



So in my first months at HC I have had lots of conversations about people knowing their baptismal dates. Up until last week I didn't know mine. I didn't think it was important to know my baptismal date.

While in middle school Sunday school with Emily Koehler and Arden De Nicholas, we talked about what baptism actually is. As an adult working in youth ministry, I love to talk about the beautiful gift of baptism. I am sure as a sixth and seventh grader it is not as much fun to talk about when you could be discussing Justin Bieber's girlfriend or Taylor Swift's new haircut.

Later on while in the Seekers Sunday school class we (the parents in the room) talked about what it was like to have a child baptized and what that meant. Pastor Micah asked if anyone in the room knew when they were baptized and some could answer and some (including me) could not. I did not think it was important to know when I was baptized but it was important that I was baptized.

Again I was in a Bible study and we were talking about baptism, in case you haven't caught on yet I am talking about baptism this month. In Bible study we were talking about baptism and Veronica was talking about Beckham and all his faith filled questions. One of the questions was "will we celebrate our birthday in

heaven?" and she passed him along to Pastor Micah, and his answer was we will celebrate our baptismal birthday. What a cool answer! I needed to know that my baptismal birthday so I could celebrate in heaven too.

I know that we joke about when we don't the answers to our kid's faith questions we just pass them off to Micah but I loved this question and this answer. What a way to open up the discussion for how loved we are, how grateful we should be for that and how being baptized is such an important thing we get to do! Needless to say I finally called my mom to find out when I was baptized, August 8th. I then had all these questions about the church, who baptized me and who was there. It made me want to know everything I could about that special day. How much do you know about your baptism? Do you have any traditions or special moments your family does? I can't wait to hear about your baptism stories.

Speaking of special dates, a couple things to remember this month are **Kids' Club** this month on **December 10th**. **Christmas play practice dates, December 4th, 10th, 11th, and the 17th**. **The Christmas play is on December 18th**. Lastly, **HCY Christmas party** at the Carr's, **December 11th**. Mark your calendars! A friendly reminder, we have Advent calendars available for you and your families in the Educational Building near the bulletin board. We can't wait to see you.

**Beka Forst**



Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Dianne Lail, Communications



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

**Luke 2:10-11**

## **Communion Opportunities for December**

Wednesday Advent Worship

December 11: Third Sunday in Advent

December 24: Christmas Eve  
(11:00 pm Candlelight Service)

December 25: Christmas Day  
(Communion on other Sundays after the service)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volume 37, No. 11

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



Grace and peace,

If you've been around here for a little while, you've heard me talk about the "already, but not yet" aspect of the kingdom of God. It's the idea that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God ushered God's kingdom into the world; that in Christ's victory over sin and death and turning the world on its head, the kingdom of God is here in a very real way, showing us what the life God desires for us looks like, lives of love shared between us and God and us and our neighbors.

As we approach the season of Advent, I often think of it as the season that encapsulates that "already but not yet" aspect of the kingdom. We read scripture about how God prepared the world for Jesus' birth more than two thousand years ago, stories that include John the Baptist proclaiming in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord, or stories like Elizabeth and Mary rejoicing over their pregnancies, and John "jumping for joy" in Mary's womb in the presence of prenatal Christ. We remember the anticipation leading up to Christ's birth. And now, all these years after Christ's ministry ushering in God's kingdom, we still wait with anticipation for Christ's coming again. We await the time when God's kingdom takes hold not just in certain times and places, but in all times and places, and in the hearts and minds of all people.

2016 has been a tumultuous year in our country and around the world. Wars have ravaged countries so that people run to the uncertainty of life as refugees over the danger of their homes, our country has been divided over issues of race, violence by and against police, and partisan politics. (And of course let's not forget the death of Prince and David Bowie!) Not to mention the challenges in our own personal lives, of which there have been many for folks in our congregation, be it health issues, family situations, or anxiety of work.

