

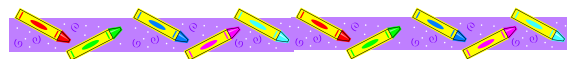
Beth' CORNER

Sunday Church School continues in the new year beginning on **January 8th**. Consider making a resolution to regularly attend the class that is planned for you. **The children will begin this year studying about Mary & Martha.**

Your help is needed! On **Saturday, January 14**, we need to get the children's Sunday school classroom area organized and cleaned. Plan to join us at **10:00 am** and we will all take a room and get it done! Teachers, if you want specific things done in your room, plan to be here or work prior to the day and let Beth know.

Again, workday in upstairs of Education Building is January 14 at 10:00 am!

Beth Brittain



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.



Summer is coming! We are searching for quality **Christian young adults to serve as counselors on our 2012 summer staff.**

Applicants must be 19 years-old minimum, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge.

Contact Randy at exec@agapekurebeach.org.

An Interview with "Uncle Dick" Bryan

Lynn K. Varn, December 2011

This year, the day before the 70th commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, Uncle Dick, now 97 and our oldest vet member, recounted to me, at his apartment at the Fleming house, what he could remember about his Navy career in the Pacific in WWII. Not at Pearl Harbor, mind you, but he was on a range of islands at a time still outside our own contemporary experience.

He enlisted in his twenties, a North Carolinian who had grown up one of five children in Mars Hill, Madison Co. His basic training was not so far away in Spartanburg.

Charles Bryan served more than three years in the Pacific, primarily in the Philippines, then Australia and New Guinea. He remarked that he had little contact with the native peoples in these areas, as they were hidden at best, and, of course his job was essentially to protect the secrecy of the Morse Code transmissions he sent and received. At his long shift duties, there was no time for camaraderie, though he did mention some good downtime in Australia.

He has no recollection of Navajo *Windtalkers* or enigmatic codes that were still rendered secondarily to armed forces via Morse. And he has few recurrent images and sounds of the islands outside his station. The emblazoning exception is the instant bomb fire which burst into his workspace, pelleting his chest with shrapnel.

Near the end of the war, he thought he was actually slated to go to Japan, but given the destruction, he would head home on an enlightening train trek from California to North Carolina. Later he used his background, working at a train depot and continuing professional studies in Cincinnati and at the Charleston Naval Base.

And Uncle Dick remembers some significant things in his long ministry with us at Holy Comforter, made possible by Ellen, Russell and Me Ma Bryan. He is part of who we were as Americans, and who we are here and now.

And he's grateful for his vet quilt! Thanks Holy C.

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



*May the Lord
give strength to
his people!
May the Lord
bless his people
with peace!*

Psalm 29:11

Communion Opportunities For January

January 8
January 22

The Baptism of Our Lord
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Jane Deaton, Reporter
Volume 33, No. 1

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

While each culture's **New Year celebration** has its own flavor, there are certain common themes blended particularly in America with all our diversity.

The period leading up to New Year's Day is a time for setting things straight: a thorough housecleaning, paying off debts, returning borrowed objects, reflecting on one's shortcomings, mending quarrels, giving alms. In many cultures, people jump into the sea or a local body of water-literally washing their slate clean.

Everything you do on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day is freighted with significance for the future. The American custom of spending the night with the one you love and kissing them at midnight insures that the relationship will flourish during the coming year. In Rio de Janeiro, more than a million people gather on the beaches on December 31st to honor Yemanja, the Yoruban "Mother of the Sea," who brings good fortune.

Food eaten on New Year's Day is said to affect the quality of the coming year. The ancient Romans exchanged bay and palm branches hung with sweets, dates, figs and gilded fruits. The items hung on the branch expressed hopes the new year would be sweet, fertile, and prosperous.

Growing up in my household, it was traditional to eat cornbread, cabbage, and black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. The peas symbolize coins or copper money, the cornbread gold, and the cabbage green or folding money.

Thus, one was assured of good luck and prosperity in the coming year. But the same food shared by rich and poor in the South was more of a bond between friends and family.

Although many of these customs may seem like superstitions, they all stem from a similar belief: by ending the old year with respect and beginning the new one in the way we would like it to begin, we establish our intentions for the new year.

Since New Year's falls during the 12 days of the Christmas season, it is an opportunity to reflect on our shortcomings and sins, ask for forgiveness, give thanks for the Savior sent to us who gives us hope for a fresh start and optimism for the future. It foreruns in a flash the journey from Lent to Easter to come in our Christ-drawn church calendar. **May we move forward in our New Year in the hope that lasts.**

 **Pastor Mike**

Sunday School: "War to Peace in the New Year"

The Seekers Sunday School Class invites teens-seniors to a three-Sunday series (Jan. 8, 15, 22) of discussions, scripture and devotions on what we can do for vets returning home to us. Lutheran Family Services Counselor Shelley Mobley will lead the talk on the 15th. Please join us for one or all of our dialogues to start before 9:30 (9:20), but we will welcome latecomers! We will post signs about the classroom.

