



The **Seekers** class will not be meeting the week the children have the Christmas play as most of the people in there are needed to help get the kids ready. Others can join the adult Bible study downstairs that week if they'd like.

There will be no children's Sunday school on December 27. We want to say **thank you** for all of the volunteers who help to make our Sunday School program happen each and every week.

Children's Church leaders for December:

December 6: Bocchino & Kline
December 13: Maria & Madison Carr
December 20: (None) **Christmas Play**
December 27: Trudy Whitener + helper

The **Children's Christmas Play practice** will be on **Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 am** and **Saturday, December 19 at 2:00 pm**. Talk to Veronica Bryant if you want your child to participate.

HCY will meet on **December 12** from **5-7 pm** to go Christmas shopping for the **Angel Tree**.

Kids' Club meets on **Saturday, December 19** after the Christmas Play practice. There will be various fun activities as well as a special visitor from the North Pole.

Mandi Kline, Christian Education



Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2016
(Monday, May 23-Optional Day)
Cost will be \$79.00 per room/per night
Let Greg Cline know if you wish to be placed on the waiting list!



All of our musical ensembles are hard at work preparing for the many upcoming festivals of worship throughout the rest of the calendar year. We also began a new opportunity for our youngest musicians. **Musician in Training** (MIT) will allow each child, who wishes to participate, the opportunity to assist the director of music during the preparatory time with the church choir, as well as assisting with musical tasks in the choir loft during the beginning moments of the service of worship. This ministry is open to all members of the children's ensemble.

Sunday, December 6 from 1:00-6:00 pm Holy Comforter Church will remain open for *Belmont's Historic Christmas Tour of Homes*. All homes are within walking distance from the church. Our parking lot will be in use for the tour on that day. We would love to have volunteers from HolyC to meet and greet visitors during the afternoon. We will create a sign-up sheet for volunteers willing to serve in 1-hour blocks of time.

We have been told that they will cut off ticket sales at 1500 guests, so they must be expecting a large crowd. **Tickets are not required to tour the church.**

Saturday, December 12 at 5:50 pm the **Church Choir Christmas party** will be hosted by Shirley & Tommy Causby. Their address is 211 North Main Street, Belmont. Dessert will be at Greg's home...just follow the crowd to his house.

Greg Cline, Organist/Choir Master



216 N. Main Street P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications



¹⁰But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see—I am
bringing you good news of
great joy for all the people:
¹¹to you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is
the Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Communion Opportunities for December

December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 20 4th Sunday in Advent
December 24 Christmas Eve (11 pm Candlelight Service)
(During Advent evening worship and after worship on other Sundays)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 36, No. 12

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



Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday in the season of Advent, is kind of like the Church Calendar's New Year's Day. The Church follows a year that is structured into seasons, but these seasons are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Each season focuses on an aspect of our faith in Jesus, and in Advent we focus on his coming again to bring his kingdom to fruition. It is a season of anticipation and hope. We read scripture stories of Israel waiting for a Messiah, and we realize how much we can relate as we await Christ's coming again.

The world has always been a tumultuous place, but in recent years, months, even weeks, it has felt less and less safe. Whether this is the reality for the world, or our perception of it as horrific acts hit close to home and seem threaten those we love, we live in a time where there is a real fear among people. As an American culture, we've gotten pretty good at drawing lines and hiding behind them instead of engaging in conversation, giving people the benefit of the doubt, and working together. We've scratched the scabs on a number of hot-button topics like gun control and racism, and we're realizing that we haven't healed in the last fifty years as much as we might have thought.

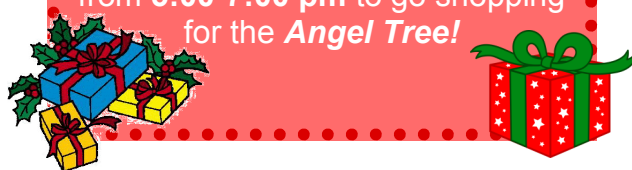
It is important that we work to find resolutions to these issues. It is important that we work with people around the world to bring resolution to such apparent evils

as ISIS and genocide in Africa. It is important that we work together to find reconciliation between groups who have historically devalued one another. We must work to lift up struggling nations from their poverty, not because they will owe us something in return but because they are people who are hurting and we are called to respond when the least of these cries out for help.

