



All **Sunday School** classes resume on **January 5**. Our Children (Pre K-Grade 5) will begin a study of Lydia. Classes are available for all ages and begin at 9:30 am in the education building. Plan to join a class for 2014—you will be glad you did!

Women of the Church: Join us for an **Epiphany Tea** at **3:00 pm** in the fellowship hall on **January 4**. Refreshments will be provided. Bring some holiday pictures as we will complete a scrapbook page or two. Brief devotional will tie it all together and fun and fellowship for all those who attend. **Thanks to Liz Propst** for helping with the scrapbook pages.

Children's Church will resume beginning on **January 5**. Thank you so very much to the volunteers who are leading this time. The children seem to be benefiting from the lessons and activities and the parents seem to be enjoying the quiet time during the scripture readings and sermon!! **Just a reminder the schedule is as follows:**

Week 1: Trudy Whitener
Week 2: The Kelly Family
Week 3: Carol & Phil Posey
Week 4: The Nault Family

Should a 5th week occur, Beth Brittain leads that time and is the back-up if leaders have to be away and cannot switch their week with another facilitator. **Thank you for leading in this vital ministry.**

Parents: A reminder that **Kids' Worship Kits** remain available and have various quiet activities for younger children. Children are encouraged to take home any paper that they have written on and particularly the worship bulletins. Parents, please be sure the kits are maintained as neatly as possible and let Beth know if there are needs.

Kids' Club meets Saturday, **January 18 at 2:00 pm** at church. **Bring favorite board games.**

Holy Comforter Youth will meet on **January 5th and 19th** at 6:00 pm.

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education



Birthstone: Garnet
Birth Flower: Carnation

1: Papal Chancery adopts January as beginning of the year. 1622
1: Quakers in Pennsylvania emancipate their slaves on this day in history. 1788
1: 1st practical fire engine (horse-drawn) in US enters service. 1853
3: Joan of Arc handed over to the bishop. 1431
3: Leonardo da Vinci unsuccessfully tests a flying machine. 1496
3: March of Dimes campaign to stomp out polio is organized. 1938
7: The first steam powered boat passes through the Panama Canal. 1914
7: Air Force announces production of first US jet fighter, the Bell P-59. 1944
11: 1st sedan-type car (Hudson) goes on display at 13th Auto Show (NYC). 1913
11: U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry releases a report that states that smoking cigarettes is bad for your health. 1964
15: 2 million gallons of molasses spill in a tidal wave that drowns 21 in Boston MA. 1919
15: Japanese driven off Guadalcanal. 1943
17: United Nations Security Council holds its 1st meeting. 1946
17: Trial of 11 US Communist party members begins in New York City NY. 1948
17: Submarine Nautilus begins 1st nuclear-powered test voyage. 1955
18: 1st shipboard landing of a plane. 1911
18: U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower agrees to allow a presidential news conference to be aired (but not broadcast live) on television for the first time. 1955
24: Gold is first discovered in California, starting the gold rush. 1848
27: First tape recorder sold. 1948
30: Bell chimes invented. 1487
31: America launches its first satellite. 1958

Holy Comforter Comment

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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



***1 In the beginning was
the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was
God.***

John 1:1

Communion Opportunities For January

January 5 The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Volume 35, No. 1

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

From the pastor...



"You groped your way through that murk once (Today's NIV uses "darkness" rather than "murk"), but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true – these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ (in the new year), and then do it." (Ephesians 5:8-10 from The Message)

Dear Holy Comforter friends,

In 2006 I remember stumbling around in the dark a bit. A few days before Thanksgiving of that year, I woke up and realized that I couldn't see clearly out of my left eye. It was as if I had a veil over most of the eye. A few days after that I had eye surgery to repair a torn retina (it was torn in several places) and a detached macula. The 9 days of looking down was no fun. The retinal surgeon told me then that I would begin to develop a cataract forming within a few years. He was correct and 7 years later, on November 13 of this year, I had the cataract removed and new lens put in. Wow! What a difference a surgery makes! Thank you, Lord Jesus!

Physical sight is something many of us take for granted. So is Spiritual sight. As if it will always be there without assisting God's Spirit. Here is a little "warning" I discovered a few years ago – not for losing our Spiritual sight in this new year, but in fact for allowing God's Spirit to increase our Spiritual sight for the year.

12 Warning Signs of Spiritual Sight & Health for 2014
Be careful! If you begin to experience any or all of the following warning signs in the New Year, you may find that you are growing closer to Jesus **and** receiving greater Spiritual sight!

1. Persistent presence of supportive friends. (Proverbs 17:17)
2. Chronic positive expectations – a tendency to frame events in a positive light. (Philippians 4:4)

3. Regular signs of JOY in living. (John 15:11)
4. Sense of Spiritual renewal in Jesus. (Romans 12:1-2)
5. Increased sensitivity to others. (Matthew 22:39)
6. A tendency to adapt to changing conditions. (Philippians 4:12)
7. Increased appetite for physical activity. (1 Timothy 4:8)
8. Tendency to identify and communicate feelings. (Ephesians 4:32)
9. Repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity. (Proverbs 11:25)
10. Compulsion to care for other people. (Colossians 3:12)
11. Persistent sense of humor. Known to laugh out loud. (Psalm 126:2)
12. A life centered in the forgiveness of Jesus. (Ephesians 1:7)

If you think that you have some of these "symptoms," I just may have some "cures."

