



Sunday school continues with the study of “**The Disciples.**” After, we begin our studies of **Lent-Easter.**

The dates and stations are below:

February 1: Games
February 8: Video
February 15: Bonus Session-Beth leads
February 22: Art (Holy Week begins)

Children Church leaders for February:

February 1: Trudy Whitener + Helper
February 8: Shelia Kelly + Helper
February 15: Tracey Nault + Helper
February 22: Judy & Mollie Caldwell

Children Church leaders for March:

March 1: Brandy Milton + Helper
March 8: Tom & Melissa Bocchino
March 15: Carmen De Nicholas & Natalie Hullander
March 22: Maria & Madison Carr
March 29: Beth Brittain

If you are unable to cover your Sunday, try to switch with someone else. If you are unsuccessful, please call Beth. In the event of an emergency keeping you from your time, call Beth.

HCY leaves on **February 8** (immediately after church) to go snow tubing at Moonshine Mountain. They should return around 6:00 pm. Cost \$25 each. Friends are invited. Contact Kristen Williams if you plan on attending.

Kids’ Club meets at **10:00 am on Saturday, February 21** here at the church...bring your favorite board games.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education




Sunday, February 8
Youth leave immediately after the worship service.

Cost: \$25 each
(includes 2 hrs. of tubing)

You MUST RSVP to Kristen Williams
keclanton@gmail.com or
704-678-0137
no later than February 3.

Any parents interested in carpooling,
please also contact Kristen.

Release form for each child MUST be filled in and signed and given to Kristen before leaving on the outing to Moonshine Mountain in Hendersonville, NC




Bible Study/Lunch

Tuesday, February 10

12 Noon—1:00 pm

Sandra Cline, Guest Speaker





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
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications



²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

Mark 9:2–3

Communion Opportunities for February

February 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 18 Ash Wednesday
(Following the Service on the 15th & 22nd)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 36, No. 2

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



"I am convinced that 99 percent of us are addicted to something, whether it is eating, shopping, blaming or taking care of other people. The simplest definition of an addiction is anything we use to fill the empty place inside of us that belongs to God alone."
-Barbara Brown Taylor

We are quickly approaching the season of Lent, a season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Traditionally Lent was a time when converts to Christianity would go through their education and formation process, somewhat like a catechism, to prepare for their baptisms on Easter. For us, Lent is a time of repentance, a time when we take stock of the ways in which fall short of God's design for us and work to repent, which means to turn again, to God.

One of the common practices during Lent is to give something up for the season. It is akin to fasting, though tends to be less intense than a "true" fast. Many folks I know will give up sweets or sodas, some folks have given up using swear words. I've tended to be pretty wishy-washy on the practice myself. Every once in a while I will give something up, but I don't know that it has added to my spiritual life, so it rarely happens. I recognize that there can be value in it, but often I think people use it as an excuse for a diet, or for ridding something from their life temporarily that they know they should probably get rid of permanently. A cleanse perhaps. It becomes void of spiritual relevance and has more to do with physical health or personal pride.

This quote by Barbara Brown Taylor from an article that appeared in the journal

"Christian Century" struck me a while back. It helped to focus not only on the reason people give something up, but also what it is that we should give up. What are the things that we use to fill the "God-shaped hole" inside of us that only relationship with God can fill? When we are anxious, sad, worried, or depressed, what are the things that we turn to for comfort instead of turning to God in prayer? For many people this can be food, and a diet of sorts could be appropriate. For others this is alcohol. I've known people addicted to exercise, using it as a way to avoid situations or to "blow off steam" instead of dealing with issues bothering them. As we journey through this season of Lent, think about where it is you turn in order to fill this hole when instead you should turn to God in prayer, in worship, in scripture, or Christian community. And think about what you can ADD to your routines as well, not just take away, be it personal devotions, intentional time with family, works of mercy and service on behalf of others.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
(Hebrews 12:1)

God's peace, Pastor Micah

**The 26th Annual
Congregation Retreat to
Isle of Palms**

Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3

**Contact Greg Cline at
704-860-4460**

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 1
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, February 3
7:00 pm Property Committee meeting

Saturday, February 7
8:30 am **Confirmands** carpool to Redeemer
7:00 pm **Staying Connected** Meet at Taxco Restaurant in Belmont

Sunday, February 8
5th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Council meets after
HCY leaves to go snow tubing

Tuesday, February 10
12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**
Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich
Sandra Cline, Guest Speaker

Sunday, February 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
5:00 pm *Church Choir Appreciation Dinner*

Wednesday, February 18
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Holy C.

Sunday, February 22 First Sunday in Lent
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Social Ministry Comm. after the service

Wednesday, February 25 Lenten Worship
6:00 pm Dinner
6:45 pm **Lenten Worship**, Chamber Choir after

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:
Sundays: 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	December	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$14,454.83	\$234,239.00
Actual Expenses:	19,763.77	219,292.28
Offerings Received:	<u>22,184.89</u>	<u>217,703.70</u>
Gain (Loss) for Period:	\$ 2,421.12	(\$ 1,588.58)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
Feb.8: Brian Achor
Feb.18:(Ash Wed.) & 22: Julia Gunter

ACOLYTES: Need Volunteers

CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)
Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain
Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)
Fran Holland, Charles Mauney + Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
February 15: Paul & Tracey Nault
February 18: Myra & Bill Hollar

