



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 34 – Week of August 26-September 1, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

**St. John's
Worship
this Week on
Sunday,
September 1**

Proclaimer

Rev. Delbridge E. Narron

Message
Word of God

Scriptures
Acts 10:1-16 &
John 1:1-5

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New Deacon Ordination

September 8 during Worship

On Sunday, September 8, we ordain our new deacons in worship. The following will be ordained: Treva Bridges, Alan Dietz, Paula Foust, Deacon Jones, Durning Moore, Casey Perkins, David Sherrill, and Mindy Vergakis. Plan to be in worship this day as we support these folks and welcome them into the diaconate of St. John's! Also, the bulletin board outside the sanctuary has bios for all new deacons.

Deacons Meetings

Panels and All Deacons Meetings September 9

On Monday, September 9, all three deacon panels will meet in various locations at 6:30pm and all deacons will convene in the Chapel at 7:30pm. The Ministries Panel will meet in the Conference Room, the Administrative Panel will meet in Room 209, and the Pastoral Panel will meet in the Lounge. All deacons should be in attendance for these very important initial meetings.

11th Annual Women of the Church Luncheon

Sunday, September 15 in Broach Hall after Worship, Register by September 8

All women of St. John's are invited to lunch on September 15 at 11:45am-1:00pm in Broach Hall. This year, our speaker will be Rev. Kheresa Harmon from the graduate admissions office of the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. Kheresa is Minister to Children at First Baptist Church of Forest City and is a former member of St. John's. The menu includes: turkey croissants, potato salad, and cookies from Carolina Confections. Please respond to the Evite you received or call Mallory in the church office **by September 8th to reserve your place for this year's luncheon**. Feel free to bring a friend! The cost is \$10 per person. For your convenience and to skip the line, you may sign up and pay in advance at the Main Entrance with Nancy Wilson before Sunday school on Sunday the 1st and 8th. See you there!

Queen Esther & the Journey to the Authentic Self

Register by September 15

Sign up now 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@sjcharlotte.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. **Please contact Mallory in the office for a registration form or pick one up in your Sunday school room or the office in person today!**

Messages from St. John's Staff

STRENGTHENING OUR CONNECTION WITH GOD'S HEART - A SEASON OF COVENANT RENEWAL: God's Mission Is Our Mission

"As my Father sent me, so send I you."

(Jesus, in John 20:21)

There is Good News! In a world drowning in fake information and thirsting for trustworthy knowledge, we are sent to proclaim and incarnate God's heart. God's heart of love is more powerful than all other powers! And, through Christ, God sends us into this world with God's mission as our mission.

Amidst daily reports of violence, hatred, conflict and extreme suffering, God is on mission to save individuals, families, people groups and nations. God is actively faithful at all times redeeming, healing, reconciling, and transforming situations which seem hopeless. The Loving God brings forth light from darkness and life from death. As followers of Jesus Christ, we experience this powerful love of God every day. Then, we respond in obedience to God's covenant relating God's love with others because God's Mission is Our Mission!

As St. John's approaches our second century of congregational ministry, I am calling upon all of us to strengthen our connection with God's heart as we serve in today's world. We are surrounded by situations crying out for a spiritual awakening among the people of God. This spiritual awakening must happen at the core of our life together.

Evidence is clear; this spiritual awakening must not be based on political perspectives, stacked atop nationalism, nor set upon the shifting footings of social progress. We must strengthen our connection with God's heart as we serve in today's world. The essential spiritual awakening needed today must be firmly established upon the nature of God's character as revealed in diverse ways through the ages; especially in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ who is the historical incarnation of divine compassion.

News for Youth and Their Families

from Lee Gray

Upcoming Events for Youth

August 30–September 1

High School Retreat to Camp St. Christopher in Seabrook Island, SC.

Sunday, September 8

Youth Fall Sunday Evening Kickoff and Parent's Meeting

Sunday, October 20

CROP Walk (It's back on Sunday, and we are working on plans to make it a good day for youth)

June 21-27, 2020

High School Habitat Mission Trip to John's Island, SC. We think we will be able to pre-build in Charlotte beforehand this year!

