



Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 7 – Week of February 10-16, 2020

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
February 16,
2019

Proclaimer:

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Theme

*Reconstructing the
Damaged Yoke of
Discipleship*

Scriptures

Matthew 4:18-27,
11:28-30, 16:24-26,
28:18-20

Open Table: Pancakes and Music

Wednesday, February 19 @ 5:50pm in Broach Hall

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 **Brooksakes** pancakes from George Brooks with bacon, and grits to celebrate Shrove Tuesday a week early and enjoy musical entertainment from Kevin Gray and Friends! This is a great night to get to know others better around the table and enjoy some good food and entertainment. We would love everyone to come! Sign up today!



Call or email Mallory in the office or sign up with this link online: <https://forms.gle/Zsmu9DbdBkvwdyat5>

Inside this issue:

From Dennis 2

Youth News

Introduction of Derek Henson

Children's News

100th Anniversary 3

ECoF Services

Elizabeth 8K

AI Staggs Event

VBS 2020

Loaves and Fishes

Refugee Support Services

Staff Listing 4

Prayer Concerns & Thank You

Sunday Service Schedules

Ministers on Call

Basketball Schedule

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Calendar

Ash Wednesday Sacred Space for Renewal

Wednesday, February 26 in Broach Hall 9AM-12PM & 1PM-7PM

On Ash Wednesday, Broach Hall will be open for self-led, reflective, prayer stations. These include but are not limited to the following: salt prayers, making prayer beads, walking the labyrinth, and a prayer wall. This experience was designed with all ages in mind. From 9AM-12PM and 1PM-7PM on February 26, a St. John's minister will be present to administer ashes. From 12PM-1PM, we hope you will attend the Elizabeth Communities of Faith service here in our Sanctuary. During the day in Broach Hall, there will be special opportunities to hear music, thoughts, and a story from our ministry staff. We hope all will consider coming to this experience at any point during the day as we begin another Lenten season.



Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt LIVE at St. John's

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 is a New York Times best-selling author, lifestyle blogger, philanthropist, and ASPCA Ambassador, who speaks to and for her generation of women, providing a strong message of empowerment. 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!

The book, *The Gift of Forgiveness*, is available for pre-order on Amazon now! Books will also be available for purchase at the event on March 15.



Messages from St. John's Staff

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IS BOTH CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE!

Several have asked me for my words used in last Sunday's message describing The Destructive Gospel. So, here you go.

The word, 'Gospel,' means 'Good News.' We usually speak of Good News in constructive terms. However, God's Good News is both constructive and destructive. Let me explain.

When we commit to follow Jesus as our Lord of life, we humble ourselves to be obedient learners constructed in the shape of God's Gospel. Our individual lives and our life together as God's people become Gospel-Shaped. If we are disciples (learners) of Jesus, our lives and our life together as a beloved community take on the shape of God's salvation through grace, forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation, redemption, truth, love, peace, spiritual transformation, mission, integrity, impartiality, humility, vulnerability and hope. As we live Gospel-shaped lives, God is constructing the Gospel within us. Our influence on people and our impact on situations are Gospel-shaped ministry.

However, God's Good News in Jesus Christ also has many positive effects in the world by being destructive. God's Good News of salvation through grace destroys sin. God's Gospel of forgiveness destroys guilt. God's Good News of compassion destroys shame. God's Gospel of reconciliation destroys estrangement. God's Good News of redemption destroys prejudice, erasing a devaluing or ridicule of others. God's Gospel of truth destroys the inclination to lie and hide the facts. God's Good News of love revealed in Jesus Christ destroys the desire to hate. The Gospel of God's peace destroys enmity and strife between foes. God's Good News of spiritual transformation destroys loneliness and despair. God's Gospel of mission destroys a lack of purpose and meaning. God's Good News of integrity destroys hypocrisy and self-preoccupation. God's Gospel of impartiality destroys injustice and apathy. God's Good News of humility destroys pride and haughtiness. God's Gospel of vulnerability destroys self-centeredness and greed. God's Good News of hope destroys fear and the need to be in control over others.

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

Upcoming Events for Youth

February 28-March 1

Middle School Discipleship Retreat to Blowing Rock

March 1

Basketball Banquet for all of St. John's teams (The season concludes on February 29)

June 15-19

Volunteering for St. John's VBS

June 21-27

High School Habitat Mission Trip to John's Island, SC (near Charleston) – Adult leader meeting on February 23rd at 11:45 am after worship in the church conference room

July 20-25

Unidiversity Summer Camp (for all youth) in Maryville, TN

August 8-11

Middle School Local Mission Trip

When a human life is primarily shaped by sin, guilt, shame, prejudice, devaluing and ridiculing of others, lying and hiding of facts, hate, enmity, strife, loneliness, despair, purposelessness, meaninglessness, hypocrisy, self-preoccupation, injustice, apathy, pride, haughtiness, self-centeredness, greed, fear or the need to be in control over others, then that person is refusing to be shaped by God's Gospel. In such persons, the spirit of Jesus Christ is NOT Lord and their initiatives work against God. Gospel-shaped lives cannot support the efforts of those working against God's Good News.

To quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "*Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.*"

Shalom,
Dennis

New Staff Member Welcome!

We want to welcome Derek Henson to the office staff at St. John's! Derek comes to us with a wealth of experience in congregational life. On Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-12pm, you can find Derek in the Welcome Office, formerly known as the Volunteer Office, working on administrative support tasks. Please come by and say hello to Derek if you are in the building on these days!



Derek is a native of western Maryland and completed his undergraduate studies at The University of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. After moving to Texas in 2007 he became connected to CBF life and ministry while attending Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. There he served in a variety of staff and lay ministry positions. While a student at Brite Divinity School, he served as an education coordinator for Tarrant Churches Together which facilitated a CDF Freedom School program. He also served as minister in training at Broadway before seminary graduation in 2018 with a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry. Prior to relocating to Charlotte in the fall of 2019, he served as Associate Pastor of Administration and Communication at the First Baptist Church of Worcester, Massachusetts. The variety of mission endeavors and commitments to social justice and inclusion have drawn him to join with us in ministry at St. John's.

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

Sunday, February 16, 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 calmed a storm. They will have time for art and play.

Grades 1-5: The 1st-5th Graders will learn about how Jesus met Zacchaeus. No Music this week. 1st-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

Grow with St. John's

100th Anniversary Celebration St. John's Turns 100 in 2022!

To anyone interested in helping with our 100 Anniversary Celebration: Please come to a meeting on Wednesday, February 19 from 3:30-5:30 in the Lounge. If you cannot come to the entire meeting, that is okay! Anyone is welcome to join us as we plan this exciting celebration in the life of St. John's! **If you are interested in helping and cannot come to the meeting, please contact Fredda Kimball (704-577-8953) or freddafk@aol.com.**



Elizabeth Communities of Faith

12PM Lenten Services at St. John's this Season

Beginning February 26, the Elizabeth Communities of Faith (ECoF) will have noontime (12PM) Lenten services each Wednesday in Lent here at St. John's. Each week, except for February 26, there will be a soup and sandwich lunch following the service in Broach Hall. Services will last approximately 30 minutes and 30 minutes for lunch. A donation of \$5/person is suggested for lunch and all monies will go to Refugee Support Services and Galilee Refugee Center. The timing makes this ideal for anyone in the working world to attend on his or her lunch break. We hope you will attend these services during this reflective season of Lent.

Elizabeth 8K Road Race

Saturday, March 21 @ Independence Park

The annual Elizabeth 8K Road Race is Saturday, March 21. This race is on a beautiful course through the streets of Elizabeth. St. John's is a sponsor for this event. So, we have a code for 10 free registrations and 10% off registration on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reach out to Mallory if you want a code!



Register here:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2020/25466/2020-elizabeth-8k>

Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Saturday, March 28 @ 4PM in the Sanctuary

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. On Sunday, March 29, Staggs will join us in worship to offer his portrayal of Clarence Jordan.



Vacation Bible School 2020

The Adventures of Moses

Vacation Bible School: *The Adventures of Moses* is June 15-19 from 9am-12pm this summer at St. John's in partnership with St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Registration is open now and 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 the people. The cost is \$15/child. This is open to children aged 4 by June 1- Rising 6th Graders. **Register today!**



Reach Out with St. John's

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive

You Can Help this February

Galilee Pantry provides protein foods for their clients such as chicken, eggs, cheese. While you shop for non-perishables, L&F shops for these perishable items with your monetary donations. There are labeled envelopes available along with the big bags. Checks need to be written to Loaves & Fishes, or to St. John's with L&F on the memo line. Place these envelopes in the offering plates on Sunday or leave them in Mallory's office; and we will deliver them to L&F. Speaking of eggs, don't forget to bring your empty egg cartons so the pantry can distribute those eggs!



Refugee Support Services

Opportunities to Volunteer!

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. Upcoming sessions are 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.

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 - jmcaabee@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	2/15 @ 12PM	St. John's
8 & Under Co-Ed	2/15 @ 10 or 11AM	St. John's
10 & Under Boys	2/15 @ 2:45PM	Park Road Baptist
12 & Under Boys	2/15 @ 1:45PM	Sardis Presbyterian
12 & Under Girls	2/15 @ 9:30AM	Trinity Episcopal
15 & Under Girls	2/15 @ 10:30AM	Sardis Presbyterian
16 & Under Boys	2/15 @ 1:00PM	FBC Matthews
18 & Under Girls	2/15 @ 6:30PM	Calvary Church
18 & Under Boys	2/15 @ 9:30AM 2/15 @ 2:45PM	Sardis Presbyterian Mt. Harmony Baptist

Calendar for February 16-22, 2020

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, February 16

9:15am Sunday School (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 (3rd Floor, Gym, Lounge)

Monday, February 17

Weekday School Teacher Workday
8:00am Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
8:00am Cadence Education (Broach, Lasater,
..... Lounge, Classrooms)
11:45am Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
5:45pm Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
8:00pm AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, February 18

10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
11:00am Bible Study (Room 209)
5:00pm Preserve Meck Inc. (Lounge)
5:15pm SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
6:15pm Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30pm Search Task Force (Lounge)

Wednesday, February 19

6:30am Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am Yoga (Room 114)
1:00pm Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
3:30pm Heritage Resource Team (Lounge)
5:50pm Open Table (Broach Hall)
6:00pm AA (Room 114)
7:00pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 20

10:00am HeadStart (Lounge)
12:00pm Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy & Legal Aid of NC
..... (Broach Hall)

Friday, February 21

6:30am Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
5:00pm Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
5:30pm Volunteers Serve Dinner Uptown (Offsite)
8:00pm AA (Room 114)

Saturday, February 22

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

Prayer Concerns

Emily Batts, Judy Biber, RD Bond, Martha Brown, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Polly Hull, Monty Kearse, Johnnie Morcock, Esther Narron, Carl Phillips, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Elma Thomas, Debora Thon, Joe Trull, Alison Zieglermeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

"Many thanks for the condolence notes/cards/emails/texts sent to us these last few weeks concerning my dad's passing. In a time of great sorrow, it is wonderful to be comforted by our church family. Thank you, Doug and Julie!"

Sunday, February 16

Deacons: Kim Allen, Jeff Almond, Kevin Benton, Leslie Bragg, Treva Bridges, Minh Callway, Marc Cardella, Deacon Jones, Lindsay Wilson, Sally Young

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner; 5th St./NartheX-Al Bridges; Broach Hall-Gail Sifford; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Linda Kerley and Susan King

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

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of February 3-9: \$40,398
Income through February 9: \$149,626

Ministers on Call:

February 10-16: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412
February 17-23: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

Join the Terrific Tuesday Book Club

February's Book is *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson

The Terrific Tuesday Book Club meets once a month to discuss a book. In February, they will meet on the 25th at 12pm in the Library and have lunch together (bring your own lunch) in the Lounge afterwards. The book for this month is *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson. It is a historical novel about the women who made Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown. We hope you will join this group on February 25 at 12pm!

