



All Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 3 at 9:30 am.

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 the month of January:

January 3: Shelia Kelly + helper
January 10: Judy & Mollie Caldwell
January 17: Brandy Milton + helper
January 24: Kline & Bocchino
January 31: Maria & Madison Carr

Staying Connected meets at 7:00 pm on **Saturday, January 2** at the church to watch the movie *War Room*. All women are invited.

Our **confirmands** will meet at 9:00 am on **Saturday, January 9th** for their class at Antioch Lutheran in Dallas.

HCY will meet on **Sunday, January 10th at 5:00 pm**. Details to follow.

Kids' Club meets at **11:00 am on Saturday, January 16** at the Lowell skating rink.

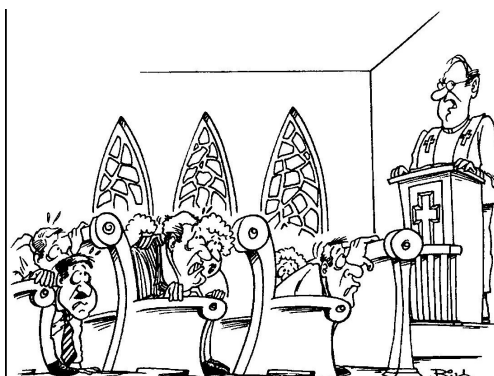
Mandi Kline, Christian Education



"I love leading the flock on their journey, but I wish they'd stop asking, 'Are we there yet?'"



"Because you can't take your camera phone with you. That's why nobody knows what heaven looks like."



"All right, perhaps I should rephrase that last question...Which of you 'Brave Committed Souls' would be willing to fill in today in our preschool?"



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



²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

Communion Opportunities for January

January 10 The Baptism of Our Lord

January 24 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
(And after worship on other Sundays)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 37, No. 1

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 a sucker for those videos people post of adorable animals. I just watched one of an otter floating gently along on its back, snuggling with its baby otter secure on its belly. It was peaceful and adorable. I've especially liked certain ones I've seen recently where there are odd pairings of animals that are apparently close friends. One had a dog and elephant playing together, with an especially playful scene which showed the dog jumping off the elephant's back into some water before it climbed up and did it again. I've also seen videos pairing dogs and deer, dogs and birds, dogs and Kangaroos (ok, dogs are awesome). One of the strangest and coolest ones to me was a cat up a tree playing with an owl.

These videos often seem inconsequential and merely a welcome break to what our normalcy looks like. Especially as we come back after the holidays, often we trudge through busy days full of anxiety, read news that depresses us, struggle with broken relationships, or even just fight the mundane aspects of life. On a daily basis, there are plenty of things that can depress us and bring us down, whether they are catastrophic events or a life that simply seems low on joy. When that seems to be the case, and all of us can get to that place at varying times, little jolts of joy, even as inconsequential as a cute animal video, can be a welcome reminder of God's abundant grace that surrounds us.

One theological point that I learned in seminary, and I still think of often, has to do with God's act of Creation. We hear the Genesis story of God creating the world, and it puts an image in most of our heads of God creating the world once, then sitting back and watching, and occasionally choosing to interact.

In seminary I learned a different idea of Creation in which God created the world, and continues to create the world. God's act of creation continues to be so integral that if God stopped creating, the world would cease to be. This image of creation points to God being intimately involved with all that God has made and continues to make. In the Genesis story God looks at all God has made and says it is good. God continues to make "good." God continues to work grace and love into all God has made. Knowing and believing this encourages me to not get overwhelmed by the anxiety, ugliness, and brokenness in the world, but rather to excitedly look for the ways God continues to work grace, love, and beauty into the world. It can be in the miraculous birth of children, in the love shared with families around the holidays, in the care people show to their loved ones dealing with illness or impending death, or in the two minute video clip of cute animals. These things are not inconsequential. They might be God working grace into our lives and reminding us of God's intimate act of continued Creation.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

Genesis 1:25 "God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good."



Everyone has their special talents. Please consider using yours to participate in our church worship this new year. There are areas for all ages to help: acolytes, crucifers, lectors, choirs, greeters, ushers, the altar guild, Eucharist presenters, children's church leaders, nursery helpers for both infants and toddlers, Communion assistants, and as Sunday school teachers and youth leaders. The list is long and varied...**there is a place for you!**

Please sign your name on the clipboard that has a sign-up sheet for the volunteers needed for each. The clipboards are located in the narthex.



The choirs are: Children's Ensemble, Handbell choir, Chamber choir, and the Church choir. **If you are interested in joining one of the choirs, please contact Greg Cline.**

For those of you interested in being an acolyte or crucifer, please contact **Fran Holland**. If you have never served as an acolyte or crucifer, she will train you for this.

If willing to serve on the altar guild, contact **Beverly Mauney**.