GREETERS:
February 1: Melissa Bocchino
February 8: Carmen Buell
February 18: Carmen De Nicholas
February 22: Deb Williams

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

USHERS: Feb. 1 & 8: Nathan & Amanda Kelly
Feb. 15, 18 & 22: Need Volunteers

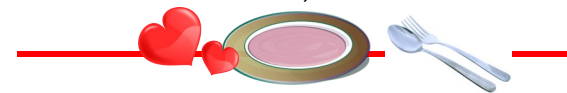
FLOWERS:
February 1: Donna & Horace Bean (both)
February 8: Tim & Shelia Kelly
Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant
February 15: Danny, Perri & Carson Potter
One vase available
February 22: Both vases available

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
February 1: Ginger MacDonald
February 8: Trudy Whitener & Tyler Ange
February 15: Makayla Brooks
February 22: Need Volunteers

MUSIC NEWS

Sunday, February 1 is Super Bowl Sunday. Because so many watch the game we traditionally modify our afternoon music schedule.

- ♦ **Children's Ensemble:** Brief meeting with children and parents in the choir room immediately after worship.
- ♦ **Adult Handbells:** 4:00 pm
- ♦ **Church Choir:** 5:00-6:00pm (Everyone home before kickoff)



The ladies' circles will sponsor a **choir appreciation dinner** for all church choir members on Sunday, **February 15**. On this day we must modify our afternoon music schedule:

- ♦ **Children's Ensemble:** Brief meeting in the choir room immediately after worship.
- ♦ **Adult Handbells:** 4:00 pm
- ♦ **Choir Dinner:** 5:00 pm
- ♦ **Church choir rehearsal:** 6:00 pm

The **26th Annual Congregational Retreat to Isle of Palms** is **Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3**. A number of rooms are reserved but several rooms are still available. Rooms may be reserved up until February 15 by sending checks made out to Holy Comforter. Cost is \$75/night (2-night minimum). Be sure to indicate on your check that it is for Isle of Palms Retreat. Contact Greg Cline for additional info and availability of rooms. After mid February we must return available reserved space to the retreat center. This wonderful fellowship opportunity is open to all.

Music Week at Lutheridge is July 5-11. Several children from Holy Comforter have indicated an interest in attending. Music Week, for over 60 years, has remained the most popular camp of the summer. Holy Comforter will offer, as funds are available, scholarships for those interested in attending Music Week.

Contact Greg Cline, and register early.



Years ago Holy Comforter sponsored Susan Shoemaker, a very accomplished musician in Charlotte, who came to the church and taught **Suzuki music classes**. This method of music concentrates on ear training, distinguishing pitches in particular. Many families from Holy Comforter and the community participated. It was a wonderful outreach for us to serve as a satellite location.

A number of folks have inquired as to the availability of starting up another class. If enough interest is generated from the congregational family and community we could have Ms. Shoemaker schedule a **Q and A session**. There is no obligation, but we were wondering how much interest there might be to bring back such a program. Classes for the most part are taught in small groups of similar ages/level. Instruments may be purchased or rented. Cost is around \$60/month, depending on instrument, and includes music materials. Classes would be offered on Mondays after school for several hours. Instruments are sized for every size child from toddler-adult. Ellen Fleming and Deborah Bingham are current students of Susan Shoemaker. **Classical guitar, violin and cello are all options.**



Confirmands
February 7 • 8:30 am
Carpool to Redeemer

Staying Connected
Saturday, February 7th
7:00 pm Taxco Restaurant
Belmont, NC



Remember
Valentine's Day
February 14th



SHROVE
TUESDAY
February 17
Pancake Dinner
6:00 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ASH
WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday Service
With Holy Communion
& Imposition of Ashes

Kid's Club
Kindergarten - Grade 5
Saturday, February 21
10:00 am At Holy Comforter
Bring your favorite board games.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Children's Ensemble After worship 4:00 pm Handbells 5:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	2  Ground Hog Day	3 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon 7:15 pm Property Committee Meeting Upstairs	4	5	6	7 8:30 am Confirmands meet to Carpool to Redeemer Lutheran in Gastonia 7:00 pm Staying Connected Meets at Taxco Restaurant, Belmont
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/ HC Council meets after HCY leaves for Snow tubing 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	9	10 12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch Bible Study/Lunch Sandra Cline, Guest Speaking on <i>camping ministry</i> Within ELCA/NC Synod 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon Tellers Meeting	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Children's Ensemble After worship 4:00 pm Handbells 5:00 pm Church Choir Dinner 6:00 pm Choir rehearsal 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	16	17  6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper In Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	18  7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion Imposition of Ashes Chamber Choir after	19	20	21 10:00 am Kids' Club meets At Holy Comforter. Bring your favorite Board games. 
22 1st Sunday in Lent  9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	23	24	25  6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Wednesday Evening Prayer Chamber Choir after, Christian Ed Comm. after the service	26	27	28

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



February 4 **Scott Carr**
 February 6 **Julia Ratchford**
 February 8 **Chris Hullander**
 Scott Zander
 February 9 **Shelia Kelly**
 Karen Rogers
 February 10 **Jennipher McLaughlin-**
 Williams
 February 14 **Will Howard**
 Noah Rawlins
 February 15 **Leslie Crist**
 Sam Thompson
 February 16 **Courtney Gatlin**
 February 20 **David Buchanan**
 February 22 **Cynthia Ashe**
 February 25 **Jack Tench**
 February 27 **Valerie Bruchon**

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