



~The St. John's Post~

July 2026 Edition

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5-7, known as the Sermon on the Mount, we find a collection of Jesus' teachings. The collections include the Beatitudes, a lesson on salt and light, the Lord's Prayer, the Golden Rule, loving your neighbors, treasure in heaven, do not worry, and the wise builder- just a few of the important teachings as Jesus addresses the disciples and people close enough to hear.

Matthew 5:3-12 contains scripture considered a practical guide to Christian discipleship, known as the Beatitudes. These words from Jesus offer us accountability today that is different from the worldview of success, as it replaces it with habits that foster inner peace, deep empathy, and a stronger connection to all the people around us.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

This first Beatitude helps us to recognize that our spiritual need and dependence on God are far more important than our own knowledge and strength.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Here we have to think beyond just human loss. Mourning can also include sorrow or sin of brokenness in the world. When we mourn, God offers us comfort, healing, and restoration.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Meekness is not weakness; it is better known as strength under control. When God's people understand meekness, we work on our anger and our need to control other people.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

As we try to set our priorities, we understand that matters of integrity, justice, and kindness are more than food. Just as physical hunger drives us to seek food, as believers we are called to deeply desire God's justice, holiness, and right living.



“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

Here we would be able to offer compassion, forgiveness and kindness. Here we learn how to practice grace when we offer to those who have wronged others.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

We are called to do the right thing for the right reason as we offer integrity to others.



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Here we actively attempt to be bridge builders, bringing people together as we look for common ground. We are seeking for reconciliation and healing in relationships.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Here, we need to be reminded that following Jesus may not always be easy. Jesus teaches that those who remain faithful despite persecution belong to God’s kingdom.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

For us to be able to focus on God rather than the temporary earthly rewards. We are easily lured by power, status and influence and it matters too much what others say about us. Here, endurance for the sake of Christ is paramount.

“Rejoice and be glad, for reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” We should always focus on God’s ultimate reward rather than on temporary human praise or comfort. At this point, Jesus is already telling us to keep our eyes on the prize.

The Beatitudes have helped me remember the first service of 2026, Epiphany Sunday, when we focused on the star that led the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. On that day, many of you received a star word for the year. Some of the Star Words included humility, mercy, integrity, patience, peacemaking, mature, trustworthy and compassionate. These words help us better understand the Beatitudes as we attempt to be more like Christ in our daily living.

I look forward to seeing you at St. John’s, where together, we will attempt to live more like Christ.

Shalom, Karen

JULY EVENTS & REMINDERS

*If you have need of use of our facilities, please contact the church office
for a full list of availabilities



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Hospitality
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Communion Sunday
Offering: Defend the Fatherless

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Blessing of the Teachers

LUNCH BUDDIES

On Tuesday, July 21, Lunch Buddies will be following up on a recommendation to try DILWORTH at 460 Market Street in Baxter. We will meet there at 11:30, so we won't conflict with the Kindness Week sandwich-making. This is another opportunity to "make new friends, and keep the old," as the old Girl Scout song goes. Please plan to join us and make your reservation on Realm or the hallway sign-up sheet by Sunday, July 19.

KINDNESS WEEK

Kindness Week Kickoff: Sunday, July 12 @ 6pm (Sanctuary)
July 17 - July 25 (Kindness Week Schedule of Events)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY 12 @ 2:30pm (Zone)
Youth Planning Meeting
JULY 13 @ 6:00pm (Zone)
Children's Planning Meeting
JULY 26 @ 12:15pm (MBC)
Finance Committee Meeting

CAMP SCIKIDS

July 6 - July 10 (FC)
July 13 - July 17 (FC)

CIRCLE MEETINGS

July 13 @ 5pm
Clara Phillips Circle will eat
dinner at Firebirds restaurant.
JULY 14 @ 10:30am (MBC)
Morning Glory Circle Meeting

SUMMER

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 2 & July 3

Hello, St. John's!

My name is Noah Sigsworth, and I am honored and excited to join St. John's as your new Director of Music. I look forward to getting to know each of you in the months ahead.

My wife, Abigail, and I recently moved to the area with our one-year-old daughter, Daisy. We're excited to settle into the community and are looking forward to this new chapter in our lives.

Music has been a central part of my life for many years. I studied tuba performance at High Point University before earning my Master of Music in Choral Conducting from East Carolina University. Along the way, I have had the privilege of serving as Director of Music at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Raleigh and teaching chorus at Corinth Holders High School. This fall, I will also begin teaching chorus at Charlotte Catholic High School, and I am excited to continue serving both in the classroom and in the church.

Outside of music, I enjoy history, baseball, reading, traveling, and spending time with my family. I am also a longtime fan of drum corps and am especially excited to be living so close to the home of the world-renowned Carolina Crown.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve at St. John's. I believe music is one of God's greatest gifts for bringing people together in worship, fellowship, and faith, and I cannot wait to make music with you.

One of my hopes is to involve the musical gifts that God has given people from all across the congregation. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or have another musical talent you'd like to share in worship, I'd love to hear from you. Be on the lookout for an email from me in the coming weeks with more information and a chance to let me know how you'd like to be involved.

