



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 4- Week of January 21-27, 2019

St. John's at Worship

Sunday, January 27

Tell of the God Who Gives Vision

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Title

Losing Your Shyness, Finding Your Tongue

Scriptures

Isaiah 58:1-14; 61:1-4 and Luke 4:14-21

Inside this issue:

From Dennis 2
From Lee
From Allison

MLK Youth Project Pictures 3
February Open Table
Youth Mission Auction
Heritage Sunday
Refugee 101
Room in the Inn Needs
Charlotte Family Housing Meals
Facebook LIVE Directions

Staff Listing 4
Prayer Concerns & Celebrations
Sunday Service Schedules
Ministers on Call
NAMI Support Groups
Instagram
Basketball Schedule
Calendar

Youth Sunday: February 3

The theme for youth Sunday is *God is with You Wherever You Go: Singing in a Strange Land*. Our proclaimers are Lena Duke and Lily Wilkerson. Janie Smith, Elizabeth Rodden, and Emma Goodrich will lead the moments with the younger church. Samuel Bond will do an interpretive dance and David, Tyler and Nora Frances Benton will lead us in song. Please join us for this special service of worship.



Souper Bowl of Caring: February 3

At the conclusion of the worship service on February 3, the youth will collect special donations to help feed the hungry in our area. The Mission Resource Team has carefully selected the following two of the local ministries in Charlotte with which St. John's has an ongoing partnership to receive these offerings: Friendship Trays and Second Harvest Food Bank. For years, St. John's has supported Friendship Trays, an organization that delivers daily hot lunches to elderly or shut-in persons. In addition to financial support, we provide volunteers who work once a week or once a month to pack or deliver lunches.

Second Harvest Food Bank strives, through education, advocacy, and partnerships, to eliminate hunger through the distribution of food. Volunteers are needed to sort, inspect, box, and stock donations as well as pack food boxes and/or food backpacks for children. We are able to purchase items from Second Harvest, at low cost, needed to supplement our supplies for the Highland School backpack program. So, come on Sunday, February 3, to support our youth leading worship and donate to tackle hunger in our area!

I Love Sunday School Day: Sunday, February 10

- Why is your Sunday School Ministry small group important to you?
- Who do you know who needs the blessings your experience in your Sunday School Ministry small group?
- How would your experience of Church be different if you didn't belong to your group?
- How would St. John's be weakened if we didn't have Sunday School Ministry groups for all ages?



A WORD OF AFFIRMATION FOR THE REV. DR. TOM AND WENDY GRAVES AT THE CLOSING OF BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT RICHMOND

In October, 1987, The Rev. Dr. Tom Graves became the fifth senior minister of St. John's. Tom had been a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Wake Forest, NC, and was forced out by the fundamentalists along with other progressive members of the faculty. St. John's welcomed Tom, Wendy and their daughters into the life of this wonderful church.

In the late 1980s & early 1990s, fundamentalists refused to allow churches like St. John's to have any voice in decision-making. New initiatives emerged among progressive Baptists and St. John's was an incubator of ideas. Two events convened here under the theme, "Theology is a Verb." Ideas germinated within our walls which later became The Alliance of Baptists, Baptist Women in Ministry, new literature efforts and the idea of a new progressive seminary that would be "unmistakably Baptist" with a commitment to being gender & racially inclusive with an ecumenical commitment and a global perspective. The new seminary, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) was founded by churches aligning themselves with the new Alliance of Baptists. St. John's was a founding church of both new efforts. Although he had only served St. John's for four years, Tom was tapped to become the founding president of this new work. He and Wendy loved St. John's (still do), but he knew this new effort was essential in offering churches servant-leaders in future years. His father, Dr. Allen Graves, had been a seminary dean and Tom had been a professor; he knew the need for quality theological preparation to equip people to serve congregations. So, in 1991, Tom and Wendy moved to Richmond where he started to work framing a vision, raising monies, securing properties, hiring an administrative staff and faculty and enlisting support – while at the same time inviting students to trust their vision.

