



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 19 - May 8, 2018



*St. John's  
 at Worship*

**Sunday, May 13**  
*Seventh Sunday in Eastertide*

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

**Sermon Series:**  
*Adapting to God's Light:  
 New Ways of Seeing*

**Sermon:**  
*Home Making?*

**Scripture:**  
 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25;  
 John 6:66-69

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## ST. JOHN'S WI-FI NOW AVAILABLE CHURCH-WIDE

The Technology Resource Team is excited to announce that Wi-Fi connectivity is now available at St. John's! Members and guests to our facilities can now connect smart phones, tablets and laptops to the Internet wirelessly throughout the building, including in Sunday School classrooms and in other meeting spaces like Broach Hall and the church lounge.

To connect to the St. John's wireless network, you can choose from three options:

- "SJBC Guest" is an open guest connection available for the general public. This connection is not password protected.
- "SJBC Member" is a connection available to members and families in our church community. It is protected by a password, which will be communicated via a church wide e-mail. This password may be updated periodically.
- "SJBC Wifi" is a password protected, closed connection for church staff only.

Once you've made your connection, you will be required to click through a disclaimer page and, if necessary, enter the appropriate password.

The new network has been successfully tested by staff and the Technology Resource Team over the past several months, and the signal is strong throughout the areas of the church where use is expected. A few words of caution, though:

- The signal's strength is reduced as the number of users increases. Accordingly, the Internet will be faster if you connect during off-peak times (the Brotherhood of the Biscuit lightning-fast speeds at their 6:30 am meetings), and slower if you connect when the building is busy (like the Sunday School hour).
- As our historic church building is filled with unusual nooks and crannies, there are certain spots on the premises where the Wi-Fi simply won't reach without extraordinary expense for additional equipment. In determining where to concentrate resources for Wi-Fi signal, the Technology Resource team prioritized spaces in the church where meetings are held and where guests are most likely to congregate.
- The St. John's Wi-Fi network is an unsecure connection. You should use caution when sharing data over the network.

The new Wi-Fi system was made available through the first distribution from the St. John's Baptist Church Endowment Fund. Endowment funds paid for purchase and installation of new equipment and for upgrades to our Internet service from the provider. Our endowment was established in 2000 as a perpetual endowment fund consisting of two component funds: The Capital Needs Fund and The Missions and Ministries Fund. Thanks to gifts from members and friends of St. John's (and to the success of the recent St. John's Second Century Legacy Campaign), funds became available for distribution in 2017 from the Capital Needs Fund. Additional distributions from both The Capital Needs Fund and The Missions and Ministries Fund are available in 2018, and the Board of Deacons is presently working to determine the use for this year's funds.

**THE LANGUAGE OF KIN:  
A DIALECT OF KINDNESS FOR THE KINDRED  
How Christ's Church Can Speak in the World**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we seldom use the phrase "kith and kin." The word 'kith' means 'persons who are known to you or are familiar to you.' Your kith can include your friends, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues, associates, acquaintances, clients, customers, etc.

The word 'kin' refers to your family — all those persons to whom you are related. Usually, 'kin' is used to include all individuals who descend from a common ancestor; although, it can also include those persons who become 'kin' through marriage.

The mean-spiritedness, political partisanship and polarization of perspectives which seem to be prevailing in today's public square often divide 'kith and kin.' In fact, many people have formally or informally contracted to avoid discussing religion and politics. This approach to relational trust is pretentious, weakens our capacity to learn from one another and weakens the foundations of our society as a democratic republic.

I propose we rediscover the language of kin. Of course, some people will never be willing to humble themselves enough to even learn how to speak the language of 'kith,' but this should not prevent us, as members of the body of Christ, as part of the people of God in today's world, to speak the language of kin.

By 'the language of kin,' I mean we need to peel back the layers of difference, fear, partial knowledge and pretense to explore how we are related through our mutual created-ness. Because each of us is created in the image of God, we are related to God. Thereby, we have more similarity than difference; more faith than fear; more communal awareness than partial knowledge; and more truth than pretense.

In our culture, we over-emphasize freedom, as though it is individualistic individualism. Yet, we are a community of individuals. In biblical language, we are like parts of a body. We are related in more ways than we often like to explore. Our comfort-addicted society must learn how to have difficult conversations. Like marriage and every other maturing and honest relationship, health requires homeostasis or an internal and systemic balance requiring a reduction or elimination of tension, stress and pain.

