



# Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 29 – Week of July 22-28, 2019

## St. John's Worship this Week on Sunday, July 28

### Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

### Theme

Golden Lamp-Stand Window

### Message

*Let There Be Light*

### Scriptures

Exodus 25:31-40 &  
Matthew 5:14-16

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## What's Happening at St. John's?

### Building Sabbath Weeks

July 29-August 16

Our annual "building sabbath" is scheduled for the weeks of July 29-August 2 (1st floor), August 5-9 (2nd floor), and August 12-16 (3rd floor & outside). This is a time when our custodians are hard at work performing extra cleaning and maintenance tasks. Weekday and evening meetings at the church may be cancelled, rescheduled, or moved so that needed maintenance can be completed. Some entrances may be closed for a few hours or more. Please contact Jacquelyn McAbee, Church Administrator, if you have custodial or maintenance needs during these weeks. Thank you for being flexible during this time!

### Deacon Nominees for 2019-2020

Church Conference to Elect on July 28

This week, we are presenting the biographies and photos of the remaining 9, new deacon nominees. We are excited about all of the new candidates for this upcoming year in the life of St. John's. **On the next two pages**, you will find information on the following: Kevin Benton, Ryan Crowder, Ashley Maready, Durning Moore, Donna Morris, Casey Perkins, David Sherrill, Mindy Vergakis, and Sally Young. Also, check out the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary for information about our new deacons in the next few weeks. See the attachment for information on all new deacons.

**We will elect these new deacons on July 28 during a church conference in worship.**

### 2019 Global Mission Offering

**Goal: \$16,000**

**Contributions to Date: \$6,624**

From now through August 31 we will be focusing on our 2019 Global Mission Offering. For this year the Mission Resource Team has set a goal of \$16,000, with \$1000 going to aid those impacted by the Sierra Leone fire in West Africa and \$15,000 going to the Nyarweng School in South Sudan. Please consider giving today! This offering will be collected through August 31.

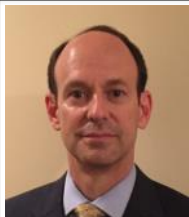
### Pride Parade 2019

August 17-18 in Uptown



Save the date for this year's Pride Festival and Parade in Charlotte! St. John's is participating again this year! Stay tuned for more details and plan to join us for the weekend's festivities! We will have a booth at the festival on Saturday.

## Deacon Nominees for 2019-2020



### Kevin Benton-Administrative Panel

**How long have you been a member at St. John's?** 40 years

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Personnel Resource Team; 4th/5th grade Sunday School teacher; member of Pathfinders Sunday School class

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** Deacon, Committee member (Recreation, Membership,

Personnel, 5 Year Strategic Planning), Boy's Basketball Coach

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I grew up in St. John's and am blessed to be a part of this amazing church family which has been central to my spiritual growth. Sunday School lessons as a child, participation in the choir, mission trips and my baptism as a youth, my marriage as a young adult and the witness to the nurturing of my three children by this congregation all have contributed to who I am today and have given me a deeper appreciation of the impact this church has had on my life and others that I love.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** To continue to be a welcoming and nurturing community for all people who are open to learning more about their own faith and are seeking an environment where they can serve others.



### Ryan Crowder-Ministry Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 31

**What are your current activities and areas of service?** Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, Youth, Youth Professionals Coordinator, Sudanese, Men's of the Church, Brotherhood of the Biscuit, Technology Committee Chair, Saturday Morning Basketball

**What are your past activities and areas of service?** Deacon, Discipleship Sponsor, Youth Mission Auction Host

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I was raised by this church to be the Christian the world needs me to be: Kind, charitable, humble.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** To ensure the future prosperity of the church for generations to come.



### Ashley Maready-Administrative Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 21 years

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Chancel Choir and Room in the Inn

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** Pastoral and Ministries Deacon Panels, Church Council, 3-year-old Sunday school teacher, Claytor's Work Crew

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I am a church brat, having grown up the daughter of a church organist. My spiritual journey has been always been grounded in the church and its ministries, particularly in music and how it sets the tone for each service. Music feeds the soul as much to me as the written and spoken word.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** My vision for St. John's is to embark on its second century of servanthood as a continuously vibrant, embracing community of faith that grows as Charlotte grows.



### Durning Moore-Pastoral Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 1 year, married 3 years ago in the church

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Genesis Sunday School Group, Brotherhood of the Biscuit, and the softball team

**Describe your spiritual journey.** My spiritual journey started in the Catholic church. Church was always something that was forced upon me. So, once I left for college, I was an inactive member and did not start back on the journey until after marriage. Throughout marriage counseling, I realized faith needed to be one of the pillars on which our marriage and family would be based. When we moved back to Charlotte, we immediately started coming to St. Johns. It was a place where we knew we would be accepted, and where we could explore our personal faiths. St. John's has taught me what it means to have a loving God who supports you, works for you, and loves you always. Through St. John's, I have learned what it means to be a servant leader in the church and community and to be more Christ-like as I live my life.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** My vision for St. Johns is to continue to be a servant church that is inclusive of anyone who wants to follow and celebrate our faith.



### Donna Morris-Pastoral Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 57 years

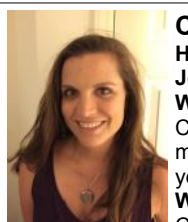
**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Chancel Choir

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** Pastoral Deacon, Mission Action Committee

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I love Sunday morning. I was baptized and married at St. John's and watched my children grow up there. This church is my sanctuary, my extended family, my book club, and my

yoga class.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** St. John's has evolved over the years. I hope it continues to attract a diverse community of believers.



### Casey Perkins-Ministry Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 7 years

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Currently, I am not involved in any areas of service as we moved and returned, and I haven't gotten involved again yet.

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** CROP Walk Leader, Mission Resource Team

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I am still on my spiritual journey, moving from a vengeful God to a loving, graceful one. Raised in the Southern Baptist tradition, I always felt some of the things they were teaching were not right. I am grateful to have found St. John's as a place to learn more about the true nature of God. I believe our main purpose for being here is to help each other, to act as Jesus would to make things easier for all the people we can.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** St. John's will continue to be an inclusive, inviting church where social justice and people are the priority and where everyone is welcome. A place where it is okay to grow, learn and question. I would like to see St. John's continue to be involved in more and more mission work.



### David Sherrill-Pastoral Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 14 years

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** I am currently a member of the McLeod-Brown Sunday School Class.

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** In the past, I have served on the Personnel Committee and have coached youth basketball.

**Describe your spiritual journey.** My spiritual journey is personal and ongoing; strongly supported by my friends from McLeod Brown.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** My vision for St. John's is for the church to continue its strong service in the community and to continue to grow and increase new and younger membership.



### Mindy Vergakis-Ministry Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** 43 years

**What are your current activities and areas of service at SJB?** I am currently a co-chair for the Children and Young Families Resource Team as well as a volunteer in the Nursery and a teacher in the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School classrooms.

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** I have served on past church committees and have assisted with the preschool choir.

**Describe your spiritual journey.** I have grown up at St. John's. My grandparents, parents and now my children are a part of this church community. The people of this church and the programs offered to me as a child and youth had a significant role in shaping my faith and the person I am today. The service work afforded me as a member of St. John's not only influenced my faith and world view, but helped to shape my professional career as well.

**What is your vision for St. John's?**

My hope for St. John's is that it continues to support and guide our youngest members, giving them opportunities to create life-long relationships with both the adults in our church and with each other. I want my children to find the same acceptance, support and love that I have experienced over my 43 years as a member at St. John's.



### Sally Young-Administrative Panel

**How many years have you been a member of St. John's?** I was baptized at St. John's in August 1964, which means I've been a member for almost 55 years.

**What are your current areas of service and activities?** Currently, I'm a member of the Far Side Sunday School, events coordinator on the board of Women of the Church, and a member of the Safety and Security Task Force.

**What are your past areas of service and activities?** I have served as a pastoral deacon, and I was a member of the Vision Team (2008-2009). In 2011-2012, I chaired the pastoral search team who recommended we call Dr. Foust.

**Describe your spiritual journey.** When I was a child, I had no idea of how blessed I was to grow up in an open-minded and progressive congregation. Children's Director Ruth Rodgers and Sunday School teachers like Ray Alston, Ernestine Prichard, Pat Engle, Nancy Burgess, and Lucy Johnson showed the Christian way not only by what they taught but also by the example of their lives. They and many others created an environment of trust where doubts were acceptable, and every question was worth listening to and answering. When I joined the young marrieds Sunday School class in 1980, I had no idea how important that tribe would be, and still is, in my life. People have come and gone from the Far Side class, but these are the ones I know I can trust. Births, deaths, illness, spiritual problems, job issues, whatever is going on in any of our lives, Far Side will be there. Surely, Christian community is one of the greatest blessings Christ has given us.

**What is your vision for St. John's?** My prayer for St. John's is that we will be a congregation that is healthy, open, loving, and indeed a beacon of God's love to the world, starting at East Fifth and Hawthorne and going wherever God shows us needs to meet.

## News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield

This week, a group of our children are at Camp St. John's with Miss Allison and Anna Kearsse in Blowing Rock, NC. Stay attentive to pictures from this trip soon!

### Summer Sunday School: June-August

**Nursery and PreK/K Classes:** We will be on our normal schedule for August.

**Grades 1-5:** These classes will combine for the summer. Our regular teaching teams will cover the remainder of August. We'll be doing a 6-week study on The Lord's Prayer.

## News for Youth and Their Families

from Lee Gray

### July 22-27-THIS WEEK

•Unidiversity Summer Camp in Maryville, TN –Our youth are currently at Unidiversity! Stay tuned for pictures!

### August 10-13

•Middle School Local Mission Trip

## Grow with St. John's

### Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Join us on August 6 @ 12PM at the Harkey's house.

All interested readers, please come to Betty Harkey's home at 2044 Ferncliff Road, on Tuesday, August 6 at 12PM. Bring your favorite salad to share. At this meeting, we will make plans for the coming year regarding book choices and such. Bring a list of books you would like us to consider. If you have questions, email Betty at [harkeybg@gmail.com](mailto:harkeybg@gmail.com) or call her at 704-366-5901. Invite a friend to join us!

### A Message from the Chair of Deacons: Todd Stillerman

The Staffing Our Future task force has recommended that St. John's begin a search for new ministry staff. The new staff member(s) would augment the excellent work of our existing staff and have primary responsibility for (a) the care and support of young adults and (b) leadership of our youth ministry. Jordan Benton will lead this task force. Given the expected responsibilities for the new staff, the Staffing Our Future task force further recommended that the search task force include representative young adults, youth parents and youth from the congregation. The following have been appointed for this task force:

- Jordan Benton (chair)
- Natalie Erdman
- Steven Follis
- Clara Howell
- Matt Comer
- Meredith Sorrell
- Lindsay Wilson
- Sam Vavra
- Elizabeth Rodden

The search task force will begin work immediately. Jordan and the task force will undoubtedly need your participation and feedback as they approach this exciting search. We will recognize the new search task force and hear a final report from the Staffing Our Future task force during this Sunday's church conference.

## Worship with St. John's

### Summer Formation at St. John's

@ 9:15 in Broach Hall

**July 28 & August 4: Poverty and Building a Sustainable Charlotte**

Charlotte is the 3rd fastest growing population in the United States with a booming hospitality industry, growing skyline, and exploding population. However, the chances for folks living in poverty to rise out of poverty are decreasing. Leaders from Charlotte Family Housing, Foundation for the Carolinas and others will be with us these Sundays as we learn and choose which actions to take as we strengthen as God's actively faithful people.

