



# Family News

*A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active*  
 St. John's Baptist Church · 300 Hawthorne Lane · Charlotte, North Carolina  
[www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org](http://www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org)

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*St. John's  
at Worship*

**Sunday, March 27**  
*Resurrection of Our Lord/  
Easter Sunday*

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

**Sermon:**  
*Looking for Easter*

**Scripture:**  
 John 20:1-8



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Wednesday, March 23 - Lenten Service

Elizabeth Communities of Faith Noon Worship & Soup  
 Last Word: *"Into Thy hands, I commend my spirit."*

Worship Theme: TRUST

Featuring joint choir directed by Kevin Gray

### Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday

Worship and Communion Service - 7:30 pm - Sanctuary  
 The Seven Last Words *To* and *From* the Cross

### Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday

Ecumenical Sunrise Worship - 7:00 am  
 Romare Bearden Park (300 S. Church Street-across from BB&T stadium)  
 Kevin Gray will be playing for this service.

Worship Service - 10:30 am - Sanctuary

## Jesus' Parables

St. John's/St. Martin's VBS 2016

June 13-17

9:00 am-12:00 noon

\$15/child

Children Aged 4 (by June 1, 2016) - Rising 6th Graders

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-Rising 2nd-6th Graders will be part of an Art Guild for the week and will explore one or more of Jesus' parables through their chosen art activity. Art Guilds include: Drama, Puppetry, Mosaics, Painting, Textile Art, and Sculpture.



-Children aged 4-Rising 1st Graders will try a little bit of everything in an experience designed just for them.  
 -Registration closes June 8, 2016  
 -To register, visit: [vbs.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://vbs.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)  
 -Questions? Contact Rev. Allison Benfield at [abenfield@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)

## AN EASTER IDENTITY

Ever since I first read Erik Erikson and his suggestion that identity formation takes on a new meaning during adolescence, I have been a bit concerned about how identity can be transformed during the seasons of adulthood. The term 'epigenetic' means 'relating to or produced by the chain of developmental processes.' In other words, a person's development is shaped early in life and each succeeding stage of life is largely produced by what has occurred along the way.

Basically, here is my pastoral conundrum: if infancy is focused on establishing a healthy sense of basic trust while overcoming unhealthy mistrust; and childhood is focused on establishing a healthy sense of autonomy, initiative and industry while overcoming unhealthy shame, doubt, guilt and inferiority; and adolescence is focused on establishing a healthy sense of identity while overcoming unhealthy role confusion; THEN what can a pastoral person do to help adults develop healthy intimacy, generativity and integrity if the experiences of childhood and adolescence have bent the branch more in the direction of un-health?

This is Holy Week. We have walked through a season of spiritual reflection, confession, commitment and renewal as if we were Jonah riding in the belly of a great fish. Now, we approach Easter's dawn. Like Jonah coming forth from the great fish – or even better - like the resurrection of our Lord, we will emerge from the darkness and shadows into a new light.

As a pastor, it is always my prayer that each Christian Year is more than a repeat of the same circle. It is my hope that we are spiraling into new light. It is my desire that we are being transformed little by little into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Yet, we carry the residue of unhealthy spiritual living. It is my prayer that each of us will increasingly bear the marks of an Easter identity; serving in the world with hope, commitment, vision, initiative, faithfulness, compassion, healing and wisdom.

As we invest our lives in these life-giving, life-affirming and spiritually transforming practices, we allow the Easter identity to be more than a day or a season in springtime. An Easter identity permeates us and creates a healthy epigenetic experience in the world.

Shalom,  
Dennis



"SUNSHINE CLOUD II" by Roger Wright, 1992

## From *Martha*

Teacher Training continues April 3<sup>rd</sup>—we have three more sessions left in our series.

## Youth News

Sunday, March 27 – **Easter Sunday** - Sunday School 9:15 and Worship 10:30 only. No Sunday evening activities.

