Promotion Sunday is almost here!

On August 27, families with children will gather in Broach Hall at 9:15. I will have some doughnuts and juice (and coffee for the grown-ups) for everyone. The brand new 6th Graders will get their Bibles and head off to their first Sunday of Youth Sunday School, and all the other children will head to their new (or maybe not so new) classes to begin the Sunday School year. While the children are enjoying Sunday School, I’ll share our school year calendar and talk about the things the children will be learning this year. In worship, the new 2nd Graders will receive their Bibles. What a great way to kick off our new Sunday School year! ~ Allison

The following slate of Deacons is nominated by the St. John’s Leadership Task Force
Each nominee will serve a 3-year term (except as noted).

Pastoral Deacon Panel
Tom Blackmon, Bert Green, Jeff LeVie, Kathy Mahnesmith, Jane Newman, Gail Sifford, Henry Snyder, Laura Sorrell, Anna Lynn Kearse (1-year term)

Ministries Deacon Panel
Minh Callaway, Judy Godsey, Anne Sutton, Lindsay Wilson, Stan Brown (1-year term)

Administrative Deacon Panel
Jason Benton, Leslie Bragg, Teri Franklin, Chuck Howard

The Deacon Election will be held on Sunday, August 27, during the morning worship service. Absentee ballots are available in the church office. The Deacon Ordination and Installation will be on Sunday, September 10, during the morning worship service.

New Road Closure: Please be advised that the intersection of Hawthorne Lane and 5th Street is scheduled to be closed on Sunday morning. Please take alternate routes to church on Sunday morning to avoid Hawthorne Lane.
YOU STILL MATTER

On Sunday afternoon, July 30, I drove from Charlotte to Indianapolis to visit my mother. She moved there four years ago, following the death of our father, to live near my sister. After visiting with them, I drove back to The Old North State and settled into the mountain home of some friends with twelve bags and boxes of books, files, notes and journals. I have learned the importance of taking a few days once or twice a year for extended, uninterrupted study and prayer.

Of course, while driving several hours by oneself, there are conversations with God, reflections on numerous subjects, solos of praise to God, prayers, silence and radio listening. Somewhere in eastern Kentucky, my radio picked up an interview with a man from a county seat town who reported, “It has become a big question for the churches in our town whether we still matter.” That question is important in all days; and they are especially significant in times such as these.

As you watch the stories of violence, hatred, bigotry and blatant immorality in our daily news, you may wonder if you are making a difference. People of St. John’s, you still matter. People cross your paths and enter our doors each week who need the loving witness we offer. Trust me when I tell you that as you mature in Christ and serve in his name, you are investing in the transformation of human lives and families.

Our world is increasing in population by about 75 million persons annually. Projections suggest global population will grow from 7.5 billion today to 8.4 billion in 2030 and to 9.6 billion in 2050. The Urban Institute of UNC Chapel Hill projects metro Charlotte’s population will increase from approximately 1,870,000 persons today to nearly 3 million by 2030 (12 short years from now). This means you will be more needed by more people in the years ahead. You still matter!

Plans for Center City Charlotte are extending out to include the Elizabeth area. Projections include several changes and continuing population growth. Although we gather in our facilities at the corner of Fifth and Hawthorne from all around metro Charlotte, we will need to respond to the changing environment in which our facilities are located. One of the reasons why we are improving our facilities and strengthening our financial health is to be connected to the new residents, developments and changes in culture which will occur all around our campus. St. John’s, you still matter!

This Sunday, following worship, I am beginning a conversation with members who have expressed an interest in improving our ministries of hospitality, messaging, outreach, public relations, communications & assimilation. Thus far, more than forty persons have chosen to participate in these efforts as a commitment to respond to MT25. I welcome anyone of you into this conversation. We will begin this journey of learning together and determining how to prepare ourselves for more new people in the years ahead. We will explore several ideas and gather data on which we can make the best decisions related to our continued involvement in the mission of God. I am excited about where we are going. St. John’s, You Still Matter!

Shalom,
Dennis

From Martha

MT25

We are in a transition period, and won’t have our entire system of communication through the MT25 program up until the fall. With that in mind, we want to connect you to two opportunities coming up soon:
1) Charlotte Family Housing (under our Homelessness Team’s banner): Meals for the families during one week in September (Ken Raynor is our current contact).