I look forward to meeting you and serving alongside you for many years to come! See you soon.

Blessings,
Noah

JULY CELEBRATIONS

- July 1 - Steve Skelton
Ben & Amy James - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 3 - Matt Edwards
- July 4 - Craig & April Brown - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 5 - Shawne Heeren, Benny Patterson & **Lydia Powers**
- July 6 - **Sara Brust**, Carolyn Sumner & Bill Tilly
- July 7 - George & Lynn Dickinson - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 8 - Anna Bagwell, Mallory Capps, David Fisher & John Frick
- July 11 - Darren Edwards & Jason Siebert
- July 12 - Bill & Ellie Davies - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 13 - Terry & Barri Helms - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 14 - Gene Adkins & Suzanne Fisher
- July 15 - **Ella Iannoni**
- July 18 - **Abby Vidonic, Ben Vidonic & Katherine Vidonic**
Bill & Anna Bagwell - *Happy Anniversary!*
Rob & Jen Brown - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 19 - Jim & Arden Cooke - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 20 - Jaimie Young
- July 21 - Sandra Wallace
- July 23 - Justin & Jennifer Isenhour - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 25 - Evan Barber
Steve & Brandy Powers - *Happy Anniversary!*
- July 26 - Dan Nielsen
- July 27 - Darra Dane Brown
- July 28 - Bryan Meador
- July 30 - Ann Kempka
- July 31 - **Collin Cook** & George Dickinson

WEE SCHOOL NEWS!

Beth Meador, Director



We hope you all are having a wonderful summer with your families and friends!

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

We currently have spots available for the upcoming school year in our M-W-F 3 year old class, Mon-Thur 3-year-old class and T/Th 2-year-old class. If you could please pass this information along to anyone you know who may be looking for a preschool, we would greatly appreciate it.

If you would like more information, please contact Beth Meador (803)548-6557 or sjumcweeschool@gmail.com

SUMMER CAMPS:

All of our summer camps are full for the month of July! We are excited to welcome our campers for three weeks of fun, learning, and adventure. Each week will be filled with engaging activities, creative projects, games, and opportunities to make new friends. We look forward to a wonderful summer and are grateful for the families who have chosen to be a part of our camp programs. We can't wait to get started!

Camp Dates:

July 13-July 16

July 20-July 23

July 27-July 30



GOD'S PLAN REVEALED TO PETER

When I am handed a new Sunday School book, I usually look through it to see where we are going. This time I rejoiced to learn our study would include Acts chapter 10. There is where God, through vision and the Holy Spirit, revealed to Peter that salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is for Gentiles as well as Jews and others including you and me.
(see Acts 1:8)

It is all there in Acts 10 and the lesson for July 19.

My question for you is: "What were the first words spoken by Peter when he was asked to explain what was happening?"

(ACTS 10:34-36 esv) I will start and you fill in the blanks.

Peter said "I really am learning that God doesn't show partially to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever _____ him and does what is right is _____ to him. This is the _____ of peace he sent to the _____ by proclaiming _____ through _____. He is _____ of all!

You will be blessed by reading the entire chapter 10 in one sitting.

FILL IN WORDS

Israelites
the
message
good
Jesus
news
Christ
Lord
worships
acceptable

Disciple I Bible Study

This fall, we are excited to offer Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, a 34-week journey through the Old and New Testaments.

Meeting Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., this small-group study combines daily Scripture reading, engaging discussion, and thoughtful reflection to help participants develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and grow in their relationship with God. Whether you're new to in-depth Bible study or looking to strengthen your faith, Disciple I offers a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and build meaningful relationships with others as you journey through Scripture together.

If you are interested in being a part of this Bible study, sign up is now available on REALM or the sign up board. Deadline to register is August 2. Our first class is August 10.

Missions Newsletter

Amy Bartholomew, Committee Chair

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Please check the lists of donation requests in the donation center outside the door to the fellowship hall. Check the lists of current needs for the Fort Mill Care Center and the Bethel Shelter.

Kindness Week

We are only a few weeks away from Kindness Week! We are excited to help so many people in our community. Please consider signing up for at least one activity. We have scheduled them for all different times of day to make it easier for everyone to find a time that suits them. You can sign up online or use the sheets posted in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

Bethel Clean & Restock Day

On Saturday, July 25 we will have our monthly visit to clean and restock the donation closets at the Bethel Day Shelter. You can meet Shawne Heeren in the church parking lot at 9:30am to carpool or meet her at the shelter at 10:00am: 546 S. Cherry Road, Suite S, Rock Hill. Please let Shawne know if you plan to attend.

August Mission Spotlight: Roof Above

Roof Above was created when the Urban Ministry Center and Men's Shelter of Charlotte merged in 2019. They had both long been recognized as community leaders in homeless services. Together they were able to create new resources and provide a unified voice to work toward ending homelessness. Their vision is that every person has safety, stability, and dignity of home.