Through these intervening 28 years, more than 750 students graduated from BTSR. More than ten other seminaries and schools of theology (too many in my opinion) have emerged among progressive Baptists. BTSR was not only the first new seminary, it also emerged as a stand-alone entity without a connection to any university. Therefore, in recent years, BTSR has competed with university schools of theology for its funding, faculty and students. This has gradually resulted in the trustees of the school announcing that BTSR can no longer be sustained financially. Several other schools of theology have also closed in recent years and others are expected to do so in the near future. On the day of the announcement that BTSR would be closing, I called Tom and Wendy. I noted how they came to St. John's and left fingerprints here from a seminary that had been involved in a hostile takeover by fundamentalists and left here to begin a new effort among progressive Baptists. I affirmed them for their commitment to providing St. John's and other churches with ministers such as Lee Gray and Blythe Taylor, both graduates of BTSR, thanked him for founding a school from which our son and daughter-in-law (Caleb & Mary Beth) graduated with outstanding training to serve Christ's Church. We had a good conversation which also included Tom saying, "Tell me what is going on with St. John's these days." I tell you all of this so you can know to be in prayer for the folks of BTSR; their faculty & students are seeking new appointments and avenues for seminary training.

(continued on next column)

The minimal assets of the school are being set aside to form a new Center for Faith, Justice and Reconciliation which aims to serve as a resource and convening center focused on racial justice and innovation in the Church. While Tom retired from BTSR several years ago, his heart has been invested there since day one. His battle with Multiple Sclerosis now confines him to a wheelchair most moments of the day. Yet, his mind is sharp and his spirit is inspiring. His voice lifts when we discuss St. John's. Wendy is a faithful and sustaining presence in his life. Tom is still teaching his Sunday School Ministry class at River Road Church (Baptist). I include here the address of Tom and Wendy.

Tom and Wendy Graves
807 Clayborne Lane
Midlothian, VA 23411-4385

If you feel stirred to do so, send them a note assuring them of your appreciation for them and your commitment to pray with them and others during these days of transition. Thank you for being a visionary people – yesterday and today for tomorrow!

Shalom,
Dennis

Youth News from Lee

Upcoming Dates and News...

- **Friday, February 1—Youth Sunday Practice at 4PM** and **High School Youth prepare beds and serve dinner for Room in the Inn from 4:45-6:45pm**
- **February 3—Youth Sunday** during morning worship
- **March 3 – Hornets Basketball Game at 1:00pm** after Worship for Basketball Teams and all youth, more to come soon



From Allison

Formation and Worship for Children on Sunday, January 27

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 Jesus was baptized by his cousin John. They'll also enjoy time for art and play.

Grades 1-3: Formation Class is from 9:15-10:00. They'll be learning about how Jesus spent time teaching and learning in the temple when he was 12. Grace Notes is from 10-10:20. 1st-3rd Graders will join their families for worship.

Grades 4-5: Formation Class is from 9:15-10:00. They'll be learning about how Jesus spent time teaching and learning in the temple when he was 12. Grace Notes is from 10:10:20. 4th-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

Our Parent Seminar is on February 24 during the Sunday school hour. The location has to be changed so stay tuned for that information. See Allison if you have questions!

MLK, Jr. Day Youth Project at Hope Chapel



MRT News

Refugee 101

If you would like to learn more about the refugee situation in Charlotte and the services offered by Refugee Support Services (RSS) you can register for a free "Refugee 101" session to be held on March 6, 9:30 a.m. at their office, 3601 Central Ave. **We need to register early before the class fills up so call Mallory in the church office if you would like to go by February 15.**

Open Table

Wednesday, February 27
@ 5:50 in Broach Hall

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>

Room in the Inn 2019

Please continue to check the sign-up page to see where we have open slots of service to complete the roster of this year's valuable ministry of providing on each Friday night (between now and the end of March) a warm bed, a hot meal, and a bag lunch to 12 homeless men.

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

You may also contact Alice Wirz (ahwirz@carolina.rr.com) or Dale Johnson (dwj9578@usa.com) for more information.

Youth Mission Auction Sunday, March 17

Come to Broach Hall after worship on Sunday, March 17 to raise funds for two years of youth mission trips. This is an important event for our youth and fun for the whole congregation so plan to attend! Lunch and reservation information coming soon. Want to donate for the auction? Contact Lia Benton (liabenton@outlook.com)



Heritage Sunday: March 17

This year Heritage Sunday will be celebrated on March 17th. If you have friends, sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. who have been part of the Youth Ministry at St. John's, please invite them to plan to be present on March 17th. In addition, if you have pictures of Youth Activities, we would love to have your pictures and are happy to copy and return to you. We are particularly interested in Youth Sundays and Youth Auctions for past years. You may contact Fredda Kimball or Linda Crowder or leave them with Mallory in the church office. If you have memories of your participation in the Youth Ministry, it would be wonderful if you could send those to us or to Mallory by email (or leave with Mallory, if written). Thank you so much.

