We continue the *Mary* and *Martha* rotation for most of February. Of course, after Ash Wednesday (February 22) we begin a Holy Week and Easter Curriculum in the Pre-K and God's Eden classes.

Speaking of Lent ... We are doing something a little different this year for our Lenten Series.

Beginning Wednesday, February 29 we will have evening prayer services with the focus being on **The Women Witnesses**. A homily will be presented each night by a different woman in our congregation who will take on the role of a Biblical woman to share the story of Jesus and how their relationship with him changed their lives.

Over the course of the 5 weeks of Lent we will hear the witness of:

- ◆ Mary, Mother of our Lord
- ◆ Anna, the prophetess
- ◆ Mary Magdalene
- ◆ The Woman at the Well
- ◆ Pilates Wife

This service will take place in the fellowship hall after the congregational meal each night. Mark your calendars and make this special series a priority in your Lenten discipline.



Please place **Vacation Bible School** on your calendars for 2012. We have invited the **Grey Seal Puppets** to deliver their *Virtue Program* at Holy Comforter at 10:00 am on **Saturday, June 16** as part of our VBS program.



Please mark June 15 and 16 on your calendars as reserved for VBS.

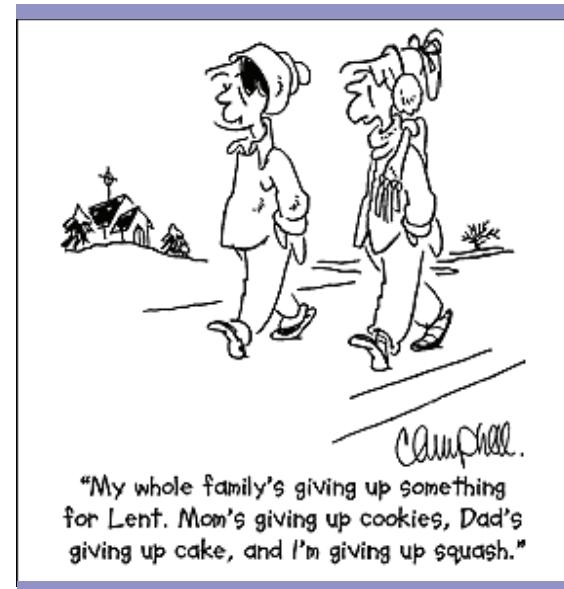


Please say **Welcome** to our newest congregational members who joined Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Brooke E. Martin, married to Jeffrey Martin, is a teacher employed by Gaston County schools. Her interests include art and college basketball (and she says "Go Duke!")

Larry J. Siglar lives in Charlotte, NC and is retired. He is interested in people and very glad to now be a member of Holy Comforter.

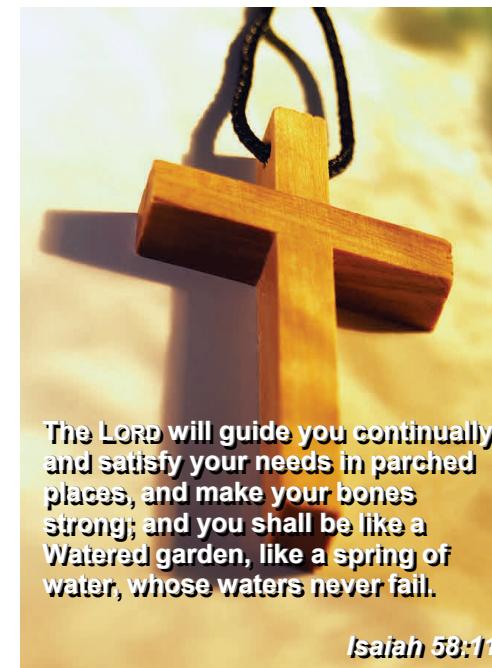
We look forward to having both Brooke and Larry as members of our family here at Holy Comforter.



Holy Comforter Comment

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704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Dr. K. Michael Varn, Pastor
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education



The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a Watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11

Communion Opportunities For February

- February 5 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
- February 19 The Transfiguration of Our Lord
- February 22 Ash Wednesday
- February 26 The First Sunday in Lent

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Jane Deaton, Reporter
Volume 33, No. 2

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

From the Pastor's Desk

On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays after the Epiphany, the Gospel readings were the stories of Jesus calling of Philip and Nathanael and Simon and Andrew respectively. In both Gospels these disciples respond to Jesus' call to follow them with an immediate and positive response.

Because Holy Comforter will face major changes over the next two or three years, many of you will feel the call to work for Jesus' ministry in your church. And many of you who have felt like you have done your share and more than your share will be needed to keep the programs, ministries, and agendas going and to plan for the future opportunities for living out Jesus' call as His church.

