



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 9 - February 27, 2018



## *St. John's at Worship*

**Sunday, March 4**  
 Third Sunday in Lent/  
 Baptism & Commissioning

### **Proclaimers:**

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD &  
 Rev. Martha D. Kearse, DMin

### **Sermon Series:**

*Living in the World  
 as the Body of Christ*

### **Sermon:**

*Taken*

### **Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 12:27; Mark 4:22

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## **Celebrating the Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse**

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 Kearse Love Gift" written on memo line (gifts are not tax-deductible). Gifts can be presented through the offering plate or mailed to the church.



Cards or notes for Martha may be placed in the memory box in the church office this week or Sunday morning, in the narthex during worship, or in Broach Hall during the reception.



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



## MAYBE NOT 'TO INFINITY AND BEYOND,' HOWEVER...

In the computer-animated film 'Toy Story,' Buzz Lightyear expresses confident vision with his exclamation, "To infinity and beyond!" For the next few days, we are proclaiming the confident vision, 'To this weekend and beyond!'

**TO THIS WEEKEND:** This Sunday, we will celebrate Martha Kearse's 16-years of staff ministry among us. We will commission her to serve as pastor of Peakland Baptist Church, in Lynchburg, Virginia. We are excited to learn that several members of Peakland have accepted our invitation and will be with us to participate in our prayer of commissioning. Our worship of The Living God this Sunday will include Martha baptizing five youth girls who were children when Martha served as Minister with Children (2001-2012). We will conclude the worship hour with a prayer of commissioning and present some tangible love gifts. Following worship, we will enjoy a reception in honor of Martha, Monty, Mattie, Conner and Anna. Love gifts will still be received through next week and cards/mementos can be placed in The Memory Box which will be in the church office this week, and in Broach Hall on Sunday.

**AND BEYOND...** In next week's *Family News*, I will describe the five distinct sacred seasons through which we will journey together in the months ahead: Grieving, Fallowing, Discerning, Deciding and Searching. It is a privilege to offer pastoral leadership for St. John's, nurturing collaborative visions and compassionate efforts. Through the years, I have learned a few things about redeeming the time after a staff minister retires or accepts a call to a new context of service. In the days ahead, I will work with church leaders and groups as we pursue congregational health and vitality. We will move forward together listening to one another and discerning God's direction for our journey, as St. John's, which began 96 years ago.

As we journey, we will continue to worship The Living God with relational honesty, spiritual creativity and theological integrity; equip God's people to continue Jesus' work through ministry in daily life; guide youth; teach children; care for the aged; serve the poor; reach out to those searching for Christian community; relate God's compassion; proclaim God's love as revealed in Jesus the servant; build peace; seek justice; nurture a humble walk with God; explore our St. John's Vision 2020; discover new ways of communicating with our city and reaching new members; discuss possibilities with our Investing in the Future Task Force; learn new pathways of spiritual formation; and provide a welcoming community of faith for anyone; etc.

Now, to this weekend – then to beyond!

Shalom,  
Dennis

## Youth News from Lee

**Sunday, March 4 - 11:30 am - Send off reception for Martha Kearse** - This will be right after 10:30 worship and should last until 1:00/1:30. Youth have been helping make the video for this event. **There will be no evening youth activities.**

### Summer Dates

**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 a woman who loved Jesus so much that she washed his feet.

**Grades 1-3:** These children will have Formation Class from 9:15-10:00, where they'll be learning about Abram, and Music from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will sing in worship and sit together as a choir. They will also be passing out the bread we will share in worship. Please have your child here by 9:15 so that we have plenty of time to get ready to lead worship in so many ways.

**Grades 4-5:** These children will be learning about Psalm 19 in Formation Class from 9:15-10:00. From 10:00-10:20, they will have Music. 4th-5th Graders will sing in worship and sit together as a choir. They will also be passing out the bread we will share in worship. Please have your child here by 9:15 so that we have plenty of time to get ready to lead worship in so many ways.

### 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. Miss Anna told them that if they sing well on March 4, that there might be a treat for them. I hope you'll work with your child to help them learn this hymn and be ready to lead in worship.

### Family Outing: Ice Skating Edition

Now that the Winter Olympics are over, it's time to start training for 2022! Let's meet up at the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail from 2-4 pm on Saturday, March 10, for some fun. You don't have to RSVP, just show up ready to have fun together. Come when you can, and stay for as long as you can. (Although, if you are definitely planning on coming, let me know.) I will head inside with the first folks to arrive, so if you don't see me, come on in. I hope to see you there!



## Dream Big for the 21st Century, St. John's!

As you know, the church has received \$130,000 for sale of 980 square feet of property along Park Drive to the City of Charlotte for a transformer for the new trolley line. We also have a signed contract for \$600,000 with Lincoln-Harris for the sale of the Garrison Road property, although we have no idea if or when the money will be paid.

Back in the fall, the Administrative deacon panel appointed a task force to solicit ideas about what to do with these funds. The Investing in the Future task force consists of David Allen, Randy Brantley, Bill Claytor, Charlie Harper, Bill Hartsell, Wanny Hogewood, Fredda Kimball, Russell Norris, Bobbi Sherrill, Meredith Sorrell, Sara Vavra, and Sally Young, chair.

Although the task force initially thought we would ask for ideas of projects to use this money, we quickly came to the conclusion that this money would be much better spent in seeking solutions for St. John's strategic challenges. We have thus far identified two:

- The church must attract young people to make its future sustainable.
- Our facilities are old and require significant maintenance.

We know the members of our congregation are thoughtful and have ideas that could make a huge difference for the future of St. John's. Therefore, over the next several weeks, members of the IF task force will visit Sunday school classes and hold meetings to hear what you think we should do about our strategic challenges.

We want to hear your thoughts and ideas! Buttonhole any of us and tell us what you think. Write us a letter or send an email. Wonderful things go on in our community of faith. How can we share St. John's with the larger Charlotte community? What steps do we need to take to ensure the future of the church?

Dream big, St. John's!



Members of the Investing in the Future Task Force will be guiding conversations in Sunday School Ministry Groups on Sunday's, March 4 and 11.

Here are the Questions for Listening Sessions:

1. How can we use this money to further the mission of St. John's?
2. What does St. John's need to do to assure its future?
3. What do we need to do to attract more new members, especially young people, while continuing to be true to our identity and mission at St. John's?
4. Why should St. John's exist in 10, 20, or 100 years from now?
5. What should be the mission of St. John's?
6. How can we use these monies to propel us to larger visions of our future?
7. If money were no object, what would you like to see us do?
8. What is our ultimate aim as a church in Charlotte today?

**Easter Lilies** are a long-standing tradition and are loved by many — except those who are allergic to them and always miss Easter Sunday or sit uncomfortably in church while breathing the pollen-laden air. This year, we would like to offer an alternative, Calla Lilies, to reduce the pollen and help everyone enjoy this glorious Sunday at St. John's. Like Easter Lilies, Callas can be planted in your yard and come back again next year. They will be in 1-gallon pots and will be heavier than the pots we have used in the past, so please keep this in mind.



The cost this year will be \$18, and order forms are available in the church office. Proceeds from the Easter flowers are used to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We usually purchase less than ordered to have extra funds for Christmas decorations, so please be sure to indicate on your order form if you do not plan to take your Calla Lilies after the Easter service. Thank you!

### Easter Outfits for "A Child's Place"

Needed: Sizes 5-14

Boys & Girls (new or gently used)  
with sock and underwear

**Place on rack outside sanctuary or  
at main entrance by March 18**



### Welcome New Member!

Sophie Ann Sweet joined by profession of faith on Sunday, February 25. Sophie Ann is the daughter of Garth and Autumn Sweet.

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!



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. Call 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**

Camille Green - CMC Pineville Rehab; Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Janie Kendrick, Brad Sifford & Jane Winn - home

**Sympathy** to Shawn Wilkerson in the death of his uncle, Ben Houck.

**Sunday, March 4**

**Deacons:** David Allen, Linda Balentine, Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Lynn Bishop, Maggie Bond, Leslie Bragg, Randy Brantley, Stan Brown, Lindsay Wilson

**Tellers:** Tom Blackmon, Gene Poole

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

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

**Financial Ministry Plan Report:**

Week of February 19-25: \$10,800  
 Income through February 25: \$135,137  
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000  
 Community & Mission Offering: \$266

**Ministers on Call:**

Feb. 26-March 4: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234  
 March 5-11: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

**Children and Youth Basketball**  
**Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**



14 & Under Boys - 2:45 pm at Mt. Harmony Baptist (2/24-WON!)  
 16 & Under Boys - (2/24-Lost) Season Complete  
 18 & Under Boys - 12:45 pm at Mt. Harmony Baptist (2/24-WON!)  
 18 & Under Girls - 12:45 pm at Covenant Presbyterian (2/24-WON!)

**Basketball Banquet for children**  
**Sunday, March 11, at 4:00 pm**

The following teams — 6&U Co-ed, 8&U boys, 10&U girls and 10&U boys — will receive their trophies and play special games in the gym.

**Xavier University's Alternative Spring Break**

The Alternative Breaks mission is to empower and challenge all involved to understand his or her relationship with the global community through direct service, education, and reflection, while encouraging personal growth, social awareness, and active citizenship. Last year, they had a total of 21 trips: 19 domestic and two international, addressing a wide variety of social justice issues.

From March 3-10, St. John's will be hosting a group of 10-15 Xavier students and staff focused on elderly living, who will be partnering with Avante at Charlotte and Aldersgate Retirement Community. The group will be out of the building during the day but will prepare dinner here every evening and conduct reflections. Be sure to welcome them to St. John's and Charlotte if you see them!



**Calendar: March 4-10**

**Sunday, March 4**

9:15 ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Worship/Baptism/Commissioning (Sanctuary)  
 11:45 ..... Reception (Broach Hall)

**Monday, March 5**

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

**Tuesday, March 6**

8:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 9:00 ..... HeadStart (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 ..... Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)

**Wednesday, March 7**

6:30 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:30 ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
 12:00 ..... Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Service (Sanctuary)  
 12:30 ..... ECOF Soup Lunch (Broach Hall)  
 6:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 6:00 ..... Mission Resource Team (Room 209)  
 6:00 ..... Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, March 8**

10:00 ..... Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)

**Friday, March 9**

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

**Saturday, March 10**

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 2:00 ..... Family Outing with Allison/Ice Skating

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