



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 47 – Week of November 25-December 1, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
December 1,
2019

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message

*Can You See Hope
from Here?*

Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-15 &
Romans 13:11-4

Advent Worship for 2019

Asking Honest Questions While Waiting for the Lord

The 2019 Advent Devotional Booklets will be available Sunday outside of the Sanctuary for anyone to pick up and enjoy throughout the season. Each devotional is written by a St. John's member or staff member. We hope you enjoy all that these booklets contain! If you would like one mailed to you, please call or email Mallory in the office with this request. Below is the schedule for Advent Worship this year.

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday in Advent

- Worship Theme: God Inspires Visions of Hope
- Message Title: Can You See Hope from Here?
- Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-15 & Romans 13:11-4

Sunday, December 8: Hanging of the Green with Readings, Choral Anthems from the Choir, and a String Orchestra

- Worship Theme: God Inspires New Beginnings through Peace
- Message Title: All Are Welcome! But Was John Our Kind of Baptist?
- Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-9 & Matthew 3:1-11

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday in Advent with All Choirs and Handbells

- Worship Theme: God Inspires Us to Rediscover Joy
- Message Title: The Question We Really Must Settle
- Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-7 & Matthew 11:2-6

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Worship Theme: God Inspires the Nature and Character of our Loving
- Message Title: How Does Jesus Effect Your Loving?
- Scriptures: Psalm 80:1-3 & Matthews 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Communion, Carols, Candlelight

- Worship Theme: Celebrating God's Appearance
- Message Title: Christmas Everyday
- Scriptures: Titus 2:11-14

WDAV
Lessons and
Carols is NEXT
TUESDAY!
Details on
page 3.

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Room in the Inn 2019-2020

Opportunities to Help December 6-March 27

We have a current need for many volunteers for the upcoming Room in the Inn season. We need help from interested volunteers who can fill the following roles: Overnight hosts, van drivers, bag lunch providers, set-up team members, meal providers (dinner & breakfast), laundry assistants, and community resource table volunteers. Here is the link to our Signup Genius signup list which shows ALL volunteer slots. Please click on this link below to sign up as a volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Alice Wirz at 704-377-6189 or by emailing her at ahwirz@carolina.rr.com, or Dale Johnson at 704-364-2575 or 704-454-8931 (cell) or by emailing him at dwj9578@usa.com.

Messages from St. John's Staff

A PASTORAL PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Living God,

Thank You for blessing me with the privilege, opportunity and responsibility of serving Your people named St. John's Baptist Church of Charlotte as they follow the Way of Jesus Christ.

I am thankful to You for uniting their call to be Actively Faithful Faithfully Active with my calling to be a congregational minister equipping Your people to pursue Active Faith by balancing their vertical relationship with You along with their horizontal practices of loving one another and service to continue Jesus' work by being Vocational Disciples as Ministers in Daily Life.

Please receive my heartfelt gratitude for how You call to them and they obey You by:

Embracing their history while also expressing
Your vision in a changing context;
Worshipping You with reverence;
Addressing injustice with compassion;
Being a leadership church in our city;
Living as a missional people;
Practicing peace in a hope-torn world;
Growing in understanding of Your Good News;
Redeeming human brokenness;
Offering hospitality and reconciliation to all;
Living as a Covenant Community;
Collaborating with local and global partners;
Participating in transformational learning;
Offering a positive and joyful witness;
Investing energies in peace-building;
Nurturing all ages in spiritual growth;
Stewarding their facilities for ministry;
Reaching Out with Vision and Commitment;
Caring for one another;
Being the broken-yet-whole body of Christ;
Incarnating Jesus' theological ethics; and
Relating merciful forgiveness and grace
to persons who have been de-churched.

Lord of all, we know You have expressed grace upon grace to us. Deepen our relationship with You. Sensitize us to the needs to which You call us. Broaden our capacities for outreach.

Increase our desire to share Your message of compassion with others. And, thank You for already beginning to answer our prayers. Amen.

Happy Thanks-living, Beloved.

**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.

News for Youth and Their Families

from Lee Gray, Minister for Youth & Young Adults

Upcoming Events for Youth

December 1

SNL: Colleen Cardella will share her faith and vocation story

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.

January 24-26

Youth Ski Trip to Winterplace, WV

February 2

Youth Sunday

February 28-March 1

Middle School Discipleship Retreat to Blowing Rock

News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield, Minister for Spiritual Growth

Sunday, December 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 Hour and Worship Hour. They'll be learning about how an angel visited Mary and asked her to be part of God's work in the world. 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 Mary said yes to being part of God's work in the world and how she visited her cousin Elizabeth. 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

WDAV Service of Lessons & Carols

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

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

Chrismon Trip

Women of the Church Outing

Join Women of the Church Friday, December 13 for a day trip to Salisbury to see the Chrismon trees at St. John's Lutheran Church and to visit Ruffy's Chrismon Shop. We'll meet at the church and leave at 9:30 a.m. to visit the church, have lunch, and then go to the shop, returning by 3:30 p.m. Everyone, not just WOC members, is welcome. Please call Mallory in the church office to let us know if you plan to attend.