Beloved, our world needs us, as part of the people of God, as followers of Jesus, to renew ourselves to speak the language of kin. Each of us is related to the other. A good place for kindred to begin learning the language of kin is with kindness: compassion, grace, sympathy, patience, tenderness, seeking to understand, hospitality, blessing, mercy, listening without pre-judging, servanthood, humility, learning from one another, etc.

St. John's, thank you for the ways you offer to our kith and kin in Charlotte and beyond a language of kindness. Let us become known in Charlotte as a community of faith where people can learn how to speak the language of kin. Amen!

Shalom,  
Dennis

**Youth News from Lee**

**Sunday, May 13** - No youth activities (Mother's Day)  
**Sunday, May 20** - **Paintball** after church until 4pm - I will send out another signup email this week. We paid for 21 slots for last time (non-refundable), so I'd love to get that many or more this time. Again, this is our group only with low-impact rifles.

**May 23** - **Open Table** – Wednesday Night Intergenerational Meal and "Purposeful" Play

**June 3** – **Senior Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**Summer Youth Events**

**June 17-23** – **High School Mission Trip with Sea Island Habitat**

**July 23-28** – **Unidiversity Youth Summer Camp**

**August 11-14** – **Middle School Local Mission Trip** (this includes rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders)



**From Allison**

**Nursery/2s:** This class will be cared for in their room for Formation Hour and Worship Hour. We have some brand new toys for these children to enjoy!

**PreK/K:** This 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 Jesus gave his disciples a job to do.

**Grades 1-5:** From 9:15-10:00, they will have Missions 101. They will be learning about how St. John's does God's work in the world by supporting a school in South Sudan. Grace Notes will be from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will have Godly Play during worship, and 4th-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

**Register Today!**

**Only 24 spots left!**

**A Year in the Church:**

**St. John's/St. Martins VBS 2018**

**June 11-15 - 9 am-12 noon each day**

For children aged 4 - rising 6th Graders

\$15/Child



We'll be learning about the life of Jesus as we walk through the seasons of the church year together with stories and art. We do have a maximum number of children we can care for at VBS, so don't wait to sign up!

We still need a few volunteers. You can sign up on our Sign Up Genius at [bit.ly/2q7SVRY](http://bit.ly/2q7SVRY) or send Allison an email at [abenfield@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org).

**VBS can't happen without you!**



**SUNDAY  
MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

Our Church Council has scheduled a Church Conference for Sunday, May 20, following worship. A report from our Investing in the Future Task Force will be on the agenda. Lunch menu will be fried chicken, green beans, macaroni & cheese, and dessert. The cost will be \$10/adult and \$6/children under 12. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation by **Wednesday, May 16** ([jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704.333.5428, ext. 11).

**Youth Banquet 2018**



**OPEN TABLE:  
Intergenerational Evenings  
with Purposeful Play**



Our St. John's Covenant reads, *"We will love and encourage each other in the family of the church..."*

To strengthen opportunities for our multiple generations to interact and learn from one another and play together, we are scheduling 6 Wednesday evenings per year. Our next **OPEN TABLE** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 23**. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation ([jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704.333.5428, ext. 11).

Meal costs will be \$10/adults and \$6/child under 12 with a maximum of \$30 per household. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:50 and will continue to be served until 6:30. We will gather in Broach Hall and dismiss by 7:00 pm. All generations will be together for this time as we enjoy intergenerational table games, storytelling, conversations, etc.

**To our 2017-2018 Room in the Inn volunteers....thank you, thank you, thank you!**



You, our wonderful St. John's Baptist Church family and friends, have completed yet another successful year of Room in the Inn hosting. For the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, you have volunteered to organize the RITI closet, cook meals, make bagged lunches, drive the van, set up the gym, launder dirty linens, donate toiletries, underwear and supplies for neighbors, donate a beautiful new lounge TV, sew warm winter scarves and caps, host our neighbors -- whatever is needed -- to give our homeless neighbors a safe and happy space each Friday night during the RITI season. The devil is in the details but whenever we hit a snag, you came through!

Thank you St. John's members and staff and our wonderful Caldwell Presbyterian Church partners for your active faithfulness in allowing up to 12 of our homeless neighbors to feel safe, warm, and loved each wintry Friday night at St. John's. You invited our neighbors to use our renovated lounge, gym, and other necessary church facilities to provide a homey space on 17 Fridays (and New Year's Eve) again this winter.

We are blessed that so many long-time RITI volunteers demonstrate great dedication in returning year after year to serve. However, we are equally thrilled to watch as new volunteers from the Homelessness Team find their niche in the RITI ministry and bring their new, unique skills to the table.

