



# Celebrating & Envisioning

A CENTENNIAL YEAR AT ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

WINTER & SPRING 2022

# CELEBRATING

THROUGHOUT 2022, ST. JOHN'S WILL CELEBRATE  
ASPECTS OF OUR HERITAGE...

## Epiphany

JANUARY 9-FEBRUARY 6

Too often, stories of women in the life and ministry of Jesus are minimized. From Sunday, January 9–February 6, Dr. Foust will offer five messages retelling stories of women who helped Jesus reveal God's light to humanity in a sermon series called, "Isn't That Just Like a Woman? Some Women Who Helped Jesus Reveal the Mission of God."

## Youth Sunday

FEBRUARY 13

Every year, we celebrate the young people of our church on Youth Sunday. This year, we will have Youth Sunday on February 13 during morning worship. Their commitments and dreams inspire us as they reveal their commitments to God's vision for the world.



Rev. Jonathan Lee Walton, PhD  
FEBRUARY 20

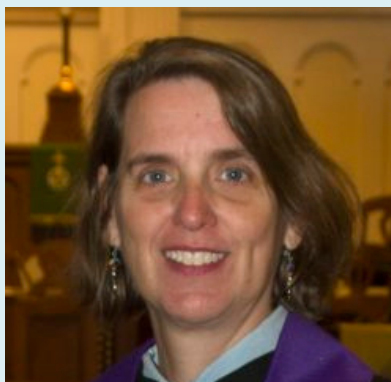
Throughout our history, St. John's has enjoyed a close relationship with Wake Forest University. We are a founding church for Wake Forest University School of Divinity and are privileged to welcome the Dean of the School of Divinity, Rev. Jonathan Lee Walton, PhD, into the St. John's Pulpit on Sunday, February 20. Walton is a social ethicist whose scholarship focuses on evangelical Christianity and its

relationship to mass media and political culture. Dean Walton's work and insights have been featured in several national and international news outlets including the New York Times, CNN, and the BBC. We look forward to welcoming Dean Walton to St. John's on February 20!

# Cherish the Dream God Has Given You: Women in Ministry

FEBRUARY 27

Dr. Foust will offer the message on February 27, celebrating 100 years of affirming women in ministry.



Rev. Martha D. Kears, D.Min.  
MARCH 4-6

On Sunday, March 6, Rev. Martha D. Kears, D.Min. joins us as our guest proclaimer! Before moving to serve as the Senior Pastor at Peakland Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, Martha was a minister in the life of St. John's Baptist Church in 2001 as the Minister to Children and Family Life and was then installed as Associate Minister in February, 2012. Martha received her Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies from the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in 2007 and was

ordained by St. John's Baptist Church that same year. She received her Doctorate in Ministry at Gardner-Webb University in 2017.

She is the author of *The Sun Is Up: One Minister's Awakening to Racial Reconciliation*. Through the theology of hospitality, Kears describes how she came to understand her privilege as a white person, the racism built into many institutions—even sometimes in the church—and ways she can speak out against racism without speaking over marginalized voices. Martha and her husband Monty have three young adult children: Mattie, Conner, and Anna.

...AND ENVISION OUR FUTURE BASED UPON GOD'S HOPE.

# ENVISIONING

# REMEMBER, CELEBRATE, ENVISION

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## A Covenant Community of Faith Remembers

MARCH 13

The foundation of our story at St. John's will be shared as a part of this Sunday's message as we build towards our centennial celebration on March 20.

## Centennial Celebration!

MARCH 20

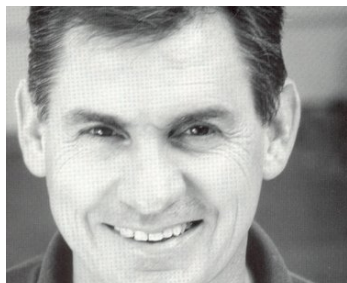
Join us as we celebrate 100 years as a community of faith! Stay tuned for more details related to this special Sunday!

## A Covenant Community of Faith Envisions

MARCH 27

The trajectory of our story at St. John's will be shared as a part of this Sunday's message as we continue a celebration of our 100 years as a faith community.





Rev. Al Staggs, D.Min.

APRIL 2-3

## A View From the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

On the weekend of April 2-3, we welcome Al Staggs to St. John's! Al was a parish minister for over 20 years before starting a career as a performing artist. He has performed at Chautauqua Institution; Trinity Church, New York; the National Cathedral in Washington, DC; the International Arts Festival in Caux, Switzerland; Riverside Church, New York as

well as more than one hundred colleges and seminaries and hundreds of churches representing a wide diversity of denominational affiliation.

During the mid-1990's, Al began expanding his repertoire to include original interpretations of the lives of Clarence Jordan, Walter Rauschenbusch, Oscar Romero, Martin Luther, Roger Williams, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton, William Sloane Coffin and William Stringfellow. On Saturday, April 2, he will present his dramatic, one-person performance entitled *A View From the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Tickets will be sold for this performance. On Sunday morning, April 3, Al will present a dramatic sermon representing Clarence Jordan, author of Cotton Patch Gospels and founder of Koinonia Farms, which was pivotal in the inspiration of Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity.

## Palm Sunday

APRIL 10

Palm Sunday Worship with a message from Dr. Foust called, "A Pre-Easter Curriculum," based on Luke 22:1-34.

## Easter Sunday

APRIL 17

Easter Sunday Worship with a message from Dr. Foust called, "Bifocals, Picture in Picture, and Resurrection Living" based on Luke 24:1-12.

# AL STAGGS, HOLY WEEK, EASTER

# THE GOD WHO SEES

## Good Times Sunday

APRIL 24

Worship with us for a Sunday of holy humor, fun stories of faith, and people from our first century.

## Senior Sunday

MAY 8

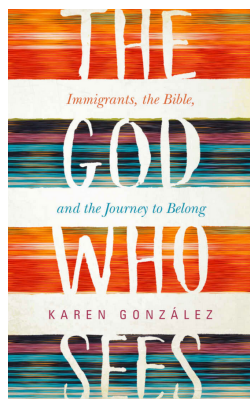
We will celebrate the milestone of high school graduation with our high school seniors during worship!



Karen Gonzalez  
APRIL 30-MAY 1

Karen González seeks to see and love her neighbors as God does. She is a speaker, writer, and immigrant advocate, who herself immigrated from Guatemala as a child. Karen is a former public school teacher and attended Fuller Theological Seminary, where she studied theology and missiology. For the last 11 years, she has been a non-profit professional, currently working for World Relief, an organization that serves immigrants and refugees. She wrote a book about her own immigration story and the many immigrants found in the Bible: *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, The Bible, and the Journey to Belong*.

She will offer a lecture and discussion of this book on April 30 and will join us for worship on May 1. You can find her on Twitter and Instagram musing about theology: @\_karenjgonzalez. Her writing can be found on the communal blogs: The Mudroom and The Salt Collective.



# A Message from Dennis

Happy centennial birthday St. John's! We have an exciting year ahead. These special worship expressions and events will help us celebrate our first century of ministry and envision vistas as we begin our second century. As Charter Members of the Second Century of St. John's, we invite you to participate in any of these opportunities.

St. John's Baptist Church offers a distinct church experience, one that draws on tradition but also embraces change and is open to new visions for our path as followers of Jesus.



Indeed, since 1922, our historic church has grown and evolved as the city of Charlotte has grown and evolved around it. Today, St. John's is again responding to change as thousands move to the Charlotte area each month. We are committed to showing up for the residents of our city:

- if you are in a period of transition and need the stability and familiarity of an established church,
- if you have been hurt by a church in the past and need a safe place to recover and heal,
- if you are looking for a community that will celebrate and share in life's joys with you,
- even if you never step foot in our building.

Why?

Because we love, value, and celebrate everyone. And we work hard to meet the social and spiritual needs we encounter inside our walls, in our neighborhood, and across our city. Our mission is to embrace and express God's inclusive compassion and continue the ministry of Jesus. As St. John's, we are committed to God, to each other and we are committed to you.

So, we invite you to journey with us as we celebrate & envision!

Shalom!

Dennis Foust, Senior Minister





## ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

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