



# Family News

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

Vol. 75, No. 46 - November 28, 2017



*St. John's  
at Worship*

**Sunday, December 3**  
*First Sunday of Advent  
Hanging of the Green*

## ADVENT: *LIVING WHILE WAITING*

The season of Advent is more than a season of waiting for Christmas. Advent beckons us to embrace a theological nomenclature of 'Living While Waiting.' This vocabulary of faith includes four familiar words - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. During Advent, we explore how these gifts from God empower us in our **LIVING WHILE WAITING**.



The children have been busy preparing for Advent by coloring the poster for the first Sunday. Look for it at the Main Entrance.

- God's Gift of HOPE: empowering living amidst despair
- God's Gift of PEACE: empowering living amidst dread
- God's Gift of JOY: empowering living amidst devastation
- God's Gift of LOVE: empowering living amidst dissonance and doubt

## Advent Worship Schedule

- Sunday, December 3 - Hanging of the Green - 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 17 - Lessons & Carols - 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 pm

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*Charlotte Lessons & Carols  
from  
St. John's*

*A live performance broadcast presented by  
WDAV 89.9 and St. John's*

*Tuesday, December 5  
7:00 pm - Sanctuary*

WDAV's live holiday broadcast returns with a program of beloved carols and holiday music illuminated by scripture readings.

*Free and open to the public.*

If you would be willing to be a greeter for this program, please contact Kevin Gray at [kgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sjcharlotte.org).

## IN TIMES LIKE THESE

Advent begins this Sunday. We begin a new Christian Calendar Year by waiting. We do a lot of waiting in the midst of our living. Yet, we do not step away from living with vision and purpose while we are waiting. We are living the Gospel. We invest our energies and steward our resources in the vision of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We are actively waiting. While we continue to wait for God's justice and compassion to bear fruit for every person in every land, we collaborate with God's empowering Holy Spirit by being attentive to those moments when God inspires us. We are living in actively faithful ways while we are waiting.

In 1944, amidst some of the most difficult challenges during World War II, a woman felt spiritually inspired to write down her thoughts. She was living while waiting. As a child and youth, I remember singing her words as a Sunday evening worship song. Often, it would be prefaced by words speaking of God's faithfulness or those human needs included in the night's prayer list. These words of Ruth Caye Jones are simple and repetitive. The theology is not well developed. Yet, these words offer an example of how a person attentive to God's Holy Spirit in the midst of challenging times can be used to offer encouragement through God's gift of hope. We need not despair. We are living with God's gift of hope.

## IN TIMES LIKE THESE

(1) In times like these, we need a Savior,  
In times like these, we need an anchor;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!  
(CHORUS)

CHORUS:  
This Rock is Jesus,  
Yes, He's the One,  
This Rock is Jesus, the Christ of God.  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

(2) In times like these, we need the Bible,  
In times like these, O be not idle!  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!  
(CHORUS)

(3) In times like these, we have a Savior,  
In times like these, we have an anchor,  
We're very sure, we're very sure,  
Our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!  
(CHORUS)

May your Advent season be filled with spiritual inspiration, encouragement of missional vision and renewal of Christian commitments. "We're very sure, we're very sure, our anchor holds and grips the solid rock"  
- Jesus Christ.

Shalom,  
Dennis

## From Martha

### No Limits

We are on for a trip to see the Singing Christmas Tree on Sunday, December 10, at 4 pm at Knight Theater. Meet at St. John's at 3:15 pm, and we will carpool together to Knight Theater.

## Youth News from Lee

**Saturday, December 2** – The **basketball season** starts (see schedule on back page).

**Sunday, December 3** – Youth will sing at **Hanging of the Green** worship service and will have one last rehearsal at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. Donuts will be in Youth Lounge at 9:15 am. Following the worship service, youth will deliver poinsettias to St. John's neighbors. We will finish by 1:30 pm.

**The revised and final ski trip plans, January 19-21 to Winterplace, were sent in an email last week.**

## From Allison

**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 an angel visited Mary. This class will also sing in worship as part of the Hanging of the Green service.

**Grades 1-5:** These classes will have Music from 9:15-10:15 as they get ready to lead us in worship as part of the Hanging of the Green service. Please bring them to the Music room. They will sit with their choir in worship.

### Children Leading Worship

Hanging of the Green is December 3. The PreK/K and elementary aged choir will be helping to lead worship this Sunday. Please have your children here at 9:15am on Sunday so we have the time we need to practice and prepare.



## Financial Ministry Plan Pledge Report

**Amount Received: \$778,236**  
**Commitments Received: 157**

If you have not turned in your Pledge Card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

**Christmas Cards  
for Our Neighbors**

Our Advent Mailbox is up! Between now and December 17<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to write a note to one of our members who can no longer attend services. You can write a note using the cards we have supplied, or write your own, and place them in the box UNDER the person's name. We also have slots available this year for our Church Staff and our Partner Organizations, if you would like to use them to send greetings. Happy writing!



**Advent Booklet**

Our Advent Booklet, "Living While Waiting," will be available this Sunday at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you will not be here but would like one, please call the church office!



**Christmas Gathering for Senior Adults  
Thursday, December 7, 2017  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Broach Hall**

**What should St. John's look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

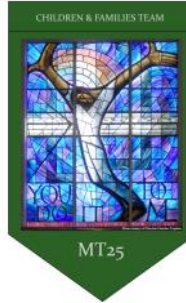
As you know, the church has received \$130,000 for the sale of property on Park Avenue and has a contract for the potential sale of the Garrison Road property. The Administrative deacons have appointed a group to ask and listen to the congregation's ideas and to make recommendations on how we should spend this money. The "Investing in the Future Task Force's" members are David Allen, Bill Claytor, Bill Hartsell, Bobbi Sherrill, Randy Brantley, Charlie Harper, Wanny Hogewood, Fredda Kimball, Russell Norris, Meredith Sorrell, Sara Vavra, Sally Young, chair, and Dennis Foust, ex-officio.

