



# Family News

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

Vol. 76, No. 50- Week of December 17-23, 2018

## St. John's at Worship

**Sunday, December 23**  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**Proclaimer**  
 Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
**Worship Theme**  
 God, in Christ, Brings  
 Love to Stay  
**Sermon Title**  
*Strength to Love*  
**Scriptures**  
 Micah 5:2-5a and  
 Luke 1:39-55



**A Charlie Brown Christmas & Cocoa**  
 Everyone is invited to join in Broach Hall on Sunday, December 23 during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15) for a special showing of the movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa as we approach Christmas Eve and Christmas.

## Christmas Eve Worship at St. John's

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will come together for a service with candlelight and communion. All are welcome as we celebrate the advent of Christ.

*Christmas Eve Service*  
 Candlelight & Communion

### Inside this issue:

Church Staff Page	2
Senior Adult Luncheon Pictures	3
Room in the Inn Needs	
Brotherhood of the Biscuit	
Blood Drive	
Baptism Sunday	
Hanging of the Green DVDs	
NAMI Support Groups	
Financial Message & Report	
Instagram for St. John's	
Staff Listing	4
Prayer Concerns & Celebrations	
Sunday Service Schedules	
Financial Ministry Plan Report	
Ministers on Call	
Charlotte Hornets PRIDE Night	
Calendar	



If you missed the WDAV Charlotte Lessons & Carols, you can listen again on 89.9FM or [wdav.org](http://wdav.org) on December 25 at 3PM.

## We Need Your Help Moving Furniture!

From Wednesday, January 2 to Saturday, January 5, we need your help moving LOTS of furniture from Kings College to our building. Please click here to sign up for available times on these dates: <https://goo.gl/forms/7hJgyjY90jXoekpx1>

The church offices will be closed December 25-26 and January 1.

## Compassionate Noticing

During this wonder-full season of the year, as we invest in travel plans, family gatherings, parties with friends, gift exchanges, beautiful colors, musical inspirations, special meals and treats, and other worthy external celebrations of these blessed days, let us also notice the internal pains, heartaches, fears and wounds of one another. Every December, I am blessed by people who trust me with invitations into their lives for opportunities to sit down over coffee, breakfast or lunch. They allow me to attend to their suffering. Some of these beloved friends are carrying burdens, some have been through significant losses and griefs, some have been drawn outside their family circles and some are living with depression and despondency. One gift we can offer to everyone every day, especially in this season, is compassionate noticing. Please set aside fifteen quiet minutes to consider people in your relationship circles who need your gift of compassionate noticing this year. Give them a call, write them a note or offer them a word of hope, peace, joy and love. I promise that your sensitive expressions of compassionate noticing will be some of your most memorable and sacred gift exchanges of 2018.

**Shalom and Merry Christmas!**  
**Dennis**

## Thoughts on Love, from Carol Poole

One of the traditions of Christmas is the giving of gifts to those whom we love and sometimes to those in need. God gave the most important gift over two thousand years ago—His only Son—to mankind who was in need of knowing how to love his fellow man and God. The Son of God was born in a manger to the virgin Mary and became our Teacher and Savior of the world. He set the perfect example of love for us to follow when he said, "By this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 10:35) He shared His great love for us when He gave the proof of His love as He laid down His life on the cross. (John 15:13)

Love came down at Christmas and it is still here today. We share our love by showing kindness: feeding the hungry, helping the poor and needy, housing the homeless, and sharing our finances to maintain and further His work here and around the world.

Most of all, we show our love for Him when we spend time with Him—in worship, prayer, and personal meditation with Him. Yes, LOVE came down at Christmas and it is still here today. Won't you share some this year?

Prayer Focus: Those whom you love and those who are unable to love you.

**Carol Poole**

## Youth News from Lee

### Upcoming Dates and News...

- **January 25-27**—Youth Ski Trip to Winterplace
- **February 3**—Youth Sunday during morning worship
- **March 17**—Youth Mission Auction after worship – Put this on your calendar and plan to be here!



**Middle and High School Youth Mission Christmas Parties 2018**

## From Allison

### Formation and Worship for Children on Sunday, December 23

**Nursery/2s:** Worship Care will begin at 10:15. You are invited to join us for Hot Cocoa and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour

**PreK/K:** Worship Care will begin at 10:15. You are invited to join us for Hot Cocoa and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour

**Grades 1-5:** You are invited to join us for Hot Cocoa and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour. These classes will join their families for worship.

**Christmas Eve Service:** We will not have a Nursery for the Christmas Eve service. On the night that we remember Jesus coming to us as a baby, it's very appropriate to have all of our children (and their wiggles and noises) with us in worship. Worship Bags with activities will be available. There's a lot to see, hear, and taste during the Christmas Eve service. It's always one of my favorite services.

## 6th Annual Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon



## Urgent Help Needed for RITI

- For 12/21, we only need a van driver and 1 overnight host.
- For 12/28, we only need 2 overnight hosts and a laundry helper.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>



**Date Change:**  
**Brotherhood of the Biscuit will meet again on Friday, December 21 in the Lounge at 6:30AM.**

## Donate Blood

Donate blood on Sunday, December 30 in Lasater Hall at St. John's. The blood drive will run from 9:30AM—1:00PM. Please contact Lia Benton at 704-533-1629 to sign up! All donors will receive a free long-sleeved shirt for donating.



**Baptism Sunday: January 6**  
 We will celebrate the baptism of Audrey Heasley and Katherine Mae Rodden on Sunday, January 6 during worship at 10:30.

## Hanging of the Green DVDs Available

DVD copies of the Hanging of the Green service are available, upon request, for \$5/each from Ryan Crowder. Contact Ryan at crowderian@gmail.com or 704-302-7780 if you are interested in purchasing a copy. You can pick up your DVD the Sunday following your request in the church office. Other arrangements can be made, if necessary.



## NAMI Support Groups

The NAMI support group for family members/caregivers of those with mental illness meets monthly at St. John's on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:30pm. This month's meeting is on January 8 in the Rooms 114 & 116.

### Giving in 2018

**All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2018. If mailed, please ensure the envelope is postmarked 2018. Any monies received after December 2018 will count towards your 2019 pledge.**

### Financial Ministry Pledge Report 2019

**Amount Pledged: \$857,751**  
**Commitments Received: 175**

**If you have not turned in your pledge card to Jacquelyn in the office, please do so as soon as possible.**



**St. John's is now on Instagram!**  
**Follow @stjohnsbaptist today!**

**St. John's Baptist Church**  
 300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte NC 28204  
 704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://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](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray  
 ext. 14 - [kgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Minister for Youth & Young Adults.....Lee Gray  
 ext. 15 - [lgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust  
 ext. 12 - [dfoust@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:dfoust@sjcharlotte.org)

**Church Staff**

Administrative Assistant.....Mallory Brown  
 ext. 11 - [mbrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Church Administrator.....Jacquelyn McAbee  
 ext. 20 - [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon  
 Graded Choirs Director.....Anna Ball  
 Organist.....Noel Lance  
[nlance@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:nlance@sjcharlotte.org)  
 Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted  
 ext. 39 - [weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm, Friday 8:30am-12:00 noon

**Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Bill Finger, Buck Gray, Asbury; Larry Batts, Nancy Burgess, McLain Hall, Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas & Dee Turner- home

**Sunday, December 23 & 30**

**Deacons:** (December 23) Jane Newman, Morgan Newman, Robby Ray, Shannon Rodden, Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford, Gail Sifford, Henry Snyder, Laura Sorrell, Kathy Spence

(December 30) Libby LeVie, Todd Stillerman, Anne Sutton, Cindy McIntyre/Melissa Millette, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Elizabeth Whipple, Nancy Wilson, Lindsay Wilson, Alice Wirz

**Greeters:** (December 23) Main-Ed Turner and Scott Kerley; 5th St./Narthex-Susan King; Broach Hall-Ashley Hogewood; Elevator-Marvin Carter

(December 30) Main-Ed Turner and Chuck Jones; 5th St./Narthex-Al Bridges; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter

**Tellers:** (December 23) Susan King, James Laney

(December 30) Margaret Falls, Linda Kerley

**Ushers:** Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

**Financial Ministry Plan Report:**

Week of Dec. 10-17: \$52,665

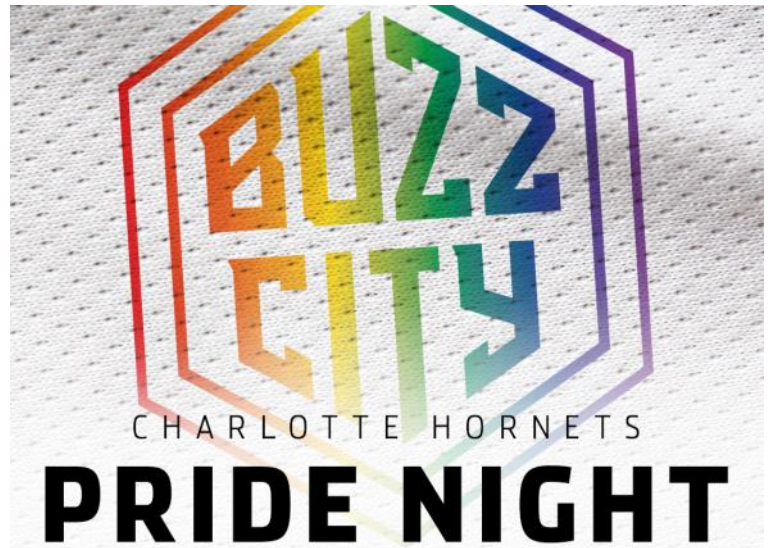
Income through December 17: \$988,086

Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

**Ministers on Call:**

December 17-23: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

December 24-30: Lee Gray 704-451-1309



For those who love basketball and the Hornets, here's a special upcoming event from SJBC member Matt Comer to enjoy your favorite sport while giving back to a good cause! The Charlotte Hornets will be hosting their first-ever Pride Night in partnership with Charlotte Pride on January 2, 2019 at 7PM. The Hornets face off against the Dallas Mavericks, and proceeds from tickets bought through Charlotte Pride will benefit the Charlotte Pride Scholarship Program. In its first two years, the scholarship has given \$15,000 to local LGBTQ and ally students. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://groupmatics.events/s/other/Hornetspride>

**Calendar for December 23-January 5**

**Sunday, December 23**

9:15am..... Sunday School & Charlie Brown & Cocoa (Classrooms/Broach Hall)  
 10:30am..... Worship (Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 24**

5:00pm..... Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)  
 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, December 25**

Church offices closed—Merry Christmas!

**Wednesday, December 26**

Church offices closed

6:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Friday, December 28**

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

**Saturday, December 29**

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 9:30am..... Kid's Basketball (Gym)

**Sunday, December 30**

9:00am..... Blood Drive (Lasater Hall)  
 9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30am..... Worship (Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 31**

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

**Tuesday, January 1**

Church offices closed—Happy New Year!

4:00..... Sudanese Gathering (Broach Hall)

**Wednesday, January 2**

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 6:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Friday, January 4**

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

**Saturday, January 5**

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 10:00am..... Basketball Games (Gym)

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

**“Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” -Henri Nouwen**