

Beka's Buzz

Have you ever seen *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*? For those of you who haven't, it's about a female journalist giving dating advice in her article that teaches women what to do and what not to do when courting a man. There is a part of the movie where the magazine staff gather for a meeting and the editor says "alright family, shoes off". That movie reminded me of the ministry moment from this month.

The last time I was preaching, I also did the children's sermon. I was talking about 2 Thessalonians and teamwork. When I preach, I preach barefoot and when I lead the children's sermon, I also preach it barefoot. In the middle of the sermon, Jake Doctor looks at me and says "Ms. Beka, why are you barefoot?" to which I said, "Oh it's holy and I don't like shoes". Unfortunately, the readings were not on Moses and therefore I couldn't go into why. After worship Bob Koehler commented on Jake's question. I then took the opportunity to speak to why I preach barefoot. I referenced Exodus 3, where God calls Moses through the burning bush. As Moses gets closer to the bush, the LORD says do not come any closer, take your sandals off, for you are standing on holy ground. Then God reveals Godself to Moses. The ritual of taking your sandals off is a sign of reverence, humility, and respect. Preaching is

holy, and taking my shoes off, reminds me that what happens in worship isn't something that we, the assembly do, but how the Spirit works among us. So, I take my shoes off because it is humbling to proclaim God's love to you, and letting the Spirit do what She does. Bob Koehler said, "then maybe we should take our shoes off too". I thought to myself that seems like a warm idea. Together we sit in the holy, reverent, humbling experience of the Spirit on the move. Some preachers pray before sermons, maybe there should be an invitation to go shoeless. Friends, we stand on holy ground and God will reveal Godself to us when we least expect it. *Alright family, shoes off.*

-Deacon Beka

For the month of December our confirmation class will be a podcast on Grace. Students will learn more about God's grace and forgiveness and why it's so important to the Christian faith. This is a one credit elective, reflection is required. Contact Deacon Beka or Pastor Micah for more information.



Faithful Families Tip— God's Promises:

One of the great gifts we can give our children is the ability to recall God's scriptural promises any time. Families can learn these passages by reciting them together, one passage each day for a week, as a part of mealtime or bedtime prayer. Some examples are Genesis 12:2-3, Luke 4:18-19, and Romans 12:1-2.

The Holy Comforter Comment



December Newsletter

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on the website and transmitted to the parking lot over the radio and communion is served to those present.

Micah Kearney, *Pastor*
Email: mkearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*

Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*

Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am-2:00 pm

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

Phone: 704-825-2483

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Christmas at Holy Comforter

DECEMBER 24:
4 PM FAMILY WORSHIP
11 PM TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS
EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 25:
10:30 AM CHRISTMAS
MORNING/PAJAMA WORSHIP



*The schedule below is our expected weekly programs and meetings.
When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.*

• Sundays:

9:30 am - Sunday School
10:10 am - Church & Chamber Choir
10:30 am - Worship
5:00 pm - HCY
5:00 pm - Adult Handbells
6:00 pm - Church Choir

• Tuesdays:

7:00 pm - Nar-Anon

• Wednesdays:

4:00 pm - Adult Faith Formation video
5:30 pm - Unfailing Light Handbells
6:00 pm - Advent Meal & Unfailing Light Worship
7:00 pm - Chamber Choir

Monthly Gatherings:

- ♦ Prime Timers - December 8th, 10:30 am
- ♦ Kids Club - December 11th, 4 pm
- ♦ Church Council - December 11th
- ♦ Small Group 1 - December 11th, 4 pm
- ♦ Small Group 2 - December 13th, 7 pm
- ♦ Advent Exhibit - December 18th, 4 pm

Treasurer's Report for October 2022

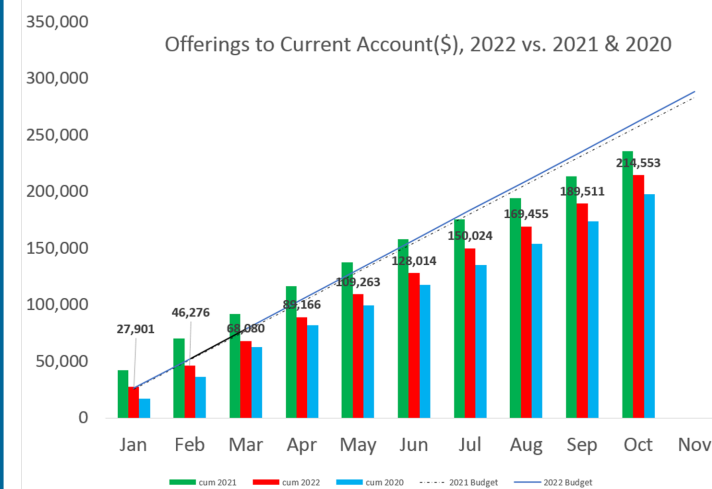


chart compares this year's offering income, by month, with that of the two previous years. This and last year's budget tracks are also presented in the graph.

