

Holy Comforter Youth

Holy Comforter Youth meets at 6:00 pm
on Sundays, December 8th & 22nd

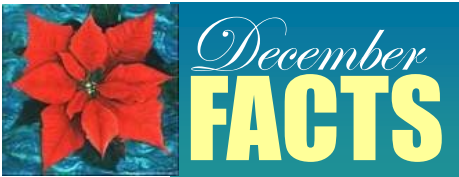
SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAYS:

- December 8: Special Guests John the Baptist & Santa Claus
- December 15: *Hanging of the Green* Service
- December 22: Children's Christmas Program
- December 24: 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve
10:45 pm Prelude
11:00 pm Candlelight Service w/HC
- December 29: Regular Service with Christmas Carols

Carillon Update: As of 11/25/13 the bell repairs are proceeding. There were more issues than anticipated. A little over half of the moving parts within the bells themselves have been completed. To my question regarding the installation before Christmas, **"We will try."** So, let us assume that the Christmas bells for 2013 will be rung by our hand-bell ensemble.

It never happened!... Remember back in June we announced that we would electronically update the church music library during the summer? Just like the Wright brother's first attempt, "it didn't make it off the ground." Let's try again in the new year. **Let Greg Cline know if you have a laptop computer and some gifted hours that you would be willing to donate to the music ministry.** We will try to coordinate, in the New Year, a schedule that works for everyone!

As announced in November, Gisela Stone, in her estate, graciously bequeathed her house to Holy Comforter. **Greg Cline is the listing agent, through Cottage Keepers Realty.** Feel free to call Greg if you have questions regarding the property. The address is **2 Spruce Pine Drive, Belmont.**



- Birthstone: Blue Zircon, Turquoise
Birth Flower: Poinsettia
- 1: 1st American school to offer manual training courses opens, Md. 1750
 - 1: Hans Christian Andersen published his 1st book of fairy tales. 1835
 - 3: Rowland Hill, introduced 1st adhesive postage stamp. 1795
 - 3: The first coed higher education institution in the U.S., Oberlin College, begins classes in Ohio. 1883
 - 4: Cecil B. DeMille's 1st version of "Ten Commandments" premieres. 1923
 - 7: Thomas A Edison demonstrates the gramophone. 1877
 - 7: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor (a date that will live in infamy) first Japanese submarine sunk by a US ship (USS Ward). 1941
 - 8: As a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Britain, the United States and Australia declare war on Japan. 1941
 - 8: USS Wake (PR-3), a river gunboat moored at Shanghai, is only U.S. vessel to surrender during World War II. 1941
 - 11: Boston's Bijou Theatre, 1st American playhouse lit exclusively by electricity, 1st performance, Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe". 1882
 - 14: 1st state road authorized, Frankfort, KY to Cincinnati. 1793
 - 14: Roald Amundsen, Norwegian explorer, the 1st man to reach the South Pole. 1911
 - 19: Albert L Jones (NYC), patents corrugated paper. 1871
 - 22: Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic. 1937
 - 24: Fire devastates Library of Congress in Wash, destroys 35,000 volumes. 1851
 - 25: Massachusetts General Court ordered a fine (five shillings) for "observing any such day as Christmas." 1651
 - 29: The first YMCA in the USA is organized in Boston. 1851

Holy Comforter Comment

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

John Propst, Interim Pastor JohnCPropst@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



23 **"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."**

Matthew 1:18

Communion Opportunities For December

- December 1 1st Sunday in Advent
- December 22 4th Sunday in Advent
- December 24 Candlelight & Communion 11:00 pm

Volume 34, No. 12
Dianne Lail Communications/Office Manager

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





Sunday School continues with the children's study focusing on **The Birth of Christ**. 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 December 29th. 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 5th** beginning with a new children's study about Lydia.


The children will present their Christmas program on December 22 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. **If you want your children to participate, let Ashley know so she can assign parts.** Rehearsals on 12/14 at 10 am and 12/21 at 2:45 pm.

Church-wide Christmas Caroling is scheduled for **December 21 at 3:30 pm.** Meet at the church to carpool to some of our homebound members and bring the joy of the season to them. 

Kids' Club will meet **December 14 at 6:00 pm** at **Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens** to walk through the Christmas Lights.

Children's Christmas Play Practice will be at **10:00 am on December 14** and at **2:45 pm on December 21.** *KidsClub* kids will have hot cocoa and cookies after the Christmas Caroling at 3:30 pm.

