



Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 2 – Week of January 6-12, 2020

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
January 12,
2019

Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message

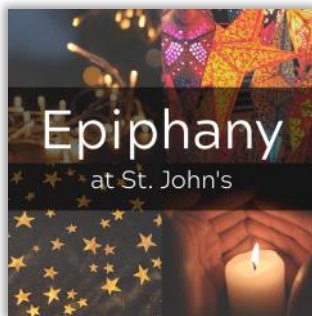
*Repairing a Broken
Concept About God*

Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

Epiphany at St. John's

Reclaiming God's Good News from the Trash Heap



Our society needs God's Good News, the Gospel, desperately and immediately. Yet, the institutional church, the organized church, the self-serving church, the entertainment church, the power-over-you church, the exclusive church, the go-through-the-motions church, the politicized church, the fighting church, the indoctrination church and the surface church have devalued the message of God. The transformational message of God is revealed with clarity in Jesus. Fake interpretations of God's Good News have been tossed onto the trash heap of human ideas because they do not bring about substantive change. Let us respond to people around us, reclaiming God's Good News as God's idea from the trash heap.

During this season of Epiphany, a season that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ, Dennis will offer messages that reclaim God's Good News from the trash heap. On Sunday, January 12, he will offer a message called "Repairing a Broken Concept About God," based on 1 John 4:7-21. We will continue to hear Epiphany messages on January 19 and 26 and hope you will join us for worship.

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Trolley Construction Update

Intersection Closed at 5th Street and Hawthorne Lane

Yes, you can still enter the parking lots of St. John's. However, for the next several weeks, the intersection of Fifth at Hawthorne is closed. You may approach from the southeast along Fifth Street and drive around the construction signs to enter, enter from Lamar Avenue, or approach from the northeast on Hawthorne up the hill and enter the Broach Hall parking lot. However you arrive, we look forward to seeing you in these early weeks of 2020. Please remember the often repeated phrase in The Bible, "and it came to pass."

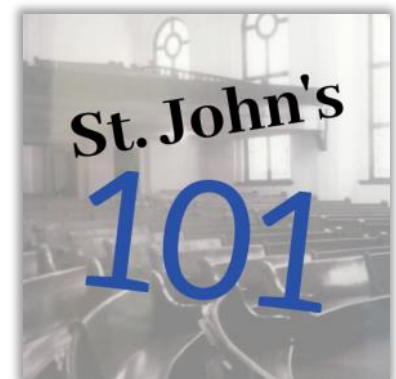


St. John's 101 Coming Soon

Register Today!

Registration for St. John's 101 is underway! This three-week series is designed for anyone who wants to know more about the history of the church and its ministries, missions, and more. We will meet on Sunday mornings (1/26, 2/2, 2/9) at 9:15am in the Lounge. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

If you would like to join for this series, please contact Mallory in the church office by email or phone at mbrown@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428 ext. 11.



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Messages from St. John's Staff

... unfinished business

I tell you this story so you can enter 2021 with a new perspective by how you steward the days of 2020.

A few years ago, Nina and Carl Phillips asked me to come to their home before they moved to Aldersgate. We walked around the yard which they had so lovingly tended. We shared stories of a house filled with memories. Prior to my departure, they asked me to look through their books. They know my love for books, reading and collecting stories. As I left that afternoon, there were twenty-two books in my car from their bookshelves.

One book is entitled, ...unfinished business. It is one man's journey of trying to do the right things through one year. Here is his list of ten things:

- Finding a long-lost relative;
- Making a condolence call;
- Repaying a long-overdue debt;
- Reaching out to a distant friend;
- Letting go of a grudge;
- Seeking spiritual guidance from a mentor;
- Taking the road not taken;
- Healing a family's wounds;
- Eulogizing a loved one; and
- Keeping a promise.

The last paragraph in the book written by Lee Kravitz is: *"The hurdles we face in tackling our unfinished business can seem impossibly high, but the first step in clearing them is usually quite simple. Write an email or make a phone-call. You can never tell when the weight you're shouldering will slip away, leaving you a more complete and loving person."*

The early days of a new year offer opportunities to visit our commitments and reshape the stories we are writing in our lives. What would you put on your list of ...unfinished business? What are those initiatives you sense you should take this year to give yourself the gifts of increased completeness, meaning or love?

Thank you again, Carl and Nina. My life is more complete and loving because of the two of you.

**Shalom,
Dennis**

P.S.: On a phone call with a friend this morning, she said she had started this year behind. I replied that she has all year to catch-up. Do you enter this year with any unfinished business?