2) School Uniform Drive: The first of August marked the beginning of our uniform donation drive for Highland Renaissance School (under our Children & Families Team). Needs are:
   - Girls khaki or navy pants: Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18
   - Boys khaki or navy pants: Sizes 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
   - Polo Shirts: ALL Sizes- (White and navy)
   - Long-sleeved polo shirts: White and navy

GREATEST NEED IS FOR SMALLER SIZES.
Place on uniform racks in the Main Entrance lobby or outside sanctuary!

Youth News from Lee

- Promotion Sunday in Sunday School is August 27th
- Youth Sunday Evening Activities begin on Sept 10th
- High School Fall Retreat September 1st-3rd (I have made 23 rafting reservations for the 20 signed-up youth, Kevin Turner, Lee Gray, and a forthcoming female chaperone. I am told I can make a 24th reservation if another adult male or youth wants to add. That would give us 4 full boats of 6 people each)

From Allison

Summer Sundays

Nursery/2s: This class will be cared for in their room for Formation Hour and Worship Hour.

PreK/K: The PreK/K class will remain in their classroom for Formation Hour and Worship Hour as they share a story together, make some art, and play together.

Grades 1-5: These grades will meet together in the 1st-3rd Grade classroom for the rest of the summer. They will join their families for worship.
Building Sabbath
Our annual “building sabbath” concludes this week, August 14-18, on the second and third floors. This is a time when most weekday and evening meetings at the church are cancelled or rescheduled so that needed maintenance can be done. In addition to some deep cleaning while the children are not in the building, there has been painting on the first floor in preparation for new flooring installation this week. Also, the floors in the weekday school area, first floor hallways, and Broach Hall were refinished last week. Thank you for being flexible and look for the updates being made during this time!

Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 20
Women of the Church invite you to join us during the worship service on Sunday, August 20, as we celebrate our children with the "Blessing of the Backpacks." We will recognize our children and everyone who is involved in their education, both in school and at church. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church that morning. Let's show our love and support as they start a new school year!

Tour of Charlotte Rescue Mission
Meet at the church at 10:15 am on August 29 to carpool to the Charlotte Rescue Mission for a tour led by our own Pat Culp, who is a part-time nurse at the Mission. The tour, sponsored by the St. John’s Healthcare Team, concludes at noon, with optional lunch at the Mission to follow. The Mission, included in St. John’s annual budget, provides a vital ministry to people struggling with addiction or hopelessness. Learn more about this ministry and how we can strengthen our partnership with them in service to our community.

PARADE:
• The parade is from 1-3 pm on Sunday afternoon, August 27, in Uptown Charlotte.
• We will gather in the parade line starting at about 12:15 pm. The gathering place is on 9th Street between College and Tryon.
• Unlike prior years, we will NOT eat lunch at the church first. We will have coolers with cold water and a snack lunch for each participant to make sure you have energy for the walk. We recommend that you explore the festival afterward, where there are many opportunities to procure more substantial food and drink.
• We recommend that you either (a) wear your parade clothes to church (the Stillermans will be festooned in God Loves You tie-dye) or (b) plan to change clothes right after church. We will organize rides from church to the parade zone for those who need them. If you are able, we recommend that you grab the trolley right after worship to the Spectrum Arena stop, then walk the 6 blocks to the parade zone. Someone will be there by noon to greet you.
• If you know you’re planning to march, please e-mail sjbcpride@gmail.com so we can gauge the food preparations. It’s fine to join us without notice, if the spirit moves you!

FESTIVAL: If you would like to assist with the St. John’s booth at the festival on Saturday, April 26, please contact Martha Kearse.

2017 Charlotte Pride Festival and Parade
Saturday, August 26, from 12-10 pm and Sunday, August 27, from 12-6 pm

You are Invited!
Women of the Church Retreat
November 3 - 5, 2017
Blowing Rock Conference Center

Led by Rev. Mandy England Cole
Senior Pastor, Ginter Park Baptist Church, Richmond

Breathe - Experience the Presence of God
We will explore ways to connect with our Creator, highlighted with your choices of small group morning and afternoon breakout sessions:

- Body Prayer
- Godly Play
- Photography
- Writing/Journaling
- Godly Art
- Hiking
- Music
- High Ropes Courses
- Mindful Shopping

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required with a completed Registration Form no later than Sunday, September 10 (see brochures available this week in Sunday School rooms). Cost for a double room for 2 is $175 per person 1, 3 or 4 to a room rates are available. Contact Teri Franklin (704-560-2945) or Donna Scott (919-280-9204) with any questions.
St. John’s Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane - Charlotte NC 28204
704.333.5428-www.SJcharlotte.org
Family News - a publication of St. John’s Baptist Church

