



Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 18 - May 1, 2018



St. John's at Worship

Sunday, May 6

Sixth Sunday in Eastertide

Proclaimer:

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series:

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

Sermon:

Why Church, Why?

Scripture:

Matthew 28:18-20

State & Community Mission Offering Received to date: \$2,804

Each year, St. John's focuses some of our mission monies on needs in our local community and state. This year, 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.

Youth Banquet Sunday, May 6 5:00 - 8:00 pm



Come dressed as any villain of your choice - pirate, Viking, rogue, Darth Vader, Dr. Evil, or any villain of your choice. You can get creative in who you consider to be a villain. The banquet will feature a rap video dedicated to our seniors And we will have blow-up sumo suits and wrestling mat, as well as an inflatable pedestal joust. Dinner will be from Mert's Heart and Soul - fried chicken, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, and green beans.

Men's Softball season will begin in early June. All games are played on weeknights at Providence Baptist Church. Please let Lee Gray know if you are interested in playing. We are looking for a few new players as several of our regulars have moved out of town.

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CLAUDE BROACH WOULD APPROVE

From 1944 to 1974, Claude Broach served St. John's as senior minister. He guided St. John's to become a significant ethical voice, progressive theological influence and ecumenical partner in the city. As public schools became racially integrated, the people of St. John's were encouraged to become involved in redeeming long-standing racial injustices. As you read Claude's sermons and other writings, you hear a voice of clarity addressing war, violence, unethical behaviors by leaders who should be offering exemplary lives, etc.

On July 24, 1994, The Rev. Dr. Claude Broach, pastor emeritus of St. John's, stood in the St. John's Pulpit fifty years after he became senior minister. His sermon that day was entitled, 'The Street and The Sanctuary,' and included these words:

Throughout the centuries, the Church has argued with itself about the world; what do we do about it? It is now, and always has been, a world struggling with problems, full of injustice and cruelty, full of suffering, yet full of joy and delight. So, what should we do about it as Christians? Do we try to clean it up, solve its problems, and heal its wounds? Or do we close our eyes to those who suffer, ignore the evil, and go our merry way in search of what we have learned to call 'the good life?'

Later in his sermon, he observes:

"It gives me a great sense of joy to feel that this church has always sought to live on the high ground of great religion, refusing to be party to the trivia and divisive quarrels or the glamorous fads of cheap religion and cheap grace."

I am inserting two pictures from Broach Hall. In recent weeks, Broach Hall has been our gathering place for receptions with grieving families, intergenerational meals and a myriad of community and congregational opportunities to learn together. The two pictures I am including are of a day when high school students were trained to be peace builders in a violent world and an evening when your Investing in the Future Task Force worked through your ideas of how to leverage financial resources to move St. John's forward in creative ways.



Both pictures show we are living on the high ground trying to solve problems and heal wounds. We refuse to close our eyes to those who suffer, ignore evil or go our merry way. For us, Actively Faithful Faithfully Active is 'the good life.' Claude Broach would approve. More importantly, God approves.

Shalom, Dennis

Youth News from Lee

Sunday, May 6 – Youth Banquet 5:00-8:00 pm - Come dressed as any villain of your choice.

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 time (non-refundable), so I'd love to get that many or more this time. Again, this is our group only with low-impact rifles.

May 23 - Open Table – Wednesday Night Intergenerational Meal and "Purposeful" Play

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)

Sunday School was a blast



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 the story of the Good Samaritan.

Grades 1-5: From 9:15-10:00, they will have Formation Class. They will be learning about how Jesus told his followers to love one another. Grace Notes will be from 10:00-10:20. The children will be singing a short benediction in worship. They will sit with their music class.

Grace Notes Singing in Worship

The elementary choir will be singing a short benediction (*Go Now in Peace*) in worship this Sunday, May 6. They have been working on this for a few months now, so your children have probably sung it before.

Register Today!
Only 27 spots left!

A Year in the Church:

St. John's/St. Martins VBS 2018

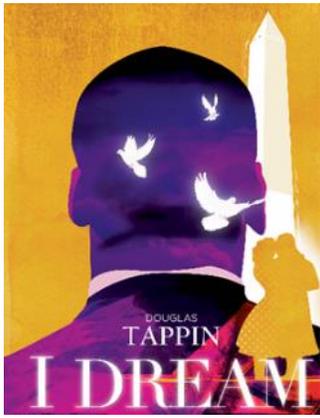
June 11-15 from 9 am-12 noon each day

For children aged 4 - rising 6th Graders

\$15/Child



We'll be learning about the life of Jesus as we walk through the seasons of the church year together with stories and art. We do have a maximum number of children we can care for at VBS, so don't wait to sign up!



This Sunday we will have a special guest with us in worship, Brittany Harrington. Brittany is a soloist from Opera Carolina and will be joining our chancel choir as we present "Sunday Best" in worship. This song is from the recently composed opera *I Dream* which is about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I was privileged enough to be named project coordinator for the Singing Sundays project in conjunction with Opera Carolina. I have spent the past year

coordinating partnerships with Opera Carolina and churches in the Charlotte Metro Region. We are one of eight churches who will have performed this song "Sunday Best."

This project's purpose is twofold:

- To give churches a shared worship experience.
- To give this wonderful opera, which tells the story of MLK and educates many on the civil rights movement, enough support that it can flourish and become part of the standard repertoire.

More information on the opera:

I Dream is a new Rhythm & Blues opera by Douglas Tappin (Royal School of Music, London). The opera focuses on the final 36 hours of Dr. King's remarkable life, with daydreams of his childhood and flashbacks to the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement. It is a story of *Courage, Leadership, and Family* in the face of a higher calling, often set at odds with a society that sees otherwise. At the core of *I Dream* is the remarkable way that Dr. King confronted the injustices of society through love and humanity and envisions a renewing of his vision – it is a story about yesterday for today.

Where: Knight Theater at Levine Center for the Arts

When: Friday, May 18; Saturday, May 19; Thursday, May 24; Friday, May 25, at 7:30 pm & Sunday, May 20, at 2 pm



**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 menu will be fried chicken, green beans, macaroni & cheese, and dessert. The cost will be \$10/adult and \$6/children under 12. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation by **Wednesday, May 16** (jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704.333.5428, ext. 11).

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 6 Wednesday evenings per year. Our next **OPEN TABLE** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation (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.



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 is only one more slot available: Friday from 9:10-10:30.
- 2) **Greeter:** We want to make sure children and their families are welcomed as they arrive. 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!

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

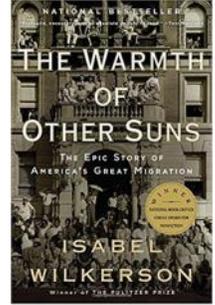
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon



⇒ Sunday School attendance reached 937 in 1951 and a contract was let for a new educational building. It was occupied in 1952.

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, May 22, 12 noon,
 in the Library
 This month's book:
*The Warmth of Other Suns:
 The Epic Story of America's
 Great Migration*
 by Isabel Wilkerson
 Books are available
 in the church office.



Jacquelyn will be out of the office from May 23 - June 4 on vacation. If you would be willing to help out in the church office for a few hours during this time, please contact her at 704-333-5428 ext. 11 or jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org. No particular office skills are

needed, and men and women can help. If you are interested but cannot help on these dates, or if you have office skills (such as experience in Microsoft Word or Publisher), please let Jacquelyn.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Camille Green, Polly Hull, Elizabeth Laney, Laura McGuire, Brad Sifford & Carole Ann Simpson - home; Dale Johnson - upcoming surgery

Sympathy

to Thomas Merchant on the death of his stepfather, William (Bill) Anderson, on Friday, April 27. A memorial service has been scheduled for May 18 at 6 pm at Bright Spot Baptist Church in Monroe, NC.

Sunday, May 6

Deacons: Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Charlie Harper, Cathy Hartsell, Chuck Howard, Carol Injaychock, Chuck Jones, Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch, Kim Ray
Tellers: Morgan Newman, Tim Gibson
Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Ken Hungate; 5th St.- Alan Dietz, Scott Kerley; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator- Marvin Carter
Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Carol & Gene Poole

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of April 23-29: \$9,297
 Income through April 29: \$271,435
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

Ministers on Call:

April 30-May 6: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 May 7-13: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

Calendar: May 6—12

Sunday, May 6

8:00.....Stewardship Resource Team (Conference Room)
 9:00.....5th/6th Grade Discipleship (Room 305)
 9:15..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30..... Worship (Sanctuary)
 1:00..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
 5:00..... Youth Banquet (Broach Hall)

Monday, May 7

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

Tuesday, May 8

6:30.....Primary Election (Broach Hall)
 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)
 6:00..... Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups (Room 114 & 116)

Wednesday, May 9

6:30..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30..... Yoga (Room 114)
 6:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 6:00..... Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00..... Women of the Church Board meeting (Lounge)
 6:00..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
 6:30..... Charlotte Nets AAU (Gym)
 7:15..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 10

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

Friday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 12

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

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org