



# Family News

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

[stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://stjohnsbaptistchurch.org) | Vol. 78, No. 18– Week of April 27-May 3, 2020

## A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active

St. John's Virtual  
Worship at Home  
on May 3, 2020

Join us for an online  
worship experience at  
10:30am on Facebook,  
YouTube, and the  
website.  
Worship resources will  
be distributed for  
guidance.

Stay Connected on  
Social Media & Website



@sjbccharlotte



@sjbccharlotte



@sjbccharlotte



[Website Link](#)

## Search Task Force Update

Progress in Search for Minister for Youth and Young Adults

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges over the past few weeks, it has also helped us to explore new mediums and ways to find community and collaboration with one another. The Search Task Force has continued its work of evaluating candidates for the position of Minister for Youth and Young Adults by conducting videoconference meetings and interviews. Over the past two months, we have conducted multiple rounds of interviews, reviewed writing samples, and contacted references for a select number of qualified candidates. It has been an amazing experience seeing the diverse and talented pool of applicants our church has attracted as a beacon of hope, love and inclusion in the Charlotte community. Thanks to your prayerful support, forward thinking leadership, and diligent stewardship of the congregation we have been able to continue conversations with the strongest candidates while other churches have put their hiring processes on hold. As we narrow our focus on a final candidate, our group is excited at the prospect of presenting to you our recommendation for filling the position and beginning a new journey with our youth and young adult ministries.

## Mask-Making Update

St. John's Initiative During COVID-19

On April 23 we delivered almost 200 masks for our part in the drive for masks requested by Novant and Atrium. In addition, St. John's masks makers completed well over 500 masks that have been distributed to various other healthcare facilities with whom our members have connections. Others of you have helped with supplying materials and with shuttling supplies from one curb to another across town. Many thanks to all who have been involved and who are continuing in this needed ministry.

## Connect with Realm

Launching a New Way to Connect

Many of you have used the *Church Life* app on your phones to access contact information for members. Last week, you might have noticed that this app no longer supplied the digital church directory. This week, we conducted a soft-launch of a new church software and communication system called "Realm" with our St. John's deacons. Many of them have provided helpful feedback on their experience with the new app and system and we are almost ready to launch it church wide once we correct any errors or confusing points the deacons found. With the new app, you will be able to find church member contact information, connect with your Sunday Growth Group, send messages to folks you are connected with, give to St. John's financially from your phone, and more!



For now, please use the attached PDF church directory to locate contact information for members until we can get the new system rolled out to everyone in the church membership. Soon, you will receive an emailed invitation to join Realm.

If you have any questions, please contact Mallory Brown at [mbrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org).

# Contact the Staff

## A List of Cell Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

- Dennis Foust- 704-359-7234; [dfoust@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:dfoust@sjcharlotte.org)
- Lee Gray- 704-451-1309; [lgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:lgray@sjcharlotte.org)
- Allison Benfield- 828-448-8412; [abenfield@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:abenfield@sjcharlotte.org)
- Kevin Gray- 803-524-0287; [kgray@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:kgray@sjcharlotte.org)
- Mallory Brown- 704-477-3349; [mbrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org)
- Jacquelyn McAbee- 434-579-1177; [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org)

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## A WORD ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Thank you for being actively faithful faithfully active through the past two months. This crisis emerged suddenly interrupting every aspect of our living and we do not yet see the end. You are participating in worship, making masks, feeding the hungry, encouraging one another, housing those who are homeless, making leadership decisions, learning new ways to use Zoom calls, etc.

From the first days of this global pandemic, we have all been wondering how these major health and economic challenges will impact Charlotte. This is still unclear. Throughout the past month, your church leadership and church staff have been investigating and discussing the changing situation, and initiating efforts to guide and protect St. John's through this unpredictable emergency. Decisions have been made considering both best-case and worst-case scenarios, but in all cases with the best interests of the congregation in mind. Of particular importance has been the welfare of our church staff, especially our hourly employees, during this time of crisis.

During March, our income was only \$58,207 versus expenses of \$98,149. We had budgeted to receive \$110,000 in income for that month. Conversations began regarding the impact on the church's life and ministry if deficits continued into the months ahead. Amidst this dialogue, the Federal CARES Act was approved focused upon loans/grants to small businesses, non-profits and churches. The CARES Act includes the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a loan from which would allow us to pay our Weekday Childcare Teachers and other staff for eight weeks. North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship encouraged churches to learn about the program. Our Senior Minister (Dennis Foust), Chair of Diaconate (Jason Benton), Chair of Administrative Deacon Panel (James Laney), Chair of Finance Resource Team (Chuck Howard), Chair of Personnel Resource Team (Kevin Benton), and Church Administrator (Jacquelyn McAbee) participated in a webinar to become more aware of the program. It was an informative afternoon as we learned the funds are distributed by banks as part of a Small Business Administration Act.

One of our central questions had to do with our commitment to a separation of Church & State. It was significant to learn from trusted experts in the field of Church-State law that this was a unique opportunity to help churches in this COVID-19 crisis and does not violate our commitment. The loan funds are provided by banks, not government; the government only guarantees the loans to the banks. And, if certain employment guidelines are met, churches do not have to pay the loans back; the loan is forgiven and becomes a grant. No taxpayer dollars go directly from the government to the churches.

*(continued in next column)*

This webinar group discussed the pros and cons of the provisions in light of our low March income and a potential financial emergency if this became a trend in this unpredictable time. Inquiries were made to our bank, South State Bank, to learn more information. Our bank told us the timeline/window for the application was narrow. If we were interested, we should apply immediately. South State would decide who they wanted to approve for the funding as soon as possible. The subject was moved to the Church Council for discussion, and the decision was made to apply for a PPP loan. At that point, the process was formally commenced and, after discussion with the Finance Resource Team on Monday, April 20, our application was finalized and submitted. South State informed us this week that St. John's has been approved for a PPP loan with funds in the amount of \$154,239. These monies are now on deposit and will allow us to pay our staff, including Weekday Childcare Teachers who could not be paid otherwise, and utility expenses. The plan is to use these funds according to the requirements of the program, so we expect that the great majority of the loan will ultimately be forgiven. Any funds that we are unable to spend on approved expenses will be paid back as a low-interest loan.

April's income looks much healthier than March, but we will all need to continue our regular giving to the extent possible. If the people of St. John's are able to continue strong giving throughout 2020 such that we have a surplus at the end of the year, we will be able to provide additional assistance to persons who are suffering as a result of this pandemic.

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## Prayer Concerns, Notes, & Sympathy

Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Mary Chilton (mother of Amy Chilton), Carol Drye, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Camille Green, Polly Hull, Maddie and Domnhall Minogue, Johnnie Morcock, Gene Poole, Elma Thomas, Chip Wilson, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to Julie and Doug Hammond in the death of Julie's father, Rev. Randolph Denard "Denny" Spear, Jr. on Sunday, April 26 in Atlanta Georgia. Sympathy also to Drew, Amy, Grace, and Davis in the loss of their grandfather.

Congratulations to Blinn Cushman who recently passed the SC Bar Exam. Now, he can practice law in both NC and SC!

## Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of April 22-26: \$27,470  
Income through April 28: \$382,788  
Annual 2020 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,175,000

**Thank you for your continued financial faithfulness!**

**You may mail your financial gifts to:**

**St. John's Baptist Church  
Attn. Jacquelyn McAbee  
300 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28204.**

## State and Community Missions Offering Update:

2020 Goal: \$5,000  
Received to Date: \$3,160

***This offering closes on April 30.***