



Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 8 - February 20, 2018



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer:
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series:
*Living in the World
as the Body of Christ*

Sermon:
Transformed

Scripture:
Exodus 12:33-39
Matthew 6:11

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Celebrating the Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martha Kearsse

Member of St. John's, 1988-2018
Minister with Children & Their
Families, 2001-2012
Associate Minister, 2012-2018

Commissioning and Reception
Sunday, March 4, 2018
10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary
11:30 AM Reception in Broach
Hall

**Contributions to The Love Gift for
Martha should be
made out to ST. JOHN'S
with "Martha Kearsse Love Gift"
written on memo line.**

(Please note that Love Gifts are NOT tax-deductible contributions.)

**Gifts can be presented through the
offering plate or mailed to
St. John's Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Martha Kearsse Love Gift
Attention – Sandra Rogers, Church
Administrator
300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, NC 28204**

Martha will be installed as pastor of
Peakland Baptist Church,
Lynchburg, VA
on Sunday, April 8, 2018



LIVING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST IN TODAY'S WORLD SUNDAY WORSHIP

*"While they were eating,
Jesus took a loaf of bread..."*

Remembering that we are
The Body of Christ in Today's World,
we will distribute bread each Sunday,
during Lent.

This Sunday,
Women of the Church will present us
with unleavened bread;
Dan Biber will tell the story
from Exodus 12;
Be guided in The Church at Prayer
by Dr. Martha Kearsse;
Reflect upon our experience of
living in God's hands;
Sing hymns and songs including,
Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah;
Let Us Break Bread Together;
We Are One Body;
and *We Are Called to Be God's People.*
Our Chancel Choir will present
their offering to God in the anthem,
'How Can I Keep from Singing?'



THERE'S WITHIN MY HEART A MELODY

As a boy, part of my summer experience included time with my paternal grandparents on their farm in rural Cleburne County, Arkansas. My grandfather raised chickens, served as the Justice of the Peace, taught music schools and wrote shaped-note gospel music. My grandmother worked in her flowers and garden, cooked, read her Bible and hummed tunes; most of the time without even realizing she was humming.

One of the tunes my grandmother hummed most often was the gospel song, 'There's Within My Heart a Melody.' It's #550 in our St. John's hymnal. The words of the first verse and the fourth verse are my favorites. "There's within my heart a melody, Jesus whispers sweet and low, 'Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,' in all of life's ebb and flow." "Though sometimes he leads through waters deep, trials fall across the way, though sometimes the path seems rough and steep, see his footprints all the way." Of course, the repetitive chorus is, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – sweetest name I know, fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go." At times, I find myself singing or humming this tune and realizing Edath Southerland Foust is still shaping my journey.

In this season of Lent, we are reflecting on what it means to be *The Body of Christ in Today's World* while also preparing to say 'good bye' to Martha and Monty Kearse as they move to begin ministry with Peakland Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA. While living into these days of transition, like you, I am investing attention in my own spiritual journey. Also, during these weeks, I am listening and dialoging with you about changes.

The Lenten season stems from the idea of 'lengthening days.' During spring, as the time arc of sunlight increases each day, we are invited into a season of change; preparing the soil of our interior lives to welcome and receive God's hope-full resurrection seed.

I compare times of transition such as these to a trapeze artist moving from one platform (place) to another. While still on the platform, they let go of things as they know them, take hold of a bar swinging into the space between platforms trusting that the other bar will be in its place at the appropriate time before taking hold of the new bar and eventually landing safely at the other place.

Beloved, in this Lenten season, I encourage you to open yourself to interior change as we experience external changes. Please remember, God is at work in the space between the trapeze bars as we let go of the reality we know...waiting, trusting, turning...to the future when we will take hold of the new reality. And, I encourage humming, 'There's within my heart a melody...'

Shalom,
Dennis

From Martha

I want to thank all of you so much for the kind and wonderful words you have been sharing with me over the last week. I am aware how incredibly blessed I have been to have had this time at St. John's, and to have been nurtured (and cajoled, and reprimanded, and straightened out) by you. I have received permission to post pictures on the glass wall across from the church office. I hope you will stop by that wall to see why I have loved this job for all of these years.

Youth News from Lee

Sunday, February 25 - Youth are on regular 5:00-7:30 pm time frame, but the schedule is a little different since Kevin cannot be here. We will play ambush from 5:00-6:00 pm, have dinner from 6:00-6:30, and youth group time from 6:30-7:30—"What Does It Mean to Be a Part of the Body of Christ?"

Sunday, March 4 - No evening youth activities as we expect that the youth will want to attend Martha's farewell celebration after worship on that day.

Summer Dates (expect a sign up email next week)

June 17-23 – High School Mission Trip/Sea Island Habitat
July 23-28 – Unidiversity Youth Summer Camp
August 11-14 – Middle School Local Mission Trip

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 the story of Palm Sunday.

Grades 1-3: These children will have Formation Class from 9:15-10:00, where they'll be learning about Noah, and Music from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will have Godly Play this week during worship.

Grades 4-5: These children will be learning about the story of Abram in Formation Class from 9:15-10:00. From 10:00-10:20, they will have Music. This class will worship with their families.

Grace Notes

On March 4 the elementary-aged children will be leading us in worship through song. They'll be singing the first verse of "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." They have been working on learning this hymn with Miss Anna each week. This Sunday (Feb. 25) if they can sing the first verse for me (Miss Allison) they'll earn 2 pompoms for their jar (when the jar is full, they get a prize).

In Worship 101, the 1st-3rd Graders learned about how Dr. Foust writes his sermons. They got to take a field trip to his office and to the sanctuary to stand in the pulpit.





Church Conference
Sunday, February 18
 (at the beginning of worship)
 To approve the Financial Ministry Plan
 2018

Heritage Sunday
March 18, 2018
"Making a Difference"

In welcoming new members on Sunday, Deacon Chair Randy Brantley talked of those who have come before us. How have all of those who came before us made a difference in the life of our community and in the lives of others?

Also on Sunday, we read together the church covenant. How does following the statements of faith in our covenant make a difference?

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

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED!



Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 pm. We will rehearse weekly throughout the spring and plan to play in worship several times. It's not too late to join this group! Contact Jacquelyn McAbee (jmcabee@sjcharlotte) or Kevin Gray to volunteer or for more information.



Please join us as we restock the Loaves & Fishes pantry at Galilee Center (formally St. Andrews Episcopal Church) on Central Avenue. We are

dedicating the month of February to collecting non-perishable grocery items/monetary donations for the perishable items the pantry offers. The Big Blue Barrels can be found in Broach Hall and Main Entrance lobbies. Thanks for your support!



Sunday, February 25
3:00 pm
Davidson College
Presbyterian Church
and 7:00 pm
Christ Episcopal
Church

"Homegrown" will celebrate the work of composers from the Carolinas and raise money for the local nonprofit Friendship Gardens. These concerts will feature music by Dan Forrest, Jaqueline Yost, Dan Locklair, Kenney Potter and Mary Ann Archer, and include WORLD PREMIERE performances of pieces by James Kevin Gray, Rick Bean, Cathy Youngblood, David Batchelor and Sara Terrell.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door (cash or check only); \$5 at the door with a valid student ID; free for children through age 11; \$40 for families; and \$12 each for groups of 10 or more. Will-call sales are available at the advance price for pickup at the concert. For tickets, call 980-272-8556 or email CaritasTicketSales@gmail.com.

Easter Outfits for "A Child's Place"

Needed:
 Sizes 5-14
 Boys & Girls
 (new or gently used)
 with socks and underwear

Place on rack by gym door by March 18



32ND ANNUAL
Elizabeth 8K Road Race
8K Road Race • 1.5M Run/Walk • Liz Kids' Fun Run

Saturday, March 24, 2018
Hawthorne Recreation Center
Independence Park
 345 Hawthorne Lane,
 Charlotte, NC 28204

The 32nd Annual Elizabeth 8K Road Race is Saturday, March 24, at 8:00 am. Once again, St. John's is a sponsor for Charlotte's oldest road race. As a sponsor, we can offer 10 free registrations (call the church office for registration code) and a 10% discount to

all who choose to participate (Code: SJBCDF1810). Discounts expire March 2. Please contact the church office for information or to volunteer.

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

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Jane Winn - Novant Presbyterian; Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones & Brad Sifford - home

Sympathy to Pat Engle on the death of her brother, Jimmy Weller (who grew up at St. John's), on Sunday, February 18.

Sunday, February 25

Deacons: Kami McGuire, Gail Sifford, Ellen Smith, Henry Snyder, Laura Sorrell, Todd Stillerman, Anne Sutton, Elizabeth Whipple, Alice Wirz
Tellers: Morgan Newman, Tim Gibson
Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Eric McCombs; 5th St. -Vanessa Boling, Betty Thompson; Broach-Monty Kearse, 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 12-18: \$23,790
 Income through February 18: \$124,337
 Community & Mission Offering: \$216

Ministers on Call:

February 19-25: Martha Kearse 704-941-8446
 Feb. 26-March 4: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234



⇒ The "Needles Ministry" ladies will begin making prayer shawls to share with the patients at the new Levine Dickinson Hospice House at Aldersgate.

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, February 27, 12 noon
 This month's book:
The Color of Water by James McBride
 Bring a sandwich and continue the conversation over lunch!



Children and Youth Basketball

Saturday, February 24th

- 10 & Under Boys - (2/17-WON! & Lost) Season Complete
- 10 & Under Girls - (2/17-Lost) Season Complete
- 12 & Under Boys - (2/17-Lost) Season Complete
- 12 & Under Girls - (2/17-Lost) Season Complete
- 14 & Under Boys - 3:00 pm at Mulberry Baptist (2/17-Lost)
- 16 & Under Boys - 10:00 am at Mulberry Baptist (2/17-BYE)
- 18 & Under Boys - 11:30 am at Friendship Miss. Baptist (2/17-WON!)
- 18 & Under Girls - 1:00 pm at First Baptist Matthews (2/17-Lost)

Calendar: February 25 - March 3

Sunday, February 25

8:00 Church Council (Conference Room)
 9:00 11th/12th Grade Discipleship (Room 116)
 9:15 Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30 Worship/Church Conference (Sanctuary)
 11:30 Investing in the Future Task Force (Sanctuary)
 11:45 Loaves & Fishes (Lounge)
 11:45 MT25 Education/Children & Families (Conference Room)
 5:00 Chili Cook-off (Broach Hall)
 5:00 Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3rd Floor)

Monday, February 26

11:45 Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
 5:30 Elizabeth Village HOA (Lounge)
 6:30 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 9:00 HeadStart (Lounge)
 10:00 Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00 Bible Workbench (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)
 6:00 Handbell Choir (Hamdbell Room)

Wednesday, February 28

6:30 Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30 Yoga (Room 114)
 11:15 CROP (Lounge)
 12:00 Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Service (Sanctuary)
 12:30 ECOF Soup Lunch (Broach Hall)
 6:00 AA (Lasater Hall)
 7:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, March 1

9:00 Unity Coalition (Lounge)
 10:30 Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
 1:30 Scholars Academy/AG Middle School Choirs (Choir Room)
 5:00 Scholars Academy/AG Middle School Choirs Concert (Sanctuary)

Friday, March 2

5:00 Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
 8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, March 3

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

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org