-Warren Heller

Purpose Statement and Core Values

Purpose Statement:

Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and Beyond.

Core values:

Embrace- God creates a diverse and beautiful creation. We are here to be a community in which all people are seen and affirmed.

Grow- God calls us to journey in faith. We strive to build and strengthen the faith of all who are part of the Holy Comforter community.

Connect- God calls us together as a community of faith and belonging. We seek to nurture relationships and fellowship within the Holy Comforter family.

Give- God created a world of abundance. We give generously of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure.



Grace and peace,

I can't believe we've already arrived at the month of December, making holiday plans and filling our schedules. This year hasn't been an easy one as we began to try to put things back together after the peak chaos of the pandemic. Some of the work of putting things back together includes being realistic and grieving the things that have changed in that time, and that can be hard to wrestle with at times. Along with that grieving, I think we have also done a lot of hard work of moving forward. A big part of that work is naming a new purpose statement, "Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond," and our core values: "Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give." These were discerned from the congregation, being both descriptive, naming who we are, and prescriptive, naming where we want to focus as we move forward. I want to thank you for the ways that you helped to create this identity, whether you've been here for decades or days, because it is one to be proud of. I want to thank you for ways that you've supported this identity and mission, be it with your time and energy, your plentiful gifts, or with your financial support. In doing some goal setting for the coming year, council has begun to realize how many of you are invested in so many ministry areas of the congregation. In terms of finances, while we're behind in meeting our budget for the year, we've also received incredible support for the Courtyard Project and other directed giving in a year that has included considerable financial uncertainty. At our most recent congregational meeting we approved a budget that included a nearly 10% increase in our budget. We recognize that this is a significant increase and one that will be a stretch for our regular giving. Our council is confident that we have the ability to respond to this increase, and most importantly we believe that we have a mission and a ministry, named in our purpose and core values, that is worth supporting. We give for multiple reasons including giving as a spiritual discipline that comes from gratitude for what God has given us, as well as to support the mission of Holy Comforter that is God's ministry in and through us. In the new year we will continue to talk about the ministry that we take part in and support together, and how we live into and support that mission. For now, thank you for your support for this ministry in this place that has been a life-giving manifestation of Christ in the world.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



We are well on our way into Advent as this season began in November this year. In addition to many worship and gathering opportunities these include:

Continuation of "Unfailing Light," our traditional mid-week communion liturgy led by our church musicians.

Schedule for December Wednesdays: 5:30 Youth Handbells
6:00 Congregational fellowship meal
6:45 Worship
7:15 Chamber Choir

Sunday, December 11 "Hanging of the Green" Service at 10:30. For a number of years (- pandemic) we have observed this tradition on the third Sunday of Advent. Hymns, choral anthems, handbells, and readings of the season; with reference to many of our Advent/Christmas customs.

Christmas Caroling: Saturday December 17 @ 2:00. We gather in the fellowship hall prior to departure. All are welcome to come share in this ministry.

Sunday, December 18 afternoon schedule: 4:00 Handbell Rehearsal
4:00-5:00 Advent Exhibit
4:45 Church Choir sings in fellowship hall
5:00 Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Choir Party @ Greg's (17 Circle Dr)
Choir members and spouses are invited!



Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM Family Service
Christmas Eve at 11:00 PM Traditional Candle-light Service
(Choral Prelude begins at 10:40 PM)

Sunday, December 25 Informal Christmas Day Service of Worship @ 10:30

* A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to All. God Bless Us, Everyone!

Greg Cline, MD (Music Director)

PRIME TIMERS
BIBLE STUDY &
FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 8th at 10:30 am

We will be looking
 at
 Matthew 11:2-11

second week of the month

Small Groups

Sunday 12/11 @ 4pm
Tuesday 12/13 @ 7pm

December 17th at 2 pm

Christmas Caroling

December Birthdays

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays! 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.

CHRISTIAN
 rooted, raising & reaching
EDUCATION
 3RD TUESDAYS AT 7PM

2023
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 WORSHIP *
 * NEED
 Lectors . Flowers . Greeters

An Advent Exhibit:
 Peace, Hope, Love, Joy
 December 18th
 4pm

December 1	Madison Kelly
December 2	Catherine Dytrt
December 5	Aaron Nault
December 7	Jackson Bryant
December 8	Nathan Kelly
December 9	Bob Koehler
December 11	Beth Brittain
December 12	Janet Achor
	Elizabeth Smith
December 15	Greg Cline
December 17	Mason Morton
December 24	Kurt Rogers
December 26	Beverly Robinson
December 29	Trudy Whitener
	Lauren Schmaltz
	Elizabeth Schmaltz
December 30	Luke Via

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

NEW monday book club

The Road Back To You: An Enneagram Journey to Self Discovery
 Starting January 9th

Mondays at 7 pm with
 Deacon Beka

Clothing Drive

Gently used winter clothes for
 Catawba Heights Elementary Clothing Closet

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 30TH

UNFAILING LIGHT

ADVENT MEAL & SERVICE
 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM