



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

By Susan Shinn Turner

As leaves fall and trick-or-treaters grab the last pieces of Halloween candy, sights are set on family gatherings, pumpkin pie, stories of "Pilgrims and Indians," abundant feasts ...

And giving thanks.

"Many of us are ready to say goodbye to 2020," says Pastor Rhodes, "but even in a year like this one, there's a lot to be thankful for. So our hope is that we'll spend the 30 days of November focusing on the blessings, not the challenges of this past year."

Everyone in our congregation, school, and community will have a chance to do just that. Throughout the month, we'll post daily reminders, hints and suggestions for how to give thanks with voices and hands. We'll post to social media, send daily email blasts, and offer reminders in worship.

"We hope to share these 30 Days of Thanks with as many people as we can," says Angel Owens, who has been developing the theme.

Our kingdom kids and CDC will share videos about what they're thankful for. Likewise, middle-schoolers and high-schoolers are creating their own unique social media clips.

Throughout the month there will be opportunities to engage and practice thankfulness in ministry groups, interactive social media, and a 30 day checklist you can find on page 3.

"We want to encourage families to take part in the checklist together and share on social media. Just tag St. John's, @stjsalisbury, along the way," says Angel.

"In so many ways, it feels like we're apart. I can't think of a better way to be 'together' than by joining with my sisters and brothers and exchanging the same acts of thankfulness on the same day."



The Bible certainly agrees, with the concept of thanks appearing 102 times in the Old Testament alone, like this beautiful passage from 1 Chronicles:

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised." 1 Chronicles 16:23-25.

These 30 Days of Thanks will be a beautiful reminder of how blessed we are to be claimed as the children of God. Join us!

## Thanksgiving Day Online

For the first time, this year's annual Thanksgiving Day Worship will move online — a great way to begin your Day of Thanksgiving.

30 minutes of song, prayer and inspiration.

Available to view Thanksgiving morning at 9 am by visiting our website or clicking the link in our Thursday FaithLife.

# Pastor's Letter



I was one of those kids who actually liked going to church.

Mostly because I had no choice; but also because each Sunday I sat in the balcony with some of my very best friends. Since they went to different schools, that was the only chance we had to hang out. At church.

I'm not sure what I would've done if this pandemic had hit when I was a teenager in the early 1980s. I'm sure I would've been lost, lonely, and out of rhythm. And if *church* had been taken away, well – and I'm being serious -- it would've been rough.\*

Some of you have felt the same way these last 8 months. I know, I know, there's something enjoyable about grabbing a cup of coffee and watching worship in your pajamas on the front porch.

But if you're used to worshipping at our 11 am service, you miss feeling the organ at full blast, smelling the aged wood and extinguished candles, seeing the amber glow of stained glass windows.

And sitting in the balcony with some of your very best friends.

The first time I walked into the St. John's sanctuary, I was overwhelmed by the sanctity of it all, as if the Holy Spirit herself was welcoming me home. Last Sunday when Mary

Wymbs stepped *back* into the church for the first time in 8 months (for her daughter's confirmation), she was overcome with emotion. She didn't expect it, but it felt so good to be home.

On Nov. 22, we'd like to welcome you home.

Earlier this month, the governor announced that churches could begin worshipping in groups of up to 100 people. Since then we've been busy getting things ready – rethinking our health/safety protocols and making sure worshippers will feel comfortable and safe. We feel confident about where we are, and for those who are ready to return to public worship, our 9:27 and 11 am worship services are good, faithful, safe options.

Yep, we'll ask all worshippers to wear masks and seating has already been reduced to provide for better social distancing. You'll notice other appropriate protocols, too, but our goal is that none will distract from the reason we gather – to give praise to God, enter into the mystery of confession and forgiveness, and be nourished by God's Word and sacrament.

In mid-November we'll share a video that will better describe the service and help you decide whether or not it's right for you. If it is, join us. If not, we'll look forward to your return another time. It's that simple.

These are unusual days, no doubt. I've found worship to be an especially important way for me to navigate the craziness. I hope you've felt the same. Our very best to you.

+Pastor Rhodes

**Called Congregation Meeting on Nov. 1 at 10:30 am**  
**Annual Congregation Meeting on Nov. 8 at 10:30 am**

In person in the Faith Center and additional rooms in the Education Building  
or via zoom- link available on our website or in Wednesday's *FaithLife*

We need a quorum of 160.  
If more than one voting member is on a device, please enter the names of the voting members in the chat box.

# 30 Days of Thanks



*Follow along with the 30 days of Thanks on St. John's Facebook and Instagram. Practice thanksgiving with the whole family all month long, document your thankfulness journey, and tag us on social media, @stjsalisbury, to encourage others to participate in the 30 Days of Thanks, as well.*

1. Thank a family member.
2. Share a photo of a place you are thankful for. (tag @stjsalisbury on social media).
3. Send a "Thank You" card.
4. Thank someone who nurtured your faith. (who isn't a family member).
5. Leave a Sticky Note to say thanks.
6. Send a casual email just to say "Thank You!"
7. Thank a healthcare worker.
8. Use food to say thanks! (Breakfast in bed, dinner, coffee)
9. Share a photo of something outside that you are thankful for (tag @stjsalisbury on social media)
10. Make a small handmade gift for someone.
11. Thank an educator.
12. Volunteer to babysit, walk a dog, or run an errand.
13. Thank your employer.
14. Share a song, bible verse, or book that you are most thankful for. (tag @stjsalisbury on social media)
15. Call someone just to say, "hi."
16. Because you are thankful, pick up garbage.
17. Thank a delivery person or garbage collector.
18. Make a thankfulness music playlist and share it on Facebook. (tag @stjsalisbury on social media)
19. Write a letter of Thanks.
20. Pray for someone!
21. Thank someone who has prayed for you.
22. Share a photo of something in your home you are thankful for. (tag @stjsalisbury on social media)
23. Set aside items for Rowan Helping Ministries Pantry.
24. Thank a local police or fire department.
25. Share a photo of a person you are thankful for. (tag @stjsalisbury on social media)
26. Thank someone who cleans up after you or others.
27. Sing out loud a song of thanksgiving.
28. Write a Thank you Note to the St. John's Child Development Center or Kindergarten teachers.
29. Because you are thankful, donate to your favorite cause.
30. Thank someone who isn't expecting thanks.

*"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever."  
Psalm 106:1*

During the month of October, Kingdom Kids were encouraged to create their own mask at home to be entered in a drawing for a prize! They learned about how Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

Our First Look age group were "Singing in the Rain" while wearing their rain gear and splashing in "puddles." Just like umbrellas and rain jackets protect us from the rain, Jesus protects us each and every day.

All families receive a newsletter from Stacey each week with new curriculum, songs and information about upcoming events. Our face to face milestone events and separate Sundays for each age group have went well so far and we look forward to keeping that going!



**FIRST LOOK.** This month in First Look (birth to 4 years old) we will answer the question: Who is good? God is good. So much good comes from God. We will write down all that's good all month, and add it to our thankful tree!

**Our Bible verse of the month:**

**"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD." Psalm 107:1, NIV**

Nov. 1, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
Nov. 1, 3:30-5 pm —First Look @ church  
Nov. 8, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
Nov. 15, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
Nov. 15, 3:30-5 pm —3&4 year old Milestone  
Nov. 22, 8:45-9:15 am — Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
No Sunday School November 29



**252 KIDS.** In November, our 252 Kids (K-5th graders) will learn that you don't have to keep your gratitude inside. God can help you get in the habit of thanking others—and letting them know you see how they've helped you.

**Our Bible verse of the month:**

**"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER." Psalm 136:1, NIRV**

Nov. 8, 3:30– 5pm— K-5th Grade @ Church



### The Well Middle School

In a series titled, “Fam,” our middle school students will talk about what it means to love our families.

**BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER. (John 13:35)**

- **Confirmation** (7th and 8th graders) will happen on Wednesdays again. Confirmation will happen in 45 min sessions over Zoom for the first three lessons. These will be primary lecture style learning. The fourth week will be an experience as we have done in the past in person. We feel at this point that it will be the best form of learning for your students.

#### November Schedule

Nov. 1, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group  
 Nov. 4, 4-4:45 pm – Confirmation Unit 2 (ZOOM)  
 Nov. 8, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group  
 Nov. 15, 5:30-7pm—Youth Group FUN NIGHT  
 Nov. 18, 4-4:45 pm – Confirmation Unit 2 (ZOOM)  
 Nov. 22, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group



### FUEL High School

Our high school students will focus on a series called “Family Matter.” Fights. Fractures. Changes. Shouldn’t there be more when it comes to our family matters? When it comes to our faith, family tension, and more, find out how much can change when we learn that family matters.

**“BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.” (John 13:35)**

- **Fuel Outings** will happen once a month on a Wednesday. This is a time that we will gather outside so that we can have some fun and be together.
- **Fuel Study Hall** will happen on Wednesdays throughout the month. Wednesday is a day that most of our students have off to study. This will be a structured time of socially distanced study with some fun thrown in– so students can get out of their homes from time to time.

#### November Schedule

Nov. 1, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group  
 Nov. 4, 1-5 pm—FUEL Outing  
 Nov. 8, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group  
 Nov. 11, 1-5 pm — FUEL Study Hall  
 Nov. 15, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group  
 Nov. 18, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall  
 Nov. 22, 6- 7:15 pm, in the Pit– Youth Group

## Senior Seasons

By Diane Poole

Each Friday, an email blast goes out to all those who are 60 and above. This email is used to announce upcoming activities and to share information pertinent to the Senior Seasons group. Not long after the pandemic started and the church was closed, a weekly devotion was added to the emails with our moniker "Be of Good Courage." I am blessed writing it, and I hope readers are blessed as well. Feedback has been good, but there is always room for improvement. Send any suggestions to [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org).

The food drives that Senior Seasons sponsors are very rewarding. The latest one benefitted Rowan Helping Ministry. This type of community service gives us a chance to put our faith into practice, and donors are always so generous! We have been able to pull this off as a drive by and drop off activity, so we will continue to offer service opportunities.



### November Lunch-n-Learns

**The 4-week Public Affairs Series** kicked off the last week in October with County Commissioner Jim Greene. The last three are shown below. City and County officials have grappled with plans for growth in a pandemic environment. Come and hear their stories. These are all zoom meetings. *We welcome anyone to these free online events.*

Wednesday 11/4      Kannapolis Mayor Darrell Hinnant  
Wednesday 11/11     Spencer Mayor Jonathan Williams &  
Asst. City Manager Peter Franchise  
Wednesday 11/18     China Grove Mayor Charles Seaford

For the zoom meeting link, which is the same for all meetings, contact Diane Poole, [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org).

### Speed Social Practice Event

Remember speed dating? Zoom meetings allow the Moderator to place participants in different break-out rooms. The idea is to switch participants to new break-out rooms after a period of 10-15 minutes to facilitate participants getting a chance to speak to everyone else. In this day of Covid-19, people continue to hesitate about meeting in large groups, so this would be a way to safely do so. I need 10-12 volunteers on Nov. 10, 10:30 am to test this in Zoom. Please email [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org) if you would like to help. We can adjust the date and time if necessary.

## Join a Small Group this Fall

By Danny Hines, Adult Discipleship Minister

### Looking for a new small group study?

If you are still looking to join a one of our new small group bible studies, please see the list below for a topic you might be interested in and email Danny Hines at [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org). These 3-4 week classes provide you with the opportunity to engage in Bible study that is practical, thought provoking and applies to your everyday life. Once this series of classes is complete, we will provide another series. You will have the opportunity to stay with your group or you can pick another topic and join another group. We will provide descriptions of the new topics in FaithLife and on our website under small group ministry. We will begin this in a Zoom format but can easily transition to meeting in person when we are allowed to do that.

### How do I sign up?

Contact Danny Hines, [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org). You will be connected with a small group and establish a day and time that works best for the whole group!



### Limitless - Based on the life of Moses – 4 week series

**Begins Wednesday, October 28, 7 – 8 pm via Zoom**

At different points of his life, Moses faced labels, sins,

insecurities, and messages that threatened to limit him. But as we'll see, Moses chose to let God determine who he was, who he should be, and where he was headed.

God wants to eliminate the labels that other people put on you.



### Close – 3 week series

Do you keep God at arm's length? You might even do it without realizing it! Maybe you think God is generally angry or disappointed with you because of the way you

live or the choices you make. What God actually cares about is a relationship with us. He wants to be close to us. In this series, we'll spend the next few weeks diving into what it really means to walk closely with God, starting with the question: God, will You go with me?



### All I Want For Christmas – 3 week series

This series, we'll look at the Christmas story—one marked by generosity—and discover what that means for us. Because, what if

the spirit of Christmas existed more than just once a year? What if it wasn't limited to just one holiday? What if we had the Christmas spirit all year? That could change everything.



### Into the Wild - 3 week series

Sometimes God calls us to take a step of faith out into the wild or unknown to follow him. Based on Abraham's story.

## Ongoing Opportunities

Contact [Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org)

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

With Pastor Laura, 8-9 am via zoom

### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

With Pastor Rhodes, 8-9 am via zoom

### Just For Mom's Support Group

With Stacey Shafer, Wednesdays 8 pm via zoom

## New Book Study: Caste

Our second racial justice book study, *Caste – The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, has started on Thursday nights, 7- 8:15 pm via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Danny Hines at [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org). In the coming weeks, we will announce our next book study.

From the publisher: *In this book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.*

# So Great A Cloud of Witnesses!

## *The Story of the Hymn “For All the Saints” (ELW #422)*

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

**Hebrews 12:1 and 2**

By Rob Durocher  
Minister of Music and the Arts, Deacon

One of the most beloved hymns of our faith that embraces the Festival of ALL SAINTS DAY, is the hymn “*For All the Saints*”, which has been sung for over 150 years in Christian churches throughout the world and is often sung for Services of Resurrection and Memorial Services.

**All Saints Day**, is on Nov. 1 this year. Many people are not as familiar with ‘All Saints Day’ as much as the day before which is known as *All Hallows’ Eve* (Halloween), but it is still a holy day for many Christian congregations and far more important in the life of the church. It is also an opportunity for us to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in faith, those famous or obscure, including our loved ones who have passed and who are now part of the “communion of saints” who have gone to glory.

One of the great mysteries of our faith is that every time we gather around the Lord’s Table we join the saints above and the saints below in *mystic sweet communion*.

*And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we will praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

The hymn ‘*For All the Saints*’ (original title, *For All THY Saints*), was written in 1864 by the Rev. Doctor William Walsham How (1823-1897). How was the Anglican Bishop of Wakefield of the Diocese of Wakefield, England. His hymn was written as a commentary on the article in the Apostles’ Creed, “*I believe in the Communion of Saints.*”

Bishop How served various congregations and became a *Suffragan* Bishop (an assisting bishop who does not automatically succeed a diocesan bishop) in east London in 1879. In 1888, he became the Bishop of Wakefield where he

was called the ‘poor man’s bishop’ and “the children’s bishop”. He had a passion for working with the marginalized and the destitute who lived in the slums of London and the factory workers in west Yorkshire. His desire to reach his flock led him to write several theological works refuting the current controversy of the day, the Oxford Movement which sought a more ‘Roman Catholic’ approach to ritual and belief within the Church of England. He also attempted to reconcile biblical creation with the theory of evolution. He would write over thirty hymn texts including for many hymns, including several for children in a collection called *Poems and Hymns* published in 1886.

In his hymn *For All the Saints*, William How portrays the relationship between ‘the Church Militant (the faithful on earth), and the Church Triumphant (the saints in heaven) which is greatly emphasized throughout this hymn. In the very first verse of *For All the Saints*, Bishop How points our eyes heavenward to the Church Triumphant which states the purpose of the hymn, that we sing praises to God for all the saints who have finished their course here on earth and have entered eternal life. “*Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven*” (Matthew 10:32).

**For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia!**

The second verse reminds us that salvation and the living of a holy and courageous life is only possible by the grace of God. Only if God be our rock, our defender and our strength can we stand a chance in the battle of this earthly life. “*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup>They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the*

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*spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ". (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)*

**Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia!**

The third verse of the hymn becomes the connecting verse where we who are here on earth – the Church Militant, share blessed communion with the heavenly saints because of our unity in Christ, and though we might feebly struggle while we're here on earth, the vision of God's glorious kingdom that they already share in - and our communion with them greatly encourages us as we are still builders of God's kingdom *on earth*. (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia!**

While Bishop How wrote at least eleven verses for this hymn many hymnals today only include seven or eight of them, far too many to write about in this article. In every version however, the final verse brings us full circle from heaven to earth and back to heaven again where we get a glimpse of the magnificent procession that will continue for those who will come after us after we've made our own journey! This final verse is a reflection on John 12:32 where Jesus says: *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
And singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia!**

In this hymn William How gives us a powerful vision and awesome celebration of life in Christ. It also reminds us today that in this life though struggles, pandemic and when we falter we receive hope and encouragement from

remembering the lives of these saints. In God's grace and promise and In their example, we will be included in the "countless host, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost!" ALLELUIA!

The original tune for this hymn was called *SARUM*, composed by Joseph Barnaby (1838-1896) organist and choir master of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, London. The tune that we use today is called *SINE NOMINE* (Latin for 'without name'), composed in 1906 by the renown Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 -1958). Vaughan Williams was a prolific English composer and editor of sacred, folk, and symphonic music. Perhaps one of his best loved anthems is his setting of *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune* (Psalm 100), *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*, which premiered at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and has been sung by thousands of choirs the world over ever since.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwE6HGXXkzg>

## Worship at St. John's

Sundays at 11am      Broadcast online from the Sanctuary. Join us by visiting our website or YouTube channel. Search "SJLC"

Sundays at 9:27am      In-person worship in the Faith Center. A gentle, 45-minute service led by our worship team. Thanks for wearing masks. More details on our website.

Wednesdays  
12:15-12:45      Our mid-week communion service in the Chapel. Strict health protocols are followed.

*Don't forget: The 11:00 sanctuary service will be held in-person AND online beginning November 22!*

## A blessing in disguise

*Through technology, 11 am worship service now reaching more people than ever*

By Susan Shinn Turner

In mid-March, the 11 am worship service moved completely online, and it's presented a unique opportunity for St. John's to reach more people than ever.

"We've spent almost nine months living in very uncertain times," says Deacon Rob Durocher, minister of music. "For worship, it's about being thankful for all the resources that have kept us moving forward."

That means incorporating as many different people and readers and online greeters as possible, along with instrumentalists and vocalists from inside and outside of St. John's.

"We are celebrating our spiritual resources through the gifts of music," Rob says. "We don't have a 45-voice choir, and we don't have handbells and other ensembles, but we sure are thankful for what we have."

This time has also given our staff the opportunity to be even more creative in worship. "Drop-in" videos and online countdowns are now the norm.

"We've never been turned down by a community member to help us out with prayers or readings," says Pastor Rhodes. "On at least three occasions we've had participants from around the world. It's truly become a community service."

Kevin Agner has enjoyed being a part of it all, especially the times that he and Rob have collaborated to write/perform some music together.

"The things he writes for me are really impressive," says Kevin, a sophomore cellist at UNC who grew up at St. John's. "He's ventured into some things I thought were really cool. He's definitely gotten good with putting the cello into pieces where it wasn't before."

Kevin has been back home since late August.



*Carter Woolly*



*Kevin Agner*

"I'm taking classes online, trying to stay focused, and still seeing some friends in town," he says. "Rob checks in to see when I'm available and I've been glad to come play."

"It's definitely a different experience, especially from a performance standpoint. There's no live audience, and that is a big part of it for me. It's just a different environment than having a full church of people."

Still, he's gotten good feedback from his participation.

"Obviously, my family is always watching," Kevin says. "I know people are definitely enjoying the music, and how the service is adjusting to fit the new times. It's the situation we're in, so we make the best of what we've got. For me, it's fun to play in the congregation I grew up in."

The same is true of Carter Woolly.

Carter moved back home during mid-March from Washington, D.C. He's now working for Congressman Mark Walker, who's based in Greensboro. Carter has been serving as a worship leader since he's been back in Salisbury.

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“I had conversations with my dad (Pastor Rhodes) and Rob, and we were talking about what worship would be like moving forward,” he says. “It started out with Rosemary and me with two mics. I really like what they’ve done recently with adding more choir members.”

Since Carter was in the Men’s Chorus at St. John’s, and the *A Cappella* Choir at Lenoir-Rhyne University, he’s happy to participate in worship as a vocalist.

“I’m one of the few people who have had the privilege to worship at St. John’s most Sundays through the summer. I feel for so many people who aren’t able to go. But this service has been a bit of a lifeline for folks.”

Carter has appreciated the Sundays when small groups of members have been able to come in, such as Graduation Sunday, First Communion Sunday, and Confirmation Sunday.

“That’s given us a bit of a congregational presence,” he says. “It has been cool to see folks’ reactions when they’ve come back.”

And he recognizes an opportunity when he sees it. Carter says that even though the 11 am service has been closed to most everyone, “St. John’s today is reaching more people than it ever has before. That certainly has been a blessing in disguise.”

## Octogenarian Sunday is Nov. 8

*All members 80 and over (and their families) are welcome to attend in-person*

By Susan Shinn Turner

Even though St. John’s is not completely open yet, there are several special worship opportunities in October, along with the 9:27 service each Sunday and the midday Communion Service on Wednesdays.

### **Nov. 1 — All Saints Sunday**

On All Saints we remember those who have died in the past year, lifting up by name those who have died in the congregation. Families of members who died since last All Saints Sunday are invited to join us in-person at 11 am worship.

### **Nov. 8 — Octogenarian Sunday**

Members who are age 80 and above (and their families) are invited to worship at 11 am worship as

they feel comfortable. You may sit with your family group and social distance. Please remember to wear your masks. Ushers will help you find a seat as some pews will be marked off. There will be no luncheon this year.

### **Nov. 22 — Return to In-Person Worship**

Having been fully online since early March, we are now able to host in-person worship at the 11 am service, beginning November 22. Per the governor’s orders, worship participation will be limited to 100 and all appropriate health protocols will be honored, including the wearing of masks.

*What an exciting day this will be as we return to the sanctuary of the Lord!*

### Shop with a Mission to Assist Those in Need *Seasons Gifts Facebook Live: Wednesdays at 7 pm*

Seasons Gifts will launch a **Facebook Live** shopping event each Wednesday at 7pm (excluding 11/25) until Christmas. Host Corinne Mauldin will have a weekly list of items that she will introduce. Link to [facebook.com/seasonsgifts.sjlc](https://facebook.com/seasonsgifts.sjlc)

Baby gifts, books, toys, household items, many different clothing accessories, including purses, wraps, scarves, and jewelry will be included. Buyers can call the shop to place orders, that will be delivered via pick up or delivery.

The event supports **Shop to Support Missions**. Purchases support **St. Johns Lutheran Church Mission Partners**.