If you would like to serve as Sunday school teacher, Children's church leader, or help in the nurseries, contact **Mandi Kline**, chair of our Christian Education committee.

The other positions that need volunteers are on the sign-up sheets. If you have any questions, you may contact Pastor Micah or any of the church council members. You may also contact Dianne in the church office at 704-825-2483 or at the church email: holycomforter@gmail.com.

Thank you for your service in 2016!



MUSIC News

The church wishes to **thank Tom & Shirley Causby** for hosting our annual Choir Christmas Party. Always a memorable fellowship event, hosting a sit-down dinner for 40!

As per the newsletter calendar, the **Chamber Choir will resume Tuesday, January 5th**. All other choirs and ensembles will resume their regular schedules Sunday, January 10th. We give thanks to God for all of our musicians here at Holy Comforter. There were so many rehearsals and practices for Advent, Vespers, Christmas Eve services of worship, plus caroling, and hosting an open house where 850 people showed up.

It is difficult to describe the gifts of time and talent that all of our ministers of music (age 3-retirement) give to our church home throughout the year. Contrary to popular belief, they do it not for the money! While we catch our collective breath, it is indeed right and salutary that I disclose the fact that Easter and the entire season of Lent occur a month earlier this year. So let the cry go forth...**make sure music ministry is at the top of your New Year's Resolution List!**

Many wish to hear recordings of our services of worship, particularly Christmas Eve. Share with family and friends. Go to www.holyc.org. Click on *Resources*, then click *Audio*.

God Bless Us, Everyone! Greg Cline



Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2016
(Monday, May 23-Optional Day)
Cost will be \$79.00 per room/per night

Contact Greg Cline ASAP for details.



All are welcome!

As of 12/29/15 there were only 9 rooms available.

We will collect funds February 1-15. After that date, unpaid or unfilled rooms must be returned to the Retreat Center to be used by other groups.

Contact Greg Cline at **704-860-4460**
To be placed on the reserve list.



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, January 2
7:00 pm **Staying Connected**
Meet at church to watch movie "War Room"

Sunday, January 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

Saturday, January 9
9:00 am Confirmation Class at Antioch in Dallas

Sunday, January 10 The Baptism of Our Lord
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
Council meets after

5:00 pm **HCY**

Tuesday, January 12
12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**
Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich

Saturday, January 16
11:00 am **Kids' Club** meets at the skating rink in Lowell

Sunday, January 17 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

Sunday, January 24 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

Tuesday, January 26 Christian Ed Committee
7:00 pm Meets in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 31 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Congregational Meeting with Annual Report

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 Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	November	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
Jan. 3: Andrew Bryant
Jan. 17: Jim Buell; Jan. 31: Bonnie Faust

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)
Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Jan. 10: Volunteers
Jan. 24: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

Jan 3: Volunteers Jan. 10:
Jan. 17: Jan. 24:
Jan. 31:

TELLERS: Raini Kimball & Dennis Tucker

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:

Jan. 3: Brandy, Brad & James Milton
1 vase available
Jan. 10: Phil & Carol Posey (both vases)
Jan. 17: Dianne Lail
Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault
Jan. 24: Julia Gunter
Deb Bingham
Jan. 31: Both vases available

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am) Infants; Toddlers

Jan. 3: Jill & Kaylin Leitner; Maria & Catherine Carr
Jan.10: Sarrazin Family; Trudy Whitener
Jan.17: Rebecca Y. & Sherry A.; Volunteer
Jan.24: Rebecca Yount; Volunteer.
Jan. 31: Veronica Bryant; Volunteer



BCO items of the month:
Peanut butter & Jelly



January 2016

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
REMINDER: Congregational Meeting Sunday January 31, 2016					1 	2  7:00 pm Staying Connected meets at the church to watch the movie "War Room"
3 2nd Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	4	5 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Property Committee Nar-Anon	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	7	8	9 9:00 am Confirmation Class at Antioch Lutheran In Dallas 
10 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Church council 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm HCY, Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	11	12 12 Noon <i>Agape Lunch Bunch</i> / Bible Study 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	13 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	14	15	16  11:00 am Kids' Club meets at the skating rink in Lowell. 
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	18 The Confession of St. Peter	19 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	20 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	21	22	23
24/ 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	25 The Conversion of St. Paul	26 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Christian Education Nar-Anon	27 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	28	29	30

January 1 Albert Ewing
 January 9 Chuck Kimball
 January 10 Brandy Milton
 Becky Richards
 January 13 Abbey Kowalewski
 January 14 Douglass
 McLaughlin-Williams
 January 17 Julie Wiegand
 January 18 Carmen DeNicholas
 Jerri Wesson
 January 19 Faye Heller
 Paul Outlaw
 Elliott Williams
 January 21 Jane Howard
 Paul Nault
 January 26 Matthew Carr
 January 31 Philip 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.

