

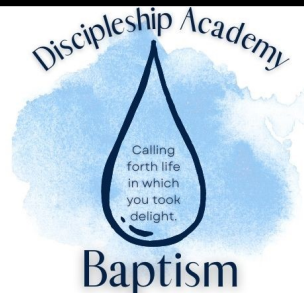


I've loved Advent. The anticipation of God as a baby coming to live among us is my favorite season. There is this quote that I like to use during Advent, and it goes, "our willingness to wait puts value in the thing we are waiting for." Part of the season of waiting is Wednesday worship services and dinners, Christmas parties and parades, and our annual art show. I think these special events are ways we mile marker the season. They are the experiences that help us stay present in the waiting, they help us to remember the value of the season. One of my favorite experiences of this season is the Advent Exhibit. This year we had 20 pieces of art in our Exhibit. Pieces were painted, colored, sewn, sung, and glued together to reflect the theme of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy. My favorite part of this event is how anyone could participate. People of all ages and stages can contribute to this show. This year was our first year with song a part of it. Emilie Bruchon, Theo, and

Susanna Cox sang together in a way that brought smiles across the room. Shortly after that, the room broke out in carols lead by Greg Cline and other members of the choir. I loved it and I think it brought together nostalgia and newness in a special way. This Exhibit is a beautiful mile marker that reminds us that the entire body of Christ has gifts to share, and that Christ's birth is for all people. The joy that was brought through this beautiful works of art helps me to remember the value of the thing we are waiting for. -Deacon Beka

For January's Discipleship Academy class we will be learning about the Sacrament

of Baptism. This is a required 1 credit class. This class will take place on January 22nd at 5 pm.



Faithful Families Tip— Leaving Hay for Camels:

A fun practice kids in Latin American countries do is leave hay for the camels. On the Eve of Epiphany, January 5th, put some straw or hay in your shoes or in a shoe box under your bed for the camels of the wise-men. As they pass by on their way to visit the baby Jesus, they will eat the straw and leave a small present or some chocolates in return. Have fun decorating your box. Before you put your box under your bed say the words, *O Holy Magi, as you go on your trip to see the baby Jesus, we remember you. Thank you for following the light of the star and for your faith. Amen.*



January 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

Chelsea Spicer, Office manager

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

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

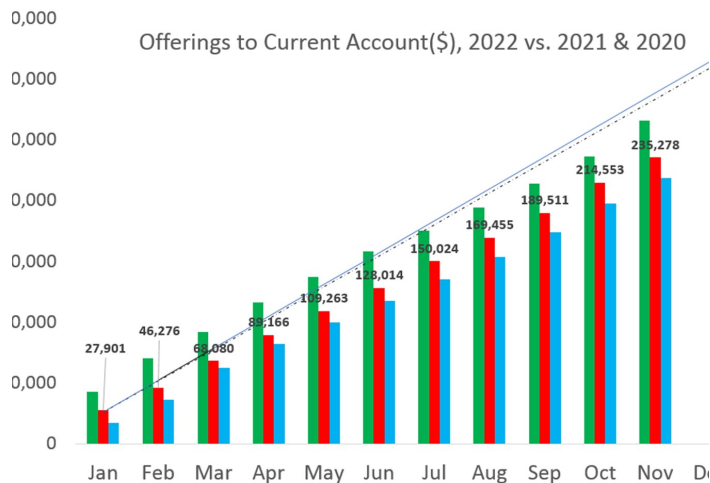
216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

Phone: 704-825-2483

Email: holyccomforter@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report for November 2022

Treasurer's Report for November 2022
Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during November was \$4,002.88. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$20,725.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through November 30, was \$31,446.73. Year-to-date spending was \$21,717.77 below the amount planned in the 2022 budget. The adjacent 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

*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

• Wednesdays:

4:00 pm - Adult Faith Formation video
7:00 pm - Chamber Choir

*NOTE: All classes and music activities resume January 8th *

Monthly Gatherings:

- ♦ Church Council - January 8th, 12 pm
- ♦ Kids Club - January 8th, 4 pm
- ♦ Small Group 1 - January 8th, 4 pm
- ♦ Small Group 2 - January 10th, 7 pm
- ♦ Prime Timers - January 12th, 10:30 am
- ♦ Christian Education - January 17th, 7 pm
- ♦ Outreach - January 19th, 7 pm
- ♦ Annual Meeting—January 22nd, 10:30 am

New Years resolutions aren't meant to change everything at once, that's how you end up giving them up because it is too much, but you take one thing and build from there. We're starting here being intentional about our work to tell the story of God's work through Holy Comforter to make Christ alive and known in the world, and talk about what it can look like to support that work with our time, spiritual gifts, and yes, money.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



On behalf of what I know is a grateful congregation: thanks to all our Holy Comforter musicians for their leadership throughout the year, not the least of which during the Advent/Christmas season. Our choirs log a great deal of volunteer hours in order to offer the inspiring musical offerings during all of our services of worship.

Due to some health issues currently two members from our choir family are taking a bit of a respite. The choir recently acknowledged their contribution to the music ministry:

*Ann Miller has served for many years in the church choir as well as in the handbell ensemble. I may have this wrong but I believe that years ago she told folks that at one time she was an alto, but after the birth of one of her children she emerged from that experience as a soprano.



Ann Miller

*Don Robinson has a track record in the choir that will not soon be broken. For 70 years Don has sung tenor with our ensemble, but also solos for untold weddings and funerals. Don still has an amazing voice. We look forward to continued ministry with Don in the new year.



Don Robinson

God Bless Us, Everyone!

Greg Cline, MD (Music Director)



Grace and peace,



There are a lot fewer traditions associated with New Year's compared the Christmas Season we just went through. The folks my family often spends New Year's with have cucumber sandwiches and a brandy drink every year, folks often watch the ball drop in Times Square, and many people make New Year's resolutions, promising themselves they'll make changes for the better in this new year. While the cynical assumption is that most people don't follow through with their resolutions, the work of introspection to discern ways to be a better person is a good practice. It isn't all that different from our work of repentance, really. Remember that repentance isn't necessarily about guilt, but more about turning and choosing a new way, God's way. Over this past year, as things open up after the pandemic, one area that our council has decided to choose a new way relates to stewardship of ourselves, our time, talent, and money, for the ministry at Holy Comforter. We are setting goals for engagement in all sorts of areas and will work to connect people to ways they can use their gifts. Unless I am mistaken, the most uncomfortable part of that will be around the topic of money. I know, a taboo subject, an uncomfortable topic. Holy Comforter was formed as church in a mill town with both mill workers and mill owners as devoted members. That reality created a culture of how we financially supported the church and talked about money. As Belmont has changed over the years, transitioning from a mill town to a bedroom community for Charlotte, though without losing its charm, Holy Comforter's characteristics have changed as well, though without losing our charm. As I've talked with folks with a history in this church, they've described a culture in which we didn't talk much about money. We've discerned that this is a place where we need to choose a new way, and have a culture shift with how we talk about money, both as it relates to church finances and support, and perhaps more importantly how our money relates to discipleship and responding to God's grace with gratitude and generosity. This year council has decided to work with other churches in the synod in a program called Stewardship for All Seasons that will help with our culture shift, our New Years Resolution of sorts. They will help us tell the story of what Christ is doing through Holy Comforter and how that is a ministry worth supporting with our time, our spiritual gifts, and our money. We're excited for this work that will take place throughout the year and beyond to help us not just change a behavior or reach a goal, but create a change in culture that is sustainably for us.

Church Council 2023

As our council leadership transitions this month, we appreciate the time, energy, and faithfulness that this service takes, and the willingness of all who serve on council to offer it in dedication to Christ's mission and ministry through Holy Comforter.



Jim Buell



Mary Yavelak



Greg Byrum



Brittany Lewis



Tom Nance



Tim Baker



Jill Cassel



Julia Gunter



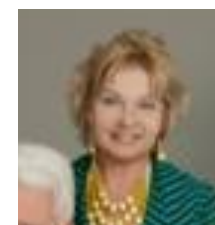
Mark Yount



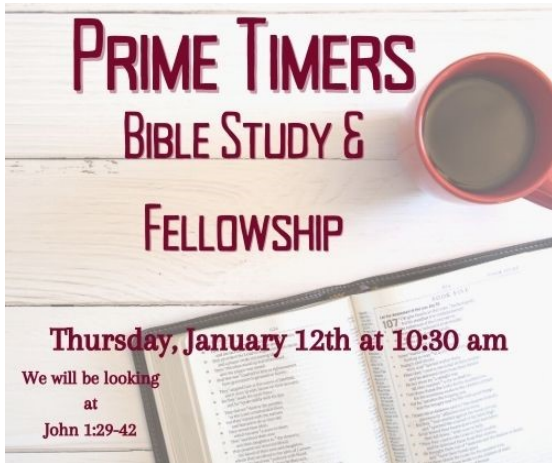
Susan Clark



Karen Hinkley



Leslie Crist



PRIME TIMERS
BIBLE STUDY &
FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, January 12th at 10:30 am
We will be looking
at
John 1:29-42



second week of the month
Small Groups

Sunday 1/8 @ 4pm
Tuesday 1/10 @ 7pm

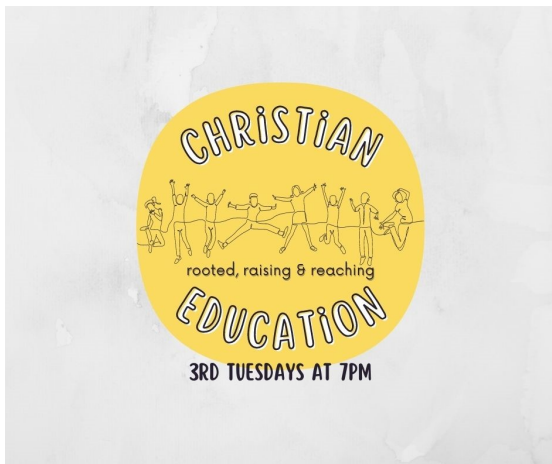


OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Meets 3rd Thursday at 7 pm

January 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.

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| January 5 | Riley Lewis |
| January 7 | Mary Lee |
| January 9 | Chuck Kimball |
| January 10 | Charles Mauney |
| | Brandy Milton |
| | Becky Richards |
| January 18 | Jerri Wesson |
| January 19 | Faye Heller |
| January 21 | Jane Howard |
| | Paul Nault |
| | Travis Rhyne |
| January 24 | Jill Cassel |
| January 25 | Ryan Nelson |
| January 26 | Matthew Carr |
| January 26 | Robert Kressler |
| January 29 | Gina Rhyne |



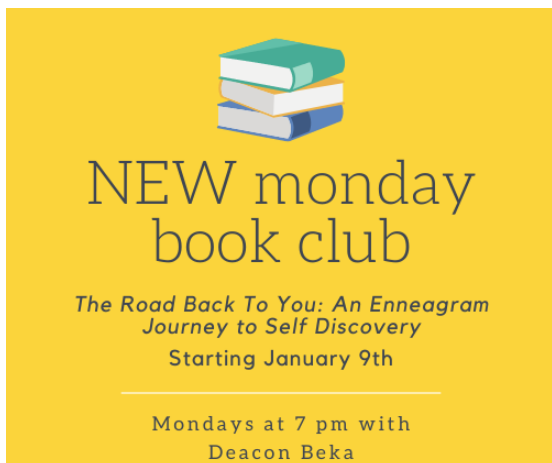
CHRISTIAN
rooted, raising & reaching
EDUCATION
3RD TUESDAYS AT 7PM



2023
WORSHIP * VOLUNTEERS * NEEDED
Lectors . Flowers . Greeters



**All classes and
music activities
resume
January 8th**



**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

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.

