



Family News

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

Vol. 75, No. 45 - November 21, 2017



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, November 26
*Christ the King/
Communion*

Proclaimer:
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon:
Saving Grace

Scripture:
Matthew 25:31-46



Financial Ministry Plan Pledge Report

Amount Received: \$637,236

Commitments Received: 132

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



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South Sudanese Ministry

We had a beautiful celebration and blessing of our South Sudanese brothers and sisters this past Sunday, as they begin their Dinka Language service here at St. John's. When they have established a schedule, we will be sure to post it, so that any St. John's member can join them, periodically, for worship in the chapel. Our shared story of the ways we have found each other, the ways we have ministered to each other over the last 16 years, now moves into a new phase and we are grateful to be on the journey together!

A BEAUTIFUL SCENE

Last Sunday morning, as you joined hands to include our new St. John's South Sudanese Worship Community, you were a beautiful scene. As you smiled back at our Music Makers Choir, you were a beautiful scene. As you brought forward your commitments to support the 2018 St. John's Financial Ministry Plan, you were a beautiful scene. As you lingered following worship to bless the South Sudanese and one another and welcome our guests in worship, you were a beautiful scene. As I express thanks to The Living God this week, toward the top of my Thanksgiving List is you; the beautiful people of St. John's. It is one of the highest blessings of my life to partner in ministry with you as Senior Minister.

GIVING TUESDAY

To date, I have received fifteen requests to give on Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day. Seven of these requests have arrived in the mail and eight through email. No doubt, you are receiving these requests as well. Let me remind you that you can include St. John's in your 'Giving Tuesday' list. Just as you can make a special gift to any 501c3 or non-profit organization, you can make a special gift to St. John's. Your gifts will make a difference in numerous ways.

Shalom,
Dennis

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**.

- HOPE: empowering living amidst despair
- PEACE: empowering living amidst dread
- JOY: empowering living amidst devastation
- 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

Youth News from Lee

Sunday, November 26 - Sunday Night Live - Regular schedule 5:00-7:30 pm. Our youth group time will be on the subject of "Out into the World."

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. (Jacquelyn McAbee is singing in the tree this year.) Email Martha (mkearse@sjcharlotte.org) before November 28 to request your tickets! Tickets are \$25, and you can pay at the time of the event.

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 together, make some art, and play together. This week, they'll learn about how God gave the people the Ten Commandments.

Grades 1-5: Formation Class will be from 9:15-9:45, and they'll be learning our last story about Moses. Music will be from 9:45-10:15, and they'll be working on their music for the Hanging of the Green.

Children Leading Worship

Hanging of the Green is December 3. The elementary aged choir will be helping to lead worship that day. If you have a child in the 1st-5th Grade choir, you should have received an email with a practice video last week. PreK/K Choir families should receive an email from Becky and Mindy about when that choir will sing in worship.



What should St. John's look like in the 21st 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.



Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's

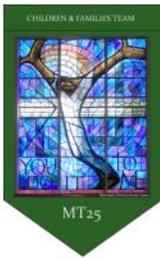
A live performance broadcast presented by WDAV 89.9 and St. John's

*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@sicharlotte.org.



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.



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) know!



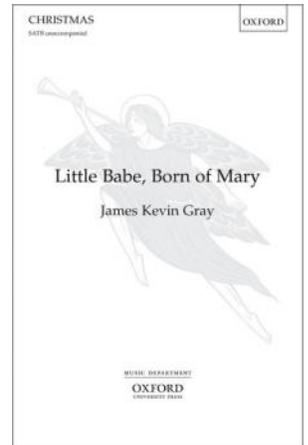
Craft & Bake Sale
Sunday, December 3
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Lasater Hall

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 Sundays to Room 116 or 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.

