



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 44 – Week of November 4-10, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
November 10,
2019

Proclaimer
Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message
*The Danger of
Praying*

Scripture
Romans 12:1-2 &
Matthew 6:5-13

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Family Fellowship Event @ OMB

THIS Sunday, November 10 after Worship

This Sunday, November 10, all families with children are invited to meet at Olde Mecklenburg Brewing at 4150 Yancey Road in Charlotte at around 12pm. Together, we will enjoy some time to hang out together. Feel free to change clothes before or come as you are. They have great food but there might also be food trucks! We hope you and your family will join us!



Courage, Heroes, & Legends Concert

Festival Singers at St. John's on Nov. 16 @ 7PM

This Festival Singers Concert is based on the theme of courage demonstrated by those who work day by day in the battlefields of war, discrimination, and personal trials. The concert will feature patriotic selections honoring Veterans; *Last Letter Home*, a soldier's last words to his family; *Flying*, a stunning all female work by composer Rachel DeVore Fogarty about Amelia Earhart; and many more. There are two concerts: **November 16 at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary** at St. John's and November 17 at 4:00PM at Central UMC in Concord. **If you're interested in coming and want to greet folks at the door, please email Kevin at kgray@sjcharlotte.org.**

Jubilee Store Tree and Volunteer Opportunities

Charlotte Family Housing Jubilee Store

We are excited to have Charlotte Family Housing's Jubilee Store happening at St. John's again this year. The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, December 7th and 8th and provides an empowering and dignified way for their clients to shop for children's Christmas gifts. Remember, if you purchase a gift, **DO NOT WRAP IT.**

Here is how you can help:

- Starting now, **select a leaf from the Christmas tree** in the Main Entrance (gym) which shows a specific gift, purchase it and return it **UNWRAPPED** to the St. John's collection bin at the Main Entrance by November 24. If during the week, please leave the gift in the church office.
- Sign up at the **shared link below** for children's activities, meal servers, shopping assistants, gift wrappers and hospitality help needed each day of the event.
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48acaf0-2019>

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

Children and Youth Basketball Practice Schedule

Sunday: 3-4PM, 15u Girls; 5-6PM 18u Girls; 6:30-7:30PM 10u Boys
Monday: 5:30-6:30PM, 6u Co-Ed; 6:30-7:30PM, 12u Boys
Tuesday: 6:45-8:00PM, 16u Boys

Wednesday: 5:30-6:30PM, 8u CoEd
Thursday: 5:30-6:30PM, 12u Girls;
6:45-8:00PM, 18u Boys

Messages from St. John's Staff

OUR ST. JOHN'S COVENANT & NEW WINESKINS

"Nothing moves more slowly than a church." William Barclay wrote this comment about Jesus' words, "new wine must be put into new skins." Barclay wrote, "There is in religious people a kind of passion for the old. Nothing moves more slowly than a church. The trouble with the Pharisees was that the whole religious outlook of Jesus was so startlingly new they could simply not adjust to it." We all know that when the human mind loses elasticity, it has increased difficulty accepting new ideas and change. For generations, St. John's has embraced adventurous thoughts, new approaches and inclusive initiatives, so long as the foundational theology is motivated by God's compassion. We seek to be responsible and purposeful with new ideas and changes. When Jesus said, "new wine must be put into new skins," he was reminding people that wineskins, the wine bottles of Jesus' day, became hardened and inflexible with time. Basically, Jesus was saying, 'Don't let your thinking become like an old wineskin.'

This autumn, my messages have focused on a season of covenant renewal. My messages have asked us to consider 'new wine skins' for our St. John's Covenant. I have connected each message to the theme, Strengthening Our Connection with God's Heart. Our Covenant gives us something on which we can agree in a culture focused on disagreement and dissension.

Christian worship presents us with God's real-world perspective as we celebrate God's resurrection of Jesus. We take this real-world perspective to the nearby world. Christian growth shows up as vocational discipleship. We equip members to be Ministers in Daily Life.

News for Youth and Their Families from Lee Gray, Minister for Youth & Young Adults

Upcoming Events for Youth

Sunday, November 10

Join us for regular SNL from 5:00-7:30pm.

November 17

Middle School Discipleship Kickoff Meeting during SNL – Remember to let Lia Benton liabenton@outlook.com or Phil Vavra prvavra@gmail.com know your youth's adult mentor.

