



# Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 35 – Week of September 2-8, 2019

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

**St. John's  
Worship  
this Week on  
Sunday,  
September 8**

**Proclaimer**

Rev. Dennis W.  
Foust, PhD

**Message**

*The God Who  
Welcomes All*

**Scripture**

I John 4:7-12

### Message from the Youth and Young Adult Minister Search Task Force

The task force formed to identify candidates to call as our next Youth and Young Adults Associate Minister has been hard at work discussing the charge given by the congregation, developing a profile for the position to be filled, and preparing profiles of St. John's and our community to best present who we are as a congregation to potential applicants. While our work has built on the efforts of the Staffing Our Future Task Force and the information they gathered and analyzed in their process, the Search Task Force is at a point where **we need your feedback** to ensure we are adhering to the concerns and desires of the congregation. To help facilitate discussion, members of the Search Task Force will be visiting Sunday School classes over the next two weeks and we will hold open listening sessions for anyone who would like to discuss with us. Below is a schedule of listening sessions. If your Sunday School class or small group is not listed below, and you would like to host a listening session please contact the church office and a member of the Search Task Force will reach out to you. We appreciate your prayerful support and look forward to engaging with you on this search process.

- September 8th at 9:15AM – Visit the Farside Class, Encouragers Class, McLeod Brown Class
- September 8th at 11:30AM – General listening session following worship in the Lounge
- September 8th at 6:45PM – Youth & Parent Kick-off
- September 15th at 8:30AM – General listening session in the Lounge
- September 15th at 9:15AM – Visit the Beacon Class, Pathfinders Class, Seekers Class, Adventure Class

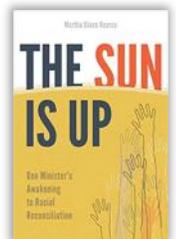
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## Faith Journey Book Study on September 9

Martha Kearsse Comes to Town!

An eventful beginning for the Faith Journey Book Study is planned. Martha Kearsse 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 in the Lounge with light refreshments**. 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).



## 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!

## Deacons Meetings

3 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 BROACH HALL** at 7:30pm. The Ministries Panel will meet in the Conference Room, the Administrative Panel will meet in Broach Hall, and the Pastoral Panel will meet in the Lounge. All deacons should be in attendance for these initial meetings.

# Messages from St. John's Staff

## A NEW CHURCH YEAR: PART ONE

Each September, as Labor Day weekend fades from our rear-view mirror, a new church year unfolds before us. As regular Sunday participation patterns return, children promote into new departments, sixth graders move into the youth ministry, groups and classes reassemble and the sanctuary balcony reopens. Ah, we embrace familiar rhythms. As Senior Minister, it is my desire for you to be aware of what is happening in the life and ministries of St. John's, as we begin this new church year. During September, I will review various areas of church life. This week - Worship & Servant Leadership:

- Next week – Administration, Communications, Messaging & Outreach;
- Week of 16th – Missions & Community Impact;
- Week of 23rd – Community of Faith, Congregational & Pastoral Care; and
- Week of 30th – Spiritual Formation, Prayerfulness, Finances, Facilities & Construction Projects Impacting Our Campus.

**Worship:** This Sunday, we set apart (ordain) eight new deacons to serve God's mission through St. John's. Then, beginning on Sunday, September 15th, we enter a season which I have named, "Strengthening Our Connection with God's Heart – A Season of Covenant Renewal: God's Mission is Our Mission" This autumn, we will renew our connection with God by considering each commitment in our St. John's church covenant. On the way to Advent, we will observe World Communion Sunday, Children's Sunday/CROP Walk Sunday and our annual financial stewardship emphasis.

Kevin Gray is enlisting two new teams to assist in worship support and worship planning. If you have an interest in these areas, please let Kevin know.

Servant Leadership:

**Deacons:** Jason Benton is our new chair of the diaconate. Other deacon panel chairs and resource team leaders are also beginning their new year of service. We have 48 active deacons each year organized into three panels:

- Pastoral Deacon Panel – 24 deacons offering servant leadership caring for each household of the church;
- Ministries Deacon Panel – 12 deacons offering servant leadership in the many ministries and activities of church life; and
- Administrative Deacon Panel – 12 deacons offering servant leadership in areas such as finance, house and grounds, personnel, etc.

## News for Youth and Their Families

from Lee Gray

### Upcoming Events for Youth

#### 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!

**Sunday School Ministry Leadership** – We are blessed to have community groups for all ages on Sunday mornings. Teachers, care group leaders and outreach leaders are key servants in the life of St. John's.

**Resource Teams:** An updated list of leaders for September, 2019 – August, 2020 is being distributed this next week. Please remember all of these servant leaders in your prayers and lend them your support.

