



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 7 - February 13, 2018



## *St. John's at Worship*

**Sunday, February 18**  
*First Sunday in Lent/  
Communion*

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

**Theme:**  
*Kneaded, Needed,  
Needed and Needed*

**Scripture:**  
Jeremiah 7:1-20  
Matthew 4:1-4



## *Living in the World as the Body of Christ* Experiencing the Season of Lent in St. John's February 14-March 29

Finding your identity and purpose is essential. As the first followers of Jesus began living in the world of the first century, they developed an understanding of their identity and purpose or mission. One of the primary images they embraced was 'the Body of Christ.' The early Churches retold the story of Jesus at the Passover Meal: "While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, blessed it and broke it, gave it to them and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body.'" The early Church determined their identity to be the physical presence of Jesus and their purpose to be continuing his ministry. This year, on each of the six Sundays during Lent, we will experience the symbolism of bread as 'the body of Christ.' We will explore how we live in the world as the body of Christ using worship themes of 'Kneaded and Needed,' 'Transformed,' 'Taken,' 'Blessed,' 'Broken' and 'Given.' On Wednesdays at noon, we will serve as the host site for the Elizabeth Communities of Faith ecumenical worship services.

### **Dr. Martha Kearse Accepts Call as Pastor in Virginia**

Beloved Friends at SJBC,

I am writing you today to let you know that Peakland Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA has offered me the call to be their senior minister and I have accepted. I want you to know that you are the reason I am a minister at all. You have held me up and cajoled me, you have supported me financially and emotionally, you have shaped me and molded me and taken me seriously as a minister since September 10, 2001. I will not be able to express the debt I owe to you and the love I have for you, although in the next few weeks I will do my best to find those words.



This call to become a senior pastor has been in my heart for some time. I feel it as a genuine call from God, with good work to do. I look forward to the ways that Peakland Baptist and St. John's Baptist can now find each other; you will like each other a lot. I hereby submit my resignation to you, the congregation and staff at St. John's Baptist Church, with enormous gratitude, effective March 8, 2018.

I have been called to preach and to teach and to lead. It is because of you that I can answer that call.

God be with you-

Rev. Dr. Martha Dixon Kearse

Respectfully submitted February 11, 2018

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**THE GOD WHO LEADS US GOES AHEAD OF US**

This past Monday, The Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse informed you that she has accepted a call from Peakland Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, to serve as their senior minister. Her last Sunday with us will be March 4<sup>th</sup>.

As we begin to imagine ourselves serving God without Martha's partnership in ministry, collaborative energy or collegial creativity, how do we process this news? Here are three thoughts.

First, trust Martha. Like you, Martha seeks to follow God's calling upon her life. Martha lives in relationship with God in ways that reflect commitment and obedience. She seeks to be actively faithful in her stewardship of gifts and vocational calling. Thirty-two years ago, a twenty-two years young Martha Kearse came to Charlotte as a high school teacher. Less than two years later, she settled into St. John's as a member. In the life of St. John's, she met Monty and later welcomed their three children, Mattie, Connor and Anna. As a young mother, she became Minister with Children here 16 years ago and entered seminary. Six years ago, I asked the Personnel Resource Team to name Martha as Associate Minister, and they immediately agreed. A couple of years later, she returned to seminary for her Doctor of Ministry. Through the years, we have witnessed Martha's gifts for ministry expand as she pursued her training for congregational ministry. Those of us who have explored numerous conversations with her trust she is sensing God's leadership in this decision.

Second, be honest with your grief. As you know, grief is a collection of emotions. You can feel numb, angry, anxious, afraid, sad, depressed, etc. I encourage you to discuss your negative emotions with one another. Also, your ministry staff team is available to you for listening and conversation as we journey together.

Third, explore dialogues with God. Like Martha, you relate with God as a trusted friend and an encouraging Presence. Open yourself to dialogues with God that challenge you to explore new dimensions of spiritual maturity, ministry and integration. Pray for Peakland, Martha and her family and for St. John's as we transition into new perspectives of God's faithfulness.

Beloved, the God who leads us goes ahead of us. God is already at work for the future of Peakland and St. John's. God is hearing the prayers of Peakland and Martha as they begin a new chapter of ministry. And, God is listening for our prayers of dialogue. Let us celebrate our relationship with Martha and her ministry alongside us. And, let us orient our dialogues with God toward new opportunities for God's mission in Lynchburg and in Charlotte.

Shalom,  
Dennis

*From Martha*



The No Limits group enjoyed their guided tour of the St. John's illuminated Bible last week.



**Youth News from Lee**

**Sunday, February 18** - Regular Sunday Night Live resumes from 5:00-7:30 pm. "Man cannot live by bread alone." Yet we see bread as being important throughout the Biblical story – the Exodus and the Last Supper. On this night, youth will make bread during our "program" time and also look at the ways that God sustains us and bread as a metaphor for the body of Christ.