November 24

11th/12th Grade Youth have Discipleship form 6:30-7:30 during SNL

December 8 at 5 pm

High School Christmas Bingo Party at Charlotte Rescue Mission

Friday, December 13 at 5:00 pm

Middle School Christmas Mission Party for Room In The Inn

December 15 at 11:30 am

All youth deliver poinsettias after morning worship. Youth will sing in the 10:30 worship service that morning.

Our community of faith is nurtured in healthy ways as we abide in the vine, Jesus Christ. Actively faithful stewardship is sowing missional harvest seeds which bear fruit in the future.

Joyful witness is our way of living through the cross with God as our constant helper. Last Sunday, I reminded you that Jesus sends you to continue his mission as a servant church just as The Living God sent Jesus to be a servant, fulfilling God's mission. This Sunday, we will read the prayer which concludes our covenant, as I present a message entitled, 'The Danger of Praying.'

Dear God, keep us flexible so our minds and our St. John's Covenant never become like old wineskins.

Amen and Shalom,
Dennis

"We Will Be a Servant Church"

MT25 Booklets and Service Cards

This past Sunday, following Dr. Foust's message on the statement in our church covenant about being a servant church, we had the opportunity to receive a booklet describing various ways each of us can fulfill our own part in the servant ministries of St. John's. If you did not receive one of the MT25 booklets, copies are available at the two church entrances and in Mallory's office.



With the booklet are "Offering of Service" cards. Whether you want to continue, renew, or begin a commitment for an aspect of service ministry OR want to know more about other ministries, we encourage you to complete one of the cards and either drop it in the offering plate or leave it in Mallory's office in the box in the corner. Someone from the Mission Resource Team will contact you to provide the information you need.

MT25 "...as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (NRSV)

News for Children and Their Families from Allison Benfield, Minister for Spiritual Growth

Sunday, November 10

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 Hour and Worship Hour. They'll be learning about how God helped David beat Goliath. They'll also enjoy time for art and play. Music will be at 9:40.

Grades 1-5: These classes will be learning about how Joseph fared once he got to Egypt. Grace Notes is from 10-10:20. 1st-3rd Grades will have Godly Play, and 4th-5th Grades will worship with their families. Worship bags will be available. Schedule Change for Advent!

Grow with St. John's

WDAV Service of Lessons & Carols

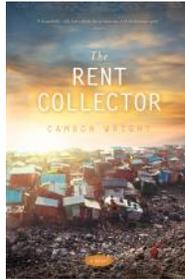
LIVE from St. John's on Tuesday, December 3 @ 7PM

Mark your calendars for this year's live broadcast from St. John's of the WDAV Service of Lessons and Carols. This will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 7PM in the Sanctuary with a reception following in Lasater Hall.

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, November 26 @ 12PM in the Library

The book club will meet again on Tuesday, November 26 at 12PM to discuss the book *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Bring a lunch to eat afterwards in the Lounge. This will be the last meeting of 2019. This book's story is set in a Cambodian dump called Stung Meanchey and is a story of hope and second chances as one woman tries to save her chronically ill child while living in the worst of places.



We have let many people find a nest in our tree: the homeless, those needing a safe place while they get a better footing in life, those generations of children and babies given love and gentle teaching here. I have often looked out across our gathered congregation on Sunday morning, and seen the generations of young folks who grew up here in the tree, and with our love and encouragement, flew away to find their places in the world. I love seeing the many who have flown back to our St. John's tree to now serve and play their part in keeping the tree strong and growing.

We who are a part of this beautiful organic entity known as St. John's are aware of how much energy and effort it takes for this body of God's creating to keep growing, how many times we have seen our tree weather storms or droughts, or times when we have seen the loss of an ancient and massive branch. But in those seasons, we have watched the rest of the tree join together in unique ways only God could fathom, and remain strong.

Now, I ask you, too, to think about where you find yourself in this tree, where you could add some nourishment to the growth of St. John's, and keep our tree enduring for decades to come. May you find your place here, grow a strong and beautiful branch, and show your own brilliant fall colors in this season of giving!

Commitment Cards for Stewardship will arrive in your mailbox this week. Please keep an eye on your mailbox for this important mailing.

The St. John's Tree

A Message from Linda Finger of the Stewardship Task Force

The hardwood trees up in our beautiful Blue Ridge mountains this weekend were pretty well bare, their lovely fall colors gone, only the leaves piled around their massive trunks, or blowing around the roads nearby. It made the bare branches and limbs much more prominent, and showed the structure of the trees that we more often see covered with foliage, dark green boughs in summer, or red and gold in the autumn. Through the seasons of the year, the months going by, we in our trips to the mountains love seeing the beautiful forested slopes. Sometimes we even take them for granted, yet they are always there. Strong, ancient, giving shade or shelter, bending with storms, sometimes losing branches, still those sturdy trunks remain, exuding strength, reminding us of their enduring nature.

