



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 45 – Week of November 11-17, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

November 24 is Commitment Sunday! Bring your commitment cards to worship on this day!

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
November 17,
2019

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message

Reaching Out with
Vision

Scripture

Matthew
14:13-21

Courage, Heroes, & Legends Concert

Festival Singers at St. John's **THIS** Saturday, November 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.**

A Stewardship Message

By Lynn Erdman

As I enter this time of Thanksgiving, I think of all the reasons I am grateful. The birth of our first grandchild happened this week. James Durning Moore, III was born to Natalie and Durning Moore. He is a new addition to our St. John's family. I think of all the opportunities he will have growing up in the St. John's family. This time of year is one of my favorites. I love the music, sappy holiday movies, irresistible food, decorations, gathering of family and friends and the celebration of Thanksgiving and continuing with the birth of Jesus Christ. This time of year causes us to pause to reflect on what we are thankful for but it also prompts us to think about gifts we are going to give to family and friends for the holidays. I run a small nonprofit for breast cancer survivors. St. John's is also a nonprofit organization. This time of year nonprofit organizations ask the community for funds to continue operating and often to grow their services to serve more needs in our community. St. John's is not unlike other nonprofits seeking funding commitments to sustain and grow operations over the next year. Nonprofits, similar to the one I run, have multiple ways to ask for money like "Giving Tuesday", grants, special fundraisers and end-of-year appeals. Most nonprofits fundraise all year long. How many of you dislike being asked by multiple charities multiple times a year for money? St. John's operates differently from community nonprofits by asking its members for funds once a year during our Stewardship Sunday in November. We could ask much more often but St. John's wants our message during the year to be on our mission and not continually on money, money, money. This is where you come in.

As you make your list this year of what you are thankful for, I hope St. John's is prominently on your list. When you think about your pledge or commitment on Stewardship Sunday for our St. John's 2020 operating year, please remember how the church impacts your life, your family's life, and our community's life. We are a Servant church and our light shines brightly by making a difference internally and externally for all to benefit. Make sure St. John's is at the top of your giving list this year as you celebrate this time of Thanks and Giving.

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Will You Write an Advent Devotional?

Next Monday is the LAST DAY to Turn One In to Mallory and Kevin

If you are willing to write an Advent devotional, please email a 3-5 paragraph writing to both **Mallory AND Kevin by Monday, November 18**. The themes for the different weeks in Advent are hope, joy, peace, and love. You are free to choose the topic on which you would like to write. All ages are encouraged to write something to submit!

Messages from St. John's Staff

COVENANT, PRAYER, VISION AND COMMITMENT

Through this autumn, we have walked a pathway of Covenant Renewal together. Last Sunday, my message offered the image of viewing prayer as the keystone of actively faithful Christian discipleship. The prayer at the end of our St. John's Covenant is like a keystone set in place to finish an arch; it secures the stones in the arch and distributes the weight equally while also serving as that which sustains the strength. This Sunday, I will offer a message entitled, "Reaching Out with Vision." If you are in town, I hope you will be present in worship. I am looking forward to offering you some practical ideas as we reach out with vision. As we enter our second century of ministry in 2022, let us use the next few years to strengthen our ministries and impact our community. On Sunday, November 24, I will offer a message entitled, "Reaching Out with Commitment," as we participate in our annual Stewardship Commitment Walk.

ANOTHER THOUGHT ON PRAYER

Harry Emerson Fosdick is the author of one of our favorite St. John's worship hymns, 'God of Grace and God of Glory.' For 21 years, he served as Senior Minister of Riverside Church in New York City. However, one cannot understand his approach to pastoral ministry or the compassionate God unless you know that during his early adulthood, he experienced a nervous breakdown. He felt overpowering dread after hearing a fire and brimstone sermon by his family's pastor. Harry, along with some others, became concerned that he had committed the unpardonable sin and had no options except to be thrown into the fires of everlasting hell. Gradually, he learned this was the manipulative and pathetic theology of fundamentalism. Later, as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of New York City, he preached a sermon in 1922 entitled, *'Shall the Fundamentalists Win?'* Although the congregation supported

his message, the fundamentalists in the presbytery called for a heresy trial. Fosdick knew firsthand what condemnation does to people when they see no possibility of hope. Thus, Fosdick became a Baptist in 1925 – go figure. I like a his words in one of my favorite books about a vital prayer life, 'The Meaning of Prayer.' "Our failure to think of prayer as a privilege may be partly due to the fact that we can pray any time in every place." Then he offers this prayer, "O Lord, keep me sensitive to the grace that is round about me. May the familiar not become neglected!" Amen

**Shalom,
Dennis**

"We Will Be a Servant Church"

MT25 Booklets and Service Cards

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

Upcoming Events for Youth

November 17

Regular SNL meeting and a 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.