Therefore, beginning Sunday September 15th, our worship will focus on 'Strengthening Our Connection with God's Heart through A Season of Covenant Renewal.' By reviewing each paragraph of our St. John's Covenant, we will renew our commitments by remembering 'God's Mission is Our Mission.'

**Shalom,
Dennis**

In the Pulpit this Sunday

Delbridge E. Narron will be our proclaimer this Sunday. He was ordained by Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. He has served as a deacon at Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, and at Wedgewood Baptist Church in Charlotte. He served as the interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Littleton, Massachusetts, and as pastor of North Hunterdon Baptist Church, in Glen Gardner, New Jersey. Delbridge did one unit of clinical pastoral education at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem but suffers from no long term detrimental effects. Delbridge is a native of North Carolina and grew up in the Charlotte area. He is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow. Delbridge earned an M.Div. in 1987 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, attending as a Union Scholar. He earned his J.D. in 1996 at New York University School of Law in Manhattan. He currently works as General Counsel of Springs Global US, Inc., headquartered in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Delbridge is the chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Honors College at UNC Charlotte and teaches a course in constitutional law for the Honors College one semester a year. He was named the 2019 Honorary Alumnus for UNC Charlotte. In lieu of progeny, Delbridge endowed the Delbridge Narron Scholarship in the Honors College of UNC Charlotte. His hobbies include reading and music. Until retiring as of Easter Sunday 2015, he was the accompanist for Wedgewood Baptist Church for fifteen years. While working for North Hunterdon Baptist Church in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, Delbridge founded the AIDS Network in Hunterdon County, the first AIDS service organization in that area, and helped found the North Hunterdon Community Food Bank and Voorhees Village Preschool.

News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield

Sunday, September 1

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 God made us. They'll also enjoy time for art and play. Music will be at 9:40am.

Grades 1-5: Formation Class is from 9:15-10:00. They'll be learning about how things didn't stay perfect with the first people God created. Grace Notes is at 10:00. 1st-5th Graders will worship with their families. Worship Bags are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

Sunday, October 20

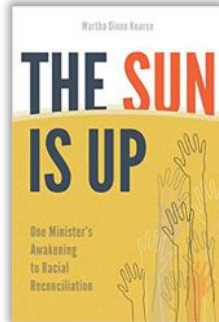
Children's Sunday during worship– Mark your calendars!

Grow with St. John's

Faith Journey Book Study

Starts Back on Monday, September 9!

An eventful beginning for the Faith Journey Book Study is planned. Martha Kearse will be here on Monday, September 9 to discuss her book, *The Sun Is Up*, which will be the study for the "Soul Sisters" for the fall. The group would like to invite the congregation to join them in welcoming Martha back that day at 11:45am until 1 pm. You may make your reservation by contacting Mallory in the church office as soon as possible. Martha's book is available through Amazon or Smyth & Helwys for \$13.00.



Please make plans to join us that day (or for the entire book study during the next four weeks).

Save the Date for Open Table!

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 in Broach Hall @ 5:50pm



For our first Open Table meal and fellowship of this school year, we are planning a Trivia Night! We will have great food, summer pictures displayed from youth and children's trips, and team up for challenging but fun trivia for all ages!

Sign up with Mallory OR click this link to register online: <https://forms.gle/Qne5S9tPfnAazVxP8>

Bible Work Bench Begins!

September 3 @ 11AM in Room 209

Please accept our invitation to join us as we begin the weekly meetings for our Bible Work Bench (Reading Between the Lines) on Tuesday, September 3, at 11 am in room 209 at St. John's. We meet for one hour each Tuesday. We welcome back our small group as we welcome people who have not attended in the past. Contact Steve Hoffman (hstevehoffman@gmail.com) or call 704-604-9634 for more information.

Handbell Choir Starting Soon

Come Ring with Us!

