



# Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 1 – Week of December 30, 2019-January 5, 2020

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

St. John's  
 Worship  
 this Week on  
 January 5,  
 2019

**Proclaimer**

Rev. Dennis W.

Foust, PhD

**Message**

*Christmas for  
 Everyone*

**Scripture**

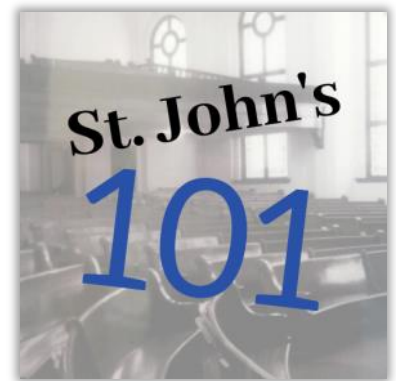
John 1:1-18

### 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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### Nyarweng Community School Progress

New Tukuls and New Teachers

Through your financial contributions to our annual mission offering, the Nyarweng Community School continues to do well and expand. Pictured to the right is the staff, including two new female teachers. Also pictured at the right is a group of students by additional shelters (tukuls) that have been built to handle overflow at the school. We are so glad to have received these updates and hear about progress being made in South Sudan!



**We are looking forward to another great year  
 at St. John's Baptist Church!**

## Messages from St. John's Staff

### TOWARD EPIPHANY BY WAY OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

You will notice our wreaths, lights and trees will still be in place this Sunday in the buildings of St. John's. This Sunday is 'The Twelfth Day of Christmas.'

Next Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, is Epiphany, which means **'manifestation.'** In the Christian Calendar Year, Epiphany is the day following the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany recognizes the visit of the Wise Men or Magi; those kings who travelled to worship the King of Kings who manifests God's Presence.

Through the seven Sundays in this season of Epiphany, (Jan12-Feb 23), our worship will focus on how Jesus manifests God's nature, character and will. **Our society desperately and immediately needs healthy theology.** However, way too often, the Church is caught up in institutionalism and fixated on self-serving causes, exclusivism, protectionism, materialism, politics, indoctrination & entertainment. **Too often, God's Gospel is tossed onto the trash heap traded for surface and shallow thought.**

So, my aim, during this season of Epiphany, is to offer messages which can equip you to relate healthy theology to other persons in a world filled with sick theology. Our theme is, *'Reclaiming God's Good News from the Trash Heap.'* My sermons will focus upon the challenge of Paul in Philippians 1:27 – ***"Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ."***

### 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**

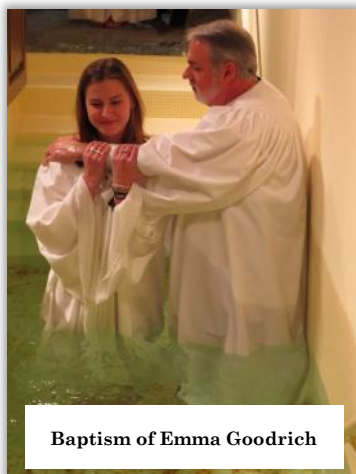
Youth Sunday

**February 28-March 1**

Middle School Discipleship Retreat to Blowing Rock



Baptism of Lily Wilkerson



Baptism of Emma Goodrich

Jan 12 - *'Repairing a Broken Concept About God'*  
Jan 19 - *'Revitalizing the Faded Garment of Salvation'*  
Jan 26 - *'Renovating the Battered Church'*  
Feb 2 - Youth Sunday  
Feb 9 - *'Reweaving the Torn Tapestry of Prayer'*  
Feb 16 - *'Reconstructing Discipleship's Damaged Yoke'*  
Feb 23 - *'Rebuilding the Damaged Engine of Missions'*

This Sunday, we conclude a three-part Christmas series, *'Christmas Every Day Everywhere for Everyone,'* based upon Titus 2:11 – ***"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."***

During these twelve days of Christmas, we have entered A New Year – some say a new decade. Here is a thought about faith, as you enter 2020:

***"Faith is not belief despite a lack of evidence; faith is a life lived in scorn of the consequences. Faith is turning dreams into deeds, betting your life on unseen realities."*** – Clarence Jordan

**Shalom and A Happy New Year to All!  
Dennis**

## 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, January 5, 2020

**Nursery/2s:** These children will be cared for in their classroom during the Formation and Worship hours.

**PreK/K:** This class will be cared for in their classroom during the Formation and Worship hours. They will learn the story of the Magi visiting the Christ child and have time for art and play.

**Grades 1-5:** These classes will be learning about how the Magi came to visit Jesus and about how Mary and Joseph had to take Jesus and flee to Egypt to keep him safe. There is no music this week. Grades 1-3 will have Godly Play during the worship hour, and Grades 4-5 will worship with their families.

## Grow with St. John's

### Youth Sunday

February 2, 2020

Youth Sunday is February, 2, 2020 during morning worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary. Our youth will lead all aspects of worship on this day. We hope you plan to be here to support our teenagers on this special Sunday.



The Faith Journey Book Study will NOT meet on Monday, January 6. Instead, they will meet on Tuesday, January 14th and again on Monday, January 27th. They will resume the regular Monday meetings in February.

### Opera Carolina Presents: The Ugly Duckling

February 8, 2020

On Saturday, February 8, children and families are invited to a free opera presentation of 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!



## 2020 Financial Ministry Plan

Commitments Received: 173  
Amount Received: \$897,497

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 sign up 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).

## 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. As we have sought to provide a welcome and support in their transition we have found that we have learned much from them. 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 9:30-10.45 a.m.
- A small group from St. John's visits RSS every third Thursday of the month, from 9:45-11:15 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 OPEN TABLE

## Pancakes & Music

Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
5:50-7:00PM in Broach Hall

Save the date!

**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

### Prayer Concerns

Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Judy Biber (Atrium), 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

Sympathy to Marie Wright in the death of her sister on December 22.

Sympathy to Hilda Outen in the death of her sister, Davies Jordan, on December 21.

A memorial service for Lewis LeVie will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.

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.

### Sunday, January 5

**Deacons:** Treva Bridges, Minh Callaway, Marc Cardella, Allene Cooley, Ryan Crowder, Alan Dietz, Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Clara Howell, Chuck Howard

**Greeters:** Main-Ed Turner & Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narthex-Al Bridges; Broach Hall-Ed Outen; Elevator-Marvin Carter

**Tellers:** Marvin Carter & Paul Lloyd

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

### Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of December 23-29: \$21,633  
Income through December 15: \$1,087,348  
Annual 2019 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,140,000

### Ministers on Call:

December 30-January 5: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287  
January 6-12: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

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.

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. Stay  
tuned for more details as the time draws nearer.



## NAMI Support Groups

January 14 @ 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, January 14 in Rooms 114 & 116.

## Calendar for January 5-11, 2020

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

### Sunday, January 5

8:00am ..... Church Council (Conference Room)  
9:15am ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
10:30am ..... Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:30am ..... Godly Play (Room 221)  
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 6

12:00pm ..... Care Committee Luncheon (Lounge)  
1:30pm ..... Memorial Service: Lewis LeVie (Sanctuary)  
5:45pm ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
6:00pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)  
8:00pm ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, January 7

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

### Wednesday, January 8

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

### Thursday, January 9

10:00am ..... Craft and Needles Ministry (Lounge)  
4:00pm ..... Charlotte Family Housing Jubilee (Youth Lounge)  
7:30pm ..... CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

### Friday, January 10

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

### Saturday, January 11

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