## Proclaimer Schedule and Details for Summer 2019



**Sunday, August 4: Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead—Bio coming soon!**

**Sunday, August 11: Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis—Bio coming soon!**



We are excited to have Daynette and Larry join us as proclaimers in August.

## St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte NC 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

### Ministers

*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

### Equipping Ministers

Minister for Children & Their Families.....Allison Benfield  
ext. 18 - [abenfield@sicharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sicharlotte.org)  
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray  
ext. 14 - [kgray@sicharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sicharlotte.org)  
Minister for Youth & Young Adults.....Lee Gray  
ext. 15 - [lgray@sicharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sicharlotte.org)  
Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust  
ext. 12 - [dfoust@sicharlotte.org](mailto:dfoust@sicharlotte.org)

### Church Staff

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

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

## Road Closures Announcement

The intersection of Hawthorne Lane and 7th Street is closed now and will re-open on Monday, August 12, 2019. This closure is necessary for track installation as part of CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 construction.

Please continue to patronize Hawthorne's Pizza and other businesses affected by the construction. Hawthorne's will offer a discount to anyone at St. John's with the presentation of a church bulletin on Sundays at lunch. We also will be in prayer for all construction workers on this project and their safety during this time.

## Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service

Sunday, August 11, 2019 @ Caldwell Presbyterian

You are invited to attend the Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service on Sunday, August 11 from 4PM-6PM at Caldwell Presbyterian Church on E. 5th Street. We encourage you to park at St. John's and walk to Caldwell due to limited parking. There will be a reception afterwards with light hors d'oeuvres. The theme for this services is: The Golden Anniversary of Stonewall-A Jubilee Celebration of Accomplishment. We hope to see you there!

## Save the Date for the NAMI Walk

Saturday, October 26, 2019 @ Reedy Creek Park in Charlotte

If you are interested in joining this walk for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, please register at: [www.namiwalks.org/charlotte](http://www.namiwalks.org/charlotte).

## Prayer Concerns & Sympathy

Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Melissa Nash, Linda Nash, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Henry Snyder, Elma Thomas, & Jeck Warren-home; Parker Jackson, military; Construction workers working on the street outside of our building (they requested to be added to our list as pressure builds closer to their deadline)

## Sunday, July 28

**Deacons:** David Allen, Linda Balentine, Jason Benton, Jordan Benton, Leslie Bragg, Minh Callaway, Teri Franklin, Charlie Harper, Clara Howell, Nancy Wilson  
**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner & Mark McNeill; 5th St./Narthex-Linda Kerley; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter  
**Tellers:** Margaret Falls & Linda Kerley  
**Ushers:** Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

## Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of July 8-14: \$38,832  
Income through July 14: \$642,015  
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

## Ministers on Call:

July 22-28: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234  
July 29-August 4: Lee Gray 704-451-1309  
August 5-11: Allison Benfield 828-524-0287  
August 12-18: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287



Save the date for the  
Annual Women of the  
Church Luncheon on  
Sunday, September 15  
in Broach Hall!

## Calendar for July 28-August 3

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

### Sunday, July 28

9:15am ..... Sunday School (Broach Hall and Classrooms)  
10:30am ..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)  
10:30am ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:00pm ..... Youth Resource Team (Conference Room)

### Monday, July 29

All Week ..... Sabbath Week Begins  
8:00am ..... Novant Health Class (Broach Hall)  
12:30pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
8:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, July 30

7:00am ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
10:00am ..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
5:15pm ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
7:00pm ..... Team United/AU Basketball (Gym)

### Wednesday, July 31

6:30am ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
7:00am ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
9:30am ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
1:00pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
6:00pm ..... WOC Board Meeting (Lounge)  
6:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
7:30pm ..... Sherrill Basketball (Gym)

### Thursday, August 1

9:00am ..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)

### Friday, August 2

10:30am ..... Metrolina Association for the Blind Yoga (Room 114)  
8:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Saturday, August 3

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