



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 4 - January 23, 2018



*St. John's  
at Worship*

**Sunday, January 28**  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Proclaimer:**  
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Homily:**  
*Come and See*

**Scripture:**  
Gospel of John 1:35-46



## Welcome George Williamson!

**Sunday, February 11**

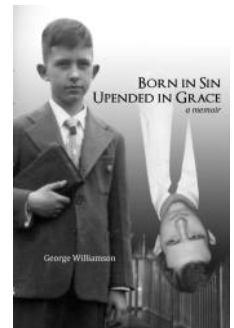
On Sunday, February 11, we invite you to join us in welcoming George Williamson, former Vassar professor, pastor and chaplain (and brother-in-law of Wannoy Hogewood) as he comes to share with us in worship and in

readings from his memoir. George's own self-description is that he was born "on the wrong side of every moral social issue of the twentieth century." His memoir tells of the ways he has been addressing those moral social issues through his life and career. From being arrested in the North Carolina sit-ins to welcoming and affirming members into his church who identified as LGBTQ, George has been at work righting some of the wrongs he saw in the culture and in Christian life.

George, along with others, was instrumental in starting the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Bautistas Por La Paz (which has its offices housed in our building); BPFNA published his book and LeDayne Polaski, the Executive Director of BPFNA, will join us on that day. Join us for worship, and then lunch and discussion with George—he is lots of fun and will keep us all entertained as well as informed! **Reservations are required for lunch**, but those who do not want lunch can join the conversation without making a reservation. Our schedule will be:

- 10:30 - Worship, with sermon by George Williamson
- 11:45 - Lunch (\$10/person)
- 12:15 - Introductions and a word from LeDayne Polaski, Executive Director of BPFNA

•12:30 - Reading and discussion with George  
To make lunch reservations, please email Jacquelyn at [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) and write "lunch" in the subject line or call the church office (704-333-5428 ext. 11).



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## Youth Sunday February 4

Our scripture passage for Youth Sunday is Mark 9:33-37 - "Who is the Greatest?" Our proclaimers this year are two high school juniors, David Benton and Samuel Bond. Our children's sermon will be led by Kirby Bragg, Noah McGuire and Trey Spence. (This year's seniors preached last year.) The Youth Choir will sing in the service, and other youth will help lead us in worship that morning. Makes plans to be here!

## MATILDA LEARNS ABOUT ST. JOHN'S

Recently, Matilda walked into the beautiful sanctuary of St. John's on a Sunday sensing what she refers to as "The Divine Mystery." Greeted warmly and uplifted in spirit, she experienced a renewed desire to serve God through Jesus' vision of servant faith. She explored what is happening in the life and ministry of St. John's between Sundays.

Here is some of what Matilda learned.

- Adults gather on Mondays and Tuesdays for Bible studies and book discussion groups. The choir gathers on Wednesday evenings.
- The church offers a Weekday Preschool to the community and hosts a HeadStart – more than 120 young children are cared for each weekday.
- Parents and children living through days of homelessness stay in apartments within St. John's facilities 365 days a year.
- Members are involved in more than 30 community ministries through MT25, based upon Jesus teaching in Matthew 25.
- After completing another successful financial year, groups are now discussing continued faithful resource stewardship.
- Leadership groups are planning visions for St. John's second century beginning in 2022.
- Children are learning Bible stories, worship music and practical ways to participate in God's mission as servants.
- Youth are learning the foundations of Christian discipleship, the experience of worship and participating in God's mission.
- The Recreation Ministry offers basketball teams for each age group and hosts games in the St. John's gym each Saturday during the season.
- Members are entering the future with a renewed spirit of hope focusing on increased efforts in hospitality, outreach, messaging, signage, communications, inclusion, spiritual formation and community building.
- Members are in touch with one another every day in compassionate and relational ways offering prayer, attentive care, encouragement and positive support.

Matilda is still learning about St. John's. What else would you share with her?

Shalom,  
Dennis

*From Martha*

### No Limits

Hi, Friends! Well, I was too late for Dan Rather. By the time I saw the ad for his visit, the tickets had already sold out.

There are good events coming up at CPCC:

This weekend: Israel Story LIVE by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte (Jan. 25)  
Coming in February: "Evita"

And several events in April (Sensoria, a production of "On Golden Pond"). Several of you have mentioned other things, but as I have explained, I have trouble predicting what you guys will enjoy doing—it helps if there are one or two willing to find events and put the word out to find interest. Let me know if there's something you'd like to do!

### MT25/Hunger

The month of February, we will focus on the Hunger Team for a few weeks to get the word out about what they are doing. The Hunger Team works with several organizations: CROP Hunger Walk (fundraising for three local agencies and Church World Services, which provides food and disaster relief around the world, in need of liaison); Loaves & Fishes (a local agency which provides food pantries for people in need here in Charlotte, Eva Lee, Liaison); Friendship Trays (which provides food for people in their homes when they are too ill or disabled to get out, Marvin Carter, Liaison); Backpack Ministry (which provides 12 backpacks to children at Highland Renaissance School to cover their food needs over the weekends, Jane Winn, Liaison); and the Sandwich Ministry (which provides 200 sandwiches each month to the Men's Shelter, Jane Winn, Liaison). **If you would like to join the Hunger Team in order to get information about any of these events, contact the Liaison, or email Martha Kearse at [mkearse@sicharlotte.org](mailto:mkearse@sicharlotte.org)** and let her know to add you to the email list! Keep watching in February for chances to help with the Sandwich ministry, Loaves & Fishes and the CROP Walk!

## Youth News from Lee

**January 28** – Both **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>** and **11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship** groups meet at 9:00 am. **Sunday Night Live** – 5:00-7:30 pm During youth time Carl & Nina Phillips, Phillips Bragg, and Martha Kearse will share about what a commitment of faith and being a member of St. John's means to them.

**February 4** – **Youth Sunday** (Youth lead most of the 10:30 am worship service) & **Super Bowl Party** at the Smith's  
**February 11** – **Hornets Game** after church (1:00 pm). You will be contacted by your basketball coaches to sign up. I will reach out to everyone not on a team.

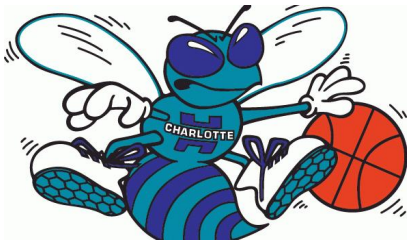
## From Allison

**Nursery/2s:** This class will be cared for in their room for Formation Hour and Worship Hour.

**PreK/K:** This 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 baptized.

**Grades 1-3:** These children will have Formation Class from 9:15-10:00, where they'll be learning about how Jesus called some of his disciples, and Music from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will worship with their families.

**Grades 4-5:** These children will be learning about how Jesus healed people in Formation Class from 9:15-10:00. From 10:00-10:20, they will have Music. This class will worship with their families.



### Basketball Sunday

We are inviting all the St. John's basketball teams and their families to join us for worship on Sunday morning, February 11, before they head uptown to

attend the Hornets vs. Raptors game at the Spectrum Center. Teams will sit together down front and be recognized during worship; then they will enjoy lunch in Broach Hall before the game. Coaches have received information from Lee Gray about this special day. Tickets to the game will be \$16, and lunch will be \$10 for youth/adults and \$5 for children ages 10 and under. Everyone who attends the basketball game will receive a Hornets gift and have the opportunity to shoot a postgame free throw. For more information, contact Lee Gray at [lgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sjcharlotte.org).

### Heritage Sunday March 18, 2018 "Making a Difference"

Let us know how St. John's has made a difference in your life

- Being a member of a Sunday School class that has provided you friendship and support
- Being a member of a community that celebrates the "infinite worth" of everyone
- Being a member of a congregation that supports ministries in our community and beyond

Contact the church office or Fredda Kimball.



### IT'S BACK

Mark your calendars now for the much anticipated – always celebrated

### CHILI COOK-OFF Sunday, February 25th

Prizes will be given for some very interesting and often questionable entries. Details to follow next week

### Financial Ministry Plan Pledge Report

**Amount Received: \$871,046**  
**Commitments Received: 179**

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



## A Year in the Church

#### Rising 2nd-6th Graders

explore and celebrate the church year by choosing an art guild for the week!

- Guilds include:
- Drama
  - Mosaics
  - Painting
  - Textile Art



#### 4 Year Olds- Rising 1st Graders

explore and celebrate the church year in a special experience designed just for them! Each day includes art, story, and play.

### St. John's/St. Martin's VBS 2018

June 11-15; 9am-noon

\$15/child

Children aged 4 by June 1 - Rising 6th Graders

To register visit: <https://st-johns-st-martins-vbs-2018.eventbrite.com>

Questions? [abenfield@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)

**Registration required. Registration closes June 4, 2018.**

### Meet Our New Elementary Music Director

Anna Katherine Ball is a first year student at Wingate University studying Music Education. She has had years of experience with Children's Choirs at Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston Salem. She is involved with the Advanced Women's Ensemble and Opera programs at Wingate, as well as studying organ, piano, and voice. She looks forward to working with the families of St. John's.



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

***Prayer Concerns & Celebrations***

Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Betty Crenshaw, Cathy Hartsell, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley, Brad Sifford & Dee Turner - home

***Sympathy*** to Margaret Falls in the death of her brother, Lloyd Stiffler, on Saturday, January 20, and her stepson, Gene Falls, Jr., on Thursday, January 18.

***Congratulations*** to grandparents Randy and Kathy Mahnesmith on the birth of grandson, Owen Randolph Mahnesmith, on January 19.

***Sunday, January 28***

**Deacons:** Gail Sifford, Ellen Smith, Henry Snyder, Laura Sorrell, Kathy Spence, Todd Stillerman, Anne Sutton, Elizabeth Whipple, Alice Wirz

**Tellers:** Tom Blackmon, Gene Poole

**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner, Ken Hungate; 5th St.- Vanessa Boling, Betty Thompson; Broach-Monty Kearse; Elevator- Marvin Carter

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

***Financial Ministry Plan Report:***

Week of January 15-21: \$13,825  
 Income through January 21: \$44,671

***Ministers on Call:***

January 22-28: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287  
 Jan. 29-Feb. 4: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446



⇒ MT 25 SJ Community Team deals with Hospitality, Messaging, and Craft & Needle Ministry. Contact Dr. Dennis Foust if you are interested in this area of service.



**Women of the Church** need your donated Birthday Cards for men! One volunteer is also needed to help with this ministry in a coming month. Cards can be given to Patricia McCaskill or left in the church office for use in the Women of the Church birthday card ministry. Thank you!

**Children and Youth Basketball  
 Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 6 & Under Co-Ed - 12:00 pm at St. John's
- 8 & Under Boys - 3:00 pm at St. John's
- 10 & Under Boys - 1:00 pm at St. John's
- 10 & Under Girls - 2:00 pm at St. John's
- 12 & Under Boys - 10:30 am at Sharon Presbyterian
- 12 & Under Girls - 2:00 pm at Mulberry Baptist
- 14 & Under Boys - 10:00 am at Mulberry Baptist
- 16 & Under Boys - 8:30 am at Sardis Presbyterian
- 18 & Under Boys - 9:30 pm at Sardis Presbyterian
- 18 & Under Girls - 8:30 am at Covenant Presbyterian

**Calendar: January 28 - February 3**

**Sunday, January 28**

8:00 ..... Church Council (Conference Room)  
 9:00 ..... 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship (Room 305)  
 9:00 ..... 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship (Room 116)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 ..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Monday, January 29**

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

**Tuesday, January 30**

7:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 10:00 ..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00 ..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)  
 4:15 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 5:15 ..... SJB Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 6:00 ..... CROP Recognition Dinner (Broach Hall)

**Wednesday, January 31**

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

**Thursday, February 1**

9:00 ..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)

**Friday, February 2**

4:30 ..... High School Youth/Room in the Inn  
 5:00 ..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, February 3**

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 10:00 ..... Basketball games (Gym)

Complete calendar online:  
[www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org](http://www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org)