



Family News

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

Vol. 75, No. 44 - November 14, 2017



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, November 19
Commitment Sunday

Proclaimer:
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon:
*Money, Ministry and Mission
Part 2*

Scripture:
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

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With help from Christian friends, dedicated teachers and church leaders, I continue to grow spiritually and in Christian love. In gratitude, I am compelled to support God's house and its programs. From the Sunday School lessons this summer, I have developed a whole new appreciation for Saint Paul and his teachings on generosity in the context of relationship with Jesus Christ. I must continuously seek to know God's word and seek His will for my life.

Virginia Allen

As I prepare to walk down the aisle this Commitment Sunday, I think about the St. John's Statement of Values, which emphasizes our commitments to freedom, to service and to worship, and I consider how my family's financial contribution can help to make those commitments possible. I also think about our church Covenant and how it is our commitment to each other and to God to, among other things, *offer ourselves* for God's work in this world. Finally, during those silent moments as Becky and I and our children make the walk on Sunday, I'll think about how my commitment was formed by the ones made by my parents and grandparents before me, and I'll hope that mine will, in some way, form the future commitments of my children.

Jason Benton



Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

Commitment Sunday
November 19

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.

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 will be open to the South Sudanese community in Charlotte and the surrounding area and will be led by South Sudanese members. This Sunday, 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 join us for a reception in Broach Hall, celebrating our time together and our plans for the future.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY AS A DAY OF HEALING

“Commitment issues” is a phrase often used to describe a fear of commitment in relationships. Yet, some people experience anxiety whenever the word ‘commitment’ is mentioned. Psychologists call this ‘commitment phobia’ offering reasons why commitment is perceived as a threat by some persons. Causes of ‘commitment phobia’ include,

- **Feeling vulnerable:** each person has their own risk tolerance. ‘What if I am wrong?’ is a question that overcomes some individuals.
- **Feeling Trapped:** a person may feel locked-in or fenced-in by making a commitment and does not wish to lose their independence. Actually, studies find that commitment frees a person for growth.
- **Pain of the Past:** Everyone carries anxieties of one kind or another. Many of these anxieties are due to painful suffering or experiences of abuse or betrayal in previous commitments.

If the word ‘commitment’ surfaces negative emotions within you, please consider if any of the causes listed above could be a contributing factor in your anxiety.

How to Move Beyond Commitment Phobia

One way of moving beyond being controlled by ‘commitment phobia’ is to make a commitment to a trustworthy person or to a cause you deeply value.

This Sunday is Financial Commitment Sunday



As we make our financial commitments during this time of year, we make commitments to a trustworthy Person, The Living God. As we make our commitments to achieve our visions for ministry through St. John’s 2018 Financial Ministry Plan, we make

commitments to a church we deeply value. We pray that Commitment Sunday contributes to healing for those suffering with commitment phobia.

SOUTH SUDANESE WORSHIP COMMUNITY

Another experience contributing to healing this Sunday is the celebration we will share with our South Sudanese sisters and brothers. As they commit themselves to God to nurture a worship community for South Sudanese persons and families in their native Dinka language, we will commit ourselves to God to pray with and encourage them in their commitment. I am very proud of those who have made commitments to lead this effort. Commitment contributes to healing the world.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday for a day of commitment, celebration and healing.

Shalom, Dennis

From Martha

No Limits

Email Martha if you are interested in attending the Singing Christmas Tree on Sunday, December 10, at 4 pm (prices depending on number attending). I would also 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 19 -

11th/12th Grade Discipleship - 9:00 am in Room 116

Sunday Night Live - Regular schedule 5:00-7:30 pm.

Our youth group time will be on the subject of “Teamwork.”

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, make some art, and play together. This week, they’ll learn about how Pharaoh let God’s people go.

Grades 1-3: Worship 101 will be from 9:15-9:45. Music is from 9:45-10:15, and they will be singing in worship. This class will worship with the Worship 101 class, and they will return to their families before the commitment time so that families can bring their commitments forward together.

Grades 4-5: Formation Class will be from 9:15-9:45 and they’ll be learning more about Moses. Music is from 9:45-10:15, and they will be singing in worship. This class will worship with their families after leading worship through song.

