

Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

A Change in Plans

By Susan Shinn Turner

When Alyssa Smith and Phillip Harris got engaged in August 2018, they had no idea their April 25 wedding would be affected by a global pandemic.

"We didn't plan on a 2019 wedding because my brother is in the Air Force and stationed in a location he wasn't allowed to leave," Alyssa says. In the meantime, her father had a stroke in 2017 and she wanted to give him plenty of time to recover so that he could walk her down the aisle. They settled on April 25, 2020 as their date. 20 months down the road.

When they attended a wedding on Feb. 29, 2020, friends told them, "You're next!"

But by mid-March, everything had changed. And that's an understatement.

Alyssa, who is executive director of Healthy Rowan, could tell early on that the pandemic was serious. When she was told to begin working from home, "I realized that this was going to be serious for a long time." That's when she called Pastor Rhodes for advice.

Philip and Alyssa had been meeting with Pastor Rhodes for several months. Although they had been attending the 9:27 service since early 2019, they were eager to join the church together as a couple. Now they wondered if they'd even be able to get married.

Original plans were to have a "big wedding" at the Lady Bird Farm in Rockwell, with six attendants, flower girls, a ring bearer and 135 people in attendance. It was their dream wedding, especially for Philip, who "always wanted an outdoor wedding," Alyssa said. No surprise, since he's the owner of Harris Landscaping in Concord.

"Then Pastor Rhodes suggested a simple wedding in the sanctuary, with just us and our parents present. It was hard to wrap our heads around it at first, but we soon fell in love with the idea."



"We'll have a party later, when all of this is over. But we wanted to get married. We wanted to take the next step. And I couldn't think of a more beautiful day."

"It might sound odd," says Pastor Rhodes, "but watching Alyssa walk down the aisle in an empty sanctuary was one of the most touching wedding moments I've ever experienced. Philip was waiting at the altar, tears running down his cheeks. Once she arrived and her father stood from his wheelchair to give her a kiss, well, I wasn't sure I'd be able to start the service. It was beautiful."

The pandemic has brought lots of changes. Every now and then, a change in plans works out for the best.



Enjoying a nice Spring day along the Rocky Broad River with Moose.

Dear friends,

I've had a little bit more time to read these days, especially since our evenings have been mostly clear of school and church activities.

I'm currently enjoying David Blight's excellent biography of Frederick Douglass, appropriately

titled: *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*. I definitely recommend it.

Douglass was a slave in Maryland until he sought freedom at the age of 21, perilously crossing land, one river (the Susquehanna), and two bays (the Chesapeake and Delaware), finally landing in New York City. After marrying Anna Murray, they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he would become well known as a social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman ... and the most photographed 19th century American.

There's much to tell about Douglass's story, but one quote stands out. In one of his autobiographies, he wrote extensively about prayer and his great desire for freedom. "I prayed for 20 years and received no answer," he wrote, "until I prayed with my legs."

These days are loaded down with prayer, no doubt. The uncertainties of job, income, rent, and health have driven a lot of people to their knees, begging for help and advice, comfort and, well, divine intervention. It's entirely understandable.

But Douglass's words remind us of the beautiful connection between prayer and action. Through prayer, God helps us to discern next steps and gives us the courage to pursue them. In prayer, God grants us wisdom to respond for the sake of God's Kingdom. In short, prayer leads us to act.

Sure, prayer provides comfort and gives room for our deep sighs and hearty celebrations; but St. Paul reminds us to "pray without ceasing," which means that prayers are to accompany us in our daily actions, leading us to act according to God's will and purpose.

As a teenager, Douglass persistently begged God to free him by literally loosing the bonds of his enslavement. Why was God being silent? he thought.

What Douglass didn't fully understand was that this "silent God" had been preparing him for that moment of escape, that dark night when he prayed with his legs — legs that led him to freedom, thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit.

In our staff meetings, we have been praying that God will lead us to a faithful *response* to this crisis, and that the post-Covid19 church will be a Spirit-filled reflection of all that God is calling and needing us to be.

In Exodus 14:13, Moses tells the recently-escaped Israelites, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Those are words of great comfort and truth. But notice what happens next. God immediately says to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on! Raise your staff to divide the water." In other words, pray for comfort ... but pray with your legs.

Might God be inviting you to pray with your legs these days? If so, I'd love for you to tell us about it.

May God bless you and keep you during this time of uncertainty. We miss seeing you in worship and around campus, but we sure feel thankful for our online engagement on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

Our very best to you.

+Pastor Rhodes

Youth Auction Rescheduled and Online May 18–22

By Pastor Laura Henrik

Our summer mission trips might be cancelled but our heart for reaching out is bigger than ever. Therefore, we are moving our annual Youth Auction to an online format May 18-22.

On our website, we will have a tab for the youth auction. There will be new items posted each day.

Our items posted on **Monday** will be our live auction items. We will be taking bids on them from Monday morning to Friday at 5pm. Some of the auction items you won't want to miss include: Restaurant Grade Mixer, Wine Basket, Lowe's Handyman Basket, "Game Day" Basket to name a few. Every other day will roll out with a theme and "Buy it Now" items to purchase.

Tuesday is all about "Lookin' Good." You'll find soaps, fashionable bags, earrings, and t-shirts!

Wednesday brings "Around the House" items. Be on the lookout for a google home mini, candles, lamps, pillows, wooden prayer crosses, and Easter gift bags!

On Thursday, everyone is just "Waitin' for the Weekend." Golfers won't want to miss out on this day, as there are some great golfing packages available. You'll also find books and gift baskets, including a coffee and chocolates basket and a Grillside Crate from Spice and Tea Exchange. Other hot ticket items on Thursday will be the Yard of the Month, Home Improvement, Auto Repair, and Frame Yourself packages.

