



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 31 – Week of August 5-11, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

**St. John's
Worship
this Week on
Sunday,
August 11**

Proclaimer
Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis
Scripture
Luke 12:32-40
Message
Don't Be Afraid...Be
Ready

Welcoming the Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis Guest Proclaimer this Sunday, August 11



Larry Hovis has been Executive Coordinator of CBF of North Carolina since 2004. His responsibilities including bringing together the diverse parts of CBFNC into a coherent and efficient whole to accomplish our purpose of "bringing Baptists of North Carolina together for Christ-centered ministry." Prior to his current position, Larry served as pastor of four congregations throughout North Carolina and Virginia.

He has degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia (Doctor of Ministry); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina (Master of Divinity with Languages), and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina (Bachelor of Arts). Larry has completed numerous extended professional development programs, including the Pastor as Spiritual Guide through the Center for Congregational Health and advanced studies in Fundraising and Nonprofit Executive Leadership through Indiana University. He is also a Certified Christian Leadership Coach. While Hovis's particular strengths focus on leadership, stewardship, strategic planning, governance and organizational development, his passion is preaching and relating to Baptist congregations. He has been privileged to preach in more than 200 churches in North Carolina and beyond. Larry is married to the former Kimberly Lee. They have one daughter, Lauren, who works in Washington, D.C. In his limited spare time, Larry enjoys cycling, traveling with his family, and watching sports. (Source: <http://www.cbfnc.org/about/our-staff/staff-larry-hovis>)

Inside this issue:

From Dennis	2
Youth News	
Music News	
Children's News	
Immigration Court Observers Training	3
Women of the Church Retreat	
Sabbath Weeks	
Uniform Drive	
Global Missions	
WOC Luncheon	
Staff Listing	4
Prayer Concerns & Sympathy	
Sunday Service Schedules	
Ministers on Call	
Recycle!	
Craft and Bake Sale	
Memorial Garden	
NAMI Walk	
Calendar	

God Loves Everyone!

Charlotte Pride Festival on August 17-18 in Uptown



The 2019 Charlotte Pride Festival is Saturday-Sunday, August 17-18, and the 2019 Bank of America Charlotte Pride Parade starts at 1pm on Sunday, August 18. If you would like to volunteer to help staff our booth at the festival on Saturday, August 17 and/or Sunday, August 18, e-mail Todd Stillerman at stillerman@gmail.com or text Mattie Stillerman at 704-362-6743. This year's official St. John's Pride t-shirt is available for \$10. We hope everyone will consider marching with us in the parade!

While you're considering joining us, take some time to download the Charlotte Pride app on your mobile device in the Goggle Play store or App Store. It's free and will help you navigate all events happening around Charlotte Pride.

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. 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. Over 60 Charlotte clergy and faith leaders and more than 40 church groups will support the LGBTQIA Community and allies. For more information, visit the Charlotte Pride Festival Facebook page or download the Charlotte Pride app. We hope to see you there!

Baptist Peace Fellowship Hosting

Host a guest in your home for BPFNA in September

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is seeking your assistance. Our Fall board meeting will be held this September in Charlotte, and as we are "of North America," board members will be coming in from across the United States as well as Mexico and Canada. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to host an out-of-town board member (or two) from Wednesday, September 25 – Saturday, September 28. There are nine people who need housing in total. Please contact Allison Paksoy at allison@bpfna.org or 704-301-9447 if interested or for more information. Thank you in advance!

Messages from St. John's Staff and Friends

GUN VIOLENCE: FEELINGS, GOD'S WILL AND ACTION

We are grieving.

We grieve because hatred and gun violence have once again moved our national culture into mourning. Senseless mass murders in elementary schools, malls, movie theatres, bars, bowling alleys, festivals, synagogues, mosques, churches, baseball fields, restaurants, high schools, universities, concerts, graduation parties, sporting events, etc. have created a social confusion. We feel anger, fear, resentment, anxiety, vulnerability, etc. Although we do not want to live in fear or suspicion, our national divisions over political and social loyalties have degenerated into a debilitating disease. With each additional innocent victim of gun violence, this disease is killing our national capacity to discuss, decide and do what is best for us. What can we do amidst our grieving?

We are not powerless.

Because we are people who witness of The Loving God revealed in Jesus Christ, we refuse to allow the feeling of powerlessness to have control in our living. People express powerlessness by lashing out which escalates the cycle of conflict. We have power because we know the will of God in all situations. As Micah proclaimed long ago, 'God has already made it plain how to live, what to do. The Lord requires that you do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.' In other words, we know what to do.

Admittedly, although we know 'what' to do, we often apply justice, express kindness and walk humbly in imperfect ways. Haltingly and limping along, we seek to do our best by sowing seeds that bear the fruit of God's spirit – love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

“Keep trying. Keep on doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God in imperfect ways.”

