



# Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 3 – Week of January 13-19, 2020

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

St. John's  
Worship  
this Week on  
January 19,  
2019

**Proclaimer**  
Rev. Dr. Al  
Cadenhead  
**Message**

*A Reminder that  
Salvation Is Closer  
Than You Think*

**Scripture**  
Luke 8:22-25

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, January 20, 2020, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church @ 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.

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

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## Update from the Youth and Young Adult Minister Search Task Force Now Accepting Resumes!

Youth and Young Adult Minister Search Task Force is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the position of Minister of Youth and Young Adults. While we are in the process of reaching out to affiliated Baptist organizations, seminaries, job classified websites, and other resources, we recognize that our greatest resource for potential leads is our own congregation.



If you know of someone who may be interested in the position, please encourage them to visit <https://stjohnsbaptistchurch.org/ministersearch/> or contact us at [SearchTeam@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:SearchTeam@sjcharlotte.org) for further information regarding the position and application process. Any suggestions as to resources for publicizing the position are appreciated as well and may also be directed to the foregoing email address. We appreciate your continued and prayerful support as we endeavor to complete this process and look forward to providing you more updates as we progress.

## St. John's 101

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](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org) or 704-333-5428 ext. 11.

## Messages from St. John's Staff

### ON BEHALF OF EXTREMISM

In the photo, Martin Luther King is removing the remains of a smoldering cross which had been burned the prior night on his front lawn. The year was 1960; his preschool son is beside him.



In MLK's writing, 'Letter From Birmingham City Jail,' (1963), he presents a poignant truth to us:

**"The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremist will we be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?"**

As you know, the MLK holiday is more than a one day observance of a life; it is a national reminder that extremism is rampant today. Extreme hate is currently being affirmed and applauded. Blatant racial prejudice and blind nationalism suppresses the ethic of love as taught by Jesus.

This spring, we will proclaim our commitment to God's extreme love, as revealed in Jesus. Please begin preparing now for two special events which will emphasize this message.

On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, during worship, Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt will be our guest as we focus on God's extreme love expressed through forgiveness. Katherine's book presents twenty-two individuals who are learning about forgiveness. The book includes the stories of Elizabeth Smart, kidnapped at age 14; Scarlett Lewis, whose son, Jesse, was murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School; Mark Kelly, astronaut and husband of former congresswoman Gabby Giffords who survived a bullet wound in her head; and others. Plan to be present and invite your friends to worship with us on that Sunday.

Then, two weeks later, on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm, Al Staggs will present a dramatic monologue of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor who opposed Nazism based on his extreme love for God as revealed in Jesus. Bonhoeffer's message beckons us to embrace the Lordship of Jesus while avoiding extreme hate and nationalistic blindness. Invite your business associates and friends to a life-forming event. See the right panel of this page for details.

Thank you, St. John's, for being extremists for love.

**Shalom,  
Dennis**

### 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

### The Gift of Forgiveness Book Launch & Presentation

Sunday, March 15 @ 10:30AM

On Sunday, March 15, we welcome Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt to St. John's Baptist Church for a launch of her book, *The Gift of Forgiveness*, which will be released nationwide on March 10, 2020. Katherine will be a part of our regular worship service and will stay afterwards for book sales and signings. Overflow seating will be available. This event is free and open to all. Spread the word!



### Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Saturday, March 28 @ 4PM

On Saturday, March 28, Al Staggs will present his one-person drama called "A View from the Underside" in the Sanctuary at 4PM. Tickets are \$10/person and will be on sale soon. Save the date and invite neighbors and friends to this event. Al Staggs was a parish minister for over 20 years and began his career as a performing artist after that. He has performed all over the United States and abroad and his repertoire extends beyond Bonhoeffer to portrayals of Clarence Jordan, Walter Rauschenbusch, Martin Luther, and more. On Sunday, March 29, Staggs will join us in worship to offer his portrayal of Clarence Jordan.



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

#### Sunday, January 19, 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 how Jesus was baptized. They will have time for art and play, and Music is at 9:40.

**Grades 1-5:** The 1st-2nd Graders will learn about where we worship by learning about the symbols in our Sanctuary. The 3rd-5th Graders will learn about how Jesus healed a girl and a woman who were sick. Music is at 10:00. 1st-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

#### VBS: June 15-19, 2020!

The moment you have been waiting for is here! VBS Registration is open! Registration closes at 11pm on June 7. Spaces tend to fill quickly, so don't wait! [Click here to register!](#)

In The Adventures of Moses we will learn about how Moses chose to work with God and help free his people. VBS is June 15-19; 9am-Noon. \$15/child. This is open to children aged 4 by June 1-Rising 6th Graders. Register today!

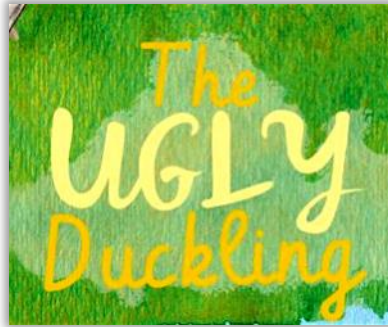
## Grow with St. John's

### 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!



### Open Table: Pancakes and Music

Wednesday, February 19 @ 5:50pm

We hope you and your family join us for the first Open Table dinner of the new year on Wednesday, February 19 from 5:50-7:00pm in Broach Hall! We will have a delicious dinner of legendary **Brookscakes** with bacon, and grits to celebrate Shrove Tuesday a week early and enjoy entertainment from Kevin Gray and Friends! Call or email Mallory in the office or sign up with this link online: <https://forms.gle/Zsmu9DbdBkvwdyat5>



### Tuesday Bible Study Group

Starting January 21, Room 209, 11AM

A weekly Bible Study Group for all interested persons will begin Tuesday, January 21, in room 209 at St. John's. Our first 6 to 8 weeks study will focus on Amos, one of the Minor Prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures. Emphases includes experiential learning, reading and discussion of the biblical texts. Sessions are from 11am until 12pm each Tuesday. Anyone is welcome to join us! Call Steve Hoffman @ 704-604-9634 to register or additional information.



St. John's is the host for the Wednesday at 12PM Lenten Services this year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26 with our Ash Wednesday Experience in Broach Hall and a noon-time service in the Sanctuary. Stay tuned for more details as the time draws nearer.

## 2020 Financial Ministry Plan

Commitments Received: 179

Amount Received: \$907,997

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

### 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](mailto:edturner100@gmail.com).

## Reach Out with St. John's

### QC Family Tree Spotlight

You Can Help!

QC Family Tree is a neighborhood based community development organization started by Helms and Greg Jarrell. 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. Contact Mallory in the office if you are interested in volunteer opportunities with QC Family Tree!

### 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](mailto:beverlyrhester@earthlink.net) or Nina Phillips, [ninacarl@gmail.com](mailto:ninacarl@gmail.com).



**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	1/18 @ 1PM	St. John's
8 & Under Co-Ed	1/18 @ 3PM	St. John's
10 & Under Boys	1/18 @ 11AM	St. John's
12 & Under Boys	1/18 @ 12PM	St. John's
12 & Under Girls	1/18 @ 10AM	St. John's
	1/18 @ 1:30PM	Trinity Episcopal
15 & Under Girls	1/18 @ 9:30AM	Trinity Episcopal
16 & Under Boys	1/18 @ 10:30AM	Friendship Missionary Baptist
18 & Under Girls	1/18 @ 9:30AM	Avondale Presby.
	1/18 @ 2:45PM	Sardis Presby.
18 & Under Boys	1/18 @ 10:30AM	Trinity Episcopal

**Do you need a parking sticker?**  
**If so, please get one from Mallory in the office today! They are available for pick up on Sundays and during the week on Mallory's desk.**

### Prayer Concerns

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

Sympathy to Nancy Burgess in the death of her sister, Ellen Carmignani, last week.

"My family, Selina, and I would like to thank you for being church to us. Your kind words and many expressions of sympathy are so appreciated during the time of my sister's death. We are so happy to call St. John's our home. Sincerely, Don Swofford."

### Sunday, January 19

**Deacons:** Laura Sorrell, Keith Towery, Anne Sutton, Lindsay Wilson, Sally Young, Kathy Turner, Deacon Jones, Mindy Vergakis, Nancy Wilson  
**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner & Bobby Furr; 5th St./Narhex-Vanessa Boling; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter  
**Tellers:** Margaret Falls & James Laney  
**Ushers:** Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

### Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of January 6-12, 2020: \$10,162  
 Income through January 12: \$20,690

### Ministers on Call:

January 13-19: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412  
 January 20-26: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

## Calendar for January 19-25, 2020

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

### Sunday, January 19

9:15am.....Sunday School & Worship 101 (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 (Gym, Lounge, 3rd Floor)

### Monday, January 20

All Day.....Offices Closed (MLK, Jr. Day)  
 8:00pm.....AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, January 21

8:00am.....Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)  
 10:00am.....Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
 11:00am.....Bible Study (Room 209)  
 5:15pm.....SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
 6:15pm.....Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)

### Wednesday, January 22

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

### Thursday, January 23

7:30pm.....CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

### Friday, January 24

All Weekend.....Youth Ski Trip  
 8:30am.....Dove's Nest Retreat (Lounge)  
 5:00pm.....Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)  
 8:00pm.....AA (Room 114)

### Saturday, January 25

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

## 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.