- **The Purpose Driven Life** – it has been out for many years and perhaps many of you have read this discipleship study by Rick Warren that helps answer the question, "What on earth am I here for?" **Or** there are many great Spiritual studies – **Jesus Calling** by Sarah Young, is a wonderful daily devotional.
- **Via de Cristo** – "The Way of Christ" – Liz and I have been involved in these Spiritual renewal weekends for 30+ years. Several HolyC folks attended weekends this fall. I'd love to share more about them. Please ask me or others about a Via de Cristo renewal weekend!
- **TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)** – For high youth AND adults. Give yourself a gift of grace and attend one – have your Spiritual sight wonderfully "adjusted" by testimonies of grace given my high school youth!
- **Marriage Encounter Weekend** – Liz and I have attended two of these, the first in 1976. Please ask us about it!

I'm sure there are a plethora of other possibilities. These are just a few suggestions to help "care for your symptoms!" May your Spiritual sight and health in 2014 be filled with much hope, joy, peace & love!

God's blessings upon you all – what a joy to have ministered alongside you over the past year!

Pastor John

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!



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.

**Year-end reports
from all committee
chairpersons and
group leaders are
due to Dianne by
January 5.
Congregational
Annual Meeting is
January 19th.**



Special words of thanks to all of the Holy Comforter ministers of music seem woefully inadequate. To the members of the church, chamber, and handbell ensemble, thank you for your beautiful music during the Advent/Christmas season and for your leadership throughout the year! To the children of the Kids' Ensemble and their transportation operators, thank you for your participation of this ongoing ministry.

We look forward to new and exciting opportunities in 2014.

All music activities resume on January 5, 2014.

Greg Cline, Music Director

**We ask that all who are able
to please remain after the
service Sunday, January 5
to "undecorate" the church.**

**Your help will be
greatly appreciated!**

WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

If you are concerned, due to inclement weather, as to whether we will have church services or planned activities, please check the following for information:

- ♦ Call the church office at 704-825-2483 and listen to recorded message
 - ♦ Check the church website at www.holyc.org
 - ♦ Watch WSOC-TV for their list of closings and/or delays
- ♦ Check your email. Please give us your email address if we do not have it.



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

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

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, Jan. 4

- 3:00 pm **Epiphany Tea**
Refreshments provided
Meet in fellowship hall
Bring photographs for scrapbook page
- 7:00 pm **Staying Connected**
Taxco Restaurant, Belmont

Sunday, Jan. 5 Epiphany Sunday

- 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
6:00 pm **HCY** meets in fellowship hall

Monday, Jan. 6 Morning Circle

- 11:00 am Meet at home of Monique Estelle.
Covered Dish meal.

Sunday, Jan. 12 Baptism of Our Lord

- 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Council meets after

Saturday, Jan. 18 Kids' Club

- 2:00 pm Meet at church
Bring favorite board game

Sunday, Jan. 19 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
6:00 pm **HCY**

Sunday, Jan. 26 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

Regular meeting times:

- Sundays:** 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

- Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Church Choir
Nar-Anon

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

<u>Report for Month</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Budget Expenses:	\$17,454.83	\$192,003.17
Actual Expenses:	17,039.56	189,102.49
Offerings Received:	<u>16,411.50</u>	<u>206,101.12</u>
Gain (Loss) for Period: (\$ 628.06)		\$ 16,998.63

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr., Karen Rogers

ACOLYTES: Not available

CRUCIFERS: Not available

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Need Volunteers for the month of January

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
January 5: Tracey & Caroline Nault
January 19: Shelia & Tim Kelly

GREETERS:
January 5: The MacDonalds
January 12: Marsha Kinley, The Schollers
January 19: Katie Kessen
January 26: The Nault Family

USHERS: Need Volunteers for January

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

FLOWERS:
January 5: Carol & Phil Posey
January 12: Eric & Ashley Ange
Sarah, Elizabeth & Khloe Tench
January 19: Bob & Denise Wiegand
Mark & Rebecca Yount and
Luke & Alec Via
January 26: **Both vases available**

**Holy Comforter Youth will meet on
Sundays, January 5 and 19th at
6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**



January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1The Name of Jesus	2	3	4
52nd Sunday after Christmas 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 HCY Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	611:00 am Morning Circle Covered Dish Meal At the home of Monique Estelle	77:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	8	9	10	11Staying Connected 7:00 pm Taxco Restaurant Belmont
12Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Infant Baptism Church Council after 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	13	147:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	15	16	17	18The Confession of St. Peter Kids' Club 2:00 pm Meet at church Bring favorite Board game
192nd Sunday after Epiphany 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 HCY Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	20	217:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	22	23	24	25The Conversion of St. Paul
263rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	27	287:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	29	30	31	

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 1Albert Ewing
- January 6Ferrie Hedrick
- January 9Chuck Kimball
- January 10Charles Mauney
- January 10Brandy Milton
- Becky Richards
- January 13Abbey Kowalewski
- January 16Riley Tucker
- January 17Julie Wiegand
- January 18Carmen De Nicholas
- January 19Faye Heller
- January 21Jane Howard
- Paul Nault
- January 26Matthew Carr
- January 31Philip 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.

