



Family News

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

Vol. 75, No. 47 - December 5, 2017



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, December 10
Second Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer:
 Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon:
*At War with Peace:
 Living Beyond Dread*

Scripture:
 Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

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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**.

- God's Gift of **HOPE**:
empowering living amidst despair
- God's Gift of **PEACE**:
empowering living amidst dread
- God's Gift of **JOY**:
empowering living amidst devastation
- God's Gift of **LOVE**:
empowering living amidst dissonance & doubt



The youth delivered poinsettias to our neighbors after church on Sunday.

Advent Worship Schedule

- Sunday, December 10 - Worship 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 17 - Lessons & Carols - 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 24
 Worship - 10:30 am (come in casual Christmas attire)
 (no Children's/Youth Formation classes/no nursery care)
 Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 pm
 (family friendly/no nursery care)

Photos from Sunday's Hanging of the Green Service



(more photos inside)

ADVENT: A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Advent is a gift that keeps on giving. As we await our celebration of Jesus' birth, we prepare ourselves to be ready to receive him into our lives and into our life together. We have committed our lives to 'love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength' and 'to love our neighbors as we need to be loved.' We are also aware of how Jesus taught us to 'love one another.'

Spiritual renewal is a necessity for us because our commitments leak. We care about many people, causes, concerns, needs, organizations, etc. Over time, we become committed to so many good and worthy interests that we may fail to realize some of them are competing loyalties and allegiances for our commitment to love God, neighbor and one another.

So, Advent is more than just waiting. Advent is not like sitting on a bench waiting for the bus to arrive. Advent calls you to consider your Living While Waiting. How is God's gift of Hope reorienting your living? How is God's gift of Peace rearranging your priorities? How is God's gift of Joy shaping how you approach every day and every person? How is God's gift of Love transforming your interpretation of experience, realigning your energy and guiding your resolve?

Advent is a gift that keeps on giving! It beckons you to spiritual renewal. As you invest yourselves in Advent – rather than merely celebrating Christmas all month long – you find yourselves refreshed by God's Holy Spirit as you enter 2018. This Advent, while you are waiting to celebrate Jesus' birth, consider how you are living.

CHURCH LEADERS ARE BUSY

While December is full of activities and events, the efforts of our church leaders do not subside. We continue to move forward on efforts such as:

- Shaping Converge Conversations into Goals;
- Building the 2018 Financial Ministry Plan;
- Updating our Personnel Handbook;
- Investigating Updates to Our Sound Systems;
- Expanding Our Involvements in God's Mission;
- Improving Our Efforts in Congregational Care;
- Encouraging South Sudanese Worship Community;
- Planning for Increased Use of Technologies;
- Implementing Better Signage & Information Access;
- Exploring Pathways for Better Spiritual Formation;
- Enhancing Our Messaging, Media and Outreach;
- Reaching Out to Assimilate New Members; etc.

We have a tremendous New Year of Ministry ahead. Thank you for your active faithfulness!

Shalom,
Dennis

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. Meet at St. John's at 3:15 pm, and we will carpool together to Knight Theater.

Youth News from Lee

Sunday, December 10 – 5:00-8:00 pm **High School Christmas Mission Party to Charlotte Rescue Mission** Meet/drop off at St. John's at 5:00 pm and leave/pick up from St. John's at 8:00 pm. Please bring a \$10 gift for the our gift exchange and a prize for bingo at the **Charlotte Rescue Mission**. Suggested items include: journal, spiritual book, digital watch, pen & note pad, wool socks, hi-liters, long johns (size XI/XXL), laundry/ cinch bag, dictionary, gloves, toboggan, t-shirts pack, underwear pack, white athletic socks pack (no gift cards).

Friday, December 15 – 5:00-8:00 pm – **Middle School Christmas Mission Party** where we serve dinner at **Room In The Inn** here at St. John's. A separate email will be sent to middle school youth and parents about this (with a sign-up for the part of the meal you would like to provide). Also, please bring a \$10 gift for a gift exchange.



From Allison

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 Jesus being born.



Grades 1-5: These classes will have Missions 101 for the whole hour. We will be making special backpacks as Christmas gifts for our Room in the Inn guests. They will join their families for worship.



Christmas Cards for Our Neighbors



Our Advent Mailbox is up! Between now and December 17th, you are invited to write a note to one of our members who can no longer attend services. You can write a note using the cards we have supplied, or write your own, and place them in the box UNDER the person's name. We also have slots available this year for our Church Staff and our Partner Organizations, if you would like to use them to send greetings. Happy writing!