The handbell choir will begin rehearsals in early September on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. If you are interested in joining this group that plays in worship several times a year, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee for more information (jmcaabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428 ext. 20). No previous experience is necessary and you do not have to read music to learn to play bells. We hope you'll consider joining this fun group!



Serve with St. John's

Global Missions 2019

One More Week to Contribute!

2019 Goal: \$16,000

Contributions to Date: \$16,663

As of this week, we have exceeded our \$16,000 goal! However, the deadline is this Sunday and we expect the number above to increase. A total amount will be reported in this week's bulletin and next week's Family News. Stay tuned for that amount!

Meal Hosting for Charlotte Family Housing

Can you prepare a meal?

Volunteers are needed to provide dinners on Sunday 9/15, Tuesday 9/17 and Thursday 9/19 for the residents of Hawthorne Place (St. John's 2nd floor annex). For the safety of the families, those who are delivering food are asked to complete a background check.

Please contact Donna Scott at 919-280-9204 or Mallory in the church office for more details or to sign up soon!

CROP Walk 2019

Join us on Sunday, October 20!



Once again we have the opportunity to support CROP Walk. This year, it is on a Sunday! Some of us will walk and generate donations, some will help organize and promote, and others will help tally. Seventy-five percent of the funds raised support the efforts of Church World Service to fight poverty and hunger across the globe by providing disaster relief and supporting development efforts toward decreasing the causes of hunger. Twenty-five percent of the funds will benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves and Fishes, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina for efforts to decrease hunger in our own community.

More details to come! If you want to sign up now, please click this link to do so:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/stjohnsbaptistchurch>

Become a Heart Math Tutor!

Join St. John's members in mentoring and tutoring elementary students this year! Heart Math Tutoring provides a tutor-friendly curriculum and training and support from an on-site coordinator. To date, 98% of students have met program growth goals set with guidance from UNCC and CMS. 99.7% of surveyed volunteers have rated the experience positive.

Consider volunteering for 30 minutes or 1 hour per week at one of the 23 locations and times listed at:

www.hearttutoring.org/become-a-volunteer.

Email sally.dudley@hearttutoring.org with questions or [sign up here](#).

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

Brotherhood of the Biscuit is Back

Join us September 20 @ 6:30am!



Join the Brotherhood of the Biscuit at 6:30am on Friday, September 20 for biscuits and fellowship in the Lounge. We are looking forward to hearing from Todd Stillerman as our speaker on this date.

NAMI Support Groups

Second Tuesday of Every Month @ 6:30pm

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. The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 10 in Rooms 114 & 116.

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

Prayer Concerns & Sympathy

Byron Bullard, Carol Drye, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Henry Snyder, Elma Thomas, & Jeck Warren-home; Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family and friends of Grace Burton in the time of her passing. A memorial service will be held Tuesday, September 3 at 11am in the Chapel.

Sunday, September 1

Deacons: Leslie Bragg, Minh Callaway, Anne Sutton, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Elizabeth Whipple, Nancy Wilson, Lindsay Wilson, Alice Wirz, Bert Green
Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narthex -Betty Thompson; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; 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 August 5-11: \$20,664
 Income through August 11: \$731,975
 Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

August 26-Sept.1: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412
 September 2-8: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

Calendar for September 1-6

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, September 1

9:15am Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30am Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
 10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
 2:00pm South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)

Monday, September 2

All Day Church Offices Closed (Labor Day)
 8:00pm AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, September 3

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 (Gym)
 6:15pm Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)

Wednesday, September 4

6:30am Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30am Yoga (Room 114)
 10:00pm Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
 6:00pm Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00pm AA (Room 114)
 6:00pm Nursery Teacher Training (Lounge)
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 7:30pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)

Thursday, September 5

9:00am Unity Coalition (Lounge)
 6:00pm Stewardship Resource Team (Lounge)
 7:30pm CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, September 6

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

Saturday, September 7

7:00am Benton Basketball (Gym)

Note to Sunday School Classes

The current Sunday School quarter is 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.

