



# Family News

*A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active*  
St. John's Baptist Church · 300 Hawthorne Lane · Charlotte, North Carolina

Vol. 75, No. 43 - November 7, 2017



*St. John's  
at Worship*

**Sunday, November 12**  
*Twenty-third Sunday  
after Pentecost*

**Proclaimer:**  
**Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD**

**Sermon:**  
*Money, Ministry and Mission  
Part 1*

**Scripture:**  
Mark 12:41-44



## Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

Our St. John's Covenant includes these words: "... *offering ourselves for God's work in the world.*" This year, our Stewardship Resource Team has chosen this phrase as our focus as we enter a season of prayerful commitment related to our church's vision for 2018. Our Financial Ministry Plan for 2018 will continue ongoing ministries as well as offer some new ministry initiatives and plans. Commitment Sunday is November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 2017 Women of the Church Retreat *Breathe*

*God speaks to us through  
the people who speak to us  
about the things of God.*  
~ Henri Nouwen



This past Sunday 50 St. John's women left Blowing Rock Conference Center (where we gathered for our biannual fall retreat) alive with the fullness of God's presence with us and within us. We were each other's opportunity

- to find the God that lives in us,
- to see God living vibrantly in one another, and
- to acknowledge God in the community that is Women of the Church.



God spoke to us through each other "about the things of God." We loved, listened, laughed, shared, played, wondered, shopped (in a Godly way), hiked, prayed with our bodies as well as with words, experienced the challenge of introspection and of seeing God everywhere - especially in the middle of a ropes course. Brave women, that group!



Each year we always say "this retreat is the best one ever!" And each year it is. We want all St. John's women to experience the joy and fulfillment that come with this weekend. *So, circle the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of November 2018 and plan to join us.*



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## CREATING OPEN SPACE IN C R O W D E D L I V I N G

When the commercial began my first inclination was to question, "Who needs help organizing a closet?" However, it was evident from the testimonials, this is a real thing.

One person testified, "...worked closely with us to determine how we could get the most out of our limited space while staying within our limited budget." Another bore witness, "...maximized the space in our closet by creating open space in a crowded corner." These closet organizer evangelists have made a believer out of me. I am a convert. For 'those people who need it,' this is good news.

The parody above could be rewritten. What if the testimonials were about people rearranging their crowded lives to create open space for the Holy Spirit of God to work within them? During our season of commitment related to our financial stewardship, we are guided by a statement from our St. John's Covenant, "*Offering Ourselves for God's Work in the World.*" Beloved, when we pray and reflect about our commitments for 2018, let us be willing for God to help us reorganize our crowded lives so we can create open space for active faithfulness in our expressions of generosity. Let us pray, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in me.*"

As we transition beyond All Saints' Sunday and move into the Holy Day season, you may have opportunity to minister to someone who is grieving. I offer these words of Howard Thurman, entitled *FOR A TIME OF SORROW*.

*I share with you the agony of your grief,  
The anguish of your heart finds echo in  
my own. I know I cannot enter all you feel  
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;  
I can but offer what my love does give:  
The strength of caring.  
The warmth of one who seeks to understand  
The silent storm-swept barrenness of  
so great a loss.  
This I do in quiet ways,  
That on your lonely path  
You may not walk alone.*

Shalom,  
Dennis

## From Martha

### No Limits

We did not have enough interest to do a Winston-Salem trip, and next month is the Christmas luncheon. I would love to hear ideas from you about things you would like to do in the new year—what is coming that you would like to attend? Shall we pick out a few more barbeque places?

## Youth News from Lee

**Sunday, November 12 - Sunday Night Live** - Regular schedule 5:00-7:30 pm. Our youth group time will be on the subject of "Offering Our Best." **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship Kickoff** from 6:00-7:30 pm (in the first floor lounge).

Mark your calendar for these summer dates:

- **June 17-23** – **High School Habitat Mission Trip**
- **July 23-28** – **Unidiversity Summer Camp**
- **August 11-14** – **Middle School Local Mission Trip**

## From Allison

### This Sunday

**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. This week, they'll learn about how God called Moses to help save God's people.

**Grades 1-3:** Missions 101 will be from 9:15-10:15. No Music this Sunday. This class will have Godly Play during the worship hour.