### Upcoming Spring Dates

April 8-10 - 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship Retreat -  
Camp Cheerio

May 15 – Youth Banquet

June 5 – Senior Recognition Sunday



In 1989, the St. John's youth built their first Habitat House (right here in Charlotte). This summer, June 19-25, the high school youth will build their 13<sup>th</sup> Habitat House. The last 9 houses that the youth have built have been in partnership with Sea Island Habitat on John's Island, South Carolina. As you may be aware, work on the house is more than simply what takes place the week of the trip. We pre-construct the walls for the house beforehand and that work will begin in Lasater Hall on Saturday, April 30, at 9:00 am. I look forward to another successful Habitat project this year. The work schedule will be posted in next week's Family News.

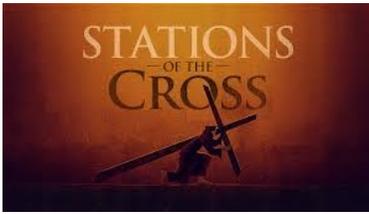
## From *Allison*

### Sunday:

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

*PreK/K:* Formation Hour begins at 9:15am. The PreK/K class will have music time during the Formation Hour. They will remain in their normal classroom for Music. This class will stay in their classroom during worship.

*Grades 1-5:* Formation Hour begins at 9:15am. Check the sign on the table in the hallway for the morning's schedule. We will have some special Easter stations and crafts during the Formation Hour. During Worship Hour, 1st-5th Graders will worship with their families.



Through Good Friday, the Chapel at St. John's will contain the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross are a series of artistic images that tell the story of the crucifixion

of Jesus Christ. Guides are available with scriptures that will illuminate more clearly what is taking place in each scene.

### Joy Sunday

April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Sunday after Easter, and on that day we will celebrate a Sunday of Joy. We invite you to:

- Wear your favorite clothes
- Share some coffee and treats in Lasater Hall before Sunday School
- Share worship with us while we "Expect the Unexpected!"



Thank you for the wonderful collection of Easter outfits for A Child's Place. We collected 57 outfits and were joined by St. John's Episcopal in collecting an additional 50+ outfits. In this, our gifts were doubled.

### ST. JOHN'S NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK!

Join us on Tuesday night, April 26<sup>th</sup> for an evening of baseball and fellowship! BB&T Ballpark (the uptown home of the Charlotte Knights) is hosting a special college baseball matchup between Wake Forest and Appalachian State, and we have reserved a block of club seats behind home plate. This event is open to members of the St. John's community and their friends and is appropriate for baseball fans ages 0 to 99.



Tickets are \$15 per person. Your ticket includes a voucher for the first \$2 you spend on concessions. If you would like to attend, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make a reservation. Payment for your ticket(s) is due no later than Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

If there is interest, we can arrange group transportation from the church parking lot. Please direct any questions to Todd Stillerman ([stillerman@gmail.com](mailto:stillerman@gmail.com)).



Christmas ornaments commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Sanctuary are available for purchase for \$10 in the church office (and before worship on Sunday at the main entrance).

### Preparing to Create a Legacy

As we learned on Sunday, St. John's will embark on a 12-month campaign to secure current and estate gift commitments to increase the endowment funds well beyond the required \$500,000 thresholds to begin producing spendable revenue. Twelve months after the thresholds are exceeded, the Endowment Committee can make available up to five percent of each fund's assets annually for exceptional needs beyond the annual operating budget's capacity. Annual tithing remains the church's main financial priority. This campaign seeks gift commitments above and beyond each person's annual tithe.

A number of people have expressed enthusiasm for this opportunity to join with others in creating a permanent legacy to support the St. John's way of being Christ's church for generations to come. The Second Century Legacy Campaign is St. John's first intentional endowment campaign. A number of churches in St. John's larger community have undertaken similar campaigns with considerable success. St. John's campaign committee members contacted several of these churches to learn from their experiences.

Your gift to the campaign will become part of the endowment "principal," which is maintained in perpetuity to support exceptional capital needs or missions and ministry activities. Unlike other capital campaigns, your gift is not immediately spent on a specific item; instead, your money is invested to generate revenue.

Over the next few weeks, the campaign committee encourages you to reflect on a few important questions. How does St. John's help you draw closer to God? How might God be asking you to use your assets to help strengthen St. John's ministry through endowment funding? What is the role of the St. John's family in your life? How do you envision endowment funding enhancing or expanding St. John's ministries?