Fredda Kimball & Linda Crowder
Church Archivists

Charlotte Family Housing Meals

St. John's is hosting meals at Charlotte Family Housing for the week of February 3. If you, your family, or your Sunday School class would like to prepare a meal for up to 20 people, including some children, for Sunday, February 3, or Tuesday or Thursday that week, please contact Clara Howell at clarahowell92@gmail.com or 704-578-8153.

Watch Our Service Live on Facebook!

- 1) Create a personal Facebook Account by going to <https://www.facebook.com/>. Click on "Sign Up." You will need to have an email address, mobile phone number, create a password, and a digital picture of yourself to do this. Ask someone to help you if you get lost. Fill in the information to create an account and follow the prompts.
- 2) After you fill in the information, you will be asked to confirm your email. In your email account open the email sent to you by Facebook and click confirm.
- 3) Then, you have to confirm your mobile number. If you do not have a mobile number, you may ask a child or close friend if you can use their number. This is in case you forget your password or email. Facebook does not have an option to skip this step.
- 4) Next, add a picture of yourself. This picture must be uploaded on your computer and then to Facebook.
- 5) Once your account is set up find the in the search icon that looks like a magnifying glass and type in "St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC." In the search results you will see our green logo pop up. Click on it and like it, thumbs up.
- 6) Every Sunday around 10:25 log into Facebook and type in St. John's click and you will be on our page. Then, you will see our live video. Click play and watch.

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 Adults.....Lee Gray
 ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org
 Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust
 ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org

Church Staff

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

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

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Larry Batts, Marjorie Benfield, Nancy Burgess, Nancy Fuller, Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Kathy Mahnesmith, Sarah Peacock, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Jerry Stephens, Elma Thomas & Dee Turner- home

Sunday, January 27

Deacons: Jeff LeVie, Todd Stillerman, Anne Sutton, Cindy McIntyre/Melissa Millette, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Elizabeth Whipple, Nancy Wilson, Alice Wirz

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Mark McNeill; 5th St./Narthex-Linda Kerley Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Susan King & James Laney

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of January 14-20: \$27,612
 Income through January 20: \$57,766

Ministers on Call:

January 21-27: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 January 28-February 3: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

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. Next month's meeting is on February 12 in Rooms 114 & 116.



Instagram

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

SJ Basketball Game Schedule

Team	Date & Time	Location
6 & Under Co-Ed	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 3:15PM (1/19-W)	— February 2 @ St. John's
8 & Under Boys	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 1PM (1/19-L)	— February 2 @ St. John's
10 & Under Boys (Cardella)	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 12PM (1/19-W)	— February 2 @ St. John's
10 & Under Boys (Redding)	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 11AM (1/19-L)	— February 2 @ St. John's
12 & Under Boys	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 12:30PM (1/19-L)	— February 2 @ Sardis Presby.
12 & Under Girls	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 10AM (1/19-W)	— February 2 @ St. John's
14 & Under Boys	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 12PM (1/19-L)	— February 2 @ FBC Matthews
15 & Under Girls	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 12:45PM (1/19-W)	— February 2 @ Avondale Presby.
16 & Under Boys	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 10:30AM (1/19-L)	— February 2 @ Trinity Epi. School
18 & Under Girls	BYE on January 26 February 2 @ 11:30AM (1/19-W)	— February 2 @ FBC Charlotte

Calendar for January 27-February 2

Sunday, January 27
 9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30am..... Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 28
 8:00am..... Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
 11:30am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
 5:30pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, January 29
 7:00am..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
 11:00am..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
 5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball Group (Gym)
 5:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Lasater Hall & Room 305)
 6:00pm..... CROP Recognition Dinner (Broach Hall)
 6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 7:30pm..... Sherrill Basketball Group (Gym)

Wednesday, January 30
 6:30am..... Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
 9:30am..... Yoga Class (Room 114)
 1:30pm..... Learning Charms (Room 116)
 6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
 6:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 8:15pm..... Team United/AAU Basketball Team (Gym)

Thursday, January 31
 5:30pm..... Right Moves for Youth (Broach Hall)
 7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, February 1
 4:00pm..... Youth Sunday Practice (Sanctuary)
 4:45pm..... High School Youth Room in the Inn (Gym & Lounge)
 5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 Youth Ski Trip Weekend

Saturday, February 2
 7:00am..... Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
 10:00am..... Basketball (Gym)

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org