Coordinator, Lynn Varn

All Information for February 2012 newsletter is due by January 22nd.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, January 1 **The Name of Jesus Sunday**

9:30 am No Children's Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Sunday, January 8 **Baptism of Our Lord**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

Council meets after

Monday, January 9

11:00 am **Morning Circle** women meet at home of Pat Koehler. Bring Sandwich. (Meet at 10:30 am at church to carpool.)

Sunday, January 15 **2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Saturday, January 21

10:00 am **Kids' Club**

Sunday, January 22 **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

Sunday, January 29 **4th Sunday after the Epiphany**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Congregational Meeting/Annual Report

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)

<u>Report for Month</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Budget Expenses:	\$18,669.58	\$205,365.42
Actual Receipts:	17,289.18	196,705.83
Actual Expenses:	<u>17,015.21</u>	<u>193,550.92</u>
Over for Month:	\$ 273.97	
Over Year-to-Date:		\$ 3,154.91

Vision Fund Pledge Summary Report

(Jack Tench) (5-8-08 thru 3-13-11)

Balance on Pledge:	\$ 89,210.33
Forwarded to Vision Fund	15,406.85
Balance Building Fund (Vision & Reno)	\$129,196.52

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, + Volunteer

ACOLYTES: Nick Ashe, Cody Koehler

CRUCIFERS: Hannah Carnes, Noah Rogers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Harvey Elliott Carmen De Nicholas

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)

Cindy Buchanan

Jo Singleton

Shelia Kelly

Jack Tench

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

January 8: Harold & Jo Singleton

January 22: Bob & Denise Wiegand

GREETERS:

January 1: Dennis & Dee Tucker

January 8: Jo Singleton

January 15: Trudy Whitener

January 22: Katie Kessen

January 29: Need Volunteers

USHERS:

January 1: Need Volunteers

January 8: Need Volunteers

January 15: Need Volunteers

January 22: Need Volunteers

January 29: Need Volunteers

FLOWERS:

January 1: Jack & Laura Tench
Dianne Lail

January 8: Bob & Pat Koehler
Dennis & Dee Tucker

January 15: Dianne Lail
Jack, Sarah & Elizabeth Tench

January 22: Tracey Nault & Children
Tim & Debbie Baker

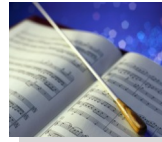
January 29: Stan & Sue Lahr
Bryant & Jane U. Deaton



Birthstone: Garnet
Birth Flower: Snowdrop, Carnation

- 1: President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves. 1863
- 1: Immigration facilities opened on Ellis Island, NY, to cope with the flood of immigrants. 1891
- 3: Pope Leo X excommunicated Martin Luther. 1521
- 3: Alaska is the 49th state admitted to the Union. 1959
- 4: The Euro, the new money of 11 European nations went into effect. 1999
- 5: A British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia. 1781
- 6: The first public demonstration of the electric telegraph was given by its inventor, Samuel Finley Breese Morse. 1838
- 7: Italian astronomer Galileo discovered Jupiter's four satellites, naming them Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Calisto. 1610
- 7: The first aerial crossing of the English Channel was made by Jean Pierre Blanchard and Dr. John Jeffries, in a hot-air balloon. 1785
- 9: Count Zeppelin announced plans for his new airship to carry 100 passengers.
- 14: Massachusetts Bay Colony observed a *Day of Contrition* for the notorious Salem Witch Trials. Five years after the trials, the colonial legislature declared 14 January 1697 a Day of Contrition to be devoted to fasting, soul-searching, and repentance in memory of the victims of the witch trials. 1697
- 15: The world's first public museum opened. The British Museum is now the largest museum in Britain, with over four million visitors annually. Treasures include the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon. 1759
- 16: Captain James Cook became the first recorded person to cross the Antarctic Circle. 1773
- 21: First issue of the Daily News, edited by Charles Dickens was published. 1846
- 30: The USS Monitor was launched at Greenpoint, Long Island. 1862

MUSIC



NEWS

We have many talented children and youth at Holy Comforter. In the past we have had a diversity of music programs that have waxed and waned. Many that I talked to say that they would like to see an expanded program at Holy Comforter. As for this music director I have but one word to say, "Ditto."