Some members have already included St. John's in their estate plans. Others are anxious to learn more. Over the next 12 months, the campaign committee will share a variety of ways to support the campaign in addition to cash gifts, such as gifts of appreciated stock, IRA charitable distributions, and real estate. Perhaps you've never considered some of these options previously.

Please plan to attend the Second Century Legacy Campaign kick-off luncheon on April 17. Your donations are welcomed to help defray the cost of the meal catered by Anderson's. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation. Sign-up sheets will be available in Sunday school classes as well. Please join with the St. John's family as we seek to be "Actively Faithful Today for Tomorrow" by creating legacies of generosity.



**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 Kearsae  
 ext. 18 - mkearsae@sjcharlotte.org  
*Minister for Youth & Young Adults* ..... Lee Gray  
 ext. 13 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org  
*Minister for Children & Their Families*..Allison Benfield  
 ext. 15 - 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  
*Graded Choirs Director* ..... Sandy Holland  
 sholland@sjcharlotte.org  
*Church Accountant* ..... Elaine Johnson  
 ejohnson@sjcharlotte.org  
*Organist* ..... Noel Lance  
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org  
*Weekday School Director* ..... Lydia Olmsted  
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org  
*Church Administrator* ..... Sandra Rogers  
 ext. 20 - srogers@sjcharlotte.org  
*Custodians* ..... Paul Pugh, Awrin Ali  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri. : 8:30 am-12:00 noon

***Prayer Concerns and Celebrations***

Frank Caldwell & McLain Hall - at home

Congratulations to Graham Claytor, recognized as one of Charlotte's brightest and most talented up-and-comers by The Charlotte Business Journal at this year's "40 under 40" awards event.

***This Sunday, March 27***

**Deacons:** Mary Jo Breckenridge, Marc Cardella, Pauline Carter, Steve Carter, Ryan Crowder, Pat Engle, Doug Hammond, Cathy Hartsell

**Tellers:** Jay Baucom, Marc Cardella

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

***Ministers on Call:***

Mar. 21-27: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234  
 Mar. 28-Apr. 3: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412

***Needed for Charlotte Rescue Mission:***

30 gallon stackable plastic tubs, with lids, for sorting and storing donated clothing to be used by the men in the Mission's 90-day substance abuse recovery program. If you have one to donate, please leave it in the collection room at St. John's, or contact Nina Phillips, 705-596-3135, to arrange for pick-up.



**Lasater Hall Elevator Closure**

Repair work on the Lasater Hall elevator continues. The prep work has been completed, and the controller installation, which will require shutting down the elevator, will begin on Monday, March 28. We anticipate that the elevator will be down for approximately 3 weeks. The Broach Hall elevator will be available for those who need assistance getting up to the sanctuary or other rooms. There will also be wheelchairs available, as needed, since that elevator is farther from the sanctuary. Please be patient as we upgrade our facilities for future use.

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month**



On Sunday, April 3, after church, we will have a brief discussion in the Chapel about what we want to do for Mental Health Awareness Month. If you are not able to attend the meeting but would like to help, please contact Kathy Turner at [kepturner@gmail.com](mailto:kepturner@gmail.com).

**Calendar: March 27 - April 2**

Sunday, March 27  
 7:00 ..... Ecumenical Sunrise Worship (Romare Bearden Park)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Easter Worship (Sanctuary)  
Monday, March 28  
 ..... Church office closed  
 5:15 ..... Men's Basketball (Gym)  
Tuesday, March 29  
 7:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 12:00 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
 12:00 ..... Endowment Campaign Committee (Carmel Country Club)  
 6:00 ..... Zumba class (Lasater Hall)  
 7:00 ..... Hackney Scholarship Committee (Lounge)  
Wednesday, March 30  
 6:30 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:30 ..... Yoga Class (Room 114)  
 7:15 ..... Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
Thursday, March 31  
 5:00 ..... Queen City Unlimited (Gym)  
 6:00 ..... Zumba class (Lasater Hall)  
Friday, April 1  
  
Saturday, April 2  
 7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 8:30 ..... Metropolitan Music Ministries (Sanctuary, Chapel, Choir)

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