As we approach and walk through the season of Advent, we listen to the yearning of our brothers and sisters around the world for salvation from the brokenness that surrounds them. And as we respond as Christ's hands of grace and mercy with whatever ability we have, we also join with them in hope and anticipation of Christ's coming again to finish the healing he began in his life, death, and resurrection. Politicians all claim to have the answers to the country and world's problems, but we know that our ultimate hope is not public policy, not in armies and military power, but in our Lord Jesus Christ who came to testify to the truth. This Advent season we remember that our hope is in Christ, and we join together with the whole Church on Earth as we pray that his kingdom comes on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

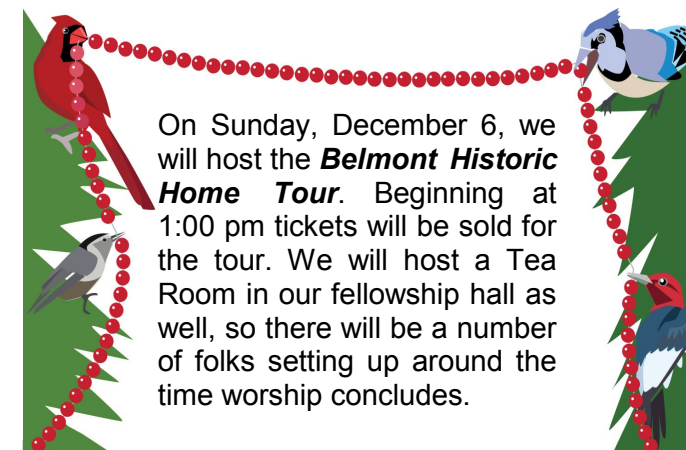
HCY meets Sunday, December 13
from **5:00-7:00 pm** to go shopping
for the **Angel Tree!**



Advent Dinner and Evening Worship



During the Advent season we will again have dinner and worship on Wednesday evenings, with dinner at 6:00 pm and worship at 6:45. This year we are using the liturgy, "Unfailing Light," written by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl. Marty Haugen also wrote "Holden Evening Prayer," which we use doing Lent. This is a beautiful liturgy for evening worship, and a number of musicians in our congregation, adult and children, are helping to lead us in worship. The service also includes communion. This is a great way to center ourselves around Christ in a very busy time of the year which can so often be a distraction from Him. Our first dinner and worship will be on **December 2**.



On Sunday, December 6, we will host the **Belmont Historic Home Tour**. Beginning at 1:00 pm tickets will be sold for the tour. We will host a Tea Room in our fellowship hall as well, so there will be a number of folks setting up around the time worship concludes.

We are excited to be able to host them, as well as show off our wonderful sanctuary to all the folks coming for the tour. As part of that afternoon, our children's ensemble, handbells, and adult choir will move their rehearsal times to have music going as people come through.

Thank you to all the folks in the congregation who have volunteered to help out!



Join Us for Caroling

Saturday, December 12
11:00 am

Meet in the
Holy Comforter
Parking Lot to
carpool to our
Shut-ins.



Need a great gift idea for Friends and Family?

Our Church Cookbooks are now available at **\$10 each**.

See **Deb Bingham** or **Kathy Graves** at church
OR
Dianne Lail
in the church office to obtain 1 or more!

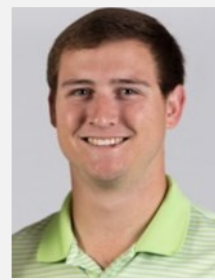
Newly Elected Church Council Members for 2016 - 2019



Carmen Buell



Fran Holland



Nathan Kelly



Shelia Kelly

Congratulations to our newest church council members who were elected Sunday, November 22 during the congregational meeting. They each will serve a three-year term. Please thank them for their willingness to serve on the church council.

Congregational Meeting NOTES:

In our congregational meeting we approved the budget which includes a new full-time staff position. We are developing the job description, but the position will include responsibilities for coordinating the Sunday School program, as well as youth ministries in the congregation.

These are areas we value and see an opportunity for growth both in numbers and, more importantly, in depth of discipleship, and we are grateful for your support as we develop this new position.



All gifts for the children on the **Angel Tree** are **due** to the church by **December 13th**. Please wrap & tag each gift with the name of the child and family. When you take a tag be sure to sign your name beside the child's name on the sign-up sheet so we can keep up with who is responsible for each child.