Advent Booklet

Our Advent Booklet, "Living While Waiting," is available in the church office and at the entrance to the sanctuary. This collection of writings, graphics and coloring pages is one tool to guide you through the busy Advent season as we prepare for Christmas.

Pictorial Directory Update

To update your St. John's pictorial directory, a page of photos of our recent new members and a new address/phone directory are now available on the table in the church office.



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.

Women of the Church ADVENT YOGA

Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm
Room 305 (3rd Floor)
Sara Vavra, yoga instructor



Go calmly in the Advent season with breathing techniques and warm thoughts. Any ability of yoga is welcome to come. Chairs will be provided if needed. Or bring a mat if you prefer.

Please call the church office and make a reservation for this class. **SPACE IS LIMITED.** Class will run about an hour and light refreshments will be served.



Thank you to all the crafters, bakers and shoppers for supporting the Craft and Bake Sale this past Sunday. We **FAR EXCEEDED** our expectations and brought in over \$17,000. Since we did so well, over \$1,500 will be given to reduce hunger in the Charlotte region and \$200 will be donated to the Charlotte Rescue Mission.



A Celtic Yule Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble Concert *Rejoice in the Dance*

Saturday, December 16
4:00 pm - Broach Hall
Ring in the season at this free holiday concert!



Financial Ministry Plan Pledge Report

Amount Received: \$811,836
Commitments Received: 166

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

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
Organist..... Noel Lance
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org
Custodians.. James Cowan, James Ford, Chris Mullis
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Cathy Hartsell - CMC Pineville; Marie Coble - White Oak of Waxhaw; Libby Collier - Peak Resources; Emily Batts, Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley & Lewis LeVie - home

Sunday, December 10

Deacons: Linda Balentine, Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Lynn Bishop, Leslie Bragg, Randy Brantley, Stan Brown, Minh Callaway, Teri Franklin, Bert Green

Tellers: Margaret Falls, Betsy Furr

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

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Ken Hungate; 5th St.-Linda Kerley, Susan King; Broach-Ashley Hogewood; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of Nov. 27-Dec. 3: \$13,067
 Income through December 3 \$902,336
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

Ministers on Call:

December 4-10: Lee Gray 704-451-1309
 December 11-17: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412



⇒ MT 25 Healthcare works with the Charlotte Rescue Mission and Nami (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Please contact Jane Starnes or Becky Skidmore if interested in these organizations.



Children and Youth Basketball Schedule
 Saturday, December 9th

6 & Under Co-Ed - 3:45 pm at St. John's (12/2-WON!)
 8 & Under Boys - 3:00 pm at St. John's (12/2-Lost)
 10 & Under Boys - 1:00 pm at St. John's (12/2- Lost)
 10 & Under Girls - 12:00 pm at St. John's (12/2-Bye)
 12 & Under Boys - 11:00 am at St. Johns (12/2-Lost)
 12 & Under Girls - 10:00 am at St. John's (12/2-WON!)
 14 & Under Boys - 4:00 am at First Baptist (12/2-Lost)
 16 & Under Boys - 2:00 pm at First Baptist (12/2-WON!)
 18 & Under Boys - 7:30 pm at Calvary (12/2-Lost)
 18 & Under Girls - 9:30 am at Covenant Pres. (12/2-WON!)

Calendar: December 10-16

Sunday, December 10

8:00 Church Council (Conference Room)
 9:15 Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)
 10:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
 5:00 High School Youth Christmas Party/Charlotte Rescue Mission

Monday, December 11

8:00 am Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
 11:45 Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
 6:30 Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
 6:30 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00 Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00 Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
 12:00 Faith in Public Life (Broach Hall)
 1:00 Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
 4:15 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 5:15 SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:00 Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Christmas dinner (Lounge)
 7:00 Advent Yoga (Room 305)

Wednesday, December 13

6:30 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:00 Weekday School Winter Festival (Broach Hall)
 9:30 Yoga (Room 114)
 6:00 AA (Lasater Hall)
 7:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 14

10:00 Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)

Friday, December 15

6:30 Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
 5:00 Middle School Youth/Christmas Party for Room in the Inn
 5:00 Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
 5:30 Volunteers serve dinner at Uptown Men's Shelter
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, December 16

7:00 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 10:00 Basketball games (Gym/Lounge)
 4:00 Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble Concert (Broach Hall)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org