



# Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 1- Week of December 31, 2018-January 6, 2019

## St. John's at Worship

Sunday, January 6  
Epiphany Sunday

**Proclaimer**

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Sermon Title**

*Will the Real Jesus*

*Please Stand Up?*

**Scriptures**

Matthew 3:13-17

**Baptism Sunday**

Katherine Mae Rodden &  
Audrey Heasley



## Baptism Sunday

This Sunday, January 6, we will worship the Living God by focusing on the relationship of commitment between God and us. Baptism is an invisible water mark which immerses us in this relationship of discipleship. This Sunday morning, we will celebrate the baptisms of Audrey Heasley and Katherine Mae Rodden.

From your staff at St. John's...



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Thank you for another great year at St. John's!

## Blood Drive Note of Thanks from Lia Benton

On behalf of the CBCC, thank you to everyone who made my birthday blood drive a success. Special thanks to the church staff who helped publicize the drive and to Chris for the last-minute set-up help, and to everyone who came by to donate, cheer on the donors and eat some cake. The CBCC workers all mentioned how much they loved the hospitality and turn-out. They can't wait to come back!



## Rearview Mirrors and Windshields

You have probably noticed the words printed on your passenger-side rear-view mirror; 'Objects in Mirror are Closer Than They Appear.' The convexity of the mirror makes these objects look smaller, so they 'seem' to be farther away. As we enter 2019, we should remember that events and realities of last year do not merely fade into the landscape of yesterday. They are closer than they appear.

First, your active faithfulness in participation made a significant difference in 2018 and carries into 2019. You taught Sunday School Ministry groups, coached teams, guided children in VBS, served the poor, fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless, visited the sick, created time in your schedules for the lonely and bereft, encouraged the disheartened, befriended the new resident, and welcomed the immigrant. These lives are still closer than they appear. You made a difference in the life of each person and household.

Second, your active faithfulness in financial stewardship continues to impact our congregation, our community and our world. We are anticipating our 2018 income to be around 1,080,000. Thus, we are expecting to finish this year with a surplus ample enough to replace an air conditioning system in the Chapel Building. You should also know that your gifts to missions during 2018 totaled almost \$180,000. Thank you for your commitments to faithful giving.

We now turn our attentions to look through the windshield to the future. As we enter 2019, we continue these efforts and offer new initiatives to influence and reach out to our community and city. In January, our effectiveness in live-streaming Sunday worship will improve as our new cameras come online. During 2019, we will also increase our efforts in messaging and media as we seek to broaden the reach of our church into the city and offer new approaches for strengthening staff ministry, community connections, outreach, spiritual formation, stewardship education and hospitality.

Beloved, our efforts in 2019 will build upon the strengths of 2018 which can now only be seen through the rear-view mirror; they are closer than they appear. Yes, new commitments will occur, new members will become involved in our congregation and we will grieve the passing of those we love – people like Bill Finger who blessed us in many ways. Yet, we will also use 2019 to strengthen our position for 2020 and beyond as we approach our second century of ministry and mission.

Shalom,  
Dennis

## 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!

**Youth Sunday is  
February 3, 2019  
during morning  
worship. The youth  
will lead all aspects of  
worship. We hope you  
all plan  
to join us!**



## From Allison

### Formation and Worship for Children on Sunday, January 6

**Nursery/2s:** This class will be cared for in their room during the Formation and Worship Hours.

**PreK/K:** This class will be cared for in their room during the Formation and Worship Hours. They'll be learning about how the Magi came to find Jesus. They'll also enjoy time for art and play.

**Grades 1-5:** Formation Class is from 9:15-10:00. They'll be learning about how the Magi came to find Jesus after he was born. Grace Notes is from 10-10:20. These classes will join their families for worship.



The staff of St. John's helped finish this year's final Advent poster. It is displayed at the main entrance.



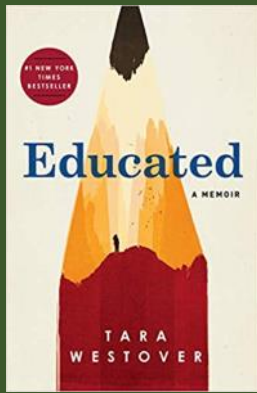
Advent Coloring Posters for 2018

## 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 6:30 - 8:00pm. This month's meeting is on January 8 in Rooms 114 & 116.

## Terrific Tuesday Book Club

The Terrific Tuesday Book Club will meet to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover on Tuesday, January 22 at 12PM in the Library. All are welcome to join this discussion and bring a lunch to eat afterwards together in the lounge. *Educated* is a memoir about the survivalist upbringing of Tara Westover in rural Idaho. The first time Westover entered a classroom was at the age of 17. At this time, she had never heard of events like the Holocaust or the names of those like Martin Luther King, Jr. This book outlines her journey through higher education institutions including Harvard University and Cambridge University, where she eventually earned her PhD. Please join us on January 22 to discuss.



