



Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 17 - April 24, 2018



St. John's at Worship

Sunday, April 29
Fifth Sunday in Eastertide

Proclaimer:
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series:
*Adapting to God's Light:
New Ways of Seeing*

Sermon:
Love, a Slippery Word?

Scripture:
John 21:1-17

State & Community Mission Offering Received to date: \$2,654

Each year, St. John's focuses some of our mission monies on needs in our local community and state. This year, through April, we are impacting lives directly through Habitat for Humanity, Loaves and Fishes and North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Thank you for your gifts thus far.

Our gifts to Habitat for Humanity support efforts of St. John's volunteers and others as we collaborate to provide affordable housing in metro Charlotte and throughout North Carolina.

Our gifts to Loaves and Fishes feed our neighbors who live at or below the poverty line.

Our gifts to North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship expand efforts to minister to college and university students in metro Charlotte through initiatives being planned for next year.

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, and the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23.

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.

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ORIENTED TOWARD THE SIGNIFICANT

He approached me during a public forum in the community to request a conversation. We met for coffee two days later. His face communicated that he was carrying a burden. His question emerged from the core of his being. He was sincerely inquiring as to why his life felt so incomplete. He observed, *"I am successful, I love my family, I have good friends and I enjoy my work. Yet, can you help me understand why I feel so empty, so unfulfilled?"* Over the next three years, we met for coffee, breakfast and lunch a few times for what I call spiritual formation conversations. Basically, we explored how his life might become oriented toward the significant. We discussed dimensions of God's will for the human life and how the teachings of Jesus present to us a message of wisdom about the direction for living.

These conversations have surfaced again for me as I ask people four questions:

1. When it comes to church life, what do you like?
2. What do you want from the church?
3. What do you need from the church?

However, the fourth question probes much deeper:

4. Consider the purpose of Christ's Church is to nurture disciples who shape the world in the direction of God's will for humanity. What does the church need to nurture in you for you to become this kind of disciple?

Our Ministries Deacon Panel has approved a Spiritual Formation Resource Team. In recent weeks, I have been enlisting St. John's members who will assure that we offer opportunities to nurture disciples who are oriented toward the significant — disciples of Jesus who shape the world in the direction of God's will for humanity. Likes, wants and needs are important. Yet, disciples to shape the world in the direction of God's will for humanity are essential. St. John's, how do we nurture these disciples?

Shalom,
Dennis

NEW SIGN IN MAIN ENTRANCE FOYER

Thank you to Ryan Crowder, Kelli McCombs, Steven Follis and Ken Magas for the new sign in the Main Entrance Foyer. This new approach to signage is being planned for other areas of our buildings.

CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, MAY 20th

Our Church Council has scheduled a Church Conference for Sunday, May 20, following worship. A report from our Investing in the Future Task Force will be on the agenda. Lunch reservations will be needed. Watch church publications for more information.

Youth News from Lee

Sunday, April 29 - Sunday Night Live Regular Sunday Evening Schedule 5:00-7:30

Sunday, May 6 - Youth Banquet 5:00-8:00 pm - Come dressed as any villain of your choice - pirate, Viking, rogue, or get creative in who you consider to be a villain. We will have blow-up sumo suits and wrestling mat, as well as an inflatable pedestal joust.

Sunday, May 13 - No youth activities (Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 20 - Paintball after church until 4pm - I will send out another signup email closer to time. We paid for 21 slots for last Sunday (non-refundable), so I'd love to get that many or more this time. Again, this is our group only with low-impact rifles.

June 3 - Senior Graduate Recognition Sunday

Summer Youth Events

June 17-23 - High School Mission Trip with Sea Island Habitat

July 23-28 - Unidiversity Youth Summer Camp

August 11-14 - Middle School Local Mission Trip
(this includes rising 6th graders)

From Allison

Nursery/2s: This class will be cared for in their room for Formation Hour and Worship Hour. We have some brand new toys for these children to enjoy!

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 some of the parables Jesus told.

Grades 1-5: From 9:15-10:00, they will have Formation Class. The 1st-3rd Graders will be learning about Jesus and Thomas, and the 4th-5th Graders will learn about what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the vine." Music will be from 10:00-10:20. Children will join their families for worship.



Noel took the 1st-5th Graders on a tour of the organ. They learned about the different parts of the organ, the different sounds it can make, and how it works. They even got to see the pipe rooms and got to have a turn playing the organ themselves. Thanks to Anna and Noel for making this happen!



What a thrill it was this past week to be in Seattle, WA. I had the honor of supervising a West Coast premiere of mine and Rick Bean's *Jazz Mass* under the direction of Michael Austin Miller and the Bainbridge Chorale. This is the second performance of the work, and I was amazed at the nuance that this group and it's world class jazz musicians brought to this long-form choral work.

The performance was held on the island of Bainbridge which is a quick ferry ride across the Puget Sound. The concert was a great success selling over 600 tickets. People seemed genuinely thrilled and excited by this new interpretation of an ancient text.