Friday is "Are you Hungry?" day. Friday will feature a number of meal items including giftcard packages like, Lunch for a week, fine dining, sweet tooth, and start the day. Local favorites include Mykonos, Ivan's, The Shuckin' Shack, and more!

The proceeds from this auction will go to the youth fund for different trips throughout the year. In addition, funds will be directed to our mission and camp partners that depend on youth groups and summers filled with students to support their vision and charge out their mission. For example, you can buy a bag of food for \$35 that will be shared with a family from Escuela Integrada, our school in Guatemala. Each bag provides 2 weeks of food for an entire family.

We hope that you will be a part of this virtual auction. As always, you can also donate to the youth auction if you do not see something that you like.



Be of Good Courage

Hear from Stacey Shafer about Kingdom Kids "at Home"

In what new ways has your ministry area been able to stay connected and think creatively about faith formation?

Staying connected with Kingdom Kids families is very important. Orange, our curriculum resource, has made their videos and material shareable to families during social distancing. I send those out in a weekly email along with doing two Facebook Lives and two zoom get-togethers each week. Our First Look age group has a different time than the 252 kids. During Sunday School last week, the 3 and 4 year olds got to see Ollie the Owl eating breakfast with Jesus and his friends right at my dining room table, while listening to the bible story.

April's theme was "Bloom," so we've been growing strawberries and daisies. I take care of them during the week and show them how much they grow! Last week, the 252 kids enjoyed a "scavenger hunt" during zoom time! Let me just say, we laugh a lot! They seem to love the interaction and being able to see their friends! If you haven't joined yet, you're missing out!

Tell us a little more about one project in particular you've found to be particularly rewarding.

Not seeing the kids or being able to give them hugs and high fives has been hard, but I receive pictures, videos, emojis and texts that bring happiness to my day! Parents and grandparents, thank you for this! One thing that I really didn't expect is having so many positive comments from adults in our congregation that watch the Kingdom Kids Facebook lives. The first week, I realized adults (that do not have younger children at home) were watching me on Facebook live I was like, "wow, they're actually watching my silliness?" Laughing, I called a couple of them and we had the best conversations! I love my church family! It means so much to see the support!

Upcoming in May

Currently, my main focus is putting together a drive-thru pick-up for our Kingdom Kids. Saturday, May 2, our 3 year old-5th graders will be able to drive to the church to pick up a bag filled with May curriculum handouts, crafts, and a fun outdoor activity!

This month in **First Look**, birth to 4 years old, we will answer the question: Who loves you? God loves me! Just like you can't separate the water from the sugar and the lemon juice



once you mix them, there is nothing that can separate you from God's love. The memory verse is Romans 8:39, "Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love."

As Children's Minister, I have been looking forward to the Lemonade Stand theme all year. One of my favorite childhood memories is when my mom set up lemonade stands for me and my sister when we had yard sales. After receiving their bags, the kids will also stop by the Lemonade Stand and receive a Lemonade Juice Box and pre-packaged honey maid graham crackers! I hope this brings a big smile to the kids as I know it will me.

In May, our **252 Kids**, K-5th graders, will learn that every day, when you feel like giving up, it's time to reach down and find determination to get the job done. We can get Unstuck when we decide it's worth it to finish what we've started.

Vacation Bible School

Many of you may be wondering about VBS. I honestly tried to ignore the fact that a decision needed to be made as to whether to hold VBS in June as planned, cancel, or post-pone. After joining in on many Facebook groups, zoom meetings, talking with other children's ministers, having the support of the staff, praying and in the back of my mind knowing canceling wasn't an option for me, I have much peace in the decision I've made. VBS will take place on the first four Sunday afternoons in August. More details to come in the next Eagle's View!

Be of Good Courage

Pastor Laura Shares How Our Youth Are Engaging Online



Zoom Youth Group

Tell us a little more about one project in particular you've found to be particularly rewarding.

As strange as this may sound, I have loved coming up with games for youth group over our Zoom calls on Sunday nights. It is challenging and rewarding at the same time. The first week, we had a scavenger hunt. They had 7 minutes to find different items that were listed and take pictures. Each item was worth different points. We laughed so hard.

The second week, we played Pictionary by using the screen share option. I would privately send the word to the drawer and depending if they were in middle school or high school, their peers would guess what

it was that was drawn. The third week, we played a guess that picture game. It started out very pixelated and then got closer and closer to the real image. The students were impressive. This weekend, we have a game night. I am working out the kinks to play Mafia (or Werewolves) over Zoom. It should be entertaining at the least. The creativity is fun for me!

May Themes

In May, our middle school youth will wrap up this season of confirmation classes, then begin a series on judging others, titled "In My Opinion." Our memory verse is Genesis 1:27A, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them."

In May, our high school youth will begin a series titled "Love/Hate, on judging others. The memory verse is Matthew 7:3, "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?" Then, we will talk about consent.

In what new ways has your ministry area been able to stay connected and think creatively about faith formation?

Every week after our Small Groups meet, their leader hands them a daily devotional sheet to take home. This sheet connects the lesson they just went through to last through the rest of their week. They are not long devotions. It would only take a minute and a half for them to read through the devotion for the day. Since we cannot physically hand them something (and as I debated if that was the best way anyway,) we came up with the idea to film the short devotions and post them to our social media. The first daily devotion series that I had went over very well. This is the way that students can grow their faith every day in less than a minute and feel connected to us as well.

In addition, we shifted to a Zoom youth group on Sunday nights. I started a Zoom drop in hang out for two hours a week (one for high school students on Tuesday and middle school students on Thursday) called Laura's Holy Grounds. It mimics a casual coffee house feel for students to check in with me and hang out with friends.

Be of Good Courage

Diane Poole Shares How Senior Seasons is Connecting Digitally

In what new ways has your ministry area been able to stay connected and think creatively about faith formation?