## Parent Seminar on February 24

Did you know that the bulk of spiritual formation for children happens at home? Did you realize that you are their primary teacher when it comes to faith? Does this seem like a very big and overwhelming task? On Sunday, February 24, we'll gather in the Chapel during the Sunday School hour to learn about and discuss ways that you can create intentional opportunities at home to deepen your child's (and family's) faith. I'll share easy ways to build prayer, scripture, and service into your life as a family. We'll have time to discuss what good resources are available to you, what resources you would be interested in finding, and what things are already working for your family.

## St. John's Winter Weather Policy

### Weekdays:

When the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools cancel school due to bad weather, all church activities, including meetings and Weekday School, will be canceled and the church office will be closed.

### Sundays:

In the case of extreme weather conditions affecting Sundays, we will announce alterations/closings no later than 7:00 am Sunday through the following media:

- Automated greeting on church phone (704.333.5428)
- Church website ([www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org))
- Facebook & Instagram
- E-mail to St. John's Family News list
- Local TV stations, including WBTV, WCNC, WSOC and Channel 14 News.

## Paul's Journeys

This year, VBS is June 10-14 from 9am-noon each day. VBS is for children aged 4 by June 1-Rising 6th Graders. We'll be learning about Paul and the Early Church through stories, art, and fun. **Registration is limited, so please don't wait until the last minute to sign up.** You can always drop your spots later if you need to. We are giving members of St. John's and St. Martin's a few weeks to sign up before we open registration to the community. More details about how to register will be included next week.

## Birthday Cards Needed!

We need birthday cards for men and women for the birthday card ministry. Please bring them to Mallory or give them to Patricia McCaskill.



Instagram

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**

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

**Sympathy**

Landis Wade and family in the death of his father; Linda Finger and family in the death of her husband, Bill Finger; Lee Gray in the death of his father and Wilson and Warren Gray in the death of their grandfather, J.L "Buck" Gray (Memorial Service on Monday, January 7 at 11AM at Providence Baptist Church)

**Sunday, January 6**

**Deacons:** David Allen, Linda Balentine, Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Leslie Bragg, Minh Callaway, Allene Cooley, Teri Franklin, Charlie Harper, Greg Rodden  
**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner and Bobby Furr; 5th St./Narthex-Treva Bridges; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator-Marvin Carter  
**Tellers:** Tim Gibson, Morgan Newman  
**Ushers:** Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

**Financial Ministry Plan Report:**

Weeks of Dec. 18-31: \$78,537  
 Income through December 31: \$1,077,678  
 Annual 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

**Ministers on Call:**

December 31-January 6: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287  
 January 7-13: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412  
 January 14-20: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

**Open Table**

Wednesday, February 27

Our next Open Table is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27. The theme is Mardi Gras! We will gather in Broach Hall at 5:50 and dismiss by 7:00 pm. Contact Mallory or sign up at this link today: <https://goo.gl/forms/zQ53ySW9ZZzLjwdm2>

**SJ Basketball Game Schedule**

Team	Date & Time	Location
6 & Under Co-Ed	January 5 @ 1:15	St. John's
8 & Under Boys	January 5 @ 11:30	St. John's
10 & Under Boys (Cardella)	January 5 @ 2:45	The Park
10 & Under Boys (Redding)	January 5 @ 12:45	Providence Baptist
12 & Under Boys	January 5 @ 11:30	The Park
12 & Under Girls	January 5 @ 10:30	Sharon Presby.
14 & Under Boys	January 5 @ 10:30	Sardis Presby.
15 & Under Girls	January 5 @ 10:30	Trinity Episcopal
16 & Under Boys	January 5 @ 9:30	Trinity Episcopal School
18 & Under Girls	BYE	BYE

**Calendar for January 6-12**

**Sunday, January 6**  
 8:00am..... Church Council (Conference Room)  
 9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
 10:30am..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
 1:00pm..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)  
 5:00pm..... Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/3rd Floor)

**Monday, January 7**  
 11:30am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 220)  
 5:30pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Tuesday, January 8**  
 7:00am..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
 10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
 12:00pm..... Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)  
 5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
 6:30pm..... NAMI Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)  
 7:30pm..... Sherrill Basketball (Gym)

**Wednesday, January 9**  
 6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 5:15pm..... Staffing Our Future Task Force (Broach Hall)  
 6:00pm..... Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 6:00pm..... Women of the Church Board Meeting (Lounge)  
 6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)  
 6:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
 7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, January 10**  
 10:00am..... Craft & Needle Ministry (Room 209)  
 10:00am..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
 7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

**Friday, January 11**  
 7:30am..... Mental Health in America Advocacy (Broach Hall)  
 5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)  
 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

**Saturday, January 12**  
 7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
 10:00am..... Basketball Games (Gym)

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