African American civil rights leader, Bayard Rustin, was a Quaker. He wrote, “I have learned a very significant lesson from the Jewish prophets...These prophets taught that God does not require us to achieve any of the good tasks that humanity must pursue. What God requires of us is that we not stop trying.” Rustin would say to us, “Keep trying. Keep on doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God in imperfect ways. You will continue to mature to bear the fruit of God's spirit along the way.”

Here are three pathways of positive action:

1. Call Senators Tillis (202.224.6342) and Burr (202.224.3154) to voice your opinion seeking to influence policy and legislation.
2. Become involved with educational programs for preschoolers. Helping them learn skills to deal with differences and navigate negative emotions builds skills which become behavioral foundations for future generations.
3. Assure that every organization and group in which you are involved promotes understanding and nurtures peace-building practices and conflict-resolution skills.

Let us persist in creating a healthier city and world. In doing so, we refuse to conform to our culture as we continue to pursue God's vision for the missional Church.

**Shalom,
Dennis**

News for Youth and Their Families

from Lee Gray

August 10-13

•Middle School Local Mission Trip

- We will be around the Charlotte area participating in different service projects and activities such as stream clean-up, Baby Bundles, QC Family Tree, Charlotte Family Housing, and more! Stay tuned for pictures on Facebook.

News from Music Ministries

from Kevin Gray

Summer Organ Recital

Stigall Scholars Recital this Sunday, August 11 @ 7PM

This Sunday evening, August 11, St. John's is hosting the Stigall Scholars organ recital in our sanctuary at 7PM. The American Guild of Organists presents this recital and will intentionally highlight the legacy of the late Robert Stigall by featuring past Stigall Scholarship recipients. This organ concert is free and open to the public. Donations to the Stigall Scholarship Fund will be accepted to support aspiring organ students.

News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield

Promotion Sunday

August 25 is Promotion Sunday! We'll gather in Broach Hall at 9:00am for some light breakfast treats, we'll say goodbye to the 6th Graders and present them with their Bibles and send them to youth group, children will promote into their new classes for the year, and we'll have a parent meeting to talk about the upcoming year. In worship, as is tradition at St. John's, the 2nd Graders will receive their Bibles. Please plan on being here for this important Sunday so we can begin our year the right way!

Summer Sunday School

Nursery and PreK/K Classes: We will resume our normal schedule of Sunday School and Worship Care this Sunday.

Grades 1-5: These classes will combine for the summer and we'll have class all through August.

Grow with St. John's

Training for Immigration Court Observers August 24 from 10AM-12:30PM at First UMC

On June 23rd, as part of our focus on welcoming the stranger, we heard about the Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR) Court Observer Project. This project trains interested individuals to serve as citizen observers in the Charlotte Immigration Court. Stories from these court observers, as well as feedback from immigration attorneys, are showing that the presence of these observers is fostering due process, fairness and consistency in the courtroom. The observer simply sits, observes and makes notes, and it makes a positive difference. Time involvement is one morning or afternoon per month (3-4 hours). A training for new volunteers will be on Saturday, August 24th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. If you have questions about the training, contact Beverly Hester @ beverlyrhes-ter@earthlink.net, email questions to AIR.4.Charlotte@gmail.com or visit the AIR website at: www.AIR4Charlotte.org You can also sign up for the training on the website.

Queen Esther & the Journey to the Authentic Self Women of the Church Retreat, November 1-3, 2019

Save the date for the Women of the Church Retreat at the Blowing Rock Conference Center from November 1-3, 2019. Our own Janet L. Jones, M.Ed., LPC is our presenter for the weekend. The book of Esther will be our guide on retreat as we seek to live more fully into our authentic selves and listen for how we are called "...for such a time as this."

When?

November 1-3, 2019, starting Friday at dinner through Sunday at breakfast

Where?

Blowing Rock Conference Center, 1818 Goforth Road, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

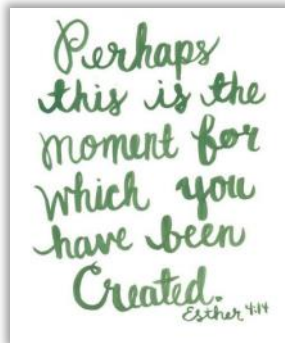
Pricing?

- * \$168.00 Triple Occupancy
- * \$185.00 Double Occupancy
- * \$248.00 Single Occupancy
- * Please contact Jaquelyn McAbee in the office for confidential scholarship assistance. jmcabee@sicharlotte.org
- * **New this year-Price includes all meals at conference center!**

Registration Deadline is September 15!

Contact Donna Scott at 919-280-9204 or djs58@nc.rr.com for questions or concerns.

If you want to register, please contact Mallory in the office for a registration form or pick one up in the office in person today!



Building Sabbath Weeks

Now-August 16

Our annual "building sabbath" continues August 5-9 (2nd floor) and August 12-16 (3rd floor & outside). 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 of 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!

Serve with St. John's

School Uniform Drive

Now Through August 25 @ Main Entrance

The first of August marks the beginning of our uniform donation drive for Highland Renaissance Academy. **These uniforms will be collected at the Main Entrance on a rack from now until August 25.**



Needs include:

- **Girls khaki or navy pants:** Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18
- **Boys khaki or navy pants:** Sizes 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
- **Short-sleeved polo shirts:** ALL Sizes - White and navy
- **Long-sleeved polo shirts:** ALL Sizes - White and navy

GREATEST NEED IS FOR SMALLER SIZES.

Global Missions 2019

2019 Goal: \$16,000

Contributions to Date: \$11,081

From now through August 31 we are focusing on our 2019 Global Mission Offering. So far, we have received well over half of our goal for this season! This year, \$1000 is going to aid those impacted by the Sierra Leone fire in West Africa and \$15,000 is going to the Nyarweng School in South Sudan. Please consider giving today! This offering will be collected through August 31.



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

St. John's Baptist Church
 300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte NC 28204
 704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

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

Get Ready for the Craft and Bake Sale!

Start Your Crafting for the Sale on October 13 in Lasater Hall

Though it might seem early, it's time to start preparing for the annual Craft and Bake Sale at St. John's on Sunday, October 13! If you are a crafter and have goods you would like to contribute to the sale, go ahead and start knitting, painting, gluing, or whatever medium of choice you prefer. Stay tuned for more details as the date gets closer.



Volunteers Needed in the Memorial Garden!



Did you know that St. John's has a Memorial Garden? Do you know where it is? Do you know about the policies related to the use of the garden? Our Memorial Garden flanks both sides of the long walk which goes out from the Children's Building toward Hawthorne Lane. The garden was established in 1997 with a garden plan which was professionally installed at the time and, of course, has been slightly altered, as all gardens change over the course of 20 years. A brochure explaining the use and policies and history is available in the church office. All should feel welcomed to walk through, sit, and enjoy this garden at any time.

The Memorial Garden is cared for by volunteers in the church who find it a meaningful volunteer experience. Currently, the Task Force is in need of volunteers to care for and tend the garden! If you have an interest, enjoy gardening, and are glad that we have such a garden right here on our own grounds, we invite you to please notify the Leadership Committee through Donna Scott at 919-280-9204, Kathy Bragg at 704-896-7444, or Wanny Hogewood at 704-966-4140. We need you. Sometimes the work is difficult but it is primarily fun and inspiring!!! Please call to volunteer today!

Prayer Concerns & Sympathy

Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, 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

Sunday, August 11

Deacons: Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch, Gary McFarland, Anne Sutton, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Elizabeth Whipple, Nancy Wilson, Lindsay Wilson, Alice Wirz
Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Scott Kerley; 5th St./NartheX-AI Bridges; Broach Hall-Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter
Tellers: Susan King & Matt Collins
Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of July 29-August 4: \$11,677
 Income through August 4: \$682,294
 Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

August 5-11: Allison Benfield 828-524-0287
 August 12-18: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 August 19-25: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

Note to Sunday School Classes

The current Sunday School quarter is nearly over. Please remember to take your used Sunday School literature and devotional materials to the Collection Room (corner room near Lasater Hall). These materials will be picked up by Tom and Martha Bryson to be re-used by one or more congregations who cannot afford to purchase new literature each quarter.



Calendar for August 11-17

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, August 11

9:15am Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30am Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
 10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
 4:00pm Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service (Caldwell Presby.)
 7:00pm AGO Organ Recital (Sanctuary)

Monday, August 12

12:30pm Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
 6:30pm Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
 6:30pm Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
 8:00pm AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, August 13

7:00am Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
 12:00pm Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
 1:00pm Safety and Security Task Force (Conference Room)
 5:15pm SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:30pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness
 Support Groups (Room 114 & 116)

Wednesday, August 14

6:30am Benton Basketball (Gym)
 7:00am Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
 9:30am Yoga (Room 114)
 6:00pm Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00pm Search Task Force (Lounge)
 6:00pm AA (Lasater Hall)
 7:30pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)

Friday, August 16

8:00am HeadStart Training (Broach Hall)
 8:00pm AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, August 17

7:00am Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:00am CROP (Lasater Hall)
 10:00am Communion Task Force (Conference Room)
 10:30am Pride Festival (Uptown Charlotte)