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

Sunday, November 17

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 Daniel when he was in a lion's den. 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 forgave his brothers for what they had done to him. Grace Notes is from 10-10:20. 1st-5th Grades will worship with their families. Worship bags will be available.

Grace Notes

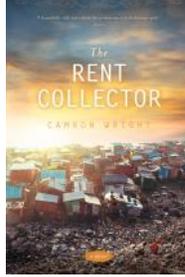
Grace Notes is leading worship through song on **December 15.** That means we only have 4 more weeks to rehearse! Please make every effort to be here so your child feels prepared and comfortable on December 15.

Grow with St. John's

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.



Reach Out with St. John's

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. **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!

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.

Room in the Inn 2019-2020

Sign up to help with Room in the Inn for the 2019-2020 year! Link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>

Deacon Panel and All Deacons' Meetings!

Monday, November 18, 2019

This is a reminder that all three deacon panels will meet at 6:30PM on Monday, November 18 followed by an All Deacons' meeting at 7:30PM in Broach Hall. See locations for panel meetings in the calendar on the back page!

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



CFH Jubilee Store Giving Tree Time

Here's how you can help!

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. Here is how you can help:

- Select a leaf from the Christmas tree in the Main Entrance (gym) which shows a specific gift, purchase it and return the **UNWRAPPED** item to the St. John's collection bins at the Main Entrance by November 24. If during the week, please leave the gift in the church office.
- If you prefer to shop online, you may view the Amazon wish list at the following link:
- <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PXA3UW1S84KY?type=wishlist&filter=unpurchased&sort=priority>
- 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 if
you need more
information.



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

A Note of Thanks

From the Poole Family

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus as you show his love. As we enter this season of gratitude, my family and I would like to express our appreciation for the concern, compassion, cards, calls, assistance, and prayers you have expressed on our behalf. Gene's illness has progressed to the point where he can no longer function on his own. He cannot walk, talk, eat, bathe, or see well enough to read or watch television or even write his name. As a result, it requires that we have caregivers throughout the day. His mind is still sharp but his body just won't work. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we travel this uncharted path. **Sincerely, Carol Poole, Craig Poole (son), and Leah Poole Callender (daughter)**

Calendar for October November 17-23

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, November 17

8:00am.....Church Council (Conference Room)
9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
12:00pm Together in Christ Women's Celebration (Lasater Hall)
2:00pm..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
3:00pm..... 15u Girls B-ball Practice (Gym)
5:00pm..... 18u Girls B-ball Practice (Gym)
5:00pm..... Sunday Night Live (3rd Floor, Lounge, Gym)
6:30pm..... Middle School Discipleship
6:30pm..... 10u Boys B-ball Practice (Gym)

Monday, November 18

11:45am.....Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
12:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
5:30pm..... 6u Coed B-ball Practice (Gym)
5:45pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30pm..... 12u Boys B-ball Practice (Gym)
6:30pm..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Broach Hall)
6:30pm..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
6:30pm..... Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)
7:30pm..... All Deacons' Meeting (Broach Hall)
8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, November 19

10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
11:00am..... Bible Workbench (Room 209)
5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
5:30pm..... CROP (Lounge)
6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:45pm..... 16u Boys B-ball Practice (Gym)

Wednesday, November 20

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am..... Yoga (Room 114)
5:30pm..... WOC Board Meeting (Conference Room)
5:30pm..... 8u Boys/Co-ed B-ball Practice (Gym)
6:00pm..... Membership Resource Team (Conference Room)
6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)
6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, November 21

12:30pm..... Novant Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)
7:30pm..... CBFNC College Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, November 22

8:00pm..... AA (Lounge)

Saturday, November 23

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

Prayer Concerns, Congratulations, Sympathy

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Durning and Natalie Moore on the birth of their son James Durning Moore on Sunday, November 10! Congrats also to the grandparents, David and Lynn Erdman!

SYMPATHY to Al Bridges in the passing of his brother Captain Paul Daniel Bridges, Jr. (retired Coast Guard) on Thursday, October 24, in Dauphin Island, Alabama.

Sunday, November 17

Deacons: Kim Allen, Jeff Almond, Kevin Benton, Leslie Bragg, Treva Bridges, Minh Callaway, Marc Cardella, Allene Cooley, Ryan Crowder, Alan Dietz

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narthex -Vanessa Boling; Broach Hall-Ashley Hogewood; 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 November 4-10: \$21,609
Income through November 10: \$922,752
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

November 11-17: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
November 18-24: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412