In the wake of such a year, Advent for us is a time when we can have our hope restored. As we live in the "already but not yet" time between Christ's birth and coming again, we recognize that God's kingdom is in fact present in the world and in our lives, working grace and peace in the midst of these hard times. And we find comfort in the promise that even while we lament it, the turmoil of the world will not last forever, and that we have the promise that Christ will come again and set all things right.

However, it also calls us back from complacency, if that is our tendency. Christ's kingdom is at hand, and at hand in us, the Church. We have work to do. And Christ is coming back again, and we shouldn't be caught unawares.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Micah



Saturday, December 17  
After the Christmas Play Practice



## Season's Greetings

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child we pause to remember those things we hold dear...the blessings of family and friends. Many of us will send a greeting card to those family and friends. You may want to also remember those members of your church family who are unable to worship with us. Below is a list of names and addresses for your convenience:

Tommy Causby  
Carillon Assisted Living  
500 Cramer Mountain Rd.  
Cramerton, NC 28032

Daphne Hansen  
119-C Stroupe Road  
Gastonia, NC 28056

Holly Peche  
817 S. Main Street  
Belmont, NC 28012

Brenda Dabrowski  
202 Timberlane Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012

Dot Holland  
11218 Mountain Pine Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28214

Sherry Perry  
218 Johnston Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012

Shawn De Nicholas  
c/o Terry Faulkner  
7985 Rob Ward Road  
Rockwell, NC 28158

Pauline & Bill Joye  
110 Prince Street  
Belmont, NC 28012

Beverly Reynolds  
Alexandria Place #117  
1770 Oak Hollow Road  
Gastonia, NC 28054

Jake Ewing  
412 Ewing Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012

Stan Lahr  
220 Park View Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012

Marguerite Shive  
4080 Tucker Road  
Belmont, NC 28012

Becke Featherstone  
8409 Coulwood Oaks Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28214

Kevin Washle  
238 Cedar Lane  
Mt. Holly, NC 28120



### December BCO Items of the Month:



Ingredients for Christmas Dinner



5:00—7:00 pm  
Sunday, December 11  
**HCY Christmas Party**  
At the Carr's Home





# MUSIC NEWS

As you know, our Advent season began in November this year. "Unfailing Light," our Advent vespers service, is accompanied by our youth handbell ensemble and adult orchestra. See your Wednesday evening calendar for meal and worship times. Bring a friend and join us. All of our evening services of worship will include Holy Communion.



Church, Chamber, Handbell, and Children's Ensembles have been rehearsing this fall for all of our special services for the Advent and Christmas season. The *Hanging of the Green* service is in it's 9th year, and displays our sanctuary coming alive with candles, greenery, and poinsettias. Music fills the hall around scripture passage and narrative explaining the history of Christmas customs.

On the forth Sunday in Advent our children shine as they proclaim the birth of our Savior. Christmas Eve is the only service of worship where we are literally singing from one day to the next. It truly is proclaimed by many to be the most beautiful service in the liturgical year.



Christmas Day is on Sunday. I suggested to Pastor Micah that we have a "pajama" service. Stay tuned to see how informal the dress code may be for 2016.

We soon enter into our New Year 2017, the centennial year of Holy Comforter. One of the planned events is host to the *Lenoir-Rhyne University Choir and Brass Ensemble*. So, mark your calendar for Sunday, March 12, 2017. That evening we will participate in an extraordinary Hymn Festival, marking the 500th Anniversary Year of the Reformation. We also need *Bed and Breakfast* hosts for 50 college students on that evening. A sign-up list will appear in the new year for that need.

Greg Cline



**December 3rd at 7:00 pm**

Krystyna Sarrazin's Home  
5901 Gilchrist Circle Belmont, NC

Ladies, you are invited to attend the  
**Holiday Trivia &  
White Elephant Exchange**  
on December 3.