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

Opportunities for Learning and Serving Refugee Support Services

Over the years the lives of the people of St. John's have been enriched by the presence of refugees and immigrants who have come to Charlotte seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Opportunities continue for us to provide support to newly arrived people from around the world and for us to continue to be enriched by them. Some of those opportunities include:

- **Refugee Support Services in the Galilee Center on Central Avenue offers a monthly "Refugee 101" session, which provides an overview of their program for helping new arrivals to Charlotte and information on how interested individuals or groups can participate in serving. Upcoming sessions are January 8, February 5, or March 4, from 9:30-10:45am**
- **A small group from St. John's visits RSS every third Thursday of the month, from 9:45-11:15am providing healthy snacks and a welcoming presence to the refugees who participate in the knitting group and in the ESL classes.**

If you would like to find out more about either of these opportunities, please contact Beverly Hester, beverlyrhester@earthlink.net or Nina Phillips, ninacarl@gmail.com.

Become a Greeter! Sundays at St. John's

The St. John's team of greeters is in need of a few new folks to serve with them on Sunday mornings to welcome people and help guests find their way as they enter the building. Currently, there is a need for greeters at the Main Entrance, Broach Hall entrance, the Narthex doors, and the 5th Street doors. At the Main Entrance and Broach Hall entrance, greeters serve from 9AM-9:35AM, prior to Sunday School. At the Narthex and 5th Street doors, greeters serve from 10AM-10:30AM, prior to the worship service. As a greeter, you would serve on a rotating schedule so you are not serving every single week.

If you are interested, please contact Ed Turner at edturner100@gmail.com.

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

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Nursery/2s: This class will be cared for in their room during the Formation and Worship Hours.

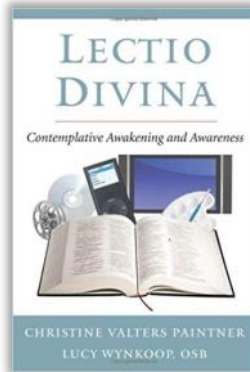
PreK/K: This class will be cared for in their room during the Formation Hour and Worship Hour. They will learn about Jesus going to the Temple when he was a boy. They will have time for art and play, and Music is at 9:40.

Grades 1-5: These classes will learn how Jesus called disciples. Music is at 10:00. 1st-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

Grow with St. John's

Join the Faith Journey Book Study

The Faith Journey Book Study will begin a new book, *Lectio Divina*, by Lucy Wynkoop, **next Tuesday, January 14 at 11:45am in room 114**. We will begin by discussing chapters 1 and 2. There is a copy of the book in the church office for purchase. Chapter 3 and 4 will be discussed on Monday, January 27 and the following Mondays until lent begins the end of February. **We meet each week on Monday at 11:45am until 1:00pm** in room 114 and would love to have you join us for fellowship and thoughtful discussion. We continue to grow our faith as we journey together.



If you have questions about the group, please feel free to contact Loretta Brown, lorettaybrown@gmail.com. See you Tuesday!

Man's Jam: That 70s Show

Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 6PM-10PM

On Sunday, January 26, Tommy Ballard and Carole McLeod present this year's fundraiser event to benefit the Duke Tisch Brain Tumor Center and to honor Steve Ballard and Man's McLeod. The band for the night is Mo Money, a group who specializes in 70s, 80s, and 90s pop, dance, and classic rock music. A \$25 dollar minimum donation is requested to attend the event and tickets can be purchased online and at the door. The event is at the Visulite Theater at 1615 Elizabeth Avenue. Doors open at 6PM. For questions about tickets or more info, call or email Carole McLeod at 704-591-9211 or carolemcLeod59@gmail.com or Anna McLeod Cushman at 704-906-4406 or annamcushman@gmail.com.



Anna McLeod Cushman will sell tickets outside the gym on January 19 and 26 at church, right after the service!

Opera Carolina Presents:

The Ugly Duckling

February 8, 2020 @ 10:30AM

On Saturday, February 8, children and families are invited to a free opera presentation of the "The Ugly Duckling." This will be at 10:30am in Broach Hall at St. John's Baptist Church. This is a community-wide event sponsored by St. John's Baptist Church and Opera Carolina. This is a great event to bring children and grandchildren to!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Monday, January 20, 2020, FMBC @ 7PM

Our very own J. Kevin Gray is serving as one of the two producers for one of Charlotte's largest and most exciting MLK Day celebrations. Coming January 20, Art • Poetry • Music: Celebrating Charlotte's African-American community and the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a powerful, collaborative concert by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Quentin Talley's OnQ Productions and J. Kevin Gray's Power of Song Collaborative Arts Initiative. APM fuses music, spoken word and visual art with readings from iconic speeches by Dr. King. The performance will feature 120 choral singers from Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, members of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, St. John's Baptist Church, Winthrop University and the Opera Carolina Chorus. Join us January 20 as we lift every voice and sing to celebrate Charlotte's African-American community through the legacy of Dr. King.

This event is FREE and begins at 7:00pm at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Reach Out with St. John's

Can You Help with RITI?

Many Dates Are Open for You to Serve

We need your help for several dates for RITI in the near future. We need help in January, February, and March. Sign up below to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4c9aae2eaafb6-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.

QC Family Tree Spotlight

You Can Help!

QC Family Tree is a neighborhood based community development organization. The mission of QC Family Tree is to cultivate community for the common good by building a little village where abundance is coming to life.

Watch this spot to see how you can volunteer at QC Family Tree, but for now, there are two events this weekend where you can support their work. More information and tickets available at: www.qcfamilytree.org.

<p>2020 Epiphany Celebration!</p> <p>Eureka! Join QC Family Tree for weekend full of artistic realization:</p>	<p>Reliquary: Evicted Art Exhibit by Helms Jarrell Jan 10 - 6:30 PM - McColl Center</p>
<p>THIS WEEKEND WITH QC FAMILY TREE!</p>	<p>Muddy Turtle Talks Storytelling Event Jan 11 - 7 PM - Missiongathering Charlotte</p>

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	1/11 @ 10AM	St. John's
8 & Under Co-Ed	1/11 @ 12PM	St. John's
10 & Under Boys	1/11 @ 1PM	St. John's
12 & Under Boys	1/11 @ 3PM	St. John's
12 & Under Girls	1/11 @ 8:30AM	Trinity Episcopal
15 & Under Girls	1/11 @ 10AM	Mulberry Baptist
16 & Under Boys	1/11 @ 10AM	FBC Matthews
18 & Under Girls	1/11 @ 9:30AM	Mt. Harmony Bapt.
18 & Under Boys	1/11 @ 7:30PM	Calvary Church

2020 Financial Ministry Plan

Commitments Received: 177
Amount Received: \$903,717

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

Prayer Concerns

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

A memorial service for Pete Johnson, father to Betsy Almond and long-time member of St. John's, will be held this Sunday, January 12 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in Lasater Hall.

A memorial service for Bryan Thorn will be held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary with a reception afterwards in Lasater Hall.

Sympathy to Don Swofford in the death of his sister, Lena Swofford Gordon. A memorial service celebrating Lena's life will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 8300 Providence Road, on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 2:00pm.

Sympathy to Laura Solitario in the death of her father, Bill Wortman.

"Thank you so much for your loving thoughts, prayers, and cards as I transition to a new level of care at Plantation Estates. Also a special thank you to my new and old deacons for all you have meant to continue to mean in my life. Most sincerely, Betty Fuller"

Sunday, January 12

Deacons: Libby LeVie, Jeff LeVie, Gary McFarland, Durning Moore, Jane Newman, Casey Perkins, Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford, David Sherrill, Gail Sifford
Greeters: Main-Ed Turner; 5th St./Narhex-Treva Bridges; Broach Hall-Ashley Hogewood; 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 January 1-5, 2020: \$10,527
 Income through January 5: \$10,527

Ministers on Call:

January 6-12: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234
 January 13-19: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412

Calendar for January 12-18, 2020

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, January 12

9:00am Middle School Discipleship (Lounge)
 9:15am Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 10:30am Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
 1:30pm Memorial Service: Pete Johnson (Sanctuary)
 2:30pm Reception (Lasater Hall)
 5:00pm Sunday Night Live (Gym, Lounge, 3rd Floor)

Monday, January 13

1:30pm Memorial Service: Bryan Thorn (Sanctuary)
 2:30pm Reception (Lasater Hall)
 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, January 14

10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
 10:30am Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
 11:45am Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
 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, January 15

6:30am Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30am Yoga (Room 114)
 5:30pm WOC Board Mtg. and Dinner (Broach Hall)
 6:00pm Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00pm Handbells (Handbell Room)
 6:00pm AA (Room 114)
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, January 16

12:00pm Novant Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)
 7:30pm CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, January 17

6:30pm Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
 5:00pm Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
 5:30pm Volunteers Serve at Men's Shelter (Offsite)
 8:00pm AA (Room 114)

Saturday, January 18

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