



Family News

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

Vol. 78, No. 9 – Week of February 24-March 1, 2020

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
Worship
this Week on
March 1, 2019

Proclaimer:

Rev. Dennis W.
Foust, PhD

Message

WHEN Your Pray—
Not IF

Scriptures

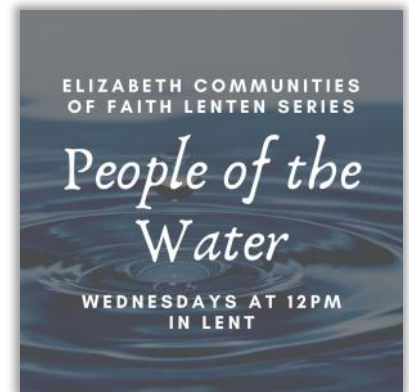
Psalms 85:7-13 &
Luke 11:1-4

Elizabeth Communities of Faith

12PM Wednesday Lenten Services at St. John's in the Sanctuary

The Elizabeth Communities of Faith (ECoF) will have noontime (12PM) Lenten services each Wednesday in Lent here at St. John's. The theme of this year's series is "People of the Water." We look forward to hearing from each member congregation/entity of ECoF throughout the season of Lent. Each week 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.

We hope you will attend these services during this reflective season of Lent.



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- VBS 2020
- Volunteers Needed
- Loaves and Fishes
- Easter Outfit Collection

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>



Easter Lilies 2020: Order Today!

Easter Lilies are a long-standing tradition and are loved by many, except those who are allergic to the pollen that traditional Easter Lilies bring. This year, we are offering the alternative of White Calla Lilies in order to reduce the pollen and help everyone enjoy this glorious Sunday of worship. Like Easter Lilies, Calla Lilies can be planted in your yard and come back again next year. The cost this year will be \$18, and order forms are available in the Family News and in the church office with Mallory. **All orders must be placed by Sunday, March 8! See the order form on the BACK of the Family News. Fill out the form, tear off, and send to Mallory.**



Proceeds from the Easter flowers are used to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We usually purchase less than ordered to have extra funds for Christmas decorations, so please be sure to indicate on your order form if you **do not** plan to take your Calla Lily after the Easter service.

- Staff Listing 4
- Prayer Concerns & Sympathy
- Sunday Service Schedules
- Ministers on Call
- Calendar
- Easter Flowers Order Form

Messages from St. John's Staff

A LENTEN PRAYER

Because we are part of God's people in the world, we are committed to peacebuilding – not division. We strive to increase the shalom of God – the wholeness which is God's vision for each person, all humanity and every dimension of creation.

Therefore, we express concern when division is present resulting in people being neglected or abused. Caring about all types of division, we especially invest our discipleship in divisions which are familial, relational, communal and social. We try to bring about healing in the world by speaking God's Good News of peace, equipping people for influential ministries of impact through peacebuilding, offering leadership for situations where peace is needed and serving persons who suffer because of division. The most important act we can take as peacebuilders is to seek God's peace in ourselves constructing our integrity around a spiritual center or core.

Our contemporary society seems to be addicted to division. A concern is palpable about the glaring expansion of division in America and throughout the world. It is my belief that America expects churches to offer a vision for social morality and direction – more importantly, it is my belief that God expects this of churches. However, churches can only offer such a vision if church people embrace and pursue God's vision of peace within themselves. Therefore, I offer the following Lenten Prayer for us to share:

Living God, You have commanded us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Every week, we pray for Your will to be done and Your kingdom to come on earth. In our commitment confirmed by baptism, we have said to You that we seek Your vision both in our personal lives and in the life of the world above all other desires. Yet, we lie to You. We serve You with a divided heart. We are devoted to many interests that compromise our commitment to You. We fit You into the comfort spaces of our lives rather than shaping our lives around You. Please forgive us our half-

heartedness and our lies. We rely on Your grace to transform us into the pattern of Jesus and redeem our failures and sins. We need Your transformational Spirit to form us as learners of Jesus' way of living. Give us Jesus' way of relating with You. Teach us how to pray and work for Your vision. Strengthen our love for You until it represents Your love for us. During this season of Lent, as daylight hours lengthen, erase the divisions within us and between us. Give us unity of heart as we clear away all debris and clutter returning to Your Light as the center of our commitments. Amen.

**Shalom,
Dennis**



This year's Ash Wednesday Sacred Space for Prayer and Renewal was a welcomed experience for all who participated. We are thankful to Allison and the rest of the ministry team for setting this experience up as a renewing and contemplative beginning to the Lenten season.

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)

July 20-25

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

August 8-11

Middle School Local Mission Trip

News for Children and Their Families

from Allison Benfield, Minister for Spiritual Growth

Sunday, March 1, 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 Mary and Martha. They will have time for art and play.

Grades 1-5: The 1st-5th Graders will learn about when Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time. No music this week. 1st-5th Graders will join their families for worship.

**Register for VBS
TODAY by clicking the
button to the right!**

**Click here to
register for VBS!**

Grow with St. John's

Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt LIVE at St. John's

Sunday, March 15 @ 10:30AM during worship



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 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.

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. This play brings the life of one of the great heroes of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to the stage. Tickets 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!](#)

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

Homeless Team Volunteers Needed Can you help?

On the third Friday of each month we need servers and banana pudding makers for our time to provide a hot meal at the Men's Shelter. Will you add your name to the list of potential volunteers to be contacted by Joy Jarrett when she is scheduling the helpers for this ministry? We need nine pudding makers each month, with each person making a pudding to serve about 12 guests of the shelter. Pudding makers who volunteer for a specific Friday leave a prepared banana pudding in the refrigerator in the Broach Hall kitchen no later than 4:00PM on the third Friday. (Maximum of 3 or 4 times per year.)



Also, four servers are needed each month and are due at the shelter at 5:30PM and are usually finished by 7:00PM. Either Charlie Harper or Lynn Bishop will be there to direct. It is a great time to join with other St. John's folks in service and ministry.

Let Mallory in the office know if you would like to have your name included on Joy's contact lists, either for banana pudding or for serving the meal! Upcoming dates are March, 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19.

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive You Can Help this February

Last chance! The food drive is ending this week. Have you thoughtfully shopped? Donated money? Don't forget to say prayers for the pantry volunteers and their clients and for yourselves as you donate food that will make such a difference in all the lives involved.



Easter Outfits Collection For "A Child's Place"

Starting now, St. John's is collecting new or gently used children's outfits for A Child's Place. We are collecting NEW boy and girl outfits, sizes 5-14, with new socks and underwear with each outfit. The collection point for outfits is the main entrance by the gym. **Please have all outfits in by March 29.**



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
 Administrative Assistant.....Derek Henson
 ext. 10 - info@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**

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Allen, Emily Batts, Judy Biber, RD Bond, Byron Bullard, Carol Drye, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Camille Green, Carolyn Hicks, Polly Hull, Paul Lloyd, Johnnie Morcock, Carl Phillips, Gene Poole, Elma Thomas, Debora Thon, Joe Trull, Alison Zieglermeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Frances Wilson Justice, long-time member of St. John's, passed on February 19, 2020.

Sunday, March 1

Deacons: Jane Newman, Casey Perkins, Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford, David Sherrill, Gail Sifford, Laura Sorrell, Anne Sutton, Keith Towery
Greeters: Main-Carol & Tom Injaychock; 5th St./NartheX-AL Bridges; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator-Marvin Carter
Tellers: Tim Gibson and Morgan Newman
Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of February 17-23: \$22, 096
 Income through February 23: \$182,990
 Annual 2020 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,175,000

Ministers on Call:

February 24-March 1: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 March 2-8: Dennis Foust 704-359-7234

**Pre-Order Your Copy of
 The Gift of Forgiveness by
 Katherine
 Schwarzenegger Pratt
 today! [Click here!](#)**



Calendar for March 1-7, 2020

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, March 1

8:00am Church Council (Conference Room)
 9:15am Sunday School (Classrooms)
 10:30am Worship Service w/ Communion (Sanctuary)
 10:30am Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
 2:00pm South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
 4:30pm Basketball Banquet (Gym/Lounge)

Monday, March 2

11:45am Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
 5:45pm Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 6:00pm Elizabeth Village HOA (Lounge)
 6:00pm Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
 8:00pm Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, March 3

6:30am Presidential Primary Election (Broach Hall)
 9:00am Staff Planning (Room 222)
 11:00am Bible Study (Room 209)
 5:15pm SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:15pm Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
 6:30pm Search Task Force (Lounge)

Wednesday, March 4

6:30am Benton Basketball (Gym)
 9:30am Yoga (Room 114)
 12:00pm Elizabeth Communities of Faith Service (Sanctuary)
 12:30pm ECoF Lenten Lunch (Broach Hall)
 6:00pm Belmont AA (Room 114)
 6:00pm Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
 6:00pm Handbells (Handbell Room)
 7:00pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, March 5

6:30pm Elizabeth Community Association (Room 222)
 7:30pm CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

7:00am Benton Basketball (Gym)

Calla Lily Order Form 2020

I will give ____ (number) lilies at \$18 each.

____ in memory of _____

____ in honor of _____

Please enclose or send cash/check with this order form. Checks made to St. John's Baptist with "Easter Lilies" in memo line.

Donor name and telephone:

____ I wish to pick up my lilies.

____ I do not wish to pick up my lilies.

The deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 8, 2020 with Mallory in the office.