



Family News

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

Vol. 75, No. 48 - December 12, 2017



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, December 17

*Third Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols*

Proclaimer:

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Homily:

The First Christmas Carol

Scripture:

Luke 1:46-55

Lessons & Carols

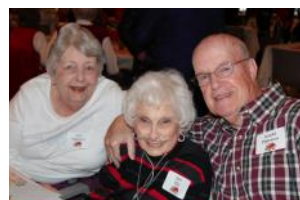


Retelling the Christmas Story
Through readings and beautiful music
Sunday, December 17
10:30 am worship

Senior Adult Christmas Gathering
Thursday, December 7

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DARTH VADER, STAR WARS & CHRISTMAS

Some of you may remember Darth Vader's warning: "I find your lack of faith disturbing." This weekend, across our nation, multitudes of Star Wars' fans will watch the newest release in the series, *The Last Jedi*. I hope many people will view this film and wrestle with the deep questions of life including any lack of faith.

Advent and Christmas offer many opportunities for us to be touched by the essence of faith — a faith founded in love expressed as joy bestowing hope while pursuing peace. In these weeks, we can be renewed in our spiritual core by the revelation of God in a vulnerable infant who appeared to do us no harm. Like a newborn's grip on a parent's finger, the gracious message of this God takes hold of us and will not leave us alone. We are spiritually transformed. This season beckons us to remember the wisdom of Obi-Wan Kenobi, "If you define yourself by your power to take life, your desire to dominate, to possess, then you have nothing."

Beloved, you do not define yourself by power to take life, dominate or possess. You have much more than nothing. You have gifts of God to unwrap this Christmas, gifts to share with others. You may open your heart to a person who is grieving. Can you reach out to that person who you do not understand? You can offer a smile of grace to a person who frustrates you. You may bless a life and brighten a day by initiating a phone call to a distant friend or family member. Or, you can forgive a person and seek to begin anew. Whatever you choose to do can be transforming. After all, we are about to celebrate a world-changing event that began with an unmarried couple travelling to a distant city when they laid their baby in a cattle feeding trough.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO FINISH 2017 STRONG FINANCIALLY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO BEGIN 2018 STRONG?

This week, our Finance Resource Team met and reviewed where we are as we move toward the end of 2017. There is good news! Last year, during December, our income was \$135,948. This year, to reach our Financial Ministry Plan goal for 2017, we just need to receive \$8,000 more than last year or \$143,905. So, our challenge is well within reach.

As we enter 2018, we will continue our strong ministries in worship, music, mission, recreation, etc., while we also initiate new or renewed ventures in Messaging & Media, Safety & Security, Technology, Congregational Care and Spiritual Formation. We have wonderful new opportunities in our future. Let's celebrate Christmas and New Year's and then move forward.

Shalom, Dennis

Youth News from Lee

Friday, December 15 – 5:00-8:00 pm – **Middle School Christmas Mission Party** - Meet at the church at 5 pm.

We will start by setting up dinner for Room in the Inn in the lounge. (Any youth who are able to get here before 5 pm may also be able to also make the beds for our overnight guests.) Youth will serve both the men and women who are our guests that evening and then eat dinner with them. In addition to the side dish you sign up to bring, please bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the gift exchange and dessert at Mattie Stillerman's house. Pick up is at the Stillerman's by 7:45 pm. At 7:45 pm, I will drive any remaining youth to the church in the church van and they can be picked up at 8:00 pm.



High School Christmas Party for Charlotte Rescue Mission

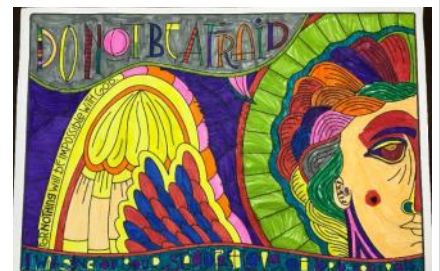
From Allison

- 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 the shepherds who were there on that first Christmas.
- Grades 1-5:** These children will have Formation Class for the whole hour. We will be learning about Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her that she would be having a special baby. They will join their families for worship.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. There won't be Formation Hour for children, and we will have a shorter worship service at 10:30 am. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service will be at 5 pm. No nursery will be provided for either service because the sounds and presence of children are very important as we remember Jesus being born. I will have worship bags and worship clipboards ready for both services so children will have plenty to do. It's such an important time for all of us to remember that Jesus came to us as a child, and having our children present with us for these services will help the whole church to remember the mystery of Christmas.

The children finished our third Advent poster on Sunday. Notice how the children have imagined Gabriel. If angels are always telling people "do not be afraid," they must look at least a little unusual, right?



Christmas Cards for Our Neighbors



Our Advent Mailbox is up! Through 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 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

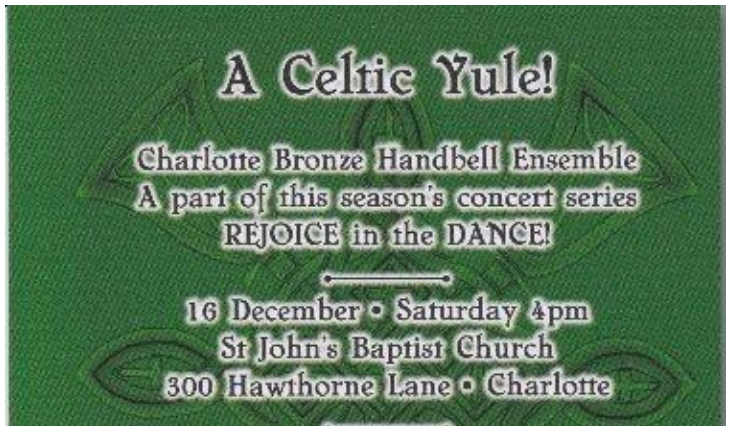
To update your St. John's pictorial directory, a page of photos of our recent new members and a new address/phone directory are now available on the table in the church office.



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.



Join Charlotte Bronze in their 7th music-filled season as they celebrate YULE with a Celtic flavor! Free Admission (an offering will be taken)

If you can't make the concert on Saturday, they will be in concert again on Monday, December 18, at Myers Park United Methodist Church.

Financial Ministry Plan Pledge Report

Amount Received: \$842,836
Commitments Received: 169

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



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

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)



Welcome New Member!

Matt Comer joined St. John's on Sunday, December 10, 2017, by profession of faith and transfer of church letter.

Matt is self employed in Public Relations and resides at 3329 Magnolia Hill Drive #1313, Charlotte, NC 28205.

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



⇒ You are the “eyes and ears” of the church. Please let the appropriate church staff member know of any need or repair in the church of which you are aware. They will take the appropriate action.

Children and Youth Basketball Schedule & Results
 Saturday, December 16th



6 & Under Co-Ed - 10:00 am at St. John's (12/9-WON!)
 8 & Under Boys - 11:00 pm at St. John's (12/9-WON!)
 10 & Under Boys - 3:00 pm at St. John's (12/9-WON!)
 10 & Under Girls - 2:00 pm at St. John's (12/9-Lost)
 12 & Under Boys - 11:45 am at Trinity Epis. School (12/9-Lost)
 12 & Under Girls - 1:00 pm at St. John's (12/9-WON!)
 14 & Under Boys - BYE (12/9-WON!)
 16 & Under Boys - 8:30 am at Covenant Pres. (12/9-Lost)
 18 & Under Boys - BYE (12/9-WON!)
 18 & Under Girls - BYE (12/9-Lost)

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

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

Congratulations to Donna Morris: Recipient of the Verbesey Award for Excellence in Education — she was selected for "her excellence in teaching, while inspiring students and treating them with dignity and respect;" and Colleen Cardella: On passing written and oral Boards and becoming Board Certified as an OB/GYN.

Sunday, December 17

Deacons: Charlie Harper, Cathy Hartsell, Chuck Howard, Carol Injaychock, Chuck Jones, Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch, Kami McGuire, Cindy McIntyre, Mark McNeill

Tellers: Morgan Newman, Tim Gibson

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

Greeters: Main-Carol & Tom Injaychock; 5th St.- Alan Dietz, Scott Kerley; Broach-Gail Sifford; Elevator- Marvin Carter

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of Dec. 4-10: \$44,038
 Income through December 10: \$946,374
 2017 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,075,535

Ministers on Call:

December 11-17: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412
 December 18-24: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

Calendar: December 17-23

Sunday, December 17

8:00Administrative Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
 9:00 11th/12th Discipleship (Room 116)
 9:15 Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30Worship/Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
 11:30 Joy Class (Parlor)

Monday, December 18

11:45Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

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

Friday, December 22

11:00King's College Graduation (Sanctuary)
 5:00Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, December 23

7:00 Benton Basketball (Gym)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org

From the Finance Office:

All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2017. If mailed, please ensure that the envelope is postmarked 2017. Any monies received after December 2017 will count towards your 2018 pledge.