HCY (Holy Comforter Youth) will meet **December 8th and 22nd** from 6:00-7:30 pm at the church. 

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.
- * we can do for someone less fortunate than ourselves, we can truly experience Christmas.
- * 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.
- * 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.



**For who you are and all you do,
Please join me as I celebrate you!**

What: Christmas Brunch Drop-In

**When: Saturday, December 7
9am — Noon**

**Where: Beth Brittain 108 Eagle Road
Belmont, NC 28012**

Questions & regrets only 704-956-1203
**Blessings of wholeness and peace
to you this Christmas Season.**

Women of the Church are invited to an
Epiphany Tea

Saturday, January 4 at 3:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

Bring a few of your holiday pictures
for a scrapbook page!



From the Pastor...

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it." (Colossians 3:12-14 from The Message)

My HolyC Church Friends,

Did you read the Colossians text above? Read it again ... s-l-o-w-l-y, meditatively. Advent & Christmas are seasons of the Church Year that should help us to think carefully about what we chose each day to wear. Advent prepares believers to dress for the arrival of Jesus.

Think of it ... for thousands of years God gave us God's voice. Prior to Bethlehem God gave us messengers, teachers & prophets. In the manger, God have Himself. God not only sent others, God became one of us! And how was God dressed on that first Christmas morning? Cloths, make-shift diapers I suppose, but clothed Spiritually ... and as Jesus grew and ministered and healed and taught we'd see quite a wardrobe: compassionate, kind, humble, strong, disciplined, forgiving and so loving. He loved us all the way to the cross and the empty tomb.

Advent provides us a new beginning, awaiting the celebration of Jesus' birth — how about making the Colossians passage your Advent-Christmas "calling card!"

Dress the way Jesus dressed. May God's good grace continue to be poured lavishly upon the ministry & mission of HolyC Church in this interim season. Continue to dress well.

"Regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it."

It continues to be a joy to serve alongside you during this interim season! Advent & Christmas blessings,

Pastor John Propst



The search committee has had some productive and informative interviews and we are still in that process.

We are still reviewing additional candidate profiles submitted to us by the NC Synod and we are still open for nominations from the congregation. Those forms are available at the church office.

Our committee continues to ask for your patience and prayers as we move forward.

We proceed in faith of His grace,
John Crist, Search Committee Chair



The beautiful Nativity located in the foyer of the Education Building was made and donated by Richard & Kay Holden.

MUSIC NEWS

The Children's Ensemble has been busy this fall. We have had 10 children consistently in attendance. This group recently sang the blessing for our Thanksgiving meal. On **December 15 the ensemble will lead the assembly in singing the prelude.** They will also participate in the service of *The Hanging of the Green* that day.

All the children (and adults) of Holy Comforter are invited to join us on **Saturday, December 21 at 3:30 pm as we gather in the fellowship hall for our traditional Christmas Caroling.** You do not need a "golden" voice, just a warm heart. This event is the highlight of Christmas for our shut-ins.

On **December 22 the children will also lead us in traditional carols of the season during their presentation.** (See calendar.) All children will be participating and need to be in prior **attendance for the rehearsals.**

The annual **church choir Christmas Party** will be **Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 pm.** We will gather at the home of Tom and Shirley Causby for a delicious dinner for 40. Choir members and spouses of the choir will be considered accepting of the invitation, unless we hear regrets. After dinner we will hike to Greg's for dessert.

Christmas Eve: Join us for the **96th Candlelight Communion Service** held at Holy Comforter Church. There is always a full house, with the **Prelude beginning at 10:45 pm.**

Chamber and church choirs will present special anthems of the season, accompanied by violin and cello! The handbell choir will ring praises on this holiest night.

Invite your family and friends to this most beautiful service of the year. It has become a tradition for so many!

Greg Cline, Music Director



2014 Flower Chart

Now Available in the Narthex

Please PRINT your name at the date you wish to provide altar flowers and also list who you wish to honor or memorialize.