The Children's Christmas Play
Practice will be on Saturday, December 12 at 10 am and Saturday, December 19 at 2 pm. Contact Veronica Bryant if you want your child to participate.



Kid's Club will meet at **3:00 pm** on **Saturday, December 19** at the church after Christmas Play practice. There will be various activities and a Special Visitor from The North Pole!



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 5

7:00 pm **Staying Connected**

Sunday, December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 8

12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**

Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich

Saturday, December 12

8:30 am Meet to carpool for **Confirmation** class

10:00 am **Christmas Play** practice

11:00 am **Christmas Caroling**

5:30 pm Church Choir **Christmas Party**

Sunday, December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service **Hanging of the Green**
Council meets after

Saturday, December 19

2:00 pm **Christmas Play** practice

3:00 pm **Kids' Club** meets for various activities and
A visit from the North Pole

Sunday, December 20 4th Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service/Children's Christmas play
With **Holy Communion**

Thursday, December 24

10:10 pm Choir prep

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
With **Holy Communion**

Sunday, December 27 1st Sunday after Christmas

No Children's Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesdays: 6:00 pm Meal, 6:45 pm **Vespers**

7:30 pm Chamber Choir



TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	October	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$19,925.83	\$199,258.33
Actual Expenses:	20,333.44	200,012.15
Offerings Received:	24,280.00	204,674.91
Gain for the Period:	\$ 3,946.56	\$ 4,662.76

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
Dec. 13: Beth Brittain

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains
Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)
Sherry Alexander, Courtney Gatlin + Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Dec. 6: Shelia & Tim Kelly
Dec. 20: Tracey & Paul Nault
Dec. 24: Rochelle & Danny Potter

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

Dec. 6 & 24: Pat Koehler; Dec. 13: Bill Hollar
Dec. 20: Shirley Causby; Dec. 27: Volunteer

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Dec. 6, 13 & 20: Need Volunteers
Dec. 24: Shelia & Tim Kelly

FLOWERS:

Dec. 6: Shelia & Tim Kelly; The Naults
Dec. 13: Kathy Graves
Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant
Dec. 20: Rebecca & Mark Yount, Luke & Alec Via
(both vases)
Dec. 24: Julia Gunter (both vases)
Dec. 27: Rebecca & Mark Yount, Luke & Alec Via
Jack, Laura, Sarah & Khloe June Tench

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am) *Infants; Toddlers*
Dec. 6: Lorry Caldwell & Rebecca Yount; Ashley Ange
Dec. 13: Rebecca & Ginger; Jill Leitner
Dec. 20: Volunteers needed
Dec. 27: Volunteers needed













**BCO item of the
month: Rice**



December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Join us for Christmas Caroling 11:00 am December 12</p>		1	2 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir	3	4	5  7:00 pm Staying Connected meets at the church. Bring an appetizer and a \$10-\$15 gift for exchange. 
6 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 2:00 pm Children's Ensemble 3:00 pm Handbells 4:00 pm Church Choir Belmont Christmas Home Tour	7  Attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941	8 12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch With Bible Study Meets at the church 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	9 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir	10	11	12 9:00 am Confirmation at Redeemer Lutheran 10:00 am Christmas Play Practice  11:00 am Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm Church Choir Christmas Party
13 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Hanging of Greens 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm HCY ; Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	14 	15 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	16 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir	17	18	19 2:00 pm Christmas Play Practice  3:00 pm Kids' Club Special activities & Visitor from North Pole
20 4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Adult Sunday Sch. 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Children's Play /HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	21 	22 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	23	24  Christmas Eve Worship 10:10 pm Choir prep 10:40 pm Prelude 11:00 pm Candlelight Service w/HC	25 The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day 	26 St. Stephen, Deacon, Martyr
27 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am Adult Bible Study Class 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	30	31		

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 4 Anne Lineberger
December 5 Aaron Nault
December 8 Nathan Kelly
Vivian Lane
Brian Wallace

December 9 Bob Koehler
December 10 Caitlan Reese
Marguerite Shive
Denise Wiegand

December 11 Beth Brittain
December 12 Janet Achor
December 13 Brody Alvarez
December 15 Greg Cline
December 17 Mason Morton
December 19 Dennis Tucker
December 21 Denise Jenkins
December 24 Kurt Rogers
December 26 Amy Alvarez
Beverly Robinson

December 28 Molly Koehler
December 29 Trudy Whitener
December 30 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.