Next year, we will seek to evolve the new Signup Genius environment to include improved ease of use for both online signups and better offline paper trails. We also will strive to set up lounge kitchen cabinets and cleaning carts with plenty of supplies to enable our volunteers to do their job well.

We appreciate each and every one of you who selflessly gave of yourselves to those neighbors we are called to love. It isn't always easy to love those who aren't always very lovable, but you loved them over and over again with countless acts of kindness.

Thank you!! Alice Wirz and Dale Johnson



**SAVE THE DATE!  
Sunday, September 9  
10th Annual Women  
of the Church Luncheon**

We are excited to announce that our very own Julie Scoggins will be the guest speaker.

This is one luncheon you don't want to miss! More details to follow, but mark your calendars now.



**November Women's Retreat—Saturday, November 3**

**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**

*Minister for Children & Their Families* ..... Allison Benfield  
 ext. 18 - abenfield@sjcharlotte.org  
*Minister for Worship and Music*.....Kevin Gray  
 ext. 14 - kgray@sjcharlotte.org  
*Minister for Youth & Young Adults* .....Lee Gray  
 ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org  
*Senior Minister*..... Dennis Foust  
 ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org

**Church Staff**

*Administrative Assistant*..... Jacquelyn McAbee  
 ext. 14 - jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org  
*Church Accountant* ..... Elaine Johnson  
 ejohnson@sjcharlotte.org  
*Church Administrator* .....Sandra Rogers  
 ext. 20 - srogers@sjcharlotte.org  
*Custodians* ..... Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon  
*Graded Choirs Director*..... Anna Ball  
*Organist*..... Noel Lance  
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org  
*Weekday School Director* .....Lydia Olmsted  
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org

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



⇒ Dr. Claude Broach publicly supported the U.S. Supreme Court decision banning segregated schools.

Men's Softball season will begin in early June. All games are played on weeknights at Providence Baptist Church. Please let Lee Gray know if you are interested in playing. We are looking for a few new players as several of our regulars have moved out of town.



Jacquelyn will be out of the office from May 23 - June 4 on vacation. If you would be willing to help out in the church office for a few hours during this time, please contact her at 704-333-5428 ext. 11 or [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org).

No particular office skills are needed, and men and women can help. If you are interested but cannot help on these dates, or if you have office skills (such as experience in Microsoft Word or Publisher), please let Jacquelyn.

**Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Nancy Burgess, Camille Green, Genice Harper, Polly Hull, Elizabeth Laney, Laura McGuire, Brad Sifford and Carole Ann Simpson - home; Dale Johnson and Johnnie Morcock - upcoming surgery

**Sunday, May 13**

Deacons: Kami McGuire, Cindy McIntyre, Mark McNeill, Tricia Miller, Melissa Millette, Jane & Morgan Newman, Russell Norris, Robby Ray, Shannon Rodden

Tellers: Tom Blackmon, Matt Collins

Greeters: Main-Carol & Tom Injaychock; 5th St.-Al & Treva Bridges; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator- Marvin Carter

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

**Financial Ministry Plan Report:**

Week of April 30-May 6: \$16,764  
 Income through May 6: \$288,199  
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

**2018 Community & State Mission Offering Received \$3,394**

This year, our gifts are set aside to impact lives locally through Habitat for Humanity, Loaves and Fishes, and North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

**Ministers on Call:**

May 7-13: Lee Gray 704-451-1309  
 May 14-20: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412

**Calendar: May 13 - 19**

Sunday, May 13

9:15..... Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)  
 10:30.....Godly Play (Room 221)  
 10:30.....Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 14

8:00.....Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 11:45..... Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)  
 6:30..... 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, May 15

7:00..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 8:30..... Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)  
 10:00..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)  
 4:15..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 5:15..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, May 16

6:30..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 7:00..... CROP (Lasater Hall)  
 8:30..... Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)  
 9:30..... Yoga (Room 114)  
 11:30..... Weekday School closing program (Broach Hall)  
 6:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 6:00..... Membership Task Force (Lounge)  
 6:00..... Handbells (Handbell Room)  
 6:30..... Charlotte Nets AAU (Gym)  
 7:15..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 17

11:00..... Uptown Ladies (Lounge)  
 12:30..... Novant Monthly Managers' meeting (Broach Hall)

Friday, May 18

6:30..... Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)  
 9:45..... Mental Health America (Lounge)  
 9:45..... HeadStart (Broach Hall)  
 5:30..... Volunteers serve dinner for Uptown Men's Shelter  
 8:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, May 19

7:00..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:30..... Kids Basketball (Gym)

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