Lee Gray continues to lead our ministries with youth. After a new minister to serve youth and young adults is called by the church to join our staff, in several months, Lee's ministry among us will invest his caring spirit in the area of congregational care. Jordan Benton is chairing the Search Team for this new minister focusing on youth and young adults. This search team consists of young adults, youth parents and older youth representatives.

Allison Benfield continues to lead our ministries with children. Allison's role among us is expanding to include spiritual formation for all ages. Together, we are framing a theological foundation for our vision to equip vocational disciples for ministry in daily life and exploring ways to both deepen and broaden learning opportunities for adults. Our desired outcomes include enhanced teacher training, a new concept for congregational curriculum and offering best practices to strengthen all groups and classes.

Kevin Gray continues to lead and coordinate our worship and music ministries. Kevin's role is expanding to create stronger connections of impact between us and the Charlotte community. Be on the lookout for ways you can support 'Gateway Experiences' aimed to introduce people to St. John's.

As for me, it is my blessing to collaborate with members and groups, coordinate visions, equip, guide, encourage and orient us toward God's mission for Christ's Church through St. John's. I invest my week in study, prayer, writing, spiritual discernment, planning, staff coaching, pastoral care, outreach, assimilation, ministry support, missional engagement, community connections, leader development, etc. As you can see, a great deal goes on between Sundays. I hope this review helps you gain perspective on where we are as we begin a new year of worship and servant leadership.

**Shalom, Dennis**

## News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield

### Sunday, September 8

**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 the first people had to leave the garden God made for them to enjoy and care for. 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 God kept Noah, his family, and many animals safe in the middle of a great flood. Grace Notes is at 10:00. 1st-5th Graders will worship with their families. Worship Bags are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

## Grow with St. John's

### 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." Sign up by September 15!

**Registration Deadline is September 15!** Contact Donna Scott at 919-280-9204 or [djs58@nc.rr.com](mailto: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!**

### Bible Work Bench Begins!

September 17 @ 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 17, 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](mailto:hstevehoffman@gmail.com)) or call 704-604-9634 for more information.

### Sign Up 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>

### Report on the 2019 Global Missions

Thanks to all who contributed!

**2019 Goal: \$16,000**

**Contributions to Date: \$17,588**

As of this week, we have exceeded our \$16,000 goal! Thank you to all who contributed to assist the Nyarweng School in South Sudan and provide relief to victims of fire in Sierra Leone.

### Handbell Choir Starting Soon Come Ring with Us on September 11!



The handbell choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11 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 ([jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@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

#### 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>

**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@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)  
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray  
ext. 14 - [kgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
Minister for Youth & Young Adults.....Lee Gray  
ext. 15 - [lgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust  
ext. 12 - [dfoust@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:dfoust@sjcharlotte.org)

### Church Staff

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

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

### Prayer Concerns & Sympathy

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

### Sunday, September 8

**Deacons:** Clara Howell, Chuck Howard, Carol Injaychock, Libby LeVie, Jeff LeVie, Christa Lynch, Gary McFarland, Cindy McIntyre, Tricia Miller, Melissa Millette

**Greeters:** Main-Carol & Tom Injaychock; 5th St./Narhex-Susan King; Broach Hall-Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter

**Tellers:** Tim Gibson & Morgan Newman

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

### Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of August 26-September 1: \$9,945  
Income through August 11: \$744,793  
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

### Ministers on Call:

September 2-8: Lee Gray 704-451-1309  
September 9-15: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

## 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. Please contact Allison Paksoy at [allison@bpfna.org](mailto:allison@bpfna.org) or 704-301-9447 if interested or for more information. Thank you in advance!

## 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.

## Calendar for September 8-14

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

### Sunday, September 8

8:00am ..... Church Council (Lounge)  
9:15am ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
9:15am ..... Deacon Orientation (Lounge)  
10:30am ..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)  
10:30am ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30am ..... Listening Session (Lounge)  
3:00pm ..... CROP (Lasater Hall)  
5:00pm ..... Sunday Night Live Kick-Off & Parent Meeting (Broach Hall)

### Monday, September 9

11:45am ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)  
12:30pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
5:45pm ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
6:30pm ..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)  
6:30pm ..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Broach Hall)  
6:30pm ..... Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)  
7:30pm ..... All Deacons Meeting (Broach Hall)  
8:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, September 10

6:30am ..... Primary Election (Broach Hall)  
7:00am ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
10:00am ..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
12:00pm ..... Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)  
5:15pm ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
6:15pm ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
6:30pm ..... NAMI Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)

### Wednesday, September 11

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 ..... AA (Room 114)  
6:00pm ..... Handbells (Handbell Room)  
7:15pm ..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
7:30pm ..... Sherrill Basketball (Gym)

### Thursday, September 12

10:00am ..... Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)  
4:00pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing/Jubilee Store (Room 305)  
7:30pm ..... CBFNC College Ministry (Lounge)

### Friday, September 13

10:00am ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)  
8:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Saturday, September 14

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