An important part of staying connected with each other in this digital age is responding to ministry opportunities that need our help. The NC Synod has announced an upcoming drive to collect food and other items for the Living Waters Lutheran Mission in Cherokee, NC (right). Living Waters provides an emergency food pantry, open three days a week and serving the *Qualla Boundary*, which is the Cherokee Indian Reservation in western NC. They were out of food at the end of April.

Tell us a little more about one project in particular you've found to be particularly rewarding.

One of the most rewarding projects has been working with Wade Rouzer and Danny Hines to develop the St. John's new Call Ministry. This was developed to reach all age 60+ adults in the congregation during the quarantine. Twenty volunteers and 3 staff persons are calling 307 members of 317. Ten members live outside of this area. The callers represent the church's effort to stay connected with members and to make sure that our most at-risk population is being cared for. Many thanks to our volunteers for their time and effort.

Inclusion of a "Thought for the Day" in the weekly email blasts has been for faith growth and encouragement in this time of disconnection. If you have any suggestions for content, please email diane@stjohns-salisbury.org.

What are upcoming activities you're looking forward to?

Lunch-n-Learns via Zoom conferencing.

Day Trips to the Barn Dance Dinner Theater in Greensboro or the Barter Theater in Abingdon, VA will be scheduled as soon as these venues are open. We may have to limit the number of participants, based on state guidelines.

May 20 Ice Cream Social at my house may be delayed until September, or such time that number of participants is not limited.



Lunch & Learn with Mike and B.J. Connor

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 19 and 26. Michael and B.J. Connor will host two consecutive lunch-n-learns via Zoom Meeting. They will show slides of the holy sites across Israel and Palestine during lent and will talk about the unity of Christian denominations events. If there is anything that interests you, let us know beforehand so we can be sure to include it in the presentations. Please register by emailing diane@stjohns-salisbury.org. Space is limited, so sign up today!

Three long term activities that are being planned are listed below:

Pictorial Directory pictures —Aug. 19-29.

Senior Academy— Sept. 1-Oct. 13.

Congregational Retreat at Lutheridge —Sept. 18-20.

The good news about the Pictorial Directory and Senior Academy planning is that the meeting space is large, so if we must continue to practice social distancing, it will be easier to accomplish.

Remember to "Be of Good Courage" because there is a season for everything under THE "SON!"

Be of Good Courage

An Update on Adult Discipleship from Danny Hines

In what new ways has your ministry area been able to stay connected and think creatively about faith formation?

As we discussed last month, we continue to spend time looking at ways that we can use digital/social media to engage and connect people. Moving forward, this form of engaging and connecting our congregation and others in the community will be used more frequently and with less hesitation. We will be able to open bible studies and adult classes to a greater segment through the use of digital/social media.

Reflections-- Sundays at 7:30 pm

In April, we began "Reflections" through the Zoom platform. It is an informal discussion of the Sunday sermon and how it spoke to you. We meet and "reflect" on the message. This is an exciting opportunity I am really looking forward to and hope everyone will find it meaningful during this time of isolation.

Anyone who wants to participate can email me at danny@stjohns-salisbury.org and I will provide them with the Zoom link to join in.

Just For Moms!

Stacey Shafer has started a Mom Support Zoom on Wednesday evenings. They talk, support, encourage, cry, laugh and pray together. If you would like to join the group, please send Stacey an email, stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org, and she will be happy to add you to her list! Whether you have a baby, toddler, elementary age, teenager or college student, this group is for you!

Women's and Men's Bible Study Continues

On Tuesday mornings, 8-9 am, the women of St. John's are meeting for the regularly scheduled Bible study, led by Pastor Laura. The Men's Bible Study (below), led by Pastor Rhodes, continues to meet on Thursdays, at 8-9 am via zoom, as well. In the midst of a pandemic, we want to extend that invitation to YOU. If you would like to join either the Women's or the Men's Bible Study, email Deborah, deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org so that she can add you to the list. You will get the Zoom link and Bible text for the week.



Be of Good Courage

Hear from Rob Durocher About Online Worship and the Arts

By Rob Durocher

Well here we are in our second month of shelter in place, social distancing and suspension of all on campus ministries and activities, except for worship, and even that only allows for us to have 10 or less people in one large space. And yet – worship happens! ... though differently than we ever imagined!

Our pledge to bring the worship experience online has been in many ways invigorating and renewing. That we've had anywhere from 700 – 1700 devices joining together with us in worship has been a tremendous blessing to those of us called upon to lead worship and those who worshiped with us virtually. We were able to use the musical and spoken gifts of several of our leaders, young and old, and we've done our best to incorporate elements of both contemporary and traditional worship. It's not always easy blending different styles, but your many words of encouragement and gratitude have also helped to spur us on.

Many thanks go to those who participated in leading many of our services of worship these last two months. Special thanks go to Sandy Jordan, Jane Britt and their awesome team of decorators for their beautiful and meaningful visual decorations in our primary worship spaces during the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

As we look at the month ahead, still very unaware as to when certain restrictions for gathering will be lifted, we are enthusiastically rising to the challenges and opportunities of worship and the arts in a NEW day to come! We're preparing for a slow reentry to ensure that we create a safe, meaningful environment for all. Our worship schedule may be altered,



possibly expanded. Many questions will be asked about how we do this, what does communion look like, what will acceptable gathering norms be. All are good questions that we're already trying to sort through.

"We're dwelling on the exciting things to come, rather than mourning what we haven't been able to do."

Likewise, our return to choir and ensemble rehearsals may look different, and we'll be looking at the possibility of rescheduling Music and Arts events that we've had to cancel or postpone.

We're dwelling on the exciting things to come, rather than mourning what we haven't been able to do, and this opens up some true celebratory worship and the arts and congregational opportunities in the future. We are also inviting some of our local musicians and artists to lead worship with us now. What a blessing they have been.

We serve a gracious God who continues to hold us in the palm of His hand, who calls us by name, who inhabits the praise of His people and exhorts us in these days to BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

Health Care Ministry

Check Out Durable Medical Equipment Online



St. John's Health Care Ministry has been on campus for many years and remains dedicated to your health. You can now check out the Durable Medical Equipment on the St. John's website, stjohns-salisbury.org. Below is a step by step guide for you to contact us directly with any need you have for an equipment loan.

Lynn Denker runs this program so when you click submit, the form goes directly to Lynn's

personal email inbox. Lynn will contact you as soon as possible when she receives your request knowing your needs are important to us. All equipment for loan at St. John's has been cleaned according to CDC best practices before it goes into the clean storage room. It will be wiped down with a Clorox wipe, provided we can have them in stock, when it goes out again, just to be super clean and dust free.

We are always on the look out for donations of newer, fully functioning medical equipment. We are in particular need of lightweight wheelchairs and knee scooter/walker/rovers. Thank you to everyone who has provided our current equipment inventory. We have all come together to help many people this past year.

To request a loan of medical equipment:

1. Go to <https://stjohns-salisbury.org>
2. Click on the bars at the Top Right
3. Scroll down until you see the Caring Ministries box, click on Durable Medical Equipment
4. Scroll down until photos of available items for loan appear
5. Click on the item for a brief description
6. Click on the Request Form and fill in the fields
7. Tap green SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page

However, if you are in **immediate need**, or have any questions, please call **Lynn Denker at 805-455-0252 and she will make immediate arrangements to get the equipment to you.**

St. John's Podcasts

Listen on the platforms where you listen to your podcasts!

St. John's podcasts are now available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and iHeart Radio. Catch up on past sermons and look for upcoming interviews with interesting folks around our community.



Scheduled interviews include Isenberg Principal Marvin Moore, coming in May. In June, Laura Henrik, Danielle DeNise, Adrienne Martin, and Debbie Purpur will be interviewed in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church. Later this summer, Pastor Rhodes interviews Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

Picture Day

The new Pictorial Directory: Aug. 19-29

August 19 – 29 has been scheduled for Pictorial Directory photographs. Many changes have occurred since the last one in 2016. LifeTouch will again assist with the campaign.

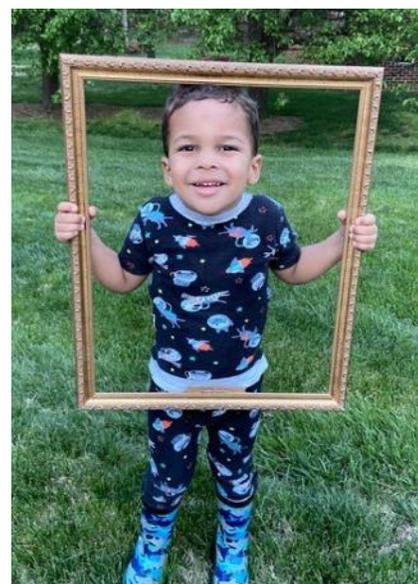


Be of Good Courage



Be of Good Courage!

As we spend time apart, we are filled with joy to see your faces and share photos of you all wishing us to “Be of Good Courage!” Some beekeepers in the congregation even made creative signs—to “Bee of Good Courage.” We are loving the creativity and seeing the things that bring you joy—toys, chalk art, and even bees!



Sandy and Stan Jordan Build a Community Easter Cross

During social distancing, we began sharing regular “Be of Good Courage” emails. The emails feature bible readings, inspiring videos, and stories to bring you joy. One Thursday, Sandy Jordan shared a story about neighbors coming together to celebrate Easter during social distancing.

By Sandy Jordan

A friend of mine mentioned that her husband was making a cross to put in their yard so that neighbors could decorate it for Easter. I loved the idea and walked into my husband, Stan’s, office to ask him to make a cross. He was busy with tax season and helping his clients work through this pandemic, so I was expecting him to flat out say no.

But he turned around and quickly said yes. I was thrilled. He made it that night, I stapled chicken wire on it and Saturday morning we set it in “the circle,” a common area in our neighborhood. (“The circle” also happens to be across the street from our house.)

A couple of friends helped me notify our neighbors and people began bringing flowers from their yard to place on the cross. It was so very meaningful to watch as people decorated the cross. We even had people that were just cutting through the neighborhood, go home get flowers and come back to place them on the cross.

Even though we could not be physically together to celebrate Easter, we were able to work together to create something that said, “Yes, Christ has risen Indeed!”.



Church-Wide Retreat is right around the corner!

The 2020 Church-Wide Retreat is still on the schedule for Sept. 18-20, 2020. This year's theme is "Unified in Christ" and will focus on the beautiful passage from John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

"No doubt we'll follow whatever guidelines we need to follow in making a decision about the retreat," says Pastor

Rhodes. "But as of now we're on schedule. We're hoping that late September will be the perfect time for reengaging with our family of faith ... and there couldn't be a better place than Lutheridge. I hope you'll join us."

Register for the retreat today! You can mail in the form on page 13 or register online at stjohns-salisbury.org/retreat.



"It's a highlight of our year. I can't wait!"
Stacey Shafer

Church-Wide Retreat 2020



Register early — only 200 spots available! Deadline is Friday, September 4 at 5 pm. You may also register online at stjohns-salisbury.org.

Registration includes lodging, meals and programming — a fun filled family weekend! Want a closer look? Take a tour of Lutheridge by visiting lutheridge.com. Lodging is appropriate for people and families of all ages, including hotel-style accommodations. Family and small group accommodations are available. All lodging includes linens except Beam. **You will receive your room assignment at check-in.** Questions? Call Carol Everhart at 704.637.2893 or 704.798.2894.

Adult Name(s): _____

Children's Name and age/grade: _____

Children's programming and childcare is available during Saturday programming and Sunday worship.

_____ # of children requiring care, 3 and under

_____ # of children Pre-K to 5th grade

Mailing address: _____

Preferred phone number: _____ Email: _____

Cost	# of individuals	Total Cost
Adults: \$75	_____	_____
Middle/High School: \$50	_____	_____
Children — Pre-K - 5th Grade: \$25	_____	_____
Children — 3 and under: Free	_____	_____
Note: Sunday breakfast and box lunch are included . Please indicate how many box lunches are needed.	_____	included
Please note: This year middle school children will stay with their families.	TOTAL DUE:	_____

To secure your spot, please return a registration form and non-refundable \$50 deposit as early as possible. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and mark "Retreat 2020." Please mail or bring form and check to the church office.

I have special needs for lodging: _____

I have special dietary needs/allergies: _____

I have special needs for mobility around Lutheridge. *Golf carts with drivers will be available.*

I am asking for financial assistance. I am able to pay: \$ _____

I would like to include a donation to assist others in need of financial assistance: \$ _____

I will need help with transportation to Lutheridge.

St. John's Kindergarten

"We Miss Our Students!"

St. John's Kindergarten teachers shared their love by putting up signs outside each of student's homes. The students shared their photos with the signs. You can see them all on the St. John's Kindergarten Facebook page. In May, the Kindergarten has some exciting things planned, including celebrating Q and U's wedding through a virtual ceremony and a drive thru graduation.



"Thank you, Cindy!"

Cindy Patterson is retiring as the Pre-Kindergarten assistant teacher. Cindy has been with the kindergarten 17 years, beginning in the fall of 2003. Incredibly, 4 of the 5 members of the kindergarten staff have worked together that entire period of time.

"Cindy has been an incredible teacher, a warm and friendly coworker, and a compassionate mentor to kids and parents," says Pastor Rhodes. "She'll be terribly missed, but we're so thankful for the time she has invested in this program. Thank you, Cindy!"

If you are interested in applying for the assistant position, please contact Teresa Stoner at kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org



Child Development Center

The St. John's CDC is staying busy serving families of essential workers and continuing to educate the NC Pre-K program through distance learning.

Follow the St. John's CDC Facebook page to see daily updates of the activities at the CDC. For earth day, April 22, they shared photos of a scavenger hunt enjoyed by students both onsite and those at home. They shared ways they could conserve energy and photos of things that are growing.

Helping Others When It's Hard to Help

Community Agencies Continue to Need Assistance

By Susan Shinn Turner

Even though the governor's stay-at-home order remains, the need for volunteers at Rowan Helping Ministries goes on.

"We're seeing a decline in volunteers," says Betsy Warner, volunteer manager. "We've really narrowed down our volunteer opportunities to focus on our four core areas to keep things going."

While clients continue to request food, there's been a decline in folks coming in for meals as well, Betsy notes. "We're barely able to get by. We have had people who have stepped up who are willing to serve. We really appreciate that."

Betsy says that RHM serves three meals a day, every day — even on holidays.

Rhodes and Krista Woolly and their children, Carter, Matt, and Anna Grace, served a meal on Easter Sunday, for example.

"It was a great experience to do this together," Krista says. "We are celebrating the blessings that go along with being at



home together. Serving on Easter Sunday was one of those blessings. Also, the shelter is really following the guidelines and so it didn't really stress us out at all. RHM needs the volunteers now more than ever."

Willi Beilfuss agrees. He and his wife, Donna, are part of a group of 11 St. John's members who volunteer at RHM the second Wednesday of every month in packing meals for Food for Thought (above). They recently volunteered on April 8.

"The group felt we had made a commitment and felt there were needs that needed to be met," he says.

The group is one of several groups from St. John's who volunteers at RHM with Food for Thought. They have rotated recently between packing for Food for Thought and packing groceries for families.

"They gave us masks and gloves, and all the surfaces were sanitized," Willis says, "so we were good."



Immediate needs at RHM

1. **Help with shelter Laundry:** Daily; 9 am-1 pm. Recommended for one or two individuals.
2. **Food Pantry:** Monday-Friday; Bag groceries and load them into client vehicles. Shifts: 8 am-11 am; 11 am-1:30 pm; 1:30 pm-3:30 pm. Recommended for one individual or small groups of no more than 3 per shift.
3. **Jeannie's Kitchen:** daily; breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prep and serve food. Recommended for groups of 3 to 5.
4. **Food Packing Party:** Monday-Friday. Recommended for small groups of 3 to 5 individuals.

Rwandan Pastor Receives Theological Studies Grant from the St. John's Benevolent Foundation

By Susan Shinn Turner

Pastor Mulisa Emmanuel has received a grant for theological studies from the St. John's Benevolent Foundation. Mulisa is pastor of Rukira Lutheran Church in Kigali, Rwanda, one of St. John's mission partners. The grant will cover half of the expenses of Mulisa's second year of seminary at the University of Iringa in Tanzania. A scholarship from Lutheran World Federation will cover the remainder of his costs.

"Receiving this scholarship from St. John's is like a dream!" Mulisa says. "I was not expecting to be selected. Surely I am excited and my whole family and I give thanks to God and St. John's as well."

In completing his degree, Mulisa will be just the fourth person in the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR) with a Masters of Divinity degree. The LCR began after the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in which 800,000 Tutsis were killed in just 100 days. Since that time, the LCR has been growing at a fast pace, desperately in need of trained leaders.

But training leaders isn't easy, especially when you have to travel from Rwanda to Tanzania. "You can fly," Mulisa says, "but I use the bus, and it takes two days and one night. It's a non-stop journey, and it's tiresome. I come home twice a year for two weeks at a time. My family remains at home."

Mulisa and his wife, Mukakabega Illumine, have three children, Mutoni, 12, Harold, 8, and Ivan, 10 months.

"We are serving the Lord with all of our heart and we hope to



Carter Woolly and Pastor Mulisa Emmanuel at the Rwanda-Tanzania border

serve Him throughout all of our lives," Mulisa says. "My dream is to see my church grow and see people come to Christ. I also hope the surrounding community can benefit from the Lutheran Church by having schools for their children and other facilities as well."

The school in Kigali was recently completed with the help of St. John's. After Carter Woolly returned from serving there for a year as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, he issued a challenge to the congregation to raise \$10,000 to complete the school there. The money was raised within ten days.

Like other schools, it is now closed, Mulisa says. "But we have five new rooms ready to go. We begin with kindergarten, and hope to start primary next year. We have 70 children who are expected to continue with us next year."

Mulisa continues to have fond memories of Carter.

"Knowing and working with Carter was a great blessing to us," he says. "I stayed with him in the same house and I consider him as my son. I used to joke with people saying that I have four children and Carter is third one, because when he came, he found us with two children and in the following year, we got another one so they were four including Carter. And he worked with our congregation and children still remember him. For sure Carter was a blessing to us."

"I am really happy to be part of your community."



Global Ministries

Bethlehem

Pastor Munther Isaac recently updated us on life in Bethlehem during the pandemic. Isaac is pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church, one of St. John's mission partners.

"It is so strange to lead worship in front of empty seats!" referring to the congregation's online worship experience. They began in mid-March and have continued every Sunday since. I have been also busy in relief work. We have many families in our area who lost their only source of income and who need urgent support, both from our church community and the wider Bethlehemite community. I also spend a lot of time on the phone talking and encouraging families. People are opening up to God in fresh ways - but am not sure how this will last when we finally finish from this crisis."

Here's some good news: Pastor Isaac's sons, ages 5 and 7, will be joining our Kingdom Kids online on Sunday mornings. It's a small world!



Guatemala

Dear friends at St. John's,

I decided to be creative with my wardrobe the other day. Instead of wearing a typical t-shirt and gym shorts, I busted out the old high school track shirt!



I tried to think about why I brought such an old t-shirt to Guatemala. Then I remembered. I moved to Guatemala permanently only three years after graduating from high school.

Here is a little information about me: I S.U.C.K.E.D at track. I decided that 300-meter hurdles would be my thing. Why I chose one of the hardest—aka feel like you will vomit every time—sprinting competitions, I have no idea. Let's just say, I have scars on my knees from tripping over hurdles multiple times in a row.

However, that is what I admire about young Hannah. Young Hannah was never afraid to do things that she wasn't great at—moving to a different country at a young age and making a zillion mistakes along the way, but keeping at it.

Carrying that mentality into the world of adulthood is a lot easier said than done. There is pressure in our society to

a letter from Hannah Nadau, Executive Director

always have results. From jobs, to families, to sports, to dating, to meal prepping, it seems like everything NEEDS good results.

Yet, right now we pause. Things are not going perfectly, and it is very hard to get to any kind of results, much less good ones.

I look at the children and families who we work with at Escuela Integrada.

Some of them went door-to-door, selling underwear and being rejected, or worked tirelessly shining shoes, literally bent over someone else's feet. I think about mothers who carried large cement bricks up the sides of mountains, without the fear of not being strong enough, but simply doing it because it has to be done.

I reflect on the story of one of our school psychologists, who, though currently working on his doctorate, had to repeat 1st grade three times with people telling him that school just wasn't for him. I consider Ana, the director of our after-school program, who went back to junior high at the age of 25. And, right now, I think about Oliver, a student at Escuela Integrada, who is 13 years old. His family lost their small business with the circumstances of COVID-19, so he started selling masks on the streets.

"Guatemala," Continued on page 23.

Trinity Oaks Staying Safe and in Good Spirits

By Susan Shinn Turner

For weeks now, Bill Johnson and the staff of Trinity Oaks Retirement Community have been working to keep residents safe from the spread of coronavirus. As of mid-April, the entire campus was on complete lockdown, with no resident being allowed off campus.

“A lot of residents have learned how to do online shopping,” he says. “We are now picking up their groceries. All packages come to the front entrance, where they are sanitized. Residents are now wearing masks, and staff have been wearing masks for weeks.”

Although residents in the three areas on campus — Health and Rehab, the Lodge, and the cottages — are being kept separate, there are still fun activities taking place. There’s hall bingo, Jeopardy, and Wheel of Fortune in the apartments and at Health and Rehab, and the cottage residents still get together in their driveways following appropriate social distancing. There’s no interaction among staff in these three areas.

The whole campus has had ice cream deliveries and wine down deliveries, complete with music under the balconies at the apartments. In mid-April, cottage residents had treats such as pizza and low country boil boxes delivered for dinner. Bill says he wants to support local businesses as much as possible.

“Everything is fine,” reports St. John’s member Doris Hilleglass, who lives with her husband, Bill, in the cottages. “Trinity Oaks, Bill Johnson, and his staff are doing a fantastic job of taking care of so many different things, and providing for the cottage residents. We are really fortunate to be here. If we were at our former home, we’d be kind of stuck.”

The gym and pool are open on a limited basis, he notes. “We’re sanitizing the gym every hour.”

Because of all this diligence, Bill says, “We do not have any cases as of yet. We’ve had a couple of close calls. We’ve been lucky. We’re doing our best, but I think it’s going to be virtually impossible to keep it out. We screen our staff every day, and ask them to please be honest with us if they don’t feel well.”



Bill Johnson and his staff at Trinity Oaks have been making sure the residents are having fun while staying safe. He has delivered wine and snacks for Wine Down days, along with ice cream.

Bill and his staff know that the residents of Trinity Oaks are the most vulnerable population susceptible to contracting the coronavirus. “Everybody who works here takes that seriously. We are entrusted with their lives and their care.”

But, he adds, “Everybody is getting edgy from being cooped up. We’re trying to keep it light and fun the best we can. And Lutheran Services Carolinas has been very supportive and has been out front to get us the tools and information we need.”

Around the Church and Community

Consolation

Gary and Betty Pinkston on the passing of Betty's mother, Janie B. Wise, on Tuesday, March 17.

Sandra, Robert, Robert II, and Katherine Sullivan; Steven Gardner, and family, on the passing of Connie Gardner on March 15. A graveside service was held on March 18 in Salisbury.

Sidney Honeycutt, Charles Heilig III and family, on the passing of Charles Heilig on March 10. His funeral was held on March 14 at St. John's.

Terri Martin, Morgan, and family on the passing of Art Martin on Saturday, March 7. His funeral was held on Sunday, March 15 in China Grove.

Lauren Stephenson's dad, Jim Russell, passed away on April 26 in Texas. A private graveside service was held on Tuesday, May 5.

Bob Tannehill's brother, Joseph Tannehill, died April 19. His memorial service will follow at a later date.

Mike and BJ Connor, Nichole Towns and family, on the passing of Mike's mother on Tues. April 21. Please pray for peace for the family.

Tom Isenhour on the death of his brother, Barry, of Richmond, who was baptized and raised at St. John's. A graveside service was held May 5.

Diane Everhart, Kim Lentz, and Kelly Everhart upon the death of their husband and father, Howard, on May 6.

Congratulations

Alyssa Smith and Phillip Harris were married on Saturday, April 25 at St. John's.



My Dear Friends,

I have always believed that God places us in time and in places, surrounded by the people we need for those times and places.

How could I know the physical challenges I would face when we returned to Salisbury in June of 2018. But God knew, and he surrounded me with a family at St. Johns to see me through these adventures.

Your calls, visits, cards and prayers have carried me through some interesting times in recent days. Most importantly, your prayers, especially, set my feet on the road to recovery. I am grateful for your presence in my life, and I am blessed to call St. John's home.

Yours in Christ's service,
Larry Cartner

Dear Friends of St. John's,

I cannot begin to express how humbled Eric and I were and how much we appreciated the many acts of kindness bestowed upon us after my recent injury. We were amazed at the love poured out to us and could certainly feel God's presence abounding. We are blessed to be a part of this congregation and thank God every day for that.

In Christian Love,
Kathy Norris

The Luthergarten Tree in Bloom

By Susan Shinn Turner

When Pastor Carl Sachtleben and his wife, Ann, visited Wittenberg, Germany last fall, they were sure to check on the tree that St. John's members planted in the Luthergarten in 2014.

The St. John's tree is a Common Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*) that grows 17 to 20 feet in height.

Started in 2009, the Luthergarten ("Luther Garden") was constructed in observance of the 500th anniversary of the 1517 Reformation that led to the formation of a Lutheran church. Some 500 trees were planted from congregations and denominations all over the world.

Congregations were also invited to plant a tree on their own property, which St. John's members did in April 2016. The redbud tree, which is growing nicely, is situated across from St. John's kindergarten at the Jackson Street entrance.

The tree in Germany is also doing well, Carl notes. The Sachtlebens were in Germany for two weeks so that Carl could serve as a visiting pastor at the Wittenberg English Ministry. The ministry provides worship services in English for tourists from all over the world. Services take place at the three churches in town: the Castle Church, the Town Church, and the Chapel.

Carl led four devotional services a week and a service of the word on Saturday. The Wittenberg English Ministry was founded in 1996. Carl has participated four times during his career.

"It's a joy to preach there," he says. "It's a great experience, especially for a Lutheran pastor."



The redbud tree was planted in April 2016 ahead of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Those who had gone on the trip to Germany with Pastor Rhodes Woolly and Rob Durocher in 2014 gathered for its symbolic planting. The group also planted a tree in the Luthergarten in Wittenberg.



The tree blooming in March of this year.

Congratulations Pastor Rhodes!

On Tuesday, April 28, Pastor Rhodes successfully defended his dissertation, earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from Emory University in Atlanta. Because of the pandemic, the graduation ceremonies were moved to an online format on Saturday, May 8.

Men's Beach Retreat Cancelled

St. John's Men's Beach Retreat, scheduled for May 29-31, has been cancelled. If you have already registered and paid, contact the church office for a refund. New plans are shaping up for May 2021 in the Isle of Palms!

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to our Octogenarians

May Birthdays:

Eleanor Sims, James Bradshaw, Harold Deal, Don Duggan, Diane Everhart, Bud Graeber, Charles Harris, Connie Hurlocker, Tom Hurlocker, Barbara Rufty, Jean Rufty, Cora Shinn, and Walter Tatum

2020 Audit

Our Auditors are gathering information for our regularly scheduled audit. If any member has specific questions or concerns to be shared with the auditor, please submit them to Cindy Fink, Council President at 919-691-7323 or cindybfink@gmail.com.

Church Office Closed through May 31

Connect With Us Online

All on-campus activities are cancelled through May 31. The office will remain closed during this time, as well. Please continue to join us for worship online at 11 am on Sundays, and stay connected through one of our various online ministry opportunities (learn more on pages 4-9).

The best way to reach staff at this time is via email. Check the weekly FaithLife for email updates.

St. John's Leadership

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2020 President Cindy Fink
Vice President Rosalind Hines
Secretary David Phillips
Treasurer Tommy Page
Financial Secretary...Cory Gebhardt
Personnel Secretary ... Jeanie Moore

Term Expires 2020

Larry Cesario
Cindy Fink
David Phillips
Wesley Rhyne
Aleksandr (Sacha) Witt

Term Expires 2021

Randy Overcash
David Hord
Mike Agee
Mary Wymbs
Larry Britt

Term Expires 2022

Christopher Derrick
Mike Edwards
Penny Moss
Dennis Rogers
Rosalind Hines

Youth Members

Grace Shafer and Elizabeth Jones

Benevolent Foundation Trustees

John Henderlite, Chair
Chip Bridges
Chris Agner
Margaret Kluttz
John Denker

MINISTRY GROUP STAFF CONTACTS

Worship & The Arts – Rob Durocher
Discipleship – Pastor Laura Henrik
Mercy & Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Congregational Life – Diane Poole
Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl

Norman Sloop Recounts Memories of the Polio Epidemic

By Susan Shinn Turner

Ask Dr. Norman Sloop how he's doing during the COVID-19 quarantine and he's got two words: "Bored stiff!"

That's not exactly true.

He's using his free time to write his life stories on the computer, encouraged by his nephew, whom he and his late wife, Mary, raised.

He's completed 22 stories so far, he says. "I've enjoyed putting it down."

He recently got rid of his herd of his cows. They went to a family member in Virginia. He misses them, as he'd been "messing with" cows since he was a teenager. They also kept the weeds down, he notes.

He had his nephew pull down from the attic a B-26 model that he carved as a child during World War II.

The war years also brought another quarantine during the polio epidemic, Norman says.

"At least we children had each other to play with," he says. "I don't remember if the adults were quarantined. I think not."

His father still went to work as paymaster at China Grove Cotton Mills, while his mother worked at a building and loan that was being liquidated. In the meantime, children could not attend Sunday School or church. Or the movies. Not going to the movies was a big deal, according to Norman.



The B-26 Norman carved by hand during WW2.

"On Saturdays, we'd go see serials at the old State Theater, where PPT is now," he says. "I saw Frankenstein and other movies."

The movies may have scared him, but so did the polio epidemic, he says. "It scared the crap out of us to know we'd end up in an iron lung. It was nothing to play around with.

"So I guess you could use the word 'quarantine.'"

Norman was still able to collect paper and cans for the war effort, and check out books from the library. He also says that as far as he remembers, he went back to school when the time came.

Did you know?

This isn't the first time St. John's has had to take a break from gathering in-person due to health concerns. In October of 1918, St. John's closed for 6 weeks during the Spanish Flu Pandemic.

Around the Congregation

Our **G2G project** continues as planned. The following update is from Mike Agee, chair of the Building Team:

“The engineering and survey work is being conducted to prepare for the renovation and construction. Our Building Team continues to work alongside the architect to develop a final design. It is hard to predict a timeline, but we expect the design and building plans to be completed by early summer so that we can solicit construction bids.”



The **CDC Playground Project** (aka the Outdoor Learning Environment) has been delayed because of Covid-19 restrictions. The contractor and grader are ready to go once they can ensure safe working conditions for the students, teachers, and construction crew.

Our CDC has remained open for children of “essential employees” throughout the area. Our daily attendance has dropped from 180 to 60 children, which has allowed us to close an entire section of the building in preparation for much-needed renovations.



*Be of good courage, friends,
for the light of Christ will not
be overcome. Indeed, the
goodness of God will shine
FOREVER.*

“Guatemala,” continued from page 17

None of these situations are perfect, and they all include moments of failure, but they are also stories of perseverance, grit, and the will to keep moving forward.

During this imperfect time let us be an encouragement to one another to keep taking steps forward, despite the failures that may or may not lie ahead.

Please keep the children and families of Guatemala in your prayers. Think of their determination and perseverance often—and remember that God only needs our willingness to move forward, even when we stumble over a few hurdles along the way.



One of Escuela Integrada's students, Oliver, selling masks in Antigua.

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Senior PastorRhodes Woolly
Pastor of Youth and Discipleship.....Laura Henrik
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts, Deacon.....Rob Durocher
Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard
Director of Music Emeritus, Deacon.....Karl Kinard
Director, St. John's Men's Chorus..... Jason Harwood
Assisting Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut

Program Ministry

Adults.....Danny Hines
Children.....Stacey Shafer
YouthLaura Henrik
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
Child Development Center (infant -age 4 and after school).....Courtney Bost

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Accounting.....Mark Bias
Communications Specialist Angel Owens
WriterSusan Shinn Turner
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M Smith, Bishop of the NC Synod
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Sunday Worship During Covid-19 Restrictions

Online worship at 11 am

Visit stjohns-salisbury.org and click "listen live,"
watch on Facebook Live, or search "SJLC" on YouTube

Listen to worship each Sunday morning at 11 am on
stjohns-salisbury.org, and click Listen Live. Listen to previous
week's service at 9 am Sunday on WSAT 1280 AM.

Office hours

The office building is closed while church staff members work
from home.

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm; Friday 9-12.
Telephone 704.636.3431; Fax 704.636.4461

The best way to contact staff at this time is by email.

Staff Email: first_name@stjohns-salisbury.org
Visit us on the web at stjohns-salisbury.org
Kindergarten 704.636.4404
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org
Child Development Center 704.636.6756
stjohnscdccourtney@bellsouth.net
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Child Development Center 704.636.6756
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Eagle's View Deadline

The June/July Eagle's View will be published in May.
Please email stories and news to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by **May 8!**

On Call List

If there is a pastoral emergency, please call **704.856.9751**
to reach the pastor on call.

Prayer Chain. Our Prayer Chain is updated daily and
emailed to interested persons Monday through Friday. To
add or subtract a name, please contact Deborah Cross at
deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org. Also let Deborah know if
you would like to receive the daily Prayer Chain.



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*