

**St. John's Baptist Church 2017 Deacon Election**  
**Sunday, August 27, 2017, 10:30 am**

**Absentee Ballots are available in the church office for anyone who is unable to be present on the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Absentee Ballots must be returned to the church by Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.  
This year's slate of nominees is shown below.**

**Jason Benton**



Member of St. John's – 41 years  
Sunday School Class: Cheers

**Current Activities/Service:** Stewardship Task Force, Brotherhood of the Biscuit, Boys' Basketball Coach, Men's Basketball Team, Room in the Inn, CROP Walk

**Past service:** Administrative Deacon (2 separate 3-year terms); Stewardship Task Force, Chair; Sunday School Teacher (4-year olds); Recreation Committee

**Spiritual Journey:** I cannot adequately set forth in these few lines the depth and breadth of St. John's mark on my life. I was born into, and married in, this church. My children were also born into it. So, this church is, and has been, a central focus of my life. I look forward to continuing my spiritual journey here, with each of you.

**Tom Blackmon**



Member of St. John's – 20+ years  
Sunday School Class: Holy Grounds

**Current Activities/Service:** Chancel Choir, Teller

**Past service:** Associate Deacon; Deacon; Associate Minister Search Committee; International House; Chancel Choir; Worship Resource Team; Music, Worship, and Arts Music Ministry

**Activities:** Crop Walk, serving food at the Uptown Men's Shelter, prepared food for Room at the Inn, Pride Booth worker, server at Family Night Meals, etc.

**Spiritual Journey:** As a child, I was raised in an SBC church where my parents ensured my attendance whenever the doors were open. Although the church expressed a love for its people, the theme was one of fear of God. Even after being "saved" and baptized, one was never sure if the life they were living was enough. As I became older I attended a Presbyterian Church, and other Baptist churches. Finally, I arrived at St. John's Baptist where I love the music and the choir and the opportunity to serve in our community. At SJBC there is a way to worship God and to care for one another.

**Leslie Bragg**



Member of St. John's - 22 years  
Sunday School Class: Pathfinders

**Current Activities/Service:** Youth Sunday School teacher, Women of the Church Welcome Team

**Past service:** Membership Committee (past chair), Vision Team, Interim Minister Steering Committee, Deacon (3 years), Sunday School teacher (children, youth & adult – 16 years)

**Spiritual Journey:** Some of the most powerful spiritual experiences I have had at St. John's have been in Sunday school, in the Companions of Christ study group, and in worship; St. John's has been an integral part of my journey with God. I feel lucky to be a part of this congregation and feel blessed by the gifts of our ministerial staff.

**Stan Brown**

Member of St. John's – 38 years  
Sunday School Class: McLeod Brown

**Current Activities/Service:** Teacher – McLeod Brown Sunday School class (35 years)

**Past service:** Board of Deacons (7 prior terms); Chair, Board of Deacons; Personnel Committee (4 prior terms, chair-3 terms); Leadership Committee (5 prior terms, chair-5 terms); numerous other church committees and task forces

**Spiritual Journey:** I am on a lifelong faith journey.

**Minh Callaway**

Member of St. John's – 13 years; Sunday School Class: Pathfinders





### Teri Franklin

Member of St. John's – 47 years

Sunday School Class: Far Side

**Current Activities/Service:** Facilities Task Force, Care Committee, Backpack Ministry, Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Committee, Co-Chair for 2017 Women of the Church Retreat, Sunday morning office secretary substitute, adult handbell choir member

**Past service:** Deacon, Leadership Committee, Flower & Altar Committee, Arts Committee Chair, VBS volunteer, Co-Chair for 2015 Women of the Church Retreat, Sunday morning office secretary, Discipleship class sponsor, youth and adult handbell choir member, actor or director of religious & secular dramas

**Spiritual Journey:** My family moved to Charlotte when I was 10 and chose St. John's as our family's church. It was a wonderful experience growing up in St. John's and taking advantage of the many opportunities to learn what it is to be a Christian and to be a servant church. I am forever grateful to the members and staff who have guided and helped me through the years. Giving back to this church family is a privilege.

### Judy Godsey

Member of St. John's – 27 years

Sunday School Class: Adventure

**Current Activities/Service:** teacher in the Adventurers SS class and work with MRT as needed

**Past service:** Kindergarten and Middle school SS teacher, served on Children's Committee and Leadership Committee

**Spiritual Journey:** Becoming a member of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, MS when I was 12 was pivotal. I have been active in the church ever since, even in college. But through St. John's, I have grown to embrace God's unconditional love and acceptance.

### Bert Green

Member of St. John's – 42 years

Sunday School Class: Didymus

**Current Activities/Service:** Teacher-Didymus Class; Volunteer-Room in the Inn; Volunteer-Habitat Summer Youth Mission Trip Coordinator; Fundraiser-Habitat Summer Youth Mission Trip

**Past service:** Neighborhood Youth Activities Coordinator; Deacon; House and Grounds Committee member; Youth Sunday School teacher; Youth Committee member; Youth Mission Trip Chaperone; Mission Action Committee member; Mission Trip Participant; Room-In-The-Inn Volunteer; SJBC Habitat Summer Youth Mission Trip Coordinator; SJBC Habitat Summer Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser; RAIN Team Member; Drama Team Member

**Spiritual Journey:** I was "Baptized" as an infant and "Confirmed" while in the Episcopal Church, "Baptized as a Believer" and "Baptized by the Holy Spirit" while at St. Johns. I pray that I will continue to attempt to be obedient to God's call in my life to serve God, and bring glory and honor to God in all that I say and do. I commit to have prayer at the center of my life that I might be aware of God's presence in and around me, and serve God as a servant leader, while demonstrating and sharing the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

### Chuck Howard

Member of St. John's – 18 years (combined)

Sunday School Class: Farside

**Current Activities/Service:** Finance Resource Team

**Past service:** Sunday School teacher (3-year olds)

**Other:** Graduate of Wingate University & UNCC; President Autobell Car Wash Inc.; Current Chairman of Wingate University Board of Trustees; affiliated with various business groups and civic groups

**Spiritual Journey:** I grew up in Plaza Presbyterian Church but switched membership to St. John's Baptist in the early 1970's because that's where my wife grew up. We were members for about 15 years under Dr. Claude Broach's ministry. My wife, Carmen, and I transferred membership to Providence Presbyterian after we moved to Matthews. We transferred back to St. John's about 3 years ago after a visit to the sanctuary that brought back memories.





### **Anna Lynn Kearse**

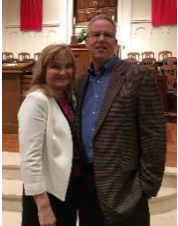
Member of St. John's – 60 years

Sunday School Class: Didymus

**Current Activities/Service:** Sunday School, Adult Choir, Greeter for funerals

**Past service:** Past Committees: Care, Leadership, Children, Youth, Adult; Ministries: Comfort cards, Banana pudding, Children's Choir; Committee to revise the Church Covenant in 1973

**Spiritual Journey:** Raised in the Methodist Church. Joined St. John's when I married. I have felt rooted and grounded in my faith at SJ.



### **Jeff LeVie**

Member of St. John's – 1 year

Sunday School Class: Pathfinders



### **Kathy Mahnesmith**

Member of St. John's – 2 years

Sunday School Class: McLeod-Brown

**Current Activities/Service:** Choir, Women's Retreat, helping out Wednesday evening dinners

**Past service:** Deacon (3 terms), choir (33 years), choir mission trips, church clerk, church historian, Assistant Chair of capital campaign, Sunday School officer, co-taught RA's and Sunday School, nursery worker

**Spiritual Journey:** My husband and I were drawn to St. John's even before our first visit. We wanted a strong Coop. Baptist Fellowship church. Our first Sunday visit, we met Dennis in the stairwell and that confirmed what we already knew about St. John's. We have not been disappointed. Everyone accepted us warmly.

### **Jane Newman**

Member of St. John's – lifetime member

Sunday School Class: Farside

**Past service:** Deacon, Leadership Committee, Adult Committee, Personnel, Sunday School Teacher (18 years) – 2 & 3 year olds class

**Spiritual Journey:** St. John's gave me the foundation for building a Christ-centered life and continues to support me as God leads my journey.

### **Gail Sifford**

Member of St. John's – 2½ years

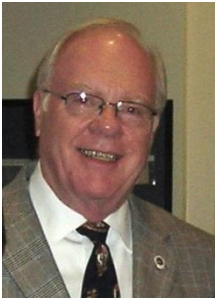
Sunday School Class: Joy

**Current Activities/Service:** Women of the Church – Spiritual Growth Team, Faith Journey Book Study Facilitator

**Past service:** I served as the coordinator of the Greeter Ministry in my previous church. As my children grew, I served in the Nursery and in the Children's Ministry. I also served five years as a Discussion Leader in Bible Study Fellowship (an international Bible study)

**Spiritual Journey:** I became a Christian as a child and have been active in church all my life. After being a regular visitor to St. John's for many years, I felt I had found a church home here with a loving and active congregation who worships God with joy and commitment.





### Henry Snyder

Member of St. John's – 43 years

Sunday School Class: Beacon

**Current Activities/Service:** Beacon Class president, Baptism Assistant, Church Office relief assistant

**Past service:** Deacon, Associate Deacon, Church Council, Sunday School Teacher (Youth), Adult Education Committee Leader, Stewardship Committee Leader, Chancel Choir, Baptism Assistant, Church Office relief assistant, Crop Walk, Hurricane Floyd Relief Mission, Teller, Usher

**Spiritual Journey:** My parents involved me in church life at an early age which included Sunday School, Sunday worship services, BTU, and youth choir. From this early foundation, my faith continued to grow as an adult. My wife, Carol, and I met at church, and we continued to practice our faith by being involved in church life with our two sons. St. John's has been the center of my spiritual life since 1974. The family of St. John's has surrounded my family and me with the essence of God's love and continues to guide our faith.

### Laura Sorrell

Member of St. John's – 54 years

Sunday School Class: Far Side

**Current Activities/Service:** Memorial Garden Task Force, Substitute nursery caregiver, Heritage Task Force

**Past service:** Health & Wellness, Parish Nurse visitation, Children's Minister Search Committee, WMU, Parish Nurse Search Committee, Youth Habitat Mission Trips, Sunday School teacher (2-3's & 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Spiritual Journey:** I grew up in St. John's. I professed my faith at age 12 and was baptized by Dr. Broach. After college and going to other churches, being part of St. John's was important to me. I feel that St. John's is a congregation that encourages Christian growth and provides countless ways to serve.



### Anne Sutton

Member of St. John's – 40 years

**Current Activities/Service:** Women of the Church, Church Clerk, Sunday office worker

**Past service:** Deacon, Pastoral Deacon, Children's Choir director, Arts Committee, Personnel Committee, Leadership Committee

**Spiritual Journey:** I have been in church all my life, but was not active until I found St. John's. For the first time I experienced what church really meant and it made a profound change in my life and continues to do so.



### Lindsay Wilson

Member of St. John's – 34 years

Sunday School Class: Cheers

**Current Activities/Service:** Membership Resource Team, Birthday Cards, Nursery Volunteer

**Past service:** Discipleship Leader

**Spiritual Journey:** I have been a lifelong St. John's member. My parents were members and raised me in the St. John's family - and I can't imagine being anywhere else. This church has raised me in a way that has shaped not only my spirituality, but every aspect of my life. While in college and after, I decided to venture out and see if there were any other churches that I wanted to try out, and nowhere else reached out to me like St. John's. As an adult, I couldn't have asked for anything more than to raise my children in such a nurturing and welcoming environment.

