



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 9- Week of February 25-March 3, 2019

St. John's at Worship

Sunday, March 3

After Epiphany

Worship Theme:

Tell of the God Who Is to You

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Message

*Meeting Jesus Again for the
First Time*

Scriptures

Luke 9:28-36

Lenten Season at St. John's

- All season, **devotional booklets** are available in the office and online called *Face to Face with Ourselves: The Cup of Authenticity*, written by Dennis
- **Elizabeth Communities of Faith Services** each Wednesday in Lent at Caldwell Presbyterian Church from 12PM-1PM starting Wednesday, March 6 and continuing March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10. The theme is "Meals with a MESSage," focused on Luke's meal stories. **St. John's will lead the service on March 20.**
- **Palm Sunday** Service of Worship on Sunday, April 14
- **Maundy Thursday** Service on Thursday, April 18 in the evening (exact time coming soon)
- **Easter Sunday Worship** on April 21



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Ash Wednesday Experience

Wednesday, March 6 in Broach Hall

9am-11:45am & 1pm-7pm

On Ash Wednesday, Broach Hall will be open for self-led, reflective, prayer stations. These include but are not limited to the following: salt prayers, making prayer beads, walking the labyrinth, and a prayer wall. This experience was designed with all ages in mind. During the open hours, listed above, a St. John's minister will be present to administer ashes. We hope all will consider coming to this experience at any point during the day as we begin another Lenten season.

Youth Mission Auction 2019

Sunday, March 17 after Worship

Come to Broach Hall after worship on Sunday, March 17 to raise funds for two years of youth mission trips—that's four trips! This is an important event for our youth and fun for the whole congregation...so plan to attend! Want to help us prepare to meet our \$30,000 goal? Consider one of the following:

- **Donate an item for the auction**
- **Buy a lunch ticket**
- **Think about what you can make for the Bake Sale**
- **Most importantly: plan to attend—it will be a time of wonderful fellowship for the entire church family.**

To make a donation contact Leslie Bragg (lmbragg3@gmail.com) or Lia Benton (liabenton@outlook.com) or use the attached [donation form](#) and place in the offering plate.

Prayer and Active Faith: Bearing Witness from Dennis

Prayer is the one practice of active faith you must never neglect. Prayer imbues you with the spiritual energy inspiring and renewing God's servant church. By opening your life to the deepening practice of prayer, you become closer to God, to God's perspective of others and more aware of yourself as a member of God's human family.

Henri Nouwen, in his tremendous book, *Here and Now; Living in the Spirit*, writes: In my home country, the Netherlands, you will see many large wagon wheels, not on wagons, but as decorations at the entrances of farms or on the walls of restaurants. I have always been fascinated by those wagon wheels; with their wide rims, strong wooden spokes, and big hubs. These wheels help me to understand the importance of a life lived from the center. When I move along the rim, I can reach one spoke after the other, but when I stay at the hub, I am in touch with all the spokes at once.

To pray is to move to the center of all life and all love. The closer I come to the hub of life, the closer I come to all that receives its strength and energy from there. My tendency is to get so distracted by the diversity of the many spokes of life, that I am busy but not truly life-giving, all over the place but not focused. By directing my attention to the heart of life, I am connected with its rich variety while remaining centered. What does the hub represent? I think of it as my own heart, the heart of God and the heart of the world. When I pray, I enter into the depth of my own heart and find there the heart of God, who speaks to me of love. And I recognize, right there, the place where all of my sisters and brothers are in communion with one another. The great paradox of the spiritual life is, indeed, that the most personal is most universal, that the most intimate, is most communal, and that the most contemplative is most active. In God all action and all rest are one. So too prayer!

Next Wednesday, we enter the 40-day season of Lent, emphasizing the 40 days Jesus focused on prayer in the wilderness. During Lent, let us renew ourselves to follow Jesus in the practice of prayer.

Lent is named from the Old English word, 'Lencten,' meaning 'spring season,' as daylight hours 'lengthen.' During Lent, we can allow the light of God to increase in our lives through the practice of prayer. In all of our activities and pursuits, let us remember that prayer is the one practice of active faith we must never neglect.

**Shalom,
Dennis**

News for Youth and Their Families from Lee

Sunday, March 3

- **Hornets Basketball Game** vs. Portland Trailblazers at 1:00 pm after worship for St. John's Basketball Teams and all youth.