Ministers
Every participant in God’s Servant Church

Equipping Ministers
Senior Minister…………………………. Dennis Foust
ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org
Associate Minister ……………………… Martha Kearse
ext. 13 - mkearse@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Youth & Young Adults……….. Lee Gray
ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Children & Their Families . Allison Benfield
ext. 18 - abenfield@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Worship and Music………..…. Kevin Gray
ext. 14 - kgray@sjcharlotte.org

Church Staff
Administrative Assistant……………….. Jacquelyn McAbee
ext. 11 - jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org
Church Accountant…………………….. Elaine Johnson
ejohnson@sjcharlotte.org
Church Administrator…………………… Sandra Rogers
ext. 20 - srogers@sjcharlotte.org
Graded Choirs Director………………… Sandy Holland
sholland@sjcharlotte.org
Organist……………………………………. Noel Lance
nlance@sjcharlotte.org
Weekday School Director…………………. Lydia Olmsted
ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org
Custodians….James Cowan, James Lee, Chris Mullis

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations
Byron Bullard - Sardis Oaks; RD Bond, Jacob Goodson, Ethel Harris, Carmen Howard, Marie Peacock, Tracey Poteat & Whit Wilson - home

Sympathy to the family of Marie Peacock, a long-time spiritual leader in the life of St. John’s, who passed away on Wednesday, August 16. We pray for Tom, her husband of 75 years, and their children and grandchildren, including son Rob, daughter-in-law Sarah, and their daughters, Annie and Elizabeth, who are members of St. John’s.

We want to express sincere appreciation for all the expressions of sympathy during this time of sorrow. The love and kindness of our church family has been very comforting. ~ Christa and Kevin Lynch

Sunday, August 20

Deacons: Linda Balentine, Jordan Benton, Lynn Bishop, Maggie Bond, Randy Brantley, Pauline Carter, Ryan Crowder, Charlie Harper, Cathy Hartsell, Tom Hearn
Tellers: James Laney, Susan King
Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Carol & Gene Poole
Main Ent. Greeter: Ed Turner, Phil Vavra

Financial Ministry Plan Report:
Week of August 7-13: $14,899
Income through August 13: $580,653
2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: $1,075,535

⇒ “Comfort Cards” are sent to members of the church needing comfort and joy. Please notify the church office if you know of a person in need of a card.

Immigration and the Charlotte Community
An Educational Forum
Monday, September 18, 2017
6:30-8:00 pm

Join us for a forum on immigration led by Maureen Abell, Staff Attorney with the Immigration Justice Program of Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont. Maureen will discuss the current options available for immigrants, the critical issues facing the immigrant community, and how they have changed for immigrants under the new administration. We will hear personal stories of immigrants, learn about the work of Legal Services and begin discerning what we can do to support our neighbors who are immigrants. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

“Discerning Our Call: Identity and Purpose Through a Life of Faith”

Summer Sunday School will wrap up this Sunday in the Chapel.

This week’s lesson:
Answering the Why: A Mature Faith/ Jenner Wall - CROP

Calendar: August 20-26

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug 20</td>
<td>9:15 - Summer Sunday School (Chapel/Classrooms)</td>
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<td>10:30 - Worship (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>11:30 - SJ Community lunch &amp; discussion (Broach Hall)</td>
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<td>Monday, Aug 21</td>
<td>11:00 - Staff meetings (Conference Room)</td>
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<td>6:00 - Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)</td>
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<td>6:30 - Women of the Church Board (Conference Room)</td>
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<td>6:45 - Zumba (Gym)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Aug 22</td>
<td>11:00 - Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)</td>
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<td>6:00 - Zumba (Gym)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Aug 23</td>
<td>6:30 - Benton Basketball (Gym)</td>
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<td>11:00 - CROP (Lounge)</td>
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<td>6:00 - AA (Gym)</td>
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<td>Thursday, Aug 24</td>
<td>7:15 - Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</td>
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<td>Friday, Aug 25</td>
<td>11:00 - Craft Class (Gym)</td>
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<td>6:00 - Zumba (Gym)</td>
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<td>Saturday, Aug 26</td>
<td>8:00 - AA (Lounge)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 - Benton Basketball (Gym)</td>
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<td>9:30 - Kids Basketball (Gym)</td>
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Complete calendar online: www.SJcharlotte.org

Ministers on Call:
August 14-20: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
August 21-27: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446