



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 48 – Week of December 2-8, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
 Worship
 this Week on
 December 8,
 2019

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.
 Foust, PhD

Message

*All Are Welcome! But
 Was John's Our Kind
 of Baptist?*

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-9 &
 Matthew 3:1-11

Christmas Cards for Neighbors

December 1-15 at the Main Entrance

The mailboxes for the Christmas Cards for Neighbors are up now through December 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 Worship for 2019

Asking Honest Questions While Waiting for the Lord

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

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Room in the Inn Volunteers Needed

Opportunities to Help December 6-March 27

December marks the beginning of Room in the Inn season. We all know that December is a busy month but we currently lack volunteers needed to operate the program throughout the month. For us to host 12 homeless neighbors each week, we need 2 or 3 overnight hosts plus a meal provider, a bag lunch provider, a van driver, one or two setup assistants, and a laundry assistant. We appreciate any help that can you offer throughout the RITI season, but especially in December. To signup as a Room in the Inn volunteer, just click on the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>

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

Messages from St. John's Staff

ADVENT: LIVING LIKE AN EXPECTANT MOTHER

Advent means 'coming.' During this season of The Christian Year, we wait with anticipation to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

When families wait for the birth of a new life, almost every person in the family focuses on the many external preparations. A nursery must be readied, clothing and necessities must be purchased, and essential furniture must be evaluated – along with the helpful 21st century devices that make life easier with an infant.

However, one family member, while not ignoring all the external preparations, is focused on much more. As the expectant mother is making decisions about the externals and the future, she is also paying attention to the new life which is moving and developing within her.

In like manner, all our preparations to celebrate the birth of the Christ child have limited effect if we fail to live Advent like an expectant mother. We have welcomed God's life to live within us. God's character is developing within us.

Because God's life is within us, we are carrying God's gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

The four themes of this Advent season do not spur us into action to find hope, procure peace, discover joy or decorate the world with love. The four themes of Advent inspire us to remember that God has already bestowed upon us hope-full living, peace that passes understanding, joyful witness and love flowing from within us into the life of the world.

During this Advent season, pay attention to God's hope, peace, joy and love kicking within you. Sing the carols. Enjoy the sounds, sights and smells of this beautiful season – this coming celebration. HOWEVER, please pay attention to the life

of God within you. It is God's life of hope, peace, joy and love which you will deliver into this needy world.

See you Sunday for Hanging of the Green!

**Shalom,
Dennis**

Brotherhood of the Biscuit Friday, December 13 @ 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.



Road Closure Notice

The intersection of Hawthorne Lane and Fifth Street will close on Thursday, December 12, and remain closed until February 3. Please use other routes to access the church during this closure. The church parking lot should be accessible from Hawthorne Lane, Fifth Street and Lamar Avenue. We have worked with the city, and they will not work on Sunday, December 15, during our worship service and on Christmas Eve. During the month of January, there may be minimal noise during Sunday morning hours. Thanks for your patience during this process!

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

Sunday, December 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 Hour and Worship Hour. They'll be learning about when Jesus was born. They'll also enjoy time for art and play. Music will be at 9:40.

Grades 1-5: These classes will meet together in the Godly Play room where they will learn about a dream Joseph had. 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.

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

Upcoming Events for Youth

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

Grow with St. John's

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 9:30am to visit the church, have lunch, and then go to the shop, returning by 3:30pm. Please call Mallory in the church office to let us know if you plan to attend.

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. For one hour, we will practice the art of being still, pausing for contemplative and intentional movement. This does not require difficult movements and can be done while seated in a chair. If you would like to join us please contact Mallory in the office 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.

New books for the Faith Journey Book Study on Mondays are available in Mallory's office for pick up!

**The cost is \$27 for both books:
Lectio Divina and *Clearing Season*.**

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! Contact Allison if you have questions about this.

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! **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.**



2020 Financial Ministry Plan

Commitments Received: 155

Amount Received: \$827,837

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

Reach Out with St. John's

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.

"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.

NAMI Support Groups

Tuesday, December 10 @ 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, December 9 in Rooms 114 & 116.

This year's WDAV Lessons & Carols was a great evening of music and fellowship!



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

Basketball Game Schedule

Team	Date & Time	Location
6 & Under Co-Ed	BYE	BYE
8 & Under Co-Ed	BYE	BYE
10 & Under Boys	Dec. 7 @ 10AM	St. John's Baptist
12 & Under Boys	Dec. 7 @ 11AM	St. John's Baptist
12 & Under Girls	Dec. 7 @ 12PM	St. John's Baptist
15 & Under Girls	Dec. 7 @ 8:30AM	Mt. Harmony Baptist
16 & Under Boys	BYE	BYE
18 & Under Girls	BYE	BYE
18 & Under Boys	Dec. 7 @ 2:45PM	Mt. Harmony Baptist

Calendar for December 8-14

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, December 8

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
10:30am..... Worship Service/Hanging of the Green (Sanctuary)
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
3:00pm..... Jubilee Store (Broach, Lasater, Classrooms)
4:30pm..... High School Christmas Party (Lounge/Offsite)

Monday, December 9

11:45am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
12:30pm..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
5:45pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30pm..... Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
6:30pm..... Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, December 10

8:00am..... Financial Resource Team (Conference Room)
10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
1:30pm..... Miller Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30pm..... Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups
..... (Rooms 114 & 116)

Wednesday, December 11

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am..... Yoga (Room 114)
10:00am..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
11:30am..... Senior Adult Christmas Party (Broach Hall)
6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)
6:00pm..... Handbells (Sanctuary)
7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 12

10:00am..... Craft & Needle Ministry (Lounge)
10:30am..... WDS Winter Festival (Broach Hall)
7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, December 13

6:30am..... Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
4:45pm..... Middle School Christmas Project/Party
5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
6:00pm..... Communities in Schools (Broach Hall)
8:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

Saturday, December 14

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
10:00am..... Basketball Games (Gym, Lounge)

Prayer Concerns

Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Judy Biber, Tom Bryson, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Don Furr, Polly Hull (Asbury), Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Henry Snyder (Novant Mint Hill), Elma Thomas, Bryan Thorn, Jeck Warren, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family of Mike Miller who passed suddenly on Monday, December 2. At this time, we offer prayers to his wife, Tricia, his daughter Jennifer Goodson and her husband Todd and their children Melanie, Jacob, and Scarlett. We also extend prayers to his son Grant Miller and his family.

Sympathy to Nina Phillips and her family in the death of her sister, Bess Ruppelt Perkinson, on Tuesday.

Sunday, December 8

Deacons: Kim Allen, Jeff Almond, Kevin Benton, Leslie Bragg, Treva Bridges, Minh Callaway, Marc Cardella, Deacon Jones, Sally Young, Nancy Wilson

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner & Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narthex -Vanessa Boling; Broach Hall-Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Jeff LeVie & Ken Hungate

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of November 25-December 1: \$6,874
Income through December 1: \$995,728
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

December 2-8: Kevin Gray: 803-524-0287
December 9-15: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234