Of course, you know where I'm going with this... this season of our church year, our season of giving. I thought back on the forty-five plus years I have been a part of this church family. It's been a family tree for me, in a lot of ways. A place where I can find myself on the branch with my kids, and my husband who grew up here on the St. John's tree (probably climbing like a monkey through the branches!). I have watched the seasons of the tree go around, year by year, have known the shelter of the strong branches here, and have nested here. I've observed how those limbs reach far out into the neighborhoods and the community around St. John's, and how the love and nourishment of our church has helped our community grow strong, too. **(continued in next column)**

Host a Meal!

Charlotte Family Housing Meal Hosting

Volunteers are needed to provide dinners on Tuesday, Nov. 19, and Thursday, Nov. 21 for the residents of Hawthorne Place on the 2nd floor. You have to complete a background check for the safety of the families. **Contact Donna Scott for information and to sign up: 919-280-9204.**

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26 at 7PM

MeckMin presents its 44th Annual Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7PM at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. James Howell, Senior Minister of Myers Park UMC, is the speaker. All attendees are asked to bring canned goods to donate to Crisis Assistance Ministry and Loaves & Fishes.

Be a Volunteer RA!

Charlotte Family Housing Needs Your Help!

The Resident Advisers for the two shelters hold a team meeting twice a month. During these meetings Charlotte Family Housing needs volunteers to **fill in for the RAs at our Hawthorne Place Shelter**. The RA Volunteer's primary responsibility is to **buzz residents in and out of the shelter** during their shift. Beyond that, volunteers are encouraged to introduce themselves to residents as they come in and be on hand in case there are emergent issues. **Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0448a8af29a3ff2-hawthorne>**. You will get an email to fill out a background check form when you sign up. It is free and protects the residents of the shelter. Consider doing this today!

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 Spiritual Growth.....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

Updated Directory inserts are available outside
Mallory's office now.
Please pick up your copy today.

The Art of Good Marriage

Would You Like a Copy?

Many of you have requested a copy of the reading Wanny Hogewood read in Chris and Noel's wedding. If you would like a copy, please email Wanny at bwwh4062@gmail.com and she will gladly help you. If you do not email, a few copies will be available for pick up in the church office.

Brotherhood of the Biscuit

Friday, November 15 @ 6:30AM

Brotherhood of the Biscuit meets again on Friday, November 15 @ 6:30am in the Lounge. All are welcome to come, have a biscuit, and join the fellowship.



Calendar for October November 10-16

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, November 10

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:30am..... Godly Play (Room 221)
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
2:00pm..... North Sudanese Event (Broach Hall)
5:00pm..... Sunday Night Live (3rd Floor, Lounge, Gym)

Monday, November 11

11:45am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
12:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
5:45pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
7:00pm..... Festival Singers Concert Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, November 12

7:00am..... Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
11:00am..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
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, November 13

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am..... Yoga (Room 114)
10:00am..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
6:00pm..... Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)
6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, November 14

10:00am..... Craft & Needle Ministry (Lounge)
7:30pm..... CBFNC College Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, November 15

6:30am..... Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
5:30pm..... Volunteers Serve Dinner at Men's Shelter (Uptown)
7:00pm..... Festival Singers Concert Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00pm..... AA (Lounge)

Saturday, November 16

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
7:00pm..... Festival Singers Concert (Sanctuary)

Prayer Concerns, Sympathy, Congratulations

Harry Barr, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Joyce Ehrenberger, Polly Hull (Asbury), Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Henry Snyder, Elma Thomas, & Jeck Warren; Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Neff who died on November 3, 2019. Her memorial service was this Thursday, November 7 at 1PM in the Sanctuary.

CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Peacock and her husband Steve Miller on the birth of their daughter, Mabry Anne Miller, on Sunday, November 3. Mabry is also the niece of Annie Peacock and the granddaughter of Rob Peacock.

Sunday, November 10

Deacons: Chuck Howard, Nancy Fuller, Gail Sifford, Laura Sorrell, Anne Sutton, Kathy Turner, Mindy Vergakis, Lindsay Wilson, Sally Young

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Scott Kerley; 5th St./Narthex-Susan King; Broach Hall-Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Margaret Falls & Henry Snyder

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of October 28-November 3: \$13,236
Income through November 3: \$901,165
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

November 4-10: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
November 11-17: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234