A Charlie Brown Christmas, Cookies, & Cocoa

December 22 during Sunday School

All generations are invited to come to Broach Hall during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15am) on Sunday, December 22 to enjoy *A Charlie Brown Christmas* with cookies and cocoa alongside! This is for adults, youth, and children!



Financial Ministry Pledge Report 2019

Amount Pledged: \$742,617
Commitments Received: 139

If you have not turned in your pledge card to **Jacquelyn** in the office, please do so as soon as possible.

Reach Out with St. John's

Christmas Cards for Neighbors

December 1-15 at the Main Entrance

The mailboxes for the Christmas Cards for Neighbors will be up December 1-15 at the Main Entrance. During this time, see the list of folks we are sending cards to this year, write one, a few, or all of them a Christmas card, and have them back to the church by December 15 so that our deacons can deliver them in plenty of time.

Advent Meditation and Yoga

December 15 at 5:00PM in McLeod Brown Room 114

You are invited to come to a special Advent meditation and yoga evening led by Sara Vavra. This very meaningful time is open to **all** adults and young people. As in the past, this will be a time for preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, of God's coming to us in the human experience.

For one hour, we will practice the art of being still, pausing for contemplative and intentional movement in order to be fully awake to the marvelous meaning of God with us "Emmanuel." This does not require difficult movements and can be done while seated in a chair. Sara's words and guidance are offered as an opportunity to deepen the meaning of the season of Waiting and Preparing. If you would like to join us please contact the church office (704-333-5428), so we can be sure to have room for all, who would like to participate. You may wish to bring a yoga mat or a towel. There are mats available. After the meditation time, herbal teas and cookies will be served.

CFH Jubilee Store

Still In Need of Volunteers!!! Click Link Below!!!

The Jubilee Store is December 7-8 here at St. John's! There are still MANY slots to be filled to help make this event a success. See below for directions and a link to sign up to help.

- 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 more info.

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.

Children and Youth

Basketball Practice Schedule

Sunday:

- 3-4PM, 15u Girls
- 4-5PM 18u Girls
- 5:30-6:30PM 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



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

Magic of Christmas & The Singing Christmas Tree

Carolina Voices Holiday Concert

Carolina Voices will host their holiday concert December 13-15 and 20-22 at the Knight Theater. **Our very own Jacquelyn McAbee is a part of this choir!** The wonder of the holiday season comes to life as two of Charlotte's favorite holiday traditions join forces: Charlotte Symphony's Magic of Christmas and Carolina Voices' The Singing Christmas Tree! Gather the whole family for this joyful celebration, complete with quintessential holiday songs and sing-a-longs.



If you are interested in going to this on Sunday, December 22 with a group from St. John's, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee in the office OR Jane Winn.

Calendar for December 1-6

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, December 1

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

Monday, December 2

11:30am..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
11:45am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
12:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
6:00pm..... WDAV Rehearsal (Sanctuary, Choir Room)
8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, December 3

10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
7:00pm..... WDAV Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
8:00pm..... WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)

Wednesday, December 4

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am..... Yoga (Room 114)
6:00pm..... Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
6:00pm..... Handbells (Handbell Room)
6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)
7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 5

9:00am..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)
1:00pm..... Decorate Chrismon Trees (Sanctuary)
7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, December 6

10:30am..... Metrolina Assoc. for the Blind Yoga (Room 114)
5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
8:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

Saturday, December 7

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
10:00am..... Basketball Games (Gym, Lounge)
2:30pm..... Jubilee Store (Broach, Lasater, Classrooms)

Prayer Concerns and Thanks

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

"I am appreciative beyond words for all the concern, love, prayers, cards, calls, and visits I have received from my St. John's family during the weeks since my surgery. You have been kind and concerned for me and for my daughter, Caroline who gave me a kidney. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!" -Judy Biber

Sunday, December 1

Deacons: Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford, David Sherrill, Gail Sifford, Henry Snyder, Laura Sorrell, Anne Sutton, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Mindy Vergakis

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Bobby Furr; 5th St./Narthex-Treva Bridges; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Marvin Carter & Jeff LeVie

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of November 18-24: \$15,600
Income through November 24: \$958,981
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

November 25-November 30: Lee Gray 704-451-1309
December 1-7: Kevin Gray: 803-524-0287
December 8-14: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234