On another note, not only did I get to spend time with a great group of musicians, but one of those musicians, Michael Austin Miller, has been my best friend for 24 years. I was whisked around the city, shown all the sites and had a plethora of meetings with area directors and musicians. All in all, this was one of the best experiences I have had in my 42 years as a musician. If you're curious about the *Jazz Mass*, you should come hear it for yourself on June 9th when it will be performed by Charlotte's very own VOX, under the baton of David Tang, here in the St. John's sanctuary.



Baptist News Global

From Sunday, April 22 through Wednesday, April 25, St. John's was pleased to host the Board of Directors and Staff of Baptist News Global (BNG). BNG is a reader-supported, independent news organization providing original and curated news, opinion and analysis about matters of faith.



Their mission is to interpret Christianity and culture through compelling journalism that informs and motivates people to make a difference in the world. BNG covers the people, events and ideas shaping American culture and Baptist life. Their efforts are ecumenical in spirit and Baptist in heritage.

BNG is the product of an historic merger in January 2014 of two respected news organizations: Associated Baptist Press, founded in 1990 as the only independent news service created by and for Baptists, and the Religious Herald, founded in 1828 as the voice of Baptists in Virginia and, in recent years, the Mid-Atlantic. If you want to read trustworthy information and reporting, learn more about Baptist News Global at baptistnews.com.



VBS Volunteers

We are 2 months away from Vacation Bible School! That means it's time for you to volunteer! Each year around 65% of the children who come to VBS aren't part of St. John's or St. Martin's, so VBS is one very important way we reach out to, and connect with, families and children in our community. VBS is June 11-15 from 9 am-12 noon each day. This year there are three ways you can volunteer:

- 1) **Guild Assistant:** Assist the Guild Leader as they guide the group through the day's work. No preparation is required on your part. Just show up ready to help out and have fun. There are two time blocks: 9:15-10:45 am and 10:15-11:45 am.
- 2) **Greeter:** We want to make sure children and their families are welcomed each morning they arrive. So from 8:40-9:10 am, greeters welcome everyone with a smile and a warm hello.
- 3) **Pick-Up Monitor:** From 11:45 am-12:15 pm, you'll stand with a guild and make sure parents/caregivers sign their children out of VBS, and you'll help make sure no child just wanders off without an adult.

You can sign up on our Sign Up Genius at bit.ly/2q7SVRY or send Allison an email at abenfield@sjcharlotte.org. VBS can't happen without you!

Register Today!
Only 29 spots left!

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.

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



⇒ In 1951, Dr. Claude Broach was elected to the faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary but after a tearful, prayerful Sunday afternoon, he decided at a called meeting of the deacons not to present his resignation to St. John's.

Join us for a FREE showing of the award-winning film
RESILIENCE



An Educational Forum
 presented by **NAMI-Charlotte**
Saturday, May 5, from 2 - 4 pm

Providence United Methodist Church
 2810 Providence Road
 (corner of Providence & Sharon Amity)

Following the film, a panel of professionals will answer questions and lead a discussion. Register to guarantee a seat by emailing namiresource@nami-charlotte.org.

SOME FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- Resilience is a skill that can be taught, learned and practiced.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) shape adult behavior and health.
- Toxic Stress puts children at greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time and death.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Polly Hull & Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Camille Green, Janie Kendrick, Elizabeth Laney, Laura McGuire, Brad Sifford & Carole Ann Simpson - home

This Sunday, at 1:30 pm, in the Chapel, we will gather to celebrate Jack Bullard's life and ministry with his wife of 65 years, Becky, and their children, John, Sara and Susan. A reception will follow in the Parlor.

Sunday, April 29

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

Tellers: Margaret Falls, Betsy Furr

Greeters: Main-Bobby Furr, Scott Kerley; 5th St.-Linda Kerley, Susan King; Broach Hall-Ashley Hogewood; Elevator- Marvin Carter

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of April 16-22: \$8,430
 Income through April 22: \$262,138
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

Ministers on Call:

April 23-29: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
 April 30-May 6: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

Calendar: April 29 - May 5

Sunday, April 29

8:00.....Church Council (Conference Room)
 9:15..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30..... Worship (Sanctuary)
 1:30..... Memorial Service (Chapel)
 5:00..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/3rd Floor)

Monday, April 30

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

Tuesday, May 1

7:00..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 9:00..... Staff planning day (Room 222)
 11:00..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
 4:15..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 6:00..... Memory Center Charlotte (Broach Hall)

Wednesday, May 2

6:30..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:00..... Staff planning day (Room 222)
 9:30..... Yoga (Room 114)
 6:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 6:00..... Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
 6:30..... Charlotte Nets AAU (Gym)
 7:15..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 3

9:00..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)
 6:15..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 5

7:00..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30..... Kids Basketball (Gym)
 5:00..... Young Voices of the Carolinas concert (Sanctuary)
 6:00..... Young Voices of the Carolinas dinner (Broach Hall)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org