Vases are \$22.50 each **OR** \$45 for both. If you want to provide both vases, then sign your name on both lines at the date you choose.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	October	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$17,454.83	\$174,548.33
Actual Expenses:	16,425.44	172,023.96
Offerings Received:	14,732.85	189,689.62
Gain (Loss) for Period:	(\$1,692.59)	\$ 17,665.66



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

- Sunday, Dec. 1 1st Sunday in Advent**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
- Monday, Dec. 2 Morning Circle**
11:00 am Meet at home of Myra Hollar.
Potluck Lunch/Christmas Party
- Saturday, Dec. 7 9am-Noon Drop-In Brunch** at Beth's home
7:00 pm **Staying Connected** in Fellowship Hall
Make ornament (\$5)
Gift Exchange (\$10 limit)
- Sunday, Dec. 8 2nd Sunday in Advent**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Council meets after
6:00 pm **HCY** meets in fellowship hall
- Saturday, Dec. 14 Children's Play Practice**
10:00 am Meet in Sanctuary
5:30 pm Choir Christmas Party
6:00 pm **Kids' Club** Meet at *Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden* to walk through Christmas lights
- Sunday, Dec. 15 3rd Sunday in Advent**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am **Hanging of the Green** Service
- Saturday, Dec. 21 2:45 pm Final play practice**
3:30 pm **Christmas Caroling**
Kids' Club meet after for hot cocoa & cookies
- Sunday, Dec. 22 4th Sunday in Advent**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am **Children's Program w/Carols & Holy Communion**
6:00 pm **HCY** meets in fellowship hall
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve**
1:30 pm **Children's** Christmas Eve Service
10:45 pm Prelude
11:00 pm **Candlelight & Communion** Service
- Sunday, Dec. 29 1st Sunday after Christmas**
9:30 am **Adult Sunday School Only**
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service

See Calendar for regular meeting times of choirs and groups.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Jr., Sandra Cline
- ACOLYTES:** Clair Mitchell, Garrett Fox
- CRUCIFERS:** Hannah Carnes, Noah Rogers
- ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain
Courtney Gatlin Tracey Nault
Stephanie Hinson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Need Volunteers for the month of December

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
December 1: Myra & Bill Hollar
December 22: **Need Volunteers**
December 24: Dennis & Dee Tucker

GREETERS:
December 1 & 29: **Need Volunteers**
December 10: Pat Long
December 17: Pat Koehler
December 24: Pat Koehler

USHERS: Dec. 1, 8, 15: Denise Wiegand + Volunteers
December 22 & 24: Denise Wiegand & Greg Garrison
December 29: Denise Wiegand + Volunteers


TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

FLOWERS:
December 1: Shelia & Tim Kelly
The Naults
December 8: Shelia & Tim Kelly
Bob & Denise Wiegand
December 15: Mark & Rebecca Yount
December 22: Greg Garrison
December 24: Julia Gunter
December 29: Mark & Rebecca Yount
One vase available

All information for the January newsletter is due by **December 20.**
Please email to holycomforter@gmail.com or bring to the church office.

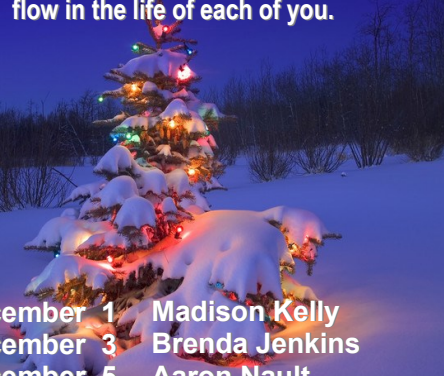
December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	2 11:00 am Morning Circle Home of Myra Hollar <i>Christmas Party</i> Potluck Lunch 	3 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	4	5	6	7 9 am-Noon Christmas Drop-In Brunch Beth's Home Staying Connected 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall Make ornament (\$5 cost) Gift exchange (\$10 limit) 
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Council after 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm HCY Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	9	10 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	11	12	13	14 10:00 am Children's Christmas Play Practice 5:30 pm Choir Party 6:00 pm Children meet at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens to walk through Christmas lights 
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service <i>Hanging of the Green</i> 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	16	17 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	18	19	20	21 2:45 pm Children's final Christmas Play Practice 3:30 pm Christmas Caroling <i>Kids Club will meet</i> after Christmas Caroling For hot cocoa & cookies 
22 4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with the Children's Program Carols & Holy Communion 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm HCY Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	23	24 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service  10:45 pm Prelude 11:00 pm Candlelight & Communion 	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am Adult Bible Class No Children's SS 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	30	31 New Years Eve 7:00 pm Nar-Anon				

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.



December 1	Madison Kelly
December 3	Brenda Jenkins
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 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.