How can we best use these funds to further and expand St. John's missional vision? Beginning in January, the "IF Task Force" will be visiting Sunday School classes and holding listening sessions to hear members' ideas. We look to the congregation to help us discern the ways we can challenge ourselves to grow and change our perspective and facilities so that St. John's is known in the community as a beacon of God's love at the corner of East Fifth and Hawthorne.

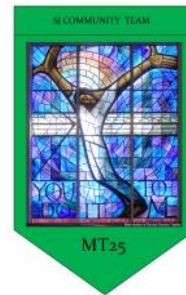
**Santa Claus is Coming to Town!!** Santa needs your help to make the holiday season bright for thousands of children in Charlotte. Salvation Army stockings provide small gifts for boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 12 living in difficult financial situations.



Please consider being Santa's helper this year by filling a stocking or two, or three! Stockings are available in the gym lobby and must be returned by **Sunday, December 3**, Questions? Contact Janet Wade at 704-366-8659 or [jpwade123@gmail.com](mailto:jpwade123@gmail.com).



On Saturday, December 9, from 2:30-4:30, we will work at Crisis Assistance Ministries at 500-A Spratt St. We will be sorting through donations and stocking the Free Store so people can come in to shop for Christmas! Interested in joining us? Let Kimberly Follis ([kimberly\\_follis@outlook.com](mailto:kimberly_follis@outlook.com)) know!



**Craft & Bake Sale**

Sunday, December 3  
9:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Lasater Hall

Sponsored by The Craft & Needle Ministry

We need your help to donate handmade crafts and baked goods! All proceeds will be used to reduce hunger in the Charlotte region! Craft items can be brought to the church on Friday morning, December 1. Baked goods should be brought to Lasater Hall on Sunday morning, December 3. Contact Ruth Jackson or Tricia Miller for more information.

**Women of the Church  
ADVENT YOGA**

Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm  
Sara Vavra, yoga instructor

Go calmly in the Advent season with breathing techniques and warm thoughts. Any ability of yoga is welcome to come. Chairs will be provided if you need a chair. Or bring a mat if you prefer.

Please call the church office and make a reservation for this class. **SPACE IS LIMITED.** Class will run about an hour and light refreshments will be served.



**St. John's Baptist Church**  
**300 Hawthorne Lane - Charlotte NC 28204**  
**704.333.5428-[www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org](http://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  
*Organist*..... Noel Lance  
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org  
*Weekday School Director*..... Lydia Olmsted  
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org  
*Custodians*.. James Cowan, James Ford, Chris Mullis  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon



⇒ You can find the name of your Pastoral Deacon (or another member's deacon) by checking the Sunday school list of class members.



**Children and Youth Basketball Schedule**

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

6 & Under Co-Ed - 11:00 am at St. John's  
 8 & Under Boys - 10:00 am at St. John's  
 10 & Under Boys - 1:00 pm at St. John's  
 10 & Under Girls - Bye  
 12 & Under Boys - 11:00 am at Mulberry Baptist  
 12 & Under Girls - 2:00 pm at St. John's  
 14 & Under Boys - 1:30 am at Sharon Presbyterian  
 16 & Under Boys - 1:00 pm at First Baptist  
 18 & Under Boys - 1:45 pm at Trinity Episcopal School  
 18 & Under Girls - 2:00 pm at First Baptist

**Pictorial Directory Update**

To update your St. John's pictorial directory, a page of photos of our recent new members and a new address/phone directory are now available on the table in the church office.



***Prayer Concerns & Celebrations***

Libby Collier - Peak Resources; Emily Batts, Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley & Lewis LeVie - home

***Sympathy*** to Betty Hastings in the death of her brother, Herbert Hoover, and to the family of Frederick Miller, who passed away on November 22.

***Sunday, December 3***

**Deacons:** David Allen, Maggie Bond, Kami McGuire, Laura Sorrell, Todd Stillerman, Anne Sutton, Elizabeth Whipple, Lindsay Wilson, Alice Wirz

**Tellers:** James Laney, Susan King

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

**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner, Bobby Furr; 5th St.-Vanessa Boling, Betty Thompson; Broach-Monty Kearse; Elevator-Marvin Carter

***Financial Ministry Plan Report:***

Week of November 20-26: \$15,995  
 Income through November 26: \$889,268  
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

***Ministers on Call:***

Nov. 27-Dec. 3: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446  
 December 4-10: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

**Calendar: December 3-9**

**Sunday, December 3**

9:00 ..... Craft & Bake Sale (Lasater Hall)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Worship/Hanging of the Green (Sanctuary)  
 11:30 ..... Youth deliver poinsettias

**Monday, December 4**

11:45 ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)  
 6:00 ..... WDAV Rehearsal (Sanctuary/Choir Room)  
 6:30 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 10:00 ..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00 ..... Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)  
 5:15 ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 7:00 ..... WDAV Concert (Sanctuary)  
 8:00 ..... WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)

**Wednesday, December 6**

6:30 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:00 ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
 6:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 6:00 ..... Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 6:00 ..... Mission Resource Team (Lounge)  
 7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, December 7**

9:00 ..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)  
 11:30 ..... Senior Adult Christmas Gathering (Broach Hall)

**Friday, December 8**

5:00 ..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, December 9**

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 10:00 ..... Basketball games (Gym/Lounge)

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