



We have had a nice long summer break and now it is time to revamp our schedules and return to the fall/winter routine. Make sure you include the Sunday School hour in your schedule. We have teachers who are preparing for all age groups birth-adult and **all we need is you!**

We have volunteers who are staffing the church nursery weekly so parents of the most young are encouraged to come and attend your class while starting your little one in the routine with the nursery. We are asking that the rising kindergarten group remain in the **Pre-K class** until after the Christmas break...we have learned that they need a little more time in the younger group before "moving up." Thanks for your cooperation in helping them succeed. **God's Eden** (grades 1-5) is fully staffed and we have some Royal topics this fall...we will be talking about Pharaoh, Queens and Advent and Christmas. **Youth**, we have heard your cry and have secured a younger slate of teachers for you and they will teach more consistently so you can get to know them better. Natalie Hullander is taking the lead in the **Seeker's class** and is excited about its start up. The **Adult Bible class** will continue as they have all summer with good leadership and discussion. See you Sunday during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour!

**Our teachers for the 2012-2013 year are as follows:**

Pre-K Class: Carmen De Nicholas, Sherry Alexander,  
Mark & Rebecca Yount, & Debbie Baker, Substitute  
God's Eden: Brooke Martin, Arts/crafts; Angie Koehler, Games;  
Marsha Kinley, Computer; Maria Carr, Cooking;  
Sonja Kreitzer, Drama; and Courtney Gatlin, Video  
Youth Class: Katie Kesson & Courtney Gatlin  
Marsha Kinley, Brenda Daly & Debbie Neagle, Substitutes  
Adult "Seekers": Natalie Hullander  
Senior Adult Class: John Kreitzer, Co-Teacher  
Greg Byrum, Co-Teacher  
Tommy Causby, Substitute

The **prayer shawl ministry** is up and going again. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help with this ministry, please see Beth Brittain. If you cannot knit or crochet, you can help by delivering the prayer shawls, provide a devotional thought during our meetings or by keeping us in your prayers. We meet the third Sunday of the month in the church parlor at 4:00 pm.

**Beth Brittain, Christian Education**

## Church Council News

The Nominating Committee will submit a list of candidates to the congregation at our **annual meeting on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** for Church Council.

**Any active, confirmed member may nominate any qualified member** to run for Church Council. In order to submit their name for nomination, **you must fill out a nomination form and return it to the church office by Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Forms are available from the church office or from an usher.**



**Children's Ensemble CDs are available for each participating child's family.** The CD, entitled *Sing the Stories of God's People*, contains 30 songs based on stories in the Hebrew scriptures commonly used in Bible story books. The stories encourage children to trust God and care for one another in loving, just ways.

If you have not picked up a sing-along-CD for your child, see Greg Cline or Maria Carr.

## Holy Comforter Comment

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

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

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:27-28

## Communion Opportunities For September

September 2 The 14th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 23 The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Jane Deaton, Reporter  
Volume 33, No. 9

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



**Having done weddings, funerals and celebrations with all kinds of good people at Holy Comforter, I know we are a family.**

What does the Bible say about family? The concept of family was introduced in the very beginning, as we see in Genesis 1:28, “God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’” God’s plan for creation was for men and women to marry and have children. A man and a woman would form a “one-flesh” union through marriage (Genesis 2:24), and they together with their children become a family, the essential building block of human society. We also see early on that family members were to look after and care for one another. It wasn’t just a matter of roles.

When God asks Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” Cain’s response is the flippant “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The implication is that, yes, Cain was expected to be Abel’s keeper and vice versa, as all families do. When God saved Noah from the flood, it wasn’t an individual case of salvation, but a salvation for him, his wife, his sons and his sons’ wives. In other words, his family was saved (Genesis 6:18).

The importance of family can be seen in the provisions of the Mosaic covenant. For example, two of the Ten Commandments deal with maintaining the cohesiveness of the family. The fourth commandment regarding honoring parents is meant to preserve the authority of parents in family matters, and the sixth commandment prohibiting adultery protects the sanctity of marriage. From these two commandments flow all of the various other stipulations in the Mosaic Law which seek to protect marriage and the family. The New Testament makes many of the same commands and prohibitions. Jesus speaks on the sanctity of marriage and against frivolous divorce in Matthew 19. The Apostle Paul talks about what Christian homes should look like when he gives the twin commands of “children, obey your parents in the Lord” and “Fathers, don’t provoke your children” in Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21. Furthermore, we see similar New Testament concepts regarding the importance of family in the process of salvation in the book of Acts when on two separate occasions during Paul’s second missionary journey, entire households were baptized at the conversion of one individual (Acts 16:11-15, 16:31-33).

So what does the Bible say about family? The physical family is the most important building block to human society, and as such, it should be nurtured and protected. But more important than that is the new creation that God is making in Christ, which is comprised of a spiritual family, the Church, made up of all people who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. This is a family “drawn from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages” (Revelation 7:9), and the defining characteristic of this spiritual family is love for one another: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

During the transition of welcoming a new pastor, the family of Holy Comforter needs to pull together to do the vital ministries to keep our whole church vibrant, changing, pulsating and energetic. No way this can be done if we can’t even call each other by name. It is important to open up every ministry with inclusion of every and all believers. This is why it is so important that we make a new pictorial directory. **Please make time to have your pictures made and your information updated on September 9th and 16th.**

*Pastor Mike*

**CHURCH SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, September 1 Staying Connected Group**  
7:00 pm  
**Sunday, September 2 14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 am **Sunday School for All**  
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, September 9 15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
**Church Council meets after**  
**Saturday, September 15 Kids’ Club**  
10:00 am Holy Comforter  
**Sunday, Sept. 16 16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
**Sunday, Sept. 23 17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
**With Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, Sept. 30 18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service

**Sundays:** 10:10 am Choir  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon  
**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

<b>Treasurer’s Report</b> (Warren Heller)		
<b>Report for Month</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>
Budget Expenses:	\$18,559.25	\$129,914.75
Actual Expenses:	17,998.87	124,058.61
Offerings Received:	<u>19,218.51</u>	<u>118,432.53</u>
<b>Gain for Month:</b>	<b>\$ 1,219.64</b>	
<b>Loss Year-to-Date:</b>		<b>\$ 5,626.08</b>



**Everyone is invited** the join with the **KIDS’ Club** on Saturday, **September 22** as they tour **Windy Hill Apple Orchard & Farm in York, SC.**

A special tour **just for us** starts at 1:00 pm. The cost is **\$7** each for all ages.  
This cost includes: **Apple Cider Making Demonstration · The Johnny Appleseed Story · Apple Cider Tasting · Scarecrow Making · Hayride and Farm Animals · Take Home Items · Much More!**  
To carpool meet at **12 Noon** in **Holy Comforter’s parking lot.**



**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye + Elizabeth Bruchon  
**ACOLYTES:** Becca Gatlin, Gage Gatlin  
**CRUCIFERS:** Elizabeth Burwell  
Dylan Fox

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain  
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain  
Becky Richards  
Nancy Powell

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team C)

Sherry Alexander Charles Mauney  
Fran Holland Dee Smith

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

September 2: Bryant & Jane Deaton  
September 23: Tim & Shelia Kelly

**GREETERS:**

September 2: Brenda Jenkins  
September 9-16: Pat Long  
September 23 & 30: **Need Volunteers**

**USHERS:**

**Need Volunteers for each Sunday**

**FLOWERS:**

September 2: Charles & Beverley Mauney  
September 9: Dianne Lail  
Carole Jolley  
September 16: Charles & Beverley Mauney  
September 23: Warren & Faye Heller  
September 30: Bob & Denise Wiegand  
One vase available



Birthstone: Sapphire  
Birth Flower: Aster

- 1: Russia began taxing men's beards. 1689
- 1: The Liberty Bell arrives in Philadelphia. 1752
- 1: The first female telephone operator starts work (Emma Nutt in Boston). 1878
- 2: Union General William T Sherman captures and burns Atlanta. 1864
- 2: On this day in history VP Theodore Roosevelt advises, "Speak softly & carry a big stick". 1901
- 3: 1st pro football game played, Latrobe beats Jeanette 12-0 (Penn). 1895
- 3: Britain and France declare war on Germany, starting World War 2. 1939
- 6: 1st US lighthouse built (Boston) on this day in history. 1716
- 6: The first westbound train arrives in San Francisco. 1869
- 6: *Carnation* processes its 1st can of evaporated milk. 1899
- 11: Terrorists hijack four airplanes and run two of them into the World Trade Center and one of them into the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashes in Pennsylvania. 2001
- 14: George Frederick Handel finishes "Messiah" oratorio, after working on it non-stop for 23 days. 1741
- 14: Alexander Stewart opens the first US department store. 1848
- 18: *Boston Gazette* reports first US piano (a spinet). 1769
- 18: 1st loan is made to pay salaries of the presidents & Congress. 1789
- 23: First baseball team, NY Knickerbockers organize, adopt rule code. 1845
- 27: Book matches are patented by Diamond Match Company. 1892
- 30: First book published, Johann Guttenberg's Bible. 1452

## MUSIC NEWS

Youth and Children at Holy Comforter are offered another musical opportunity to share in the worship life of our assembly.

Music plays such a powerful role in our services of worship. Children as young as Kindergarten and through high school are encouraged to join us. We have offered similar programs in the past, but lacked one vital ingredient...**children**.

**Parents, it really is up to you to encourage and transport your child to these ensembles.** We have some families with children of various ages. In light of that fact, we will combine groups during the same hour. The first meeting will be on **September 9**.