Children Leading Worship

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. Kevin and I will be sending out a rehearsal video so you can practice at home.



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. If you’re interested, meet me at Phillip’s Place by 1:00, and we’ll try to find some seats together. No RSVP required.



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. Last year the Salvation Army had over 10,000 requests for assistance

and St. John's answered the call by providing 123 stockings. Please consider being Santa's helper this year by filling a stocking or two, or three! Stockings will be available in the gym lobby on Sunday, November 19. They must be returned by **Sunday December 3**. Questions? Contact Janet Wade at jpwade123@gmail.com or 704-366-8659.



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.

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

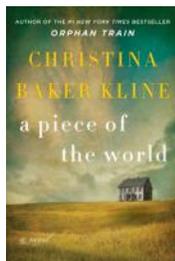
Tuesday, November 28

12 noon in the library

This month's book: *A Piece of the World*

by Christina Baker Kline

Bring a sandwich and continue the discussion over lunch!



Stop by the table in Lasater Hall where there will be cards to each of our college students. We would love for you to stop by to sign and write a brief personal note to them.

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.

Once again, St. John's will partner with our friends at Caldwell Presbyterian Church to host 12 homeless guests each Friday night this winter (starting December 8) as part of the Urban Ministry Center's Room in the Inn program. This year we are asking our volunteers to sign up on our RITI form found on the Sign-Up Genius website. To become a Room in the Inn volunteer, please visit this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room5. If you have questions, please contact Alice Wirz or Dale Johnson.

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.

Many thanks from the men served in Room in the Inn, Charlotte Rescue Mission, and Hope Chapel. You provided a total of 475 items of "undies" (socks, boxer shorts, and t-shirts) during our "Undie Sundays" drive! These new essentials help convey dignity and respect for those in difficult circumstances.

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 donated to fight hunger! Contact Ruth Jackson or Tricia Miller for more information or to contribute.



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

Tom Bryson, Ken Childers, Betty Crenshaw,
 Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley &
 Lewis LeVie - home

Congratulations to Jordan Wade and Julia
 Barnard who were married on November 11 in
 Austin, Texas; and to Kristin Johnson and Brandon
 Fields who were married in the St. John's sanctuary
 on November 11.

Sunday, November 19

Deacons: Cathy Hartsell, Chuck Howard, Carol
 Injaychock, , Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch, Kami
 McGuire, Cindy McIntyre, Mark McNeill, Tricia
 Miller

Tellers: Tom Blackmon, Gene Poole

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

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Gail Sifford; 5th St.-
 Alan Dietz, Scott Kerley; Broach-Eric McCombs;
 Elevator-Marvin Carter

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of November 6-12: \$31,557
 Income through November 12: \$845,020
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

Ministers on Call:

November 13-19: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
 November 20-26: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287



⇒ Once a month, 200 sandwiches (at a cost of approximately \$50) are made and taken to Urban Ministries by SJBC volunteers. You can help with this ministry by donating sliced cheese, bologna or sandwich-sized Ziploc bags. Please contact Jane Winn if interested in donating items.

GENESIS
 A YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY
 St. John's

NEW SUNDAY MORNING GROUP FOR YOUNG

ADULTS: We will gather from 9:15 to 10:15 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 about **GENESIS**, please contact Chase Bailey at dca Bailey7@gmail.com or Eric McCombs at ericmcombs@gmail.com.

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.



Calendar: November 19-25

Sunday, November 19

8:40 Offering/Communion Orientation (Sanctuary)
 9:00 11th/12th Grade Discipleship (Room 116)
 9:15 Sunday School/Worship 101 (Classrooms)
 10:30 Worship/Commitment Sunday (Sanctuary)
 11:30 Reception (Broach Hall)
 5:00 Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3rd Floor)

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

7:00 Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00 Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00 Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
 12:00 HeadStart Thanksgiving (Broach Hall)
 5:15 SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:00 House & Grounds Resource Team (Lounge)
 7:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Wednesday, November 22

6:30 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 6:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Thursday, November 23

..... Church Offices Closed (Thanksgiving holiday)

Friday, November 24

..... Church Offices Closed (Thanksgiving holiday)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, November 25

7:00 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 10:00 Communion Task Force (Conference Room)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org