



# Family News

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

Vol. 77, No. 50 – Week of December 16-22, 2019

## What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's  
Worship  
this Week on  
December 22,  
2019

### Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.  
Foust, PhD

### Message

*How Does God Affect  
Your Loving?*

### Scripture

Psalm 80:1-3 &  
Matthew 1:18-25

## God Inspires the Character of Our Loving Love Sunday in Advent at St. John's

The fourth Sunday of Advent is this Sunday, December 22. Dr. Foust will offer a message titled, "How Does God Affect Your Loving?" based on Psalm 80:1-3 and Matthew 1:18-25. During this service, we will light the candle symbolizing love on our Advent wreath. During the Sunday school hour, children, youth, and adults are invited to join in Broach Hall starting at 9:15 for a special viewing of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* with cookies and cocoa to enjoy.

**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 Eve Service Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

Join us for worship at 5PM on Christmas Eve night for candlelight, carols, and communion in the Sanctuary. This service is a special time in the life of St. John's as we gather to welcome the Christ-child through the flames of candles, the singing of carols, and the sharing of the bread and the cup of Jesus. No nursery will be available during this service but families are welcome to bring children to be a part of the service. **Before the service begins, Noel Lance and Jesse Roberts, guest pianist, will play a series of preludes as folks arrive and find their seats.**

## Giving in 2019

Due by December 31, 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](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704-333-5428 ext. 20. Any monies received after December 2019 will count towards your 2020 pledge.

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

**There will be no Family News next week!**

## Messages from St. John's Staff

### ENDING ONE YEAR & BEGINNING ANOTHER

Once upon a time, December was the 10th month of the year. This was back in the early days of the calendar of Romulus around 750 BC. Back then, December was the last month and a 'new year' didn't begin until March. The winter days between December and March were not included in any month. They were just barren days. To agrarian people living without heat or modern conveniences, this time was used to sharpen tools, restore broken things and mend that which was torn or worn. It was also a time to reflect on the previous year and look toward the future.

In time, other calendars introduced January, named for Janus, the god with two faces – one looking into yesterday and one looking into tomorrow; and February, named for the Latin term, februum, which means purification. The barren days of January were for evaluation and envisioning, February became a season to purify one's self before entering another 'new year' in March. January 1 was not celebrated as the first day of the year until 45 BCE by Julius Caesar.

I don't talk much about money. So, let's do this. We are leaving one year and beginning another.

First, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND GENEROSITY DURING 2019. We committed ourselves to a financial ministry plan budget for 2019 of \$1,140,000. Together, we need to close the gap between this vision plan and receipts as of today totaling, \$1,048,142. We need to receive \$91,818 between now and December 31.

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

#### Upcoming Events for Youth

**January 24-26**

Youth Ski Trip to Winterplace, WV

**February 2**

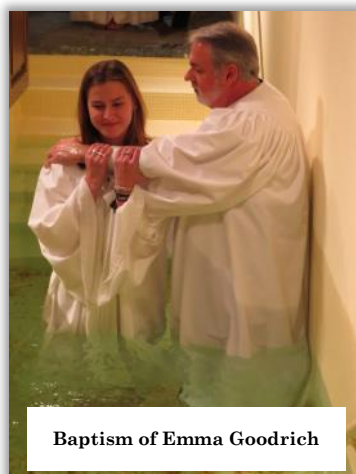
Youth Sunday

**February 28-March 1**

Middle School Discipleship Retreat to Blowing Rock



Baptism of Lily Wilkerson



Baptism of Emma Goodrich

Second, THANK YOU FOR MAKING COMMITMENTS FOR 2020 THAT REFLECT OUR VISION OF REACHING OUT. In 2020, we will strengthen ministries, expand messaging and media, cultivate new approaches for spiritual growth, develop new dimensions of ministering with youth and young adults, broaden our efforts in congregational care and enrich worship. And, we will begin new efforts in outreach and community engagement with impact. Our Finance Resource Team is challenging us to Reach Out with a financial ministry plan budget for 2020 of 1,200,000. This is an additional \$164/day or \$1,150/week – which comes to an added \$5/week per giving unit on average. If you still need to turn in your commitment card, for 2020, please do so. Jacquelyn McAbee, our Church Administrator is checking the mail each day. Let's do this!

Merry Christmas,  
Dennis

### Thank You Note from Lia Benton

"As I think back on the past year and half, I am overwhelmed by your support of my seminary journey. I've completed 11 classes in the first four terms, including Church History, Hebrew, Old Testament, and Pastoral Care. I am looking forward to more Hebrew and Old Testament this Spring, in addition to Preaching and Greek. The real gift, though, is this opportunity to answer God's call to study. Thank you for all your prayers and the matching grant contribution. I would not be doing this without you. **With immense gratitude, Lia Benton**"



Our children  
led us in  
worship  
through song  
on  
December 15.

