



Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 14 - April 3, 2018



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sunday, April 8
Second Sunday of Easter

Proclaimer:
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon:
Interrobang Moments?

Scripture:
John 20:1-18

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT, this Spring, will respond to the resurrection of Jesus and this new life we share in Christ. We will explore ***Adapting to God's Light: New Ways of Seeing***. The risen Christ offered new ways of seeing to Mary Magdalene, Cleopas, Didymus, Simon Peter and others in the early Jesus Movement. Like them, we are adapting to God's light revealed through an empty tomb.

April
8: ***Interrobang Moments?*** John 20:1-18
15: ***Talking the Walk?*** Luke 24:13-35
22: ***Genetics of Faith?*** John 20:19-31
29: ***Love, a Slippery Word?*** John 21:1-17

May
6: ***Why Church, Why?*** Matthew 28:18-20
13: ***Home Making?*** Joshua 24 and John 6
20: ***Winds of Change?*** Acts 2:1-11
27: ***Legacy Living?*** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13



On Sunday, June 3, we will recognize our graduates. Through the summer, messages will retell core biblical stories from both the Hebrew scriptures and the Christian scriptures around the theme ***Stories in Which You Find Yourself***.

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This Sunday, April 8, we will welcome the Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte to assist in leading worship at our 10:30 service. The GMCC will be singing several songs during this worship service, concluding with a group number by GMCC and the St. John's Chancel choir.

Also, on Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 pm at St. John's, the GMCC will present One Day, a hopeful and uplifting concert during which they will reflect on the lives and loss of men killed in acts of senseless violence. Featured works include Carolina premieres of *Be At My Side*, nominated for the American Prize in Composition, a setting of "The Police Officer's Prayer" composed by Charlotte's own Gerald Gurss; and *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed* from the pen of composer Joel Thompson who drew the texts from the last words that seven black men spoke before being killed by authority figures.

MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ST. JOHN'S

Today marks the 50th year to the day when Martin Luther King was assassinated on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee. It is my experience that the depth and breadth of Dr. King's impact upon humanity is best understood by reading his sermons. In his sermons, you find the essence of his relationship with God, as revealed in Christ Jesus; the theological foundations of his thought & action; and his pastoral conversation with people that grew from one congregation of faith to include an inter-connected community which is still national and global in scope.

In Dr. King's sermon, 'Loving Your Enemies,' he offers a Christ-based view as to why unconditional love is essential to healing society. He preaches, *"I am certain that Jesus understood the difficulty inherent in the act of loving one's enemy. He never joined the ranks of those who talk glibly about the easiness of the moral life. He realized that every genuine expression of love grows out of a consistent and total surrender to God. So, when Jesus said, 'Love your enemy,' he was not unmindful of its stringent qualities. Yet he meant every word of it. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives."*

In this sermon, you find these words: *"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction...By its very nature, hate destroys and tears down; by its very nature, love creates and builds up. Love transforms with redemptive power...An even more basic reason why we are commanded to love is expressed explicitly in Jesus' words, 'Love your enemies – that ye may be children of your Father which is in heaven.' We are called to this difficult task in order to realize a unique relationship with God. We are potential children of God. Through love that potentiality becomes actuality. We must love our enemies, because only by loving them can we know God and experience the beauty of his holiness."*

St. John's, God's love inspires us to pursue initiatives and collaborations addressing the evil divide of racism and other forms of hate. May we be ever mindful that our efforts are rooted in the same soil described by Dr. King. We pursue the mind of Christ. Our efforts are not rooted in politics, but in the theological soil of God's nature. Love is more than a motive. Love expresses our relationship with the Divine Mystery we name God.

Shalom,
Dennis

Youth News from Lee

Sundays, April 8 - Youth will not meet on Sunday evening

Sunday, April 15 - Paintball - From 2:30-6:15 pm youth will play **paintball** (as requested by youth a couple of months ago). The cost will be \$20 per person. Our actual playing time at Paintball Central in Rock Hill is 3:30-5:30. We will be playing with our group only with low impact rifles. I will need to turn in final numbers on April 11, so please let me know if you plan to participate.

Upcoming Youth Events

April 13-15 – 5th/6th Grade Discipleship Retreat (Meet at church on Friday at 4:30 pm. Return at 11:30 am on Sunday)

May 20 – Youth Banquet

June 17-23 – High School Habitat Mission Trip

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. They'll learn the story of Jesus meeting some disciples on the Emmaus Road.

Grades 1-5: Elementary classes will combine for Missions 101 from 9:15-10:00, and Grace Notes will be from 10:00-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will have Godly Play during worship. 4th and 5th Graders will join their families for

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

Registration required. Registration closes June 4, 2018.

Fruit of the Spirit Discipleship Retreat

The 5th/6th Grade Discipleship Retreat to the Blowing Rock Conference Center is April 13-15. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm on Friday and will return at 11:30 am on Sunday. Participants who have not yet turned in their \$100 check or St. John's release form, please remember to do so.

Students and mentors will spend time sharing with one another and growing together, take a hike at Moses Cone State Park, roast s'mores and watch the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* as we try to grow in faith and to one another. Participants will make a banner representing the theme of the weekend (watch for pictures in an upcoming edition.)



Scenes from last year's retreat



OPEN TABLE:

Intergenerational Evenings with Purposeful Play

Our St. John's Covenant reads, "We will love and encourage each other in the family of the church..." To strengthen opportunities for our multiple generations to interact and learn



from one another and play together, we are scheduling 5 or 6 Wednesday evenings per year. Our first **OPEN TABLE** is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25.

Please make reservations on or before April 20 by emailing or calling Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office

at jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704.333.5428, ext. 11.

Meal costs will be \$10/adults and \$6/child under 12 with a maximum of \$30 per household. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:50 and will continue to be served until 6:30. We will gather in Broach Hall and dismiss by 7:00 pm. All generations will be together for this time as we enjoy intergenerational table games, storytelling, conversations, etc.

Investing in the Future

Members of the Investing in the Future task force have now met with every Sunday School class, and we appreciate the time, thoughtfulness, and ideas the congregation shared with us. But it's not too late! If you were not part of any discussion and have thoughts for us, please contact any member of the task force - David Allen, Bill Claytor, Bill Hartzell, Bobbi Sherrill, Randy Brantley, Charlie Harper, Wanny Hogewood, Fredda Kimball, Russell Norris, Meredith Sorrell, Sara Vavra, or Sally Young - and let us know what you think! Our plan is to have a report with our findings and recommendations at a church conference in late May. Feel free to send your thoughts and/or answers to the following questions to a member of the task force or by email to the church office at jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org.

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 Worship at 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

Minister for Children & Their Families Allison Benfield
 ext. 18 - abenfield@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray
 ext. 14 - kgray@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Youth & Young AdultsLee Gray
 ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org
Senior Minister..... Dennis Foust
 ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant..... Jacquelyn McAbee
 ext. 11 - jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org
Church Accountant Elaine Johnson
 ejohnson@sjcharlotte.org
Church AdministratorSandra Rogers
 ext. 20 - srogers@sjcharlotte.org
Custodians Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choirs Director..... Anna Ball
Organist..... Noel Lance
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org
Weekday School DirectorLydia Olmsted
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon



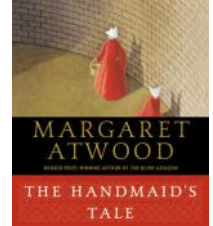
⇒ Dr. Claude Broach accepted the congregation's call on May 23, 1944. He wrote, "We shall enter upon this new relationship in a time of universal sorrow and turmoil," referring to World War II. But he added, "Yesterday is radiant with achievement; today is full of duty; tomorrow is abundant in promise and faith is the victory!"

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, April 24, 12 noon, Library

This month's book:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
 Books are available in the church office.



Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of March 26-April 1: \$15,146
 Income through April 1: \$221,443
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

Community & State Mission Offering: \$521

Ministers on Call:

April 2-8: Lee Gray 704-451-1309
 April 9-15: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Polly Hull & Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Camille Green, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Janie Kendrick, Elizabeth Laney, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson & Doris Tedder - home

Sympathy

to the family of Jim and Linda Nash on the death of her father, and to Melissa Nash on the death of her grandfather, Early Hannah, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, on Wednesday, March 28;

to the family of Tom Peacock, long-time St. John's member and pillar of the church, who passed away on Tuesday, April 3. We pray for his children and grandchildren, including son Rob, daughter-in-law Sarah, and their daughters, Annie and Elizabeth, who are members of St. John's; and

to the family of Donice Pharr

Sunday, April 8

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

Tellers: Tom Blackmon, Gene Poole

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Mark McNeill; 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

Calendar: April 8-14

Sunday, April 8

9:15..... Sunday School/Mission 101 (Classrooms)
 10:30..... Godly Play (Room 221)
 10:30..... Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 9

11:45..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
 5:15..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:30..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
 6:30..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
 6:30..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 8:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, April 10

7:00..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
 1:00..... Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
 3:30..... HeadStart (Lounge)
 4:15..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 6:00..... Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)
 6:00..... Memory Center Charlotte (Broach Hall)

Wednesday, April 11

6:30..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30..... Yoga (Room 114)
 9:45..... Mental Health America (Lounge)
 6:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 6:00..... Mission Resource Team (Room 209)
 6:00..... WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Lounge)
 6:00..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
 7:15..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 12

10:00..... Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
 6:00..... Investing in the Future Task Force (Broach Hall)

Friday, April 13

8:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, April 14

7:00..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30..... Kids Basketball (Gym)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org