**Grades 4-5:** Missions 101 will be from 9:15-10:15. No Music this Sunday. This class will worship with their families.

### Children Leading Worship

The 1st-5th Graders will lead worship through song on November 19. Please make sure to have your child here that day!

Hanging of the Green is December 3. The PreK/K choir and the elementary aged choir will be helping to lead worship that day. Please make sure you have your child here regularly over the next few Sundays so they will be ready to lead worship.



## Welcome New Member!

Clara Howell rejoined St. John's on Sunday, November 5, 2017, by transfer of church letter. Clara is a social worker with Communities in Schools and resides at 2537 Cranbrook Lane, Charlotte, NC 28207.

## South Sudanese Ministry

In the last months, some of our friends in the South Sudanese community have been talking with our staff and leadership about the possibility of holding a worship service here at St. John's in Dinka. The service would be open to the South Sudanese community in Charlotte and the surrounding area and would be led by South Sudanese members. On **November 19**, we will welcome our South Sudanese friends in worship and commission them to create this service, to be held at St. John's twice a month on Sunday afternoons. After worship, everyone is invited to a reception in Broach Hall, celebrating our time together and our plans for the future.

## Family Movie Outing

On Saturday, November 18, we'll be going to Phillip's Place to see *The Star* at 1:20 pm. The movie focuses on the animals present during the Christmas story, and the trailers make it look like a fun way to re-imagine the story. It also deals with the very real danger Herod presented (which I think is pretty great because we tend to leave that part out). If you're interested, meet Miss Allison at Phillip's Place by 1:00, so we can find some seats together. No RSVP required, but if you'd like to let her know you're coming, that'd be great.

**GENESIS**  
A YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY  
St. John's

**New Sunday Morning Group for Young Adults:** We will gather at 9:15 in the Lounge. Our name is **GENESIS**, because we are beginning something new. We are focused around the following Touchpoint Teams: *Caring, Social Support, Hospitality/Welcoming, Leadership, Outreach/Promotion, Learning and Service*. Several young adult individuals and couples have already committed to roles of involvement to make sure **GENESIS** is successful. Dennis Foust is our learning guide. **GENESIS** members will input the planning of learning sessions. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Chase Bailey or Eric McCombs at [dcbaily7@gmail.com](mailto:dcbaily7@gmail.com) or [ericmcombs@gmail.com](mailto:ericmcombs@gmail.com).

Tom and I found St. John's about 1993. Our only daughter, Lindsay was born about a year and a half after we joined. We've been blessed by much within this community, including:

Sunday School lessons and religious book studies; retreats; sermons on Sundays; hugs, laughter, and emotional support from members we call friends.

We have needed this place for more reasons than this short testimony can explain. We know too, this place needs us and our talents, dedication,



participation, and stewardship. Life is a two-way street. We give because we want to be part of the continuation and impact of this supportive community. ~ Carol Injaychock

St. John's is the community of faith that ministered to me and my family during our darkest days. I want everyone in Charlotte to experience God's grace and love through the lives of St. John's members. Giving of your time and resources allows St. John's to be "faithfully active" in our community. ~ Judy Godsey

We are thrilled to have the **Winthrop University Chorale**, under the direction of Jeremy Mims, with us in worship this Sunday. Many of you will remember them from their participation in the Power of Song Concert held here in March. This wonderful ensemble will be singing several anthems as well as leading us in some of your favorite hymns! So come out and support St. John's and this group of wonderful young guests with your presence.

## Homelessness Team News:

Each year, our support for Charlotte Family Housing has involved taking four weeks during the year to serve two dinners to the families who stay in our building, and to provide the overnight hosts each night. The way MT25 works, as we transition to it, is that after we cover our obligations for this year, the Homelessness Team will need to decide whether this is the role they wish to continue to play with Charlotte Family Housing. For this year, we have **one more week, November 26-30**, to cover. **As of this printing, the Homelessness Team still does not have a communications person.** That person has the task of getting information on volunteer opportunities from the liaisons for Homelessness and sharing those with the Team in a once-monthly email. It does NOT mean that the communications person is responsible for finding volunteers—just for sharing the upcoming opportunities. If you are willing to take on this task for the next year, please contact Joy Jarrett, Dale Johnson, Kevin Lynch or Alice Wirz.



## Peacebuilding Team News:

Here is a photo from the National Reentry March and Rally last Friday evening. This event was sponsored by the Center for Community Transitions and several other organizations that work with and advocate for people returning to the community from incarceration. The event was well attended, and the speakers---several of whom shared their own experiences with reentry---were powerful. Rachel and Jeff Nemecek and Dick and Beverly Hester represented St. John's. It was a great experience!



**St. John's Baptist Church**  
**300 Hawthorne Lane - Charlotte NC 28204**  
**704.333.5428-www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.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, Chris Mullis  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon

***Prayer Concerns & Celebrations***

Betty Crenshaw - Northeast Medical Center, Concord;  
 Tom Bryson, Ken Childers, Carmen Howard, Chuck  
 Jones, Jan Kerley & Lewis LeVie - home

***Sunday, November 12***

Deacons: Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Lynn  
 Bishop, Leslie Bragg, Randy Brantley, Stan Brown,  
 Minh Callaway, Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Charlie  
 Harper

Tellers: Morgan Newman, Tim Gibson

Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie  
 Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Carol & Gene Poole

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Mark McNeill; 5th St.-  
 Linda Kerley, Susan King; Broach-Ashley Hogewood;  
 Elevator-Marvin Carter

***Financial Ministry Plan Report:***

Week of October 30-November 5: \$22,929  
 Income through November 5: \$813,463  
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

***Ministers on Call:***

November 6-12: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412  
 November 13-19: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287



**UPDATE YOUR  
 CONTACT INFO**

The church office is preparing an update to  
 our directory, including a page of new  
 members' photos and a new address/phone  
 list. Please contact Jacquelyn in the church  
 office if any of your (or your adult child's) information  
 has changed (address, phone, email). Watch for  
 details on when to pick up new pages.



⇒ MT 25 Children & Families covers  
 the following areas: Crisis Assistance, A  
 Child's Place, Christmas Stockings and  
 QC Family Tree. Contact Linda  
 Balentine, if interested in more  
 information.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

The Women of the Church are gathering  
 on Thursday, November 30, at 10:00 am  
 at Royal Gardens to learn to design fairy  
 gardens. A fairy garden is a miniature  
 garden complete with tiny structures  
 and living plants. They make wonderful Christmas gifts  
 and stay green all year long. They can be as large or small  
 and detailed as you like. You can buy your container there  
 or bring your own. Lots of plants and tiny accessories are  
 ready for us to come and explore. Coffee and treats will be  
 provided. After a morning of creative gardening, we will  
 adjourn to one of the local restaurants for lunch. More  
 details to follow. Royal Gardens is located at 1701 E.  
 Seventh Street beside Hawthorne's Pizza.



**Calendar: November 12-18**

**Sunday, November 12**

8:00 ..... Church Council (Conference Room)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
 10:30 ..... Godly Play (Room 221)  
 5:00 ..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
 6:00 ..... 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship (Lounge)

**Monday, November 13**

8:00 ..... Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 11:45 ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)  
 6:15 ..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Broach Hall)  
 6:30 ..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)  
 6:30 ..... Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)  
 6:30 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 7:30 ..... All Deacons' Meeting (Broach Hall)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, November 14**

7:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 10:00 ..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00 ..... Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)  
 1:00 ..... Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)  
 2:00 ..... Heritage Task Force (Heritage Room)  
 4:15 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Broach Hall)  
 5:15 ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 6:00 ... National Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)  
 7:30 ..... National Alliance on Mental Illness Forum (Lounge)

**Wednesday, November 15**

6:30 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:30 ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
 10:00 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Broach Hall)  
 6:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 6:00 ..... Membership Task Force (Lounge)  
 6:15 ..... Handbells (Handbell Room)  
 7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, November 16**

9:00 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Youth Lounge)  
 11:00 ..... Uptown Ladies (Lounge)  
 11:30 ..... Novant Health Medical Group (Broach Hall)  
 3:00 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)

**Friday, November 17**

6:30 ..... Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)  
 9:00 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Youth Lounge)  
 5:30 ..... Volunteers serve dinner at Uptown Men's Shelter  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, November 11**

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 1:00 ..... Family Movie Outing with Allison

Complete calendar online:  
[www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org](http://www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org)