Today, Roof Above is a comprehensive homeless service provider serving 1,400 people per day through a spectrum of services ranging from street outreach, day services, emergency shelter, and permanent supportive housing. Among other things they provide short term and transitional housing as well as support for permanent housing. You can contact them at cdelia@roofabove.org or <https://www.roofabove.org/volunteer/> if you are interested in volunteering with them. During Kindness Week we will be making 400 sandwiches to be delivered to people they serve.

July 2026

Children and Youth News

Director of Ministries: Mallory Capps- stjohnsumc.youthandchildren@gmail.com-

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS was a huge success!!! We had 76 children attend and over 40 volunteers! The kids learned the call out verse Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" Thank you to everyone who made this amazing event successful! We also took a team of 17 people to Salkehatchie! The kids and adults did amazing work and really changed homes on Edisto Island!

Thank you for all the support!

July is going to be a busy month! Kindness Week will be July 17th-25th!

We would love to have a lot of youth and children participate!

Please sign up and join in on the fun!!!



CHILDREN'S NEWS

On July 7th, we will be having a kick ball game Children vs Youth!!! On July 28th, we will have homemade pizza making and game night! Both events will begin at 5:30pm! Let Mallory know if you want to join in on the fun!!!

Youth Hang Outs this summer will be on Wednesday evenings!

July 1st & 15th, we will hang out in the Zone from 5:30-7:00pm! On July 10th, we will be going to a drive in movie and on July 29th, we will have a pool party!

*Youth
News*

J.O.Y. "Just Older Youth"



MAYBERRY DAYS OUTING

Our new J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) group is planning an outing to Mayberry Days in Mount Airy, North Carolina, in September! We are currently gauging interest in two special events scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026.

1 Professor Brower Presents "Andy Discovers America"

11:00 a.m. | Andy Griffith Museum Theatre

General Admission: \$15

~This entertaining audio-visual presentation celebrates America's 250th Anniversary and Andy Griffith's 100th Birthday. The featured episode includes Andy's memorable monologue about the "shot heard around the world," reminiscent of his classic storytelling style. The episode also marks the first appearances of Helen Crump and Dennis Rush.

2 Randy Turner: The Seldom-Seen Uncut Episode "The Darlings Are Coming"

4:00 p.m. | Andy Griffith Museum Theatre

General Admission: \$15

~Enjoy a special presentation featuring clips from the show and a rare opportunity to view the original, uncut episode, including songs and dialogue that were not included in the televised version.

Important: Tickets are limited and must be reserved by mid-July.

If you are interested in attending either or both events, please sign up on the sign up board or sign up genius by July 5. Be sure to include your name and the number of tickets you would like for each event.

****Contact Joy Honeycutt for any questions or more information****

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

submitted by Melissa Morse, Committee Chair



Hello! I hope everyone is having a good summer!

I have some great news to share about a couple of projects that our committee is working on:

Estate Planning Seminar

The Stewardship Committee was asked by the Finance Committee if we could come up with the proper professionals to conduct an Estate Planning Seminar for our members and other congregants of St. John's.

Such a program will help attendees understand wills, trusts, and powers of attorney along with asset protection, long-term care, and methods for avoiding probate. I spoke to several law firms in the area who provide these services, and the best option seems to be the Simpson Law Firm. They will conduct this presentation at St. John's on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm.

Members and others will be invited to attend at no cost. The law firm is also not going to charge us for their services. They expressed how pleased and honored they were to be asked.

When I presented all of this to the Finance Committee a few members indicated they were familiar with this firm and spoke positively about their work and reputation. We're excited about this first-time event!

We will be offering a sign-up format this month so be on the lookout for that. And I hope to see you there!



New Member Document

We will begin in earnest the creation of a document that will be provided to new members, and perhaps existing members who would like the information, a compilation of information about St. John's and the features available to the members. There is strong conversation about there being two formats; a physical binder for those who prefer paper and an online version for those who like to work online and would prefer not to involve paper. Both can be updated as benefits change or as new benefits are added.

If you are a long time member of St. John's, or if you have only been a member for a short time, I would love to hear ideas and feedback from all of you. Please feel free to contact me at melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com

Next Stewardship Committee Meeting

I know I said last month that the next meeting of our committee will be on July 26th. However, there are committee conflicts on that day, so I need to announce a new committee meeting date.

The next Stewardship Committee meeting will be August 2nd at 12:15pm in the Loft.

Please remember the guiding principles of the Stewardship Committee:

GIVE. SERVE. ATTEND. GROW.

Give as you are able.

Serve the church.

Attend services.

Grow the church.

 If you have any questions or ideas for our committee we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com.

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Mallory Capps Director of Church Ministries
Beth Meador W.E.E. School Director
Minda Siebert Finance Coordinator
Terry Helms Building Administrator
Noah Sigsworth..... Director of Music
Lauren Harris Accompanist
Nancy Rivers Handbell Director
Suzanne Fisher Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms Custodian
Katherine Burns Music Makers Director
Amber Boan Golden Rings Director
Oriana Gilmore Nursery Worker
Jenna Edds Nursery Worker

***...TO BE CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE BY LIVING OUT GOD'S CALL
TO LOVE, SERVE, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.***