"James Kevin Gray is the composer of the Christmas Carol *Little Babe, Born of Mary*. He is also one of our newest composers (Oxford University Press). *Little Babe, Born of Mary* was created for a live Public Radio broadcast of a community-wide Service of Lessons and Carols held at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Kevin serves as Minister for Worship and Music. We had a chat with him to find out more about the motivations,

inspirations, and his process behind this piece. "The Ancient Hebrews used the word, *ruach*, and the Greeks used the word *pneuma*, which means 'breath', to describe the Spirit of God. This piece has many moments of rest where the audience, as well as the singers, can experience the feeling of breathing during the silence. It is my hope that all would feel a sense of meditation during the rests and enjoy those moments of silence as much as the moments of sound and statement. For me, the peak of the piece happens in measures 28-30; 'God with us sent here to dwell.' This portion of the piece centers on the great mystery of this little babe's birth: how could God dwell here among us in such a fragile and helpless state? This reminds us how, at times, we each find ourselves in that same state; fragile and helpless. As we ponder this mystery, we might see that God's divine spirit can help us find joy and purpose in the midst of whatever is happening in our own lives. Each child born today, whilst not the Christ child, still holds almost limitless potential to change and effect the world as they grow into adults. What we do as community, and how we nurture and cherish them, will greatly affect whether the change they create will be good or bad. This is why I dedicated *Little Babe Born of Mary* to my son Mason, so that I might be reminded of the part I play in helping him reach his fullest and brightest potential."



To read the entire article, visit <https://blog.oup.com/2017/11/christmas-carol-james-kevin-gray/>

Christmas Cards for Our Neighbors

It's that time again! The mailboxes will be open on Sunday, November 26 to receive your Christmas cards for Neighbors who now find it difficult to attend church. Pick up an address list and a handful of cards....or use cards you have at home. We welcome donations of extra Christmas cards, too. Cards should be returned to the mailboxes by Sunday, December 17, in order for the Deacons to have time to deliver them.



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

Libby Collier - Peak Resources; Emily Batts, Ken Childers, Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley, Lewis LeVie, Missy Nash & Nina Phillips - home

Sympathy to Carol Kistler Poole in the death of her sister, Barbara Richardson , on November 14.

Sunday, November 26

Deacons: Melissa Millette, Jane & Morgan Newman, Russell Norris, Kim & Robby Ray, Shannon Rodden, Gail Sifford, Ellen Smith, Henry Snyder

Tellers: Marvin Carter, Paul Lloyd

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

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Phil Vavra; 5th St.-Al & Treva Bridges; Broach-Jimmy Carpenter, Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of November 13-19: \$28,253
 Income through November 19: \$873,273
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

Ministers on Call:

November 20-26: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 Nov. 27-Dec. 3: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446



⇒ MT 25 Peacebuilding is supportive of Habitat for Humanity, Raising South Sudan, Center for Community Transitions and Refugee and Immigration Support. Beverly Hester and Kim Allen are the contact persons for the Peacebuilding Team.

The Women of the Church will gather on Thursday, November 30, at 10:00 am at Royal Gardens to learn to design fairy gardens. They make wonderful Christmas gifts and stay green all year long. You can buy your container there or bring your own. Coffee and treats will be provided. After a morning of creative gardening, we will adjourn to one of the local restaurants for lunch. Royal Gardens is located at 1701 E. Seventh Street beside Hawthorne's Pizza. If interested in attending, contact Kim Allen at kallen1994@aol.com.



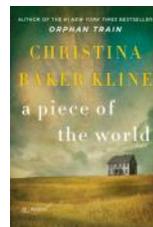
Terrific Tuesday Book Club

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 come by to sign and write a brief personal note.



Calendar: November 26 - December 2

Sunday, November 26

9:15 Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30 Worship/Communion (Sanctuary)
 5:00 Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3rd Floor)

Monday, November 27

10:00 Mental Health America (Lounge)
 11:45 Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
 6:30 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, November 28

7:00 Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00 Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00 Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
 12:00 Terrific Tuesday Book Club (Library)
 4:15 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 5:15 SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 5:00 Weekday School Board meeting (Lounge)

Wednesday, November 29

6:30 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:00 Yoga (Room 114)
 6:00 AA (Lasater Hall)
 6:15 Handbells (Handbell Room)
 7:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday, December 1

8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, December 2

7:00 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 10:00 Basketball games (Gym/Lounge)
 1:00 St. Jude Holiday Party (Broach Hall)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org