As St. Paul reminds us:

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

(1st Corinthians 12:4-11)

Every ministry at Holy Comforter will need all of us to do our chosen and new portions of the necessary work of the church will need to keep us spirited and vital. We all know that our staff Minister of Music, Greg Cline; Christian Education, Beth Brittain; and Communication, Dianne Lail will continue to do a brilliant job with your support. Our Church Council Ministries will need more partnership than ever before. So many opportunities are open in this new year and the next!

PAX, Pastor Mike

Listed below are the different committees and the council members who chair those committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Brenda Daly & Debbie Neagle

CHURCH PROPERTY:

Dean Halvorson & Bob Wiegand

EVANGELISM:

Greg Garrison & Billy Joye

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

Ginger MacDonald & Trudy Whitener

STEWARSHIP/FINANCE:

Warren Heller & Mark Yount

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Greg Byrum

YOUTH & RECREATION:

Dean Burwell

NOTE: If you would like to help on any of the committees, contact the council member/s.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 5 **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

HCY collects For SouperBowl Of Caring

Tuesday, February 7 Tutoring Begins

2:30—4:00 pm Belmont Central students

Thursday, February 9 Area Lutheran Foundation

10:30 am Meet in fellowship hall for presentation

Pastor Gary Weant, speaker. Lunch after.

Saturday, February 11 Confirmation Class

8:30 am Carpool to Philadelphia in Dallas

Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Council meets after

5:00 pm Choir Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, February 18 1:00 pm KidsClub Game Day

Sunday, February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Holy Comm.

Sunday, February 26 1st Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Sundays: 10:10 am Choir

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Charles Mauney)

Report for Month	December	Year-To-Date
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Budget Expenses:	\$18,669.58	\$224,035.00
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Actual Receipts:	20,749.40	217,455.23
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Actual Expenses:	19,479.43	213,030.35
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Over for Month:	\$ 1,269.97	
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Over Year-to-Date:		\$ 4,424.88
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Vision Fund Pledge Summary Report

(Jack Tench) (5-08 thru 3-13-11)

Balance on Pledge:	\$ 89,210.33
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Forwarded to Vision Fund	15,406.85
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ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Louise Day

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell, Aaron Nault

CRUCIFERS: Caroline Nault
Chase Lineberger

ALTAR GUILD:

(Team 4)
Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain
Barbara Kasmer Gayla Foscue

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

(Team B)
Cindy Buchanan Jo Singleton
Shelia Kelly Jack Tench

EUCARIST PRESENTERS:

February 5: Phil & Carol Posey
February 19: Courtney & Gage Gatlin
February 22: Caroline & Aaron Nault
February 26: Caroline & Tracey Nault

GREETERS:

February 5: Phil & Carol Posey
February 12: Katie Kessen
February 19: Tommy Causby
February 22: Lynn Varn
February 26: Lynn Varn

USHERS:

Need Volunteers for each Sunday

FLOWERS:

February 5: Bob & Denise Wiegand
Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant
February 12: Debbie Neagle
Dennis & Dee Tucker
February 19: Greg Garrison
Myra Yount
February 26: Danny, Perri & Carson Potter
Gayla & Dallas Foscue

All information and articles for the March newsletter are due in the office by February 20th.



February FACTS

Birthstone: Amethyst

Birth Flower: Iris

1: In Greensboro, NC, four African American students sat down and ordered coffee at a lunch counter inside a Woolworth's store. They were refused service, but did not leave all day. This was repeated over the next few days, with protests spreading to other southern states, resulting in the eventual arrest of over 1600 persons for participating in sit-ins. 1960

1: Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. 2003

3: The 15th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. 1870

8: The Boys Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts. 1910

9: During the World War II in the Pacific, US troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle. 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 American were killed. 1943

13: Boston Latin School, the first tax-payer supported (public) school in America was established in Boston, Massachusetts. 1635

17: During the American Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control. The fort had been the scene of the first shots of the war. 1865

21: CIA agent Aldrich Ames was arrested on charges he spied for the Soviet Union from 1985-1991. 1994

22: In Montgomery, Alabama, 80 participants in the three-month-old bus boycott voluntarily gave themselves up for arrest after an ultimatum from white city leaders. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks were among those arrested. Later in 1956, the US Supreme Court mandated desegregation of the buses. 1956

MUSIC NEWS

The Ladies Morning Circle will sponsor a Church Choir Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, February 12. We will modify the afternoon schedule as follows:

- 4:00 pm Handbells
- 5:00 pm Meal
- 6:00 pm Church Choir Rehearsal

Regrets Only to Greg at gregcline101@gmail.com.

HANDBELL CLASS

An email was sent to parents in mid-January informing the offering of an upcoming handbell class during Lenten Wednesdays for grades 3-6. At the time of this article writing we did not have enough children registered (minimum of 10 participants). **We are extending the registration deadline until Sunday, February 12.** You do not have to be able to read music, but you must commit to fully participate and attend. The schedule would be as follows:

Lenten Wednesdays: February 29—month of March

- 5:00 pm Handbell Class
- 6:00 pm Meal
- 6:30 pm Accompany Evening Prayer Service
(In the fellowship hall)

Contact Greg Cline for more details!

Greg Cline



The ladies Morning Circle will sponsor a presentation of the Area Lutheran Foundation and its plan for our aging population. **All are invited to hear Pastor Gary Weant on February 9 at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall.** Plans to develop senior cottages, apartments, condominiums, assisted living, rest home and skilled nursing facility into a continuous care retirement community in our area will be discussed. Pastor Mike and Pastor Weant will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Lunch will follow the meeting. Stay and chat with fellow members and guests.



In The Spotlight

What has Pastor Mike meant to me and my family--let me count the ways!

Shortly after moving to Belmont in 1983, Heather, Ginger and I needed to find a church nearer our home. Pastor Mike and Holy Comforter welcomed us into the church family.

A while later he performed Beverley and my wedding service; apparently he did well as we're in our twenty-sixth year now. He baptized Laurel fourteen months later.

Not stopping there, he performed wedding services for Heather & Mark, Ginger & Chuck, Jimmy & Katie, and, hopefully some day for Laurel.

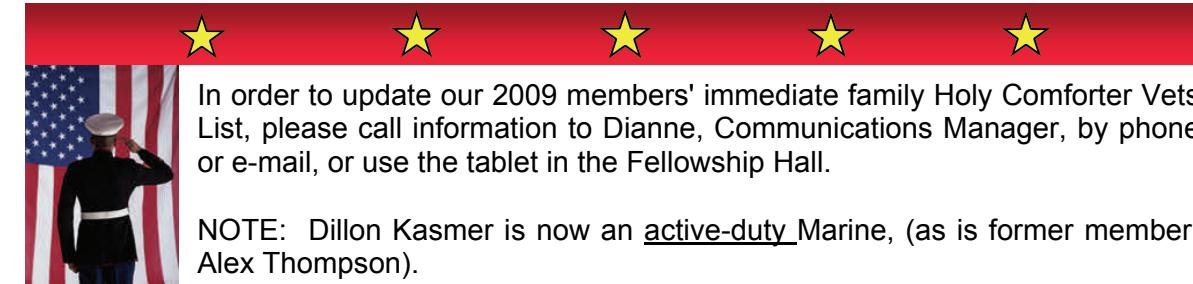
Pastor Mike and I have worked together in the church's Stained Glass Ministry for around twenty years. Others have come and gone in that ministry but we remain--probably because we enjoy aggravating (joking with) each other so much which has gone a long way in making the highly detailed work both entertaining and satisfying.

Thirteen years ago I became Holy Comforter's treasurer. During this period I have enjoyed working with Pastor Mike. Pastor Mike and the financial stewardship of Holy Comforter's members have made my job easier as needed funds have always been available to meet all current obligations without delaying payment to anyone.

Bev and I are involved in the Church Choir. Of course, Pastor Mike is not because I understand he didn't do well on his audition; however, he has been known to get involved in choir recordings by opening his microphone.

We consider Mike as not only our pastor but our dear friend. Thank you, Mike.

Charles Mauney



In order to update our 2009 members' immediate family Holy Comforter Vets List, please call information to Dianne, Communications Manager, by phone or e-mail, or use the tablet in the Fellowship Hall.

NOTE: Dillon Kasmer is now an active-duty Marine, (as is former member, Alex Thompson).



FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Holy Comforter Youth Will collect funds February 5 for the BCO	 Super Bowl 2012 - February 5 <i>Note Music Schedule Changes</i>		1	2 (The Purification of Mary and) The Presentation of Our Lord	3	4
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30am Sunday school 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Handbells 5:00 pm Church Choir	6	7	8	 Groundhog Day	9 Who will take care of me...?" Presentation of Area Lutheran Foundation 10:30 am Meet in church Fellowship Hall Gary Weant, Presenter Lunch after	11 8:30 am Confirmands meet to carpool to Philadelphia in Dallas
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30am Sunday school 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Council after 4:00 pm Handbells 5:00 pm Choir Dinner 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	13	14	15	16	17	18 NOTE: KidsClub has been moved to next Saturday, February 25.
19 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30am Sunday school 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	20	21	22 	23	24 St. Matthias, Apostle	25 Game Day!  Meet at 1:00 pm. Bring your favorite board/card game. All kids/teenagers invited!
26 The First Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday school 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	27	28	29 Lenten Wednesday 5:00 pm Handbell Class 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Evening Prayer Service			
			7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon			