### Children's Ensemble (K-Grade 5)

4:00-4:50 pm Fellowship Hall with Maria Carr

### Youth Ensemble (Middle-High School)

4:00-4:50 pm Choir Room with Greg Cline

These ensembles will enable children to become more engaged within the life and worship experience of our church; eventually participating within the framework of our liturgy.

We invite you to investigate and prayerfully consider your child's participation.



Our adult choral and handbell choirs have resumed for the fall. (See calendar)

Thanks so much to all these music ministers for giving so freely of their time and talents. Holy Comforter would have a far different worship hour without their leadership! **Greg Cline**



**It's time to update our church directory with photos and information!** Since we have constant changes within our families we must update information every few years. Two Sundays, **September 9 and 16th, have been set aside to take the new photos of you and your family.**

The photographic area will be set up in the fellowship hall. We ask that you come by after the church service and have your family/personal photo taken. Also available will be an information sheet for you to fill in all your contact information.



## In The Spotlight

We first came to Holy Comforter when our girls were young and we were immediately struck by the open, close family environment. Pastor Mike's relaxed, vivacious personality certainly helped set that stage. We really appreciated his teaching style in the pulpit and in the Sunday school class. Lenten series have always been a special treat for the same reason. We have never felt that any subject was off limits as we learned to venture forth in God's wide world. Most importantly, on Sunday mornings Mike just seemed to be able to say exactly what we needed to hear in a succinct and efficient manner.

As time passed, Mike and Lynn became a part of our family. Whether it was on Sunday, with the youth group, bringing communion before a crisis, or sitting through difficult surgeries, he has always been a steadying force and caring friend. For both of our daughters, Mike has been the only pastor they have known. They have their own relationship with him that has been very special. Very few pastors can develop a rapport with several age groups at the same time. Mike seems to be able to take those communication skills and build bridges between all ages. Both girls are adamant that they expect him to be available when it is time for the weddings! That combination of teacher, friend and pastor is rare. We are very thankful that he has allowed us to share his time in ministry. Hopefully retirement will bring the blessings of family and relaxation that he has definitely earned!

**Mark and Anne Reese**

## Belmont / Mount Holly CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Belmont Abbey College

Registration at 2:00 PM Walk Begins at 2:30 PM

**5K (3.1 miles); or any distance walkers are comfortable making.**

Join our community in raising funds and awareness for the global food crisis and support our local organizations: Belmont Community Organization (BCO), Serving our Community with Kindness in Springwood, Inc. (SOCKS) and Mount Holly's Community Relief Organization (CRO). Global funding will be administered through Church World Service Relief and Development.

If your church congregation, civic or social group or organization would like to help, has questions or you want more information, please call or email this year's coordinator: **Jon Boney (704) 791-5891** [jboney1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jboney1@carolina.rr.com), or see Julia Gunter here at Holy Comforter.



On CROP Walk day please bring at least one non-perishable canned good item to be donated and shared by BCO, CRO and SOCKS.










# September 2012



We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of September. 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
						<b>1 Staying Connected Group</b> 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall  Liberty Bell arrives in Philadelphia.. 1752 
<b>2 14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30am Sunday School for All 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion HCY after church  5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	<b>3 Labor Day</b>	<b>4</b>     7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  1st US lighthouse Built (Boston). 1716	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 15th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Council Meeting after <b>4:00 pm Children/Youth En.</b> 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon 	<b>10 Morning Circle/WELCA</b> 11:00 am Temple Room <i>Temple Trials/History of the Temple</i> by Pastor Mike Lunch after	<b>11</b>     7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Holy Cross Day</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 16th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service/HCY after 4:00 pm Children/Youth En. Prayer Shawl Group 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>     7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Windy Hill Apple Orchard</b> 12:00 Noon Holy Comforter Parking Lot
<b>23 17th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion  4:00 pm Children/Youth En. 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>     7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>     Book matches patented by Diamond Match Company. 1892 	<b>28</b>	<b>29 St. Michael and All Angels</b>
<b>30 18th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children/Youth En. 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	First book published, Johann Guttenberg's Bible. Sept. 30,1452 					

September 2	Jane Deaton
September 5	Taylor Burwell
September 7	Elizabeth Bruchon
September 8	Lainey Baakko
September 9	Claire Hamela
September 11	Hannah Carnes
	Maria Carr
	Madison Carr
September 14	Emily Koehler
September 16	Leslie Braddy
September 17	Bill Hollar
September 18	Jayne Beasley
	Winston Baker
September 20	Diann Halvorson
	Lyn Miller
	Beverly Reynolds
	Dan Wallace
September 21	Dot Holland
September 22	Dean Burwell
September 23	Anne Reese
	Rebecca Yount
September 25	Harold Singleton
September 26	Warren Heller
September 28	Leo Kasmer
	Elizabeth Passer
September 29	Barbara Beale
	Claire Mitchell
September 30	Louise Austin

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