



# Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 4 – Week of January 20-26, 2020

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

St. John's  
Worship  
this Week on  
January 26,  
2019

### Proclaimer

Rev. Dennis W.  
Foust, PhD

### Message

*Renovating the  
Battered Church*

### Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20

## Youth and Young Adult Minister Search

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.

## Meal Hosting for Charlotte Family Housing

Starting in February

Volunteers are needed to provide dinners on Tuesday 2/4 and Thursday 2/6 for the residents of Hawthorne Place (St. John's 2nd floor annex). For the safety of the families, those who are delivering food are asked to complete a background check which can be done online in advance.

**Please contact Donna Scott at 919-280-9204 or the church office for more details or to sign up soon!**



## Youth Sunday at St. John's

Sunday, February 2, 2020 @ 10:30am in the Sanctuary



If you look at the words on the top of your St. John's car sticker, they read, "A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active." On Sunday, February 2, our youth proclaimers will share what it means for them to be active servants. This year our Youth Sunday proclaimers are Sam Vavra, Elizabeth Rodden, and Claude Bragg. The youth choir will sing two songs. There will be solos by Tyler Benton & Emma Goodrich. Jackson Kinney, Jacob Callaway, and Phillip Fries will lead our time with children. Lilly Marie Sweet will begin worship with a warm welcome. Owen Hahn will read Scripture. Lily Wilkerson & Miller Ray will lead us in prayer.

**We hope that you can join us for the 74th Annual Youth Sunday at 10:30am on Sunday, February 2.**

### Inside this issue:

From Dennis 2  
March Events!  
Youth News  
Children's News

Ugly Duckling Opera 3  
Open Table  
Tuesday Bible Study  
Lent 2020  
NAMI Support Groups  
Man's Jam 2020  
QC Family Tree  
Refugee Support  
Services

Staff Listing 4  
Prayer Concerns &  
Thank You Notes  
Sunday Service  
Schedules  
Ministers on Call  
Greeters at SJBC  
Parking Stickers  
Calendar

## Messages from St. John's Staff

### THERMOSTATIC CHURCH

Last Monday, I read again some words of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many of his thoughts are like spring flowers; they bud and blossom anew with each appearance. MLK used an analogy of The Church as being either a thermometer or a thermostat. If we see our role in society as a thermometer, we merely reflect what is going on in our context. However, if we choose to be a thermostat, we can transform the climate around us.

Beloved, I am extremely grateful for your commitment to be a thermostat people rather than merely a thermometer. The climate of Charlotte is different than it could be because of the ministries of St. John's people – individually and congregationally. Let me remind you of two ways you are succeeding in active faith as a thermostatic people of God as we move toward our second century of ministry.

**FIRST, YOUR FINANCIAL FAITHFULNESS:** Because of your faithful financial stewardship and generosity in 2019, we finished the year well. Our Finance Resource Team, chaired by Chuck Howard, has reviewed the year's end report prepared by Jacquelyn McAbee, our Church Administrator. We finished 2019 able to provide some year-end bonuses to our church staff and to pay for the replacement of an HVAC unit for the Chapel Building. In addition, your faithful financial stewardship has continued into 2020 as your commitments have surpassed \$910,000. This allows us to pursue the focus areas you identified last year: Expanding (1) Outreach and Messaging/Media; (2) Reaching Out to Young Adults and Households with Children; (3) Magnifying Community Visibility and Impact; (4) Enhancing Congregational Care; and (5) Optimizing Purposeful Efforts in Spiritual Growth for all ages. Final fine-tuning of our 2020 Financial Ministry Plan Budget will be allowed this vision to be presented to the Deaconate and Congregation in early February.

**SECOND, YOUR EXPRESSION OF HOSPITALITY:** Throughout the year, you welcome new people into our worship pews, our Sunday Growth Groups, our conversations and our ministries. Your friendliness matters. As I call guests, they are always appreciative of how you initiate hospitality. In coming weeks, we will have numerous opportunities to invite our friends and neighbors to enjoy the hospitality and welcoming climate of St. John's. On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt to the St. John's Pulpit as she launches her new inspiring book, *The Gift of Forgiveness*. On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Al Staggs as he presents his dramatic portrayal of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed by Adolf Hitler for being an actively faithful witness to Jesus Christ. Then, on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Al Staggs will present a

sermon proclaiming the message of Clarence Jordan, who authored the Cotton Patch Gospel and founded Koinonia Farm which inspired the vision for Habitat for Humanity. Invite folks now!

Keep On Keeping On Thermostatic Church!

Shalom,  
Dennis

### 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 are on sale NOW here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-afternoon-with-al-staggs-tickets-90047306919?aff=ebdssbeac> If you want to buy tickets but do not want to do so online, please contact Mallory in the office and she can help you procure tickets. Al Staggs was a parish minister for over 20 years and began his career as a performing artist after that. 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 26, 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 called disciples. They will have time for art and play, and Music is at 9:40.

**Grades 1-5:** The 1st-5th Graders will learn about how Jesus healed a paralyzed man. 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!

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

#### Upcoming Events for Youth

##### February 2

Youth Sunday during worship at 10:30am

##### February 28-March 1

Middle School Discipleship Retreat to Blowing Rock

**NO BASKETBALL FOR SJBC TEAMS ON JANUARY 25!**

## Grow with St. John's

### Opera Carolina Presents: The Ugly Duckling

February 8, 2020 @ 10:30AM for FREE

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!



Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ugly-duckling-at-st-johns-baptist-church-tickets-89295853301>

### 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/Zsmu9DbdBkvdyat5>



### Tuesday Bible Study Group

Room 209, 11AM

We invite all interested persons to join us each Tuesday at 11 am in room 209 for this weekly Bible study. We are studying the book of Amos as one of the 12 Minor Prophets. Sessions are 60 minutes. Contact Steve Hoffman at 704-604-9634 if you have questions.



**Anyone is welcome to join us! Call Steve Hoffman @ 704-604-9634 to register or for 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 Sacred Space in Broach Hall and a noon-time service in the Sanctuary. Stay tuned for more details as the time draws nearer.

### NAMI Support Groups

February 11 @ 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, February 11 in Rooms 114 & 116.

### Man's Jam: That 70s Show

Sunday, January 26, 2020 @ 6PM @ Visulite Theater

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. Tickets can be purchased online and at the door. The event is at the Visulite Theater. Doors open at 6PM. For questions about tickets or more info, call or email Carole McLeod at 704-591-9211 or [carolemcLeod59@gmail.com](mailto:carolemcLeod59@gmail.com) or Anna McLeod Cushman at 704-906-4406 or [annamcushman@gmail.com](mailto:annamcushman@gmail.com). Anna will be selling tickets right after the service this Sunday if you are interested in attending!

## 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

## 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).

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 and Thank You Notes

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

"We would like to thank St. John's for their outpouring of love and care during the recent passing of our father, Pete Johnson. From the Care Committee's wonderful luncheon for the family, to the reception provided by the McLeod-Brown class, to the ministers' care and support, our family felt truly loved and supported. Sincerely, the Almond, Farson, and Johnson families"

"On behalf of Christine, Elizabeth, Paul, and myself, thank you for your notes, food, and many hugs over the past few weeks. The St. John's community is so special and we are grateful for all of you. Sincerely, the Solitario family."

"I wish to thank my St. John's family for the many cards, food, prayers, and hugs without which my life without Bryan would have been very lonely. You gave me kindness and love. To quote Bryan, 'All you need is love!' Sincerely, Jim Keese"

### Sunday, January 26

**Deacons:** Jeff Almond, Kevin Benton, Leslie Bragg, Treva Bridges, Minh Callaway, Marc Cardella, Allene Cooley, Ryan Crowder, Alan Dietz, Teri Franklin

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

**Tellers:** Tim Gibson & Morgan Newman

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

### Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of January 13-19: \$42,016  
Income through January 19: \$62,706

### Ministers on Call:

January 20-26: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

January 27-February 2: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287

## Calendar for January 26-February 1, 2020

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

### Sunday, January 26

9:15am..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
9:15am..... St. John's 101 (Heritage Room)  
10:30am..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:30am..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)  
11:45am..... WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Lounge)

### Monday, January 27

11:45am..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)  
5:45pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
7:00pm..... Crownsgate HOA (Lounge)  
8:00pm..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, January 28

10:00am..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
11:00am..... Bible Study (Room 209)  
12:00pm..... Terrific Tuesday Book Club (Library/Lounge)  
5:15pm..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
6:00pm..... CROP Recognition Dinner (Broach Hall)  
6:15pm..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)

### Wednesday, January 29

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 30

5:30pm..... Right Moves for Youth (Broach Hall)  
7:30pm..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

### Friday, January 31

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

### Saturday, February 1

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