**Facebook.com/seasonsgifts.sjlc**  
**@seasonsgifts.sjlc**



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### **Mark your calendars:**

#### **Christmas on Church Street**

*Friday, Dec. 19, 6-8 pm*

On Friday evening, the downtown church community will bring the joy of Christmas to Church Street! The city will block off the street from Horah to Liberty, with scenes of the Christmas story depicted in chronological order, from First United Church of Christ (Church and Horah) to Soldiers AME Zion (Church and Liberty). Participants will begin at First UCC and stroll down the beautifully lit and decorated street, together with strolling musicians and inspiration. It's an event you won't want to miss. Friday, Dec. 19, from 6-8pm: "Christmas on Church Street"

#### **Christmas Eve at St. John's**

St. John's will host four Christmas Eve Candlelight services this year: 11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, and 8 pm. Each service will follow the same outline, with beautiful music, the pastor's Christmas message, and our beautiful candlelight ritual. The 8 pm service will be broadcast live online and available as a recording following the service.

To honor the governor's guidance, attendance will be limited to 100 people per service, which means that we will ask worshippers to reserve a seat in advance. A reservation system will be unveiled the first part of December. If guidelines change, our maximum attendance numbers may also change, so be on the lookout!

# 'Tis The Season Spectacular Parade

By Shari Graham and Hen Henderlite

The "Tis the Season Spectacular" parade committee is excited to announce plans for an alternative holiday parade. This event will take place Wednesday, Nov. 25, from 5 to 9 pm. We are calling the parade this year, "Tis the Season Spectacular: Take a Hometown Ride With Us."

We came up with this plan in early summer, because we knew we could not have the normal parade. We talked with various groups in Salisbury about the idea, and everyone encouraged us to move forward, which is what we did.

The route will travel down Main Street from Franklin Street to Horah Street resembling a "mini-McAdenville." The town of Spencer is planning its own holiday event for December. Instead of parade entries marching down Main Street, parade goers will travel the route in their personal vehicles. Decorating personal cars, buses, or vans is encouraged, as is dressing up in your favorite holiday sweater or pajamas. Participants will see an amazing light show with snow machines, hot air balloons, and stationary floats with live entertainment, such as country star Tim Elliott, Divided by Four, and the Moonglows. All downtown businesses will decorate their storefronts.

Our committee is committed to provide funds to help them with decorating costs; as well as manpower to help them decorate. Some shop windows will have live interactive scenes reminiscent of Macy's windows in New York. We will even offer a holiday scavenger hunt for families to participate as they travel the parade route while listening to holiday music provided by WSAT radio. The Grinch may be atop a downtown building and Elves on Shelves will be scattered along the parade route. Families can take a photo and upload to Instagram. A drawing will be held from all postings and winning families will receive merchant gift cards.

Sponsors are crucial to the success of the event. We are thankful to our presenting sponsor, Food Lion, and to our other sponsors to date, the Law Office of Wallace & Graham,



*Hen Henderlite, left, and Shari Graham at last year's 'Tis the Season Spectacular parade.*

New Sarum Brewery, GCS Global Solutions, Cathy Griffin Century 21 Towne and Country, F&M Bank, Godley's Garden Center, Venue Services/Virtual Sounds, WSAT, the Bernheim family, David Post, Carolina Curbers, KMD Construction, and Catawba College. We have made requests for other potential sponsors and hope to add additional sponsors as the planning process moves forward. If you are interested in a sponsorship, contact Rowan County Tourism Authority at 704-638-3100. Various levels of sponsorship entitle the sponsor to various benefits.

To reserve a slot in this year's event, participants can access the sign-up link by going to [tistheseasonspectacular.com](http://tistheseasonspectacular.com). Click the button, "Drive Through Ticket Reservations" at the top right side of the page. Participants must reserve a slot in order to participate. These times will be color-coded and can be emailed or picked up by the participant at the Rowan County Tourism Authority's office. There is no cost to participate. Only 110 cars will be permitted per half hour. Staging for the event will be at the Law Offices of Wallace & Graham parking lot. Santa will greet parade goers at the intersection of Main and Horah streets.

We expect all entries to adhere to our mission statement: The "Tis the Season Spectacular" is a public parade open to participants to all belief systems and welcomes a diversity of ideas that portrays the goodwill associated with the holiday season. Participants may not promote special interests on personal vehicles.

This plan follows strict Covid safety measures. Parade goers will stay in their personal vehicles. All entertainment providers and/or float riders are family members or "bubble" friendly groups. Spectators will not view the event from the curbside as in the case of a traditional parade. Our committee recognizes the traditional parade is not possible this year. It will look different, and it will feel different, but it is an opportunity to provide an avenue for community unity by ushering in the holiday season together.



## Merry Christmas

Mail our homebound members Christmas Cards or bring them to the church office by Dec. 8 to be delivered by visitors.

**Sonny Allen**

C/O Laura Sumner  
405 Muirfield Way  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Tommy and Nancy Austin**

790 Cedar Farm Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28147

**Benny Banks**

c/o Col. Morgan Banks  
880 Barber Road  
Southern Pines, NC 28387

**Claudette Barger**

1806 Benjamin Dr.  
Salisbury, NC 28146

**Jane Barrier**

5146 Barrier Rd  
Concord, NC 28025

**Dorothy Bedford**

Autumn Care  
1505 Bringle Ferry Rd #806  
Salisbury, NC 28146

**Joyce Brady**

c/o Mr. Robert Brady  
829 Cherokee Place SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

**Paul and Lois Carter**

106 Covenant Woods Dr  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Jack Connery**

306 Majestic Heights Dr.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Sally Dubois**

138 Stibbs Cross Rd  
Mooresville, NC 28115

**Phyllis Edwards**

414 Hidden Creek Cir  
Salisbury, NC 28147

**Anita Foreman**

728 Klumac Rd, Apt 227C  
Salisbury, NC 28144-5745

**Hal Furr**

728 Klumac Rd, Apt. 202 A  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Frances Goins**

728 Klumac Rd Apt 126B  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Bud and Nan Graeber**

105 Snead Ct  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Connie and Tom Hurlocker**

307 Majestic Heights Dr.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Fran Hoke**

2627 Southpoint Ln  
New London, NC 28127

**Gerald Jones**

565 Neel Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28147

**Judy Johnson**

335 Lumen Christie Lane #104  
Salisbury, NC 28147-6799

**Margaret Ketner**

728 Klumac Rd, Apt 281-D  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Gene Myers**

2070 Godbey Rd  
Woodleaf, NC 27054

**Pat Nelson**

728 Klumac Rd, Apt 303-A  
Salisbury, NC 2814

**Ermine Peeler**

12809 Fox Meadow Dr.  
Richmond, VA 23233

**Gerald & Pansy Peeler**

145 Jesse Safrit Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28147

**Dick Petherick**

424 Wildwood Dr.  
Salisbury, NC 28146

**Jim Rabon**

1810 W Innes St  
Salisbury, NC 28144-2508

**Sarah Roberts**

322 Laurel Valley Way  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Jean Rufty**

1550 Sells Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Rachel Safrit**

820 Klumac Rd, B-15  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Ann Sachtleben**

16 Pickett Ave  
Spencer, NC 28159

**Gloria Samuelson**

728 Klumac Rd #332 B  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Barbara Sims**

540 Club House Dr.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Peggy Smith**

728 Klumac Rd., Apt. D-247  
Salisbury, NC 27188

**Alda Smith**

114 North Milford Dr  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Marilyn Smith**

985 Agner Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28146

**Shirley Smith**

Brookdale Room 49  
2201 Statesville Blvd  
Salisbury, NC 28147

**Anne Steele**

728 Klumac Rd., Apt. 324-B  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Rich Soderberg**

728 Klumac Rd Apt. 309 A  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Irene and Ted Stewart**

728 Klumac Rd Apt. 339 C  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Andrew Stirewalt**

1255 Stirewalt Rd  
China Grove, NC 28023

**Gail Swan**

820 Klumac Rd, AA3  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Shirley Trexler**

4355 Queens Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28144

**Leon Williams, Jr.**

820 Klumac Rd, Rm A-02  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Wreaths, Poinsettias and Candles

Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. Johns as we decorate our worship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Purchasing a poinsettia, hanging a wreath or lighting a candle is a way to remember and honor those you love, appreciate, