



Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 49 – Week of December 9-15, 2019

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
December 15,
2019

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message

*The Question We
Really Must Settle*

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-7 &
Matthew 11:2-6

God Inspires Us to Rediscover Joy! Joy Sunday in Advent at St. John's

Joy Sunday is this Sunday, December 15 in our Advent season. We hope you will join us for this special morning of worship as God inspires us to rediscover joy! All choirs—adult, youth, and children—and our handbell choir will lead worship through song during this service. Additionally, we will celebrate the baptism of two of our youth, Lily Wilkerson and Emma Goodrich, into Christ's Church and St. John's. Dr. Foust will offer a message titled, *The Question We Really Must Settle*, based on Isaiah 35:1-7 and Matthew 11: 2-6.

We hope to see you at 10:30am in the Sanctuary for this joyous morning of worship in this special Advent season. If not, tune in to our Facebook Live Stream!



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Christmas Cards for Neighbors Due this Sunday, December 15

The mailboxes for the Christmas Cards for Neighbors are up 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 THIS Sunday, 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

- **When:** Sunday, December 15 @ 5:00PM
- **Where:** McLeod Brown Room 114
- **Leader:** Sara Vavra
- **Who:** Open to all adults and young people of any skill level (poses can be done in a chair)

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. 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. We hope you will attend for this time of stillness and peace in this busy season.



Messages from St. John's Staff

WHEN JESUS COMES NEAR

Several years ago, I heard about a small church in rural Virginia which is located next to a prison. On Sunday mornings, music can be heard from both the sanctuary of the small church and the chapel of the prison. Several people have pointed out how the singing of the prisoners offers a more joyful sound than the voices of the church members. On one occasion, a reporter asked the pastor of the church and the chaplain of the prison their thoughts on why this may be so. The chaplain and pastor agreed in their responses: 'the church members have been living in freedom all week and may not realize what Jesus has done for them. But, for the prisoners, the love of God revealed in Jesus is very near.'

This Advent, we are sensing that Jesus is very near.

On Monday, December 2, Mike Miller passed on ahead of us suddenly. Mike's death was a shock to us. He had been in worship with us the previous day. He was smiling, enjoying the music and singing and greeting us with his usual pleasant manner. We gathered this past Tuesday, to celebrate Mike's life and ministry. We grieve with Tricia, Jennifer, Grant and Mike's entire family.

Then, earlier this week, on Monday, December 9, Bryan Thorn slipped away gently into the everlasting arms of God after cancer weakened his body over recent months. Bryan was a tender spirit who liked to serve others. He wore those beautiful sweaters draped across his shoulders on Sundays. His smile and compassionate manner brightened each gathering. We grieve with Jim Keese, Bryan's soulmate and husband. We will gather to celebrate Bryan's life and ministry sometime in January.

In these days, we are walking through the valley of the shadow of death with Henry Snyder in his battle with leukemia. Henry continued until very recently as an actively faithful Pastoral Deacon. Henry's recent investments in the Safety and Security Task Force will become tangible evidence of his attentiveness to detail. We care for and pray with Henry's wife, Carol, as she walks through these days of Advent.

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

Upcoming Events for Youth

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

Alongside these days of loss and grief, we are also celebrating with some of our young families during their first Advent as parents. Through these infants, we can see a reflection of the Christ child who came near to us in Bethlehem long ago. This same Jesus comes close to us each day. May it show this Sunday as we sing, 'Joy to the World' like prisoners of grace.

**Shalom,
Dennis**

**The church offices will be closed
December 25-26 and January 1.**

Giving in 2019

All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2019. If mailed, please ensure the envelope is postmarked 2019. If you are unsure of the remaining balance on your commitment for 2019, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee, Church Administrator, at jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428 ext. 20. Any monies received after December 2019 will count towards your 2020 pledge.

UPDATE! Road Closure

The intersection of Hawthorne Lane and Fifth Street will remain open through this calendar year. The construction originally planned has been postponed until January 2, 2020 and the intersection will remain closed until February 14, 2020.

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

Sunday, December 15

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. Please be on time so that we are ready to rehearse in the Sanctuary when it's our turn. This class will sit together in worship until after they sing, then they will come sit with their families for the remainder of the service.

Grades 1-5: These classes will meet together in the Music Room. They will be rehearsing so that they are ready to lead worship, so regular classes will not meet. Please be on time! 1st-5th Grades will sit together in worship. You may pick them up at the end of the service.

Grace Notes

Grace Notes is leading worship through song this Sunday! We need everyone to be here on time so that we have plenty of time to get ready!

Grow with St. John's

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.

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*.

Jubilee Store 2019 THANK YOU!

Approximately 24 volunteers plus all of our staff were involved with the Jubilee Store this year. St. John's contributed over 140 gifts! Our partner churches expressed appreciation for the ability to use our space and the shoppers had a wonderful time!



Christmas Eve Service Communion, Carols, and Candlelight

Join us for worship at 5PM on Christmas Eve night! We will gather together to worship with communion, carols, and candlelight in the Sanctuary. See you there. No nursery will be available.

2020 Financial Ministry Plan

Commitments Received: 158
Amount Received: \$835,177

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

The St. John's Youth served at Charlotte Rescue Mission on December 6.



"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.

Room in the Inn Volunteers Needed

Opportunities to Help December 13-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 RIT 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.

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	12/14 @ 3PM	St. John's
8 & Under Co-Ed	12/14 @ 2PM	St. John's
10 & Under Boys	12/14 @ 11AM (12/7—W)	St. John's
12 & Under Boys	12/14 @ 2:45PM (12/7—W)	Sharon Presby.
12 & Under Girls	12/14 @ 10AM	St. John's
15 & Under Girls	12/14 @ 12PM (12/7—L)	Mulberry Baptist
16 & Under Boys	12/14 @ 10:30AM	Harvest Center
18 & Under Girls	12/14 @ 1:45PM	Harvest Center
18 & Under Boys	BYE (12/7—L)	BYE

Prayer Concerns, Sympathy, Thank You

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-ICU), Elma Thomas, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family of Bryan Thorn in his passing on December 9 at home. Please be in prayer for Jim Keese, his husband, and for his daughters as they grieve.

"Thank you all for the beautiful birthday cards you sent me for my 99th birthday in October! It was such a joy to receive them and made my birthday so special."

-Jerry Jerman

Sunday, December 15

Deacons: Allene Cooley, Ryan Crowder, Alan Dietz, Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Clara Howell, Chuck Howard, Libby LeVie, Jeff LeVie, Gary McFarland

Greeters: Main-Carol and Tom Injaychock; 5th St./Narthex -Linda Kerley; Broach Hall-Ashley Hogewood; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Margaret Falls and James Laney

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of December 2-8: \$17,257
Income through December 8: \$1,016,389
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

Ministers on Call:

December 9-15: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
December 16-22: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412

Calendar for December 15-21

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, December 15

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
11:30am..... Youth Lunch & Poinsettia Delivery (Offsite)
2:00pm..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
4:30pm..... High School Christmas Party (Lounge/Offsite)
5:00pm..... Advent Yoga (Room 114)

Monday, December 16

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

Tuesday, December 17

10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
12:00pm..... Staff Lunch (Conference Room)
5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 18

6:30am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am..... Yoga (Room 114)
6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)
7:15pm..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 19

8:00am..... Weekday School Teacher Workday

Friday, December 20

5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
5:30pm..... Volunteers Serve at Men's Shelter (Offsite)
8:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

Saturday, December 21

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