Sunday, March 17

- **Youth Mission Auction** in Broach Hall after worship; all youth should plan to attend as we will be raising money for 4 youth mission trips

June 15-22

- **High School Mission Trip** to Puerto Rico
- Many more details will come on this in the weeks to come.

July 22-27

- **Unidiversity** Summer Camp in Knoxville, TN
- Sign-ups begin very soon. We hope all will consider attending this week of growth, learning, and community building.

Need to Update Your Information?

If you have moved to a new address, changed phone numbers, or have a new email address, please let Mallory know so that we can have the most up to date information.

News for Children and Their Families from Allison

Sunday, March 3

Formation and Worship for Children

- **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 fed a big crowd of people. 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 fed a crowd of people who had come to learn from him. 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 fed a crowd of people who had come to learn from him. Grace Notes is from 10-10:20. 4th-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

Parent Seminar– Since no one came February 24, we will try again and meet at 9:30 in the Library March 3.

Heritage Sunday 2019

Celebrating Youth Ministries at St. John's

This year Heritage Sunday is celebrated on March 17th. Invite anyone who has been a part of the youth ministry of St. John's to join us for worship this day. As we plan for this day, we have some specific requests. If you have youth directories and pictures from the following years, we would love it if you would share them with Fredda Kimball or Linda Crowder:

- before 1959, 1980-1995, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009

We appreciate your help and look forward to seeing anything you have to share for Heritage Sunday!

Easter Choir Invitation from Kevin

As we approach Lent in preparation for Easter I would like to invite anyone who has interest in the choir to come and join us for this season. Working on music for Easter is always an exciting endeavor, and a great time to see if our group would be a good fit for you. I can in good confidence promise you that you will find the choir very inviting, and full of laughter and joy. We work hard, but have a great time, too. Also, this year we will conclude the Easter service with the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel. If you know this work, I invite you to join us. I would ask that you attend the last Wednesday rehearsal before Easter, and the rehearsal Sunday morning before worship. Last year we had many people augment the choir and the congregation was greatly blessed by the outpouring of sound and spiritual energy that came pouring out of the choir loft. I am here to answer any questions you have, so feel free to email or call me.

J. Kevin Gray | kgray@sicharlotte.org | 803-524-0287

Green Hornets Win Their Flight

Congratulations to the Green Hornets, St. John's 10 and Under Guys Basketball team, who won their flight this past Saturday. It was a close 1 point victory over Friendship Missionary Baptist with great competition and sportsmanship.



Green Dragons Win the City Championship

Congratulations to the Green Dragons, St. John's 15 & under girls basketball team, who won the city championship this weekend!



Attention Seniors in High School!

St. John's has been blessed with the Hackney Scholarship for many years. Students from St. John's who attend Wake Forest, Wingate, or Furman are eligible for grants from this fund. There is no merit requirement or financial needs limitation associated with the scholarship.

So, if you are planning on attending one of these schools please contact Ken Raynor, ken@Raynorlawfirm.com to let him know you are interested and to find out more about the program.



Elizabeth
8K Road Race

8K Road Race • 1.5M Run/Walk • Liz Kids' Fun Run

Saturday,
March 23, 2019
Independence Park

345 Hawthorne Lane,
Charlotte, NC 28204

Elizabeth 8K Road Race

Saturday, March 23, 2019

@ Independence Park

Once again, St. John's is a sponsor for Charlotte's oldest road race. As a sponsor, we can offer 10 free registrations and a 10% discount to all who choose to participate. If you would like to run in the race and need a free code or 10% off code, email or call Mallory for this. If you want to volunteer, sign up through this link: <https://elizabeth8k.racesonline.com/volunteers>

State & Community Missions Offering

We continue toward our goal of \$5000 for State and Community Missions. Two ministries have been selected by the St. John's Mission Resource Team to receive this year's offering: Habitat for Humanity and Urban Ministries. For many years, both youth and adults from St. John's have served as volunteers with Habitat to build, along side future homeowners, an affordable house. Through programs sponsored by Urban Ministries we serve directly to address issues of homelessness and hunger. Our offering this year will give essential financial support to both these programs. On February 10 Bert Green shared in the worship service information about Habitat and on March 10 Katie Church will be with us to talk about the services of Urban Ministries. As part of this ministry St. John's sponsors Room in the Inn on Friday nights during the winter months and the monthly year round sandwich ministry in which volunteers provide 200 sandwiches for the homeless.

2019 Goal: \$5,000.00
Received to Date: \$511.00

Become a Greeter at St. John's!

Did you know? If you can point the way and say "hello" or "welcome", you would be perfect as a greeter for special services (memorial services, etc.) at St. John's. You are not expected to serve for every service and it is up to you when you can assist. Please contact Nancy Wilson (nandwilson@aol.com) if you are willing to volunteer to serve the church in this way. Your specific times and places will be worked out prior to each service. Thanks for your consideration!

Paul's Journeys: VBS 2019

June 10-14, 2019

9AM-12PM

Registration is open to all for VBS 2019! Do not wait to register as spaces are already filling up quickly. Registration is a little different this year. Please note there are two ticket types this year. One is for 4 Year Olds-Rising 1st Graders (Young Artists). One is for Rising 2nd-6th Graders (Apprentices). Please choose the correct one when you register! To register, [click here](#).

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

Al Bridges Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Delbridge Narron, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner, & Jeck Warren-home; Parker Jackson, military

Congratulations to the birth of Eleanor Rose on February 26, 2019 to Catherine and David McRae. The grandparents are Chuck and Beth Jones.

Sympathy

Sympathy to Emily Batts and family in the death of her husband, Larry Batts; a graveside service will be held Friday, March 1 at 2PM at Forest Lawn East Cemetery

Sympathy to Lydia Farnsworth and family in the death of her cousin, Claudia Hanna, and uncle, Gene Hanna

Sympathy to Cherry and Anne Sutton in the death of their brother, Tom Sutton, on Sunday, February 24

Sympathy to Chris Mullis and family in the death of his great aunt, Helen Simmons. Her service is scheduled for March 10.

Sympathy to Noel Lance and family in the death of his grandmother

Sunday, March 3

Deacons: David Allen, Linda Balentine, Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Leslie Bragg, Minh Callaway, Allene Cooley, Judy Sanford, Charlie Harper

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner, Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narhex-Betty Thompson; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; 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 February 18-24: \$5,619
 Income through February 24: \$147,381
 Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

February 25-March 3: Lee Gray 704-451-1309
 March 4-10: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
 March 11-17: Allison Benfield

Join the Sanctuary Worship Guild!

At St. John's we are blessed to have such a beautiful space for worship. Week after week our sanctuary lends itself to a worshipful mood that helps us transcend the noise and minutia of everyday life. You may notice that throughout the church year the banners, works of art, and even the decorations on the communion table change to reflect the seasons of the church year. Kevin would like to organize a sanctuary guild that helps and takes ownership in the preparation and decorating of the sanctuary. If you are affected in a deep and personal way by the Christian symbols that are present in our sanctuary, Kevin invites you to be part of this team. You do not have to come with experience in such matters, just an open heart and a willingness to serve. **Please email and let Kevin know that you would like to be part of the first meeting.**

J. Kevin Gray
kgray@sjcharlotte.org

Sign Up to Drive for Room in the Inn!

We need van drivers for March 8 & 15! No special license needed. Sign up by following this link:

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

Calendar for March 3-9

Sunday, March 3

- 8:00am..... Church Council (Conference Room)
- 9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
- 9:30am..... Parent Seminar (Library)
- 10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
- 10:30am..... Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:00pm..... Youth Attend Hornet's Game (Offsite)
- 2:00pm..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)

Monday, March 4

- 11:30am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
- 12:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
- 5:30pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
- 8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, March 5

- 7:00am..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
- 10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 11:00am..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
- 5:00pm..... Prom Project (Lounge)
- 5:15pm..... SJB Men's Basketball Group (Gym)
- 6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
- 7:30pm..... Sherrill Basketball Group (Gym)

Wednesday, March 6

- 6:30am..... Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
- 9:00am..... Ash Wednesday Experience until 11:45am (Broach Hall)
- 9:30am..... Yoga Class (Room 114)
- 10:00am..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
- 12:00pm..... Elizabeth Communities of Faith Service (Caldwell Presbyterian)
- 1:00pm..... Ash Wednesday Experience Until 7pm (Broach Hall)
- 5:00pm..... Staffing Our Future Task Force (Conference Room)
- 6:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)
- 6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
- 7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 8:15pm..... Team United/AAU Basketball Team (Gym)

Thursday, March 7

- 9:00am..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)
- 5:30pm..... Weekday School Board Meeting (Lounge)
- 7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, March 8

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

Saturday, March 9

- 7:00am..... Benton Basketball Group (Gym)

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org