**Sunday, February 25** - Youth are on regular 5:00-7:30 pm time frame, but the schedule is a little different. Youth can participate in the Chili Cook-off and/or open gym from 5-6 pm. We will play Ambush from 6-7pm and youth program will be on the church as the body of Christ. There will be no youth choir time on this evening.

**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 calming a storm.

**Grades 1-3:** These children will have Worship 101 from 9:15-10, where they'll be learning about how sermons are written from Dr. Foust, and Music from 10-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will sit with their Worship 101 class for worship.

**Grades 4-5:** These children will be learning about the story of Noah in Formation Class from 9:15-10. From 10-10:20, they will have Music. This class will worship with their families.



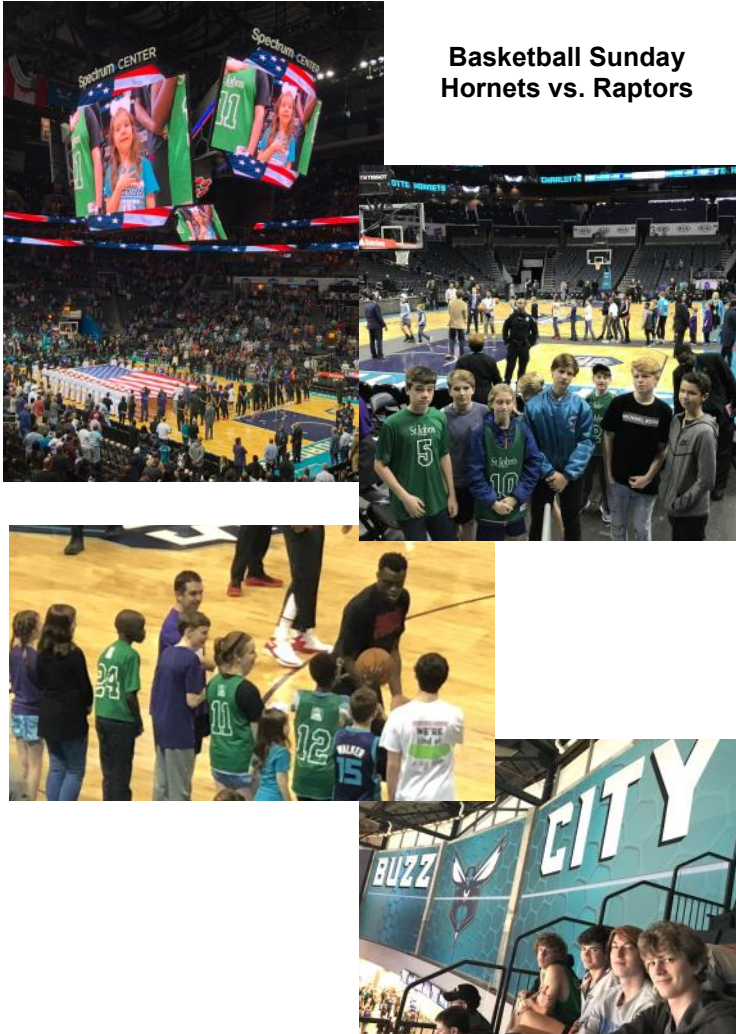
In Missions 101, Mr. Bert helped us learn about Habitat for Humanity and how St. John's works with them to share God's love.





**Financial Ministry Plan 2018  
Question & Answer Sessions**  
Sunday, February 18  
9:15 & 11:30 am  
in the Chapel

**Basketball Sunday  
Hornets vs. Raptors**



**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
Sunday, February 25 - 5-7 pm

Categories: Children; No Beans Please; Vegetarian; The Works; Bring on the Heat  
Prizes for each category!

To enter, please email Kim Allen ([kallen1994@aol.com](mailto:kallen1994@aol.com)) or Jacquelyn McAbee ([jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org))

Want to play handbells? A group will begin rehearsals soon. Contact Jacquelyn McAbee to be added to the group (rehearsal date and time pending) or for more information.



**Food Drive for Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves & Fishes clients are the working poor who need help providing meals for themselves and their families. After obtaining a referral and making an appointment with the nearest pantry, they are given points to spend shopping in the pantry. The point system gives the client the chance to choose items they want to have nutritionally-balanced goods for a week's worth of meals. When shopping, please keep in mind items like cereal, laundry supplies, baby food and diapers -- things that take a big bite out of grocery budgets. The Big Blue Barrels can be found in Broach Hall and Main Entrance lobbies.



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

- St. John's has made a difference in the lives of those who
- have gone from St. John's to other positions of Christian leadership;
  - have gone from St. John's to other faith communities;
  - go out into the community every week to share God's love in the world.

How has St. John's made a difference in your life?

The St. John's Peacebuilding Team invites you to participate in this important community forum:

**Action and Awareness: A Community Conversation on Immigrant Security in Charlotte**

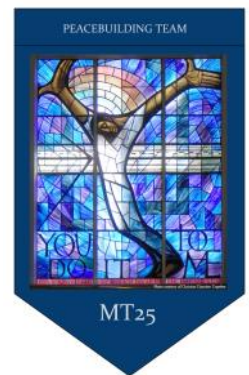
**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5:00-7:00 PM

**Where:** First United Methodist Church  
501 N. Tryon St.

Charlotte 28202 (free parking)

**Sponsored by:** Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

2017 was a year of disruption, fear and uncertainty for Charlotte's immigrant and refugee community. Join Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy for a community conversation on where we are a year later and what we can do to protect and support our neighbors. This discussion includes a keynote address by Ric Elias, CEO of Red Ventures, and a community panel Discussion moderated by Rebecca O'Neill, Director of the Immigrant Justice Program of Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy.



**For further information and to register, please visit the following website:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/action-awareness-a-community-conversation-on-immigrant-security-in-clt-tickets-42057470025?aff=es2>

**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 ..... Chris Mullis, Debora Thon  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon



⇒ It is time to register your child for this summer's Vacation Bible School. (June 11-15). To register, visit the SJBC website at [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org) or contact Rev. Allison Benfield with questions or to volunteer to help this year.

**Terrific Tuesday Book Club**  
 Tuesday, February 27, 12 noon  
 This month's book:  
*The Color of Water* by James McBride  
 Books are available in the church office.



**Children and Youth Basketball**  
**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

10 & Under Boys - 10:00 am at St. John's;  
 if they win 2:00 at St. John's (2/10-Lost)  
 10 & Under Girls - 12:00 noon at St. John's (2/10-Lost)  
 12 & Under Boys - 1:00 pm at St. John's (2/10-WON!)  
 12 & Under Girls - 11:00 am at St. John's (2/10-WON!)  
 14 & Under Boys - 3:00 pm at First Baptist Charlotte (2/10-WON!)  
 16 & Under Boys - BYE (2/10-Lost)  
 18 & Under Boys - 2:00 pm at First Baptist Charlotte (2/10-WON!)  
 18 & Under Girls - 2:45 pm at Sardis Presbyterian (2/10-Lost)

***Prayer Concerns & Celebrations***

Betty Crenshaw, Joe Ehrenberger, Tim Gibson, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Brad Sifford & Dee Turner - home

***Congratulations*** to Al and Treva Bridges on the birth of their granddaughter Eleanor Elizabeth Bridges.

***Sympathy*** to Shirley Ballard on the death of her sister Audrey; and to Jean Hutson on the death of her brother, Estes Howell Jr., on Tuesday, February 13.

***Sunday, February 18***

**Deacons:** Cindy McIntyre, Mark McNeill, Tricia Miller, Milissa Millette, Jane and Morgan Newman, Russell Norris, Kim & Robby Ray, Shannon Rodden  
**Tellers:** Margaret Falls, Betsy Furr  
**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner, Mark McNeill; 5th St.-Al & Treva Bridges; Broach-Jimmy Carpenter, Ed Outen; Elevator- Marvin Carter  
**Ushers:** Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Carol & Gene Poole

***Financial Ministry Plan Report:***

Week of February 5-11: \$14,464  
 Income through February 11: \$100,546

***Ministers on Call:***

February 12-18: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412  
 February 19-25: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446

**Calendar: February 18-24**

**Sunday, February 18**

9:00 ..... 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship (Room 305)  
 9:15 ..... Financial Ministry Plan Q&A (Chapel)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School/Worship 101 (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Worship/Communion (Sanctuary)  
 11:30 ..... Financial Ministry Plan Q&A (Chapel)  
 11:30 ..... Joy Class (Broach Hall)  
 5:00 ..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Monday, February 19**

8:00 ..... Cadence Education (Broach Hall & Classrooms)  
 9:15 ..... Kids Basketball (Gym)  
 11:45 ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)  
 6:30 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, February 20**

8:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 9:00 ..... HeadStart (Lounge)  
 10:00 ..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00 ..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)  
 5:15 ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)

**Wednesday, February 21**

9:30 ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
 12:00 ..... Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Service (Sanctuary)  
 12:30 ..... ECOF Soup Lunch (Broach Hall)  
 6:00 ..... Mission Resource Team (Lounge)  
 6:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, February 22**

6:00 ..... Investing in the Future (Lounge)

**Friday, February 23**

7:00 ..... NewGen Peacebuilders (Broach Hall)  
 5:00 ..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, February 24**

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 8:00 ..... NewGen Peacebuilders (Broach Hall)  
 9:30 ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
 10:00 ..... Basketball games (Gym)

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