Here are some of the latest comments to appear on my desk regarding potential meeting times:

1. Do not meet on school nights...too much homework.
2. Sundays are out...we tried after worship, but everyone wants to make a bee-line for the restaurants.

As you can see just these two comments eliminate 95% of the week. Saturdays work for *Kids Club*, but they meet only once a month. I would like to challenge the parents of Holy Comforter in 2012 to:

1. Encourage your child to fully engage and participate in our Sunday School program. We have a one-of-a-kind state -of-the-art facility to assist your child in their spiritual journey through life. Until the majority make this commitment it is very difficult for other programming to be successful.
2. Make a point to speak with me regarding the direction of the music program. I am delighted to have children serve the Lord on an individual basis; such as singing a solo, playing a musical instrument, participating in small groups whenever possible.

It is a numbers game at times. Many children, including adults, take comfort in being in a "crowd," when it comes to music.

In the mean time, parents, let me know of your level of interest and commitment. We need to know that the children will be here for any program to exist.

Happy New Year!
Greg Cline



In The Spotlight

It's been said that to **have a new beginning, you must first have an ending...**

How does one stop a lifetime (30 years) of living and doing what has become ingrained in the fiber of who you are? How do you stop thinking and planning out the day, week, month, and year based on what you have done in the past and want to have happen in the future? ***How in the world can it be done and where do you begin?***

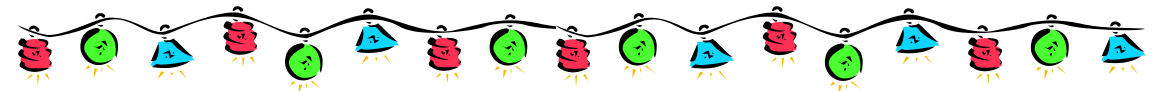
When Jane Deaton asked me to write about what my time spent in the office with **Pastor Mike** had been like, I had to stop and consider what it had REALLY meant to be here for the past six plus years...

My life as I had known it had ended. There had been no planned, gradual exodus, no time to prepare and get everything in order, not even an idea of where or how to begin again. **Pastor Mike and Holy Comforter gave me a chance to start over.** I had entered a new environment with no past experience of serving a congregation in any capacity. This was going to be a huge challenge to "get it right."

Pastor Mike gave me confidence to start over saying that everything would be OK. He said "you will just have to do a couple of bulletins for the different services and then all you have to do is change the hymns." *Yeah, right!* Little did he (or I) know that *nothing would ever be the same*. But as we worked through the process he, Greg and I began to understand what was needed and what could be accomplished. When I had a question or did not understand something **Pastor Mike showed patience**. If I made a mistake, **Pastor Mike forgave it** and said just to move on. When I felt overwhelmed with some of the challenges we faced, **he understood**. If I had an idea on how to improve or maybe try something new, then **Pastor Mike would give it a chance to succeed**.

Now, here we are at the beginning of another new year...the end of Pastor Mike's time with us as the pastor of our congregation, but the beginning of a new life for him and his family. As this new phase begins **I wish for him: confidence** in finding a new way to live, **patience** with himself and his family as they adjust, **forgiveness** of himself and others when the challenge seems too much, **understanding** that the adjustment will take time and not always be easy, and that they all now have **the chance to try new and exciting adventures, a new beginning**...all those things he willingly gave to me and others through the years.

Love & Best Wishes for New Beginnings,
Dianne (Headquarters)





JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Name of Jesus 9:30am No Children's Sunday school 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	2 11:00 am Morning Circle Meets at the home of Pat Koehler. Bring sandwich. Meet at 10:30 am in church parking lot if you wish to carpool.	3 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord	7
8 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:30am Sunday school 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion Council after 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	9	10 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	11	12	13	14 8:30 am Confirmands meet to carpool to Antioch in Dallas 10:00 am Workday upstairs in Education Building
15 2nd Sunday after The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday school 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	16	17 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	18 The Confession of St. Peter	19	20	21 
22 3rd Sunday after The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday school 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	23	24 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	25 The Conversion of St. Paul	26	27	28
29 4th Sunday after The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday school 10:30 am The Service Congregational Meeting 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	30	31 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon				



We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of January. 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.

- January 1 Albert Ewing
 Brenda Jenkins
- January 6 Ferrie Hedrick
- January 10 Charles Mauney
 Becky Richards
- January 12 Charles Bryan
- January 13 Abbey Kowalewski
- January 16 Riley Tucker
- January 17 Julie Wiegand
- January 18 Meagan Beasley
 Carmen De Nicholas
- January 19 Fay Heller
- January 21 Jane Howard
 Paul Nault
- January 26 Matthew Carr
- January 31 Philip Posey



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