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

#### Sunday, December 22

**Nursery/2s:** Families are invited to join us for Cookies, Cocoa and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour. This class will be cared for in their room during the Worship Hour.

**PreK/K:** Families are invited to join us for Cookies, Cocoa and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour. This class will be cared for in their room during the Worship Hour.

**Grades 1-5:** Families are invited to join us for Cookies, Cocoa, and Charlie Brown in Broach Hall during Formation Hour. 1st-5th Graders will worship with their families.

## Grow with St. John's

### A Charlie Brown Christmas, Cookies, & Cocoa

THIS SUNDAY, December 22 during Sunday School



All generations are invited to come to Broach Hall during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15am) THIS 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*.



The 2019 Senior Adult Christmas Party was Wednesday, December 11. It was a wonderful day and Elvis made a special, guest appearance!



## 2020 Financial Ministry Plan

**Commitments Received: 163**  
**Amount Received: \$857,777**

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

### Room in the Inn Volunteers Needed

Opportunities to Help December-March

Room in the Inn is in full swing for the 2019-2020 year! In order 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! Sign up below.

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](mailto:ahwirz@carolina.rr.com), or Dale Johnson at 704-364-2575 or 704-454-8931 (cell) or [dwj9578@usa.com](mailto:dwj9578@usa.com).

Our youth visited with and delivered poinsettias to our neighbors at home on Sunday.



## St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte NC 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

### Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

### Equipping Ministers

Minister for Spiritual Growth.....Allison Benfield  
ext. 18 - [abenfield@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)  
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray  
ext. 14 - [kgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
Minister for Youth & Young Adults.....Lee Gray  
ext. 15 - [lgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sjcharlotte.org)  
Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust  
ext. 12 - [dfoust@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:dfoust@sjcharlotte.org)

### Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Mallory Brown  
ext. 11 - [mbrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org)  
Church Administrator.....Jacquelyn McAbee  
ext. 20 - [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org)  
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon  
Graded Choirs Director.....Anna Ball  
Organist.....Noel Lance  
[nlance@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:nlance@sjcharlotte.org)  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted  
ext. 39 - [weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org](mailto: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	12/21 @ 10AM	St. John's
8 & Under Co-Ed	12/21 @ 11AM	St. John's
10 & Under Boys	12/21 @ 1PM	St. John's
12 & Under Boys	12/21 @ 12PM	Sardis Presbyterian
12 & Under Girls	12/21 @ 1:45PM	Providence Baptist
15 & Under Girls	12/21 @ 10:30AM	Trinity Episcopal School
16 & Under Boys	12/21 @ 10:30AM	Mt. Harmony Bapt.
18 & Under Girls	12/21 @ 11:30AM	Avondale Presby.
18 & Under Boys	12/21 @ 9:30AM	Sardis Presbyterian

## Calendar for December 22-January 4

Complete calendar online: [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

### Prayer Concerns

Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Don Furr, Polly Hull (Asbury), Renee Hutchison, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Margaret Snyder, Elma Thomas, Alison Ziegler (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family of Lewis LeVie who passed on Sunday, December 15. Be in prayer for Jeff, his son, and Libby, his daughter in law, and the rest of the family during this time. A memorial service is scheduled for early January.

### Sunday, December 22 & 29

**Deacons:** (December 22) Durning Moore, Jane Newman, Casey Perkins, Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford, David Sherrill, Gail Sifford, Laura Sorrell, Anne Sutton

(December 29) Kim Allen, Jeff Almond, Kevin Benton, Leslie Bragg, Nancy Fuller, Kathy Turner, Mindy Vergakis, Nancy Wilson, Lindsay Wilson, Sally Young

**Greeters:** (December 22) Main-Ed Turner & Phil Vavra; 5th St./Narthex-Susan King; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter

(December 29) Main-Ed Turner and Scott Kerley; 5th St./Narthex-Vanessa Boling; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator-Marvin Carter

**Tellers:** (December 22) Tim Gibson and Morgan Newman

(December 29) Tom Blackmon and Matt Collins

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

### Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of December 9-15: \$20,359  
Income through December 15: \$1,036,748  
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

### Ministers on Call:

December 16-22: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412  
December 23-29: Lee Gray 704-451-1309  
December 30-January 5: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

### Sunday, December 22

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
9:15am..... Charlie Brown, Cookies, Cocoa (Broach Hall)  
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)

### Monday, December 23

8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm..... Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, December 25

**Church Offices Closed All Day—MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

### Thursday, December 26

Church Offices Closed All Day

### Friday, December 27

5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)  
8:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

### Saturday, December 28

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

### Sunday, December 29

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)

### Monday, December 30

8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, December 31

10:00pm..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Lasater Hall)

### Wednesday, January 1

**Church Offices Closed All Day—HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

6:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

### Friday, January 3

5:00pm..... Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)  
8:00pm..... AA (Room 114)

### Saturday, January 4

7:00am..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
9:00am..... Basketball Games (Gym/Lounge)