



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 10 - March 6, 2018



## *St. John's at Worship*

**Sunday, March 11**  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

### **Proclaimer:**

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD &

### **Sermon Series:**

*Living in the World  
as the Body of Christ*

### **Sermon:**

*Blessed*

### **Scripture:**

John 6:1-14, 28-35  
March 14:22

## **Celebrating Our Heritage Sunday, March 18 Making a Difference--**

St. John's has had a presence on the corner of Fifth and Hawthorne for over 96 years.

- How have we made a difference in the lives of over 8500 members?
- How have we made a difference in the greater community?
- How has living out our covenant made a difference?

"St. John's is the most inclusive in its membership and acceptance policies of any church I know, I have learned the way that makes me comfortable about my feelings of being Baptist as well as the great caring friendships throughout the years. (After being away for several years)...St. John's has always been home and when I moved (back) I felt the same love and acceptance from both old and new members. St. John's has made huge differences in our lives." ~ Betty Fuller, member since 1939

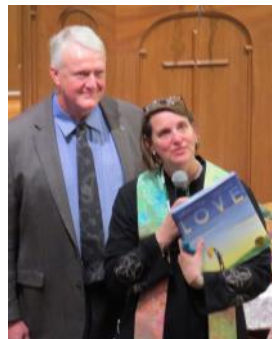
From Youth Mission Trip to St. John's Island in 2002--

"This commitment fostered unity within our youth group that extended beyond the work site... enabling us to live out our Christian faith. While we were building the house, we were also building relationships among ourselves (and going) from a group not knowing what to expect to expecting good things to happen." ~ Izzy Phillips (now Hayes)



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

**Commissioning and Reception  
Sunday, March 4, 2018**



## SIX SACRED SEASONS OF TRANSITION

Last Sunday, beloved, you celebrated in true St. John's style! Well done!

As we journey forward amidst change, we will walk through what I refer to as 'Six Sacred Seasons of Transition.' Each season is marked less by weather or the calendar and more by our context. And, each season blends into or overlaps a bit with the seasons it touches.

**CELEBRATING:** The first sacred season is Celebrating. I have always believed that congregations need to show the world how to celebrate God's calling and God's leadership in the lives of ministers in healthy ways. Yet, most of the time, this does not happen. You celebrated so well in recent days culminating in a tremendous outpouring of love last Sunday. You gave thanks to God for the joys, laughter and meaningful moments we have enjoyed with Martha Kearse and her family. You embraced the wonderful gifts of witnessing the baptisms of five young women, being led in worship by children of St. John's, and commissioning Martha into the pastorate of Peakland Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Virginia. Our celebrating will continue as we rejoice in Martha's new opportunity to follow God's calling.

**GRIEVING:** When relationships change, grief emerges. We must value grief and respond to change in ways that promote health for us as individuals and as an active faith community. Phone calls, notes, hugs, listening and sharing stories are essential. We must protect ourselves against unhealthy responses to change: flight or fight. Each of these unhealthy responses cause us to become victims of change. In flight, we become refugees trying to create distance between ourselves and the change. In fight, we become bitter and brittle resisting new realities accompanying change. A healthy response to change includes honest grieving, allowing time for new opportunities to emerge. In honest grieving, we mourn what will never be the same while giving thanks for the memories and shared meanings. For the next few weeks, we will listen to one another in this season of grieving.

**FALLOWING:** Grieving will gradually give way to a sacred season of fallowing. In agriculture, fallow ground is unplanted – but is not idle. During fallowing season, new germinating occurs and sprouting emerges while enabling rest, renewal and strengthening. Also, during fallowing, that which is unnecessary dissipates. The ministry staff has already reviewed notes Martha left behind to identify how we will carefully tend the ministries she touched. From April through the summer, we will notice what is happening. What shows the need for special attention? How does new creativity emerge? What new voices and initiatives sprout? What is happening beneath the surface? During the sacred season of fallowing, we honor the reality that change also brings new opportunities.

**DISCERNING:** In late summer, we will integrate conversations facilitated by our *Investing in the Future Task Force* with goals included in *St. John's Vision 2020*.

We will explore optional scenarios as we consider alternatives of staffing for future ministries focused on growth in the 21st century. We must guard against thinking we know all the answers before we have determined the questions. We must listen to one another and study our context. Through congregational processes, church leaders will hear you as they identify needs, clarify visions and move forward remembering this is a spiritual process requiring prayer and discernment of God's guidance. We will avoid the ditches on either side of our path — the ditch of making consequential decisions too quickly in a 'problem-fix-it' mode on one side and the ditch of becoming stuck in the paralysis of analysis at the other extreme.

**DECIDING:** Sometime in the autumn of 2018, we will have allowed for enough time and conversation to decide how we want to structure our staff for future ministry. We must not be hasty; yet, some areas of emphasis seem to be easier to identify than others. Once we build profiles for a position or positions, we will enter the final sacred season, **SEARCHING**. I do not see us welcoming anyone new to the church staff in these discerned roles until early to mid-2019. This process has many far-reaching implications for the future of St. John's. We all want to get this right!

Shalom,  
Dennis

## Youth News from Lee

**Sunday, March 11** - Regular 5:00-7:30 pm Youth Evening Schedule

(The Basketball Banquet for Children's teams takes place from 4-5pm. There is no banquet for youth teams.)

### 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 Jesus serving his disciples by washing their feet.

**Grades 1-3:** These children will have Missions 101 from 9:15-10:00, where they'll be learning about some of the ways St. John's serves God by helping children, and Music from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will have Godly Play during worship.

**Grades 4-5:** These children will have Missions 101 from 9:15-10:00, where they'll be learning about some of the ways St. John's serves God by helping children, and Music from 10:00-10:20. 4th-5th Graders will worship with their families.

### Grace Notes

I am incredibly proud of the singers in Grace Notes for singing so well on Sunday! Every single one of your children made my heart swell with joy. This week, there will be a special surprise during music time. We will also be learning about musical symbols. I'm so excited to continue to work with you and your wonderful children! ~ Anna Katherine Ball

### Investing in the Future Task Force

Members of the task force will be guiding conversations in Sunday School Ministry Groups.

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 at church 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 Lily after the Easter service. Thank you!

### Lilies for Easter Sunday

Note: Your lily purchase helps provide funds for our Christmas poinsettias/décor.

I will give \_\_\_ lilies at **\$18 each**.

\_\_\_ in memory of

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\_\_\_ in honor of

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Donor name and telephone:

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\_\_\_ I wish to pick up my lilies.

\_\_\_ I do not wish to pick up my lilies.

Last date to sign up for lilies is **Sunday, March 25.**

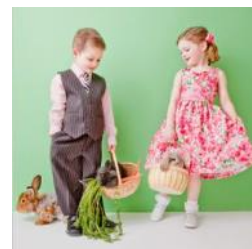


### Easter Outfits for "A Child's Place"

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**



Dear St. John's,

I tried to say to you what you have meant to me over the years yesterday (Sunday), so I won't spend a lot of time on that. I am more grateful than I can express for all the love that has been poured out over me and my family in the last two weeks. Monty and my children and I have been blessed for the entirety of our lives together to have had St. John's as our family. We are truly grateful to you for that. We are equally grateful for the words you have said about care for Anna Lynn and for the children who remain in Charlotte—it means more than you may know to believe with all our hearts that they are not being left alone. We carry you each with us, to hold us up, to make us smile, to remind us whose we are and where we have come from. Thank you, thank you, for all the gifts you have given us over the years.

Monty and I will keep you in our prayers, always. You are a blessing to the world. I will pray for you, that you continue to find amazing ways to take good care of each other, and that you will keep working toward healthy ways to take on the enormous needs of the world for what you have to give.

And every once in a while, in the years to come, someone may walk into my office, where I am sitting, staring into space; when they ask what I am doing, I will just say, "I'm gone to Carolina in my mind."

GBWY—

*Martha*



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. 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 - home

***Sympathy*** to Becky Skidmore on the death of her sister, Susie E. Puckett, on February 24.

***Sunday, March 11***

**Deacons:** Minh Callaway, Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Charlie Harper, Cathy Hartsell, Chuck Howard, Carol Injaychock, Chuck Jones, Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch

**Tellers:** Marvin Carter, Paul Lloyd

**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner, Bobby Furr; 5th St.-Alan Dietz, Scott Kerley; Broach-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter

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

***Financial Ministry Plan Report:***

Week of February 26-March 4: \$33,954  
 Income through March 4: \$169,091  
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

Community & Mission Offering: \$266

***Ministers on Call:***

March 5-11: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287  
 March 12-18: Lee Gray 704-451-1309



⇒ St. John's was named after Mrs. L. C. Withers defended the proposed name by saying, "Our friends the Episcopalians don't have a monopoly on the saints." (1922)

**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.



**Youth Basketball Results**

14 & Under Boys - 3/3-Lost - Season Complete  
 18 & Under Girls - 3/3-Lost - Season Complete



Congratulations to the 18 & Under Guys team - The Green Goblins - for winning their playoff fight this past weekend.

**Family Outing: Ice Skating Edition**



Meet at the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail from 2-4 pm on Saturday, March 10. 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, please let Allison know.)

**Calendar: March 11-17**

**Sunday, March 11**

8:00 ..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Conference Room)  
 9:15 ..... Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)  
 10:30 ..... Godly Play (Room 221)  
 10:30 ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
 11:30 ..... Pastoral Deacon Training (Lasater Hall)  
 4:00 ..... Basketball banquet (Lounge/Gym)  
 5:00 ..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/Chapel/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Monday, March 12**

9:30 ..... Mental Health America (Lounge)  
 11:45 ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)  
 6:30 ..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)  
 6:30 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, March 13**

8:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 9:00 ..... HeadStart (Lounge)  
 10:00 ..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00 ..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)  
 1:00 ..... Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)  
 4:15 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 5:15 ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 6:00 ..... Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups (Room 114 & 116)  
 6:00 ..... Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)  
 6:30 ..... Elizabeth Community Association (Broach Hall)

**Wednesday, March 14**

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)  
 7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, March 15**

11:00 ..... Uptown Ladies (Lounge)  
 12:30 ..... Novant Monthly Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)

**Friday, March 16**

6:30 ..... Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)  
 5:00 ..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)  
 5:30 ..... Volunteers serve dinner at Uptown Men's Shelter  
 8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, March 17**

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

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