All information for the January Newsletter is  
due to Dianne by December 26.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)			
Report for Month	October 2016	Year-To-Date	
Budget Expenses:	\$21,751.00	\$217,510.00	
Actual Expenses:	\$23,557.37	\$208,505.10	
Offerings Received:	\$26,678.71	\$218,314.52	
Gain for Period:	\$ 3,121.34	\$ 9,809.42	

## CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Saturday, December 3 *Staying Connected***  
7:00 pm Meet at Sarrazin's for Holiday activities

**Sunday, December 4 2nd Sunday in Advent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir prep  
10:30 am The Service  
2:00-4:00 pm Confirmation at Holy Communion, Dallas  
4:45 pm Christmas play practice

**Saturday, December 10 *Play practice & Kid's Club***  
2:00 pm Christmas play practice  
*Kids' Club & Santa after practice*

**Sunday, December 11 3rd Sunday in Advent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir prep  
10:30 am *Hanging of the Green*/Holy Communion  
Council meets after  
4:45 pm *Christmas play practice*  
5:00 pm **HCY meets in fellowship hall**

**Tuesday, December 13**  
12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study  
7:00 pm Property Committee

**Thursday, December 15**  
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee

**Saturday, December 17 *Christmas Play Practice***  
1:00 pm Meet at the church to practice

**Sunday, December 18 4th Sunday in Advent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir prep  
10:30 am The Service

**Tuesday, December 20**  
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee meets

**Saturday, December 24 *Christmas Eve***  
10:10 pm Choir prep  
10:40 pm Prelude  
11:00 pm Candlelight Service w/HC  
*Christmas Eve Worship*

**Sunday, December 25 *Christmas Day***  
10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Baptism

## REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

**Sundays:** 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Adult Handbells  
6:00 pm Church Choir

**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesdays:** 6:00 pm Advent Dinner  
6:45 pm Worship  
7:30 pm Chamber after Advent worship

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector  
December 4, 18, & 25: Beth Brittain  
December 11 & 24: Billy Joye

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**  
Need Volunteers

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

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**  
Need 4 volunteers

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**  
December 11 & 24: Volunteers

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:**  
December 4: Pat Long  
December 11: Sue Lahr  
December 18: Becky Richards  
December 24: Pat Koehler  
December 25: Kathy Graves

**TELLERS:** Janet & Brian Achor















**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

**FLOWERS:**  
December 4: The Naults  
Tim & Sheila Kelly  
December 11: Beth Brittain (both vases)  
December 18: Mark & Rebecca, Luke & Alec  
1 vase available  
December 24: Julia Gunter (both vases)  
December 25: Mark & Rebecca, Alec Via  
Jim & Carmen Buell

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**  
December 4: Trudy Whitener  
December 11: Shelia Kelly  
December 18: Carmen De Nicholas  
December 25: No Children's Church

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am)  
A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3  7:00 pm Holiday Trivia White Elephant Exchange At Sarrazin Home
4 <b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 2:00 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Children's Ens. <b>Christmas Play practice</b> 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	5 	6  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	7  6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir 	8	9	10  2:00 pm <b>Christmas Play Practice</b> Visit from Santa after practice 
11 <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am <b>Hanging of Green</b> Council after 4:00 pm Children's Ens. <b>Play practice</b> 5:00 pm Handbells, <b>HCY</b> 6:00 pm Church Choir	12 	13  7:00 pm Property Committee Nar-Anon	14  6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir 	15  7:00 pm Evangelism Committee	16	17  1:00 pm <b>Christmas Play Practice</b> <b>Christmas Caroling after</b>
18 <b>4th Sunday in Advent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC <b>Children's Play</b>  5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	19 	20  6:00 pm Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	21 <b>St. Thomas, Apostle</b>  6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Vespers 7:30 pm Chamber Choir 	22	23	24 <b>Children's Eve Service</b> 1:00 pm Children & Adults <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 10:10 pm Choir prep 10:40 pm Prelude 11:00 pm Candlelight Service w/HC 
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 	26 <b>St. Stephen, Martyr</b>	27 <b>St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</b>	28 <b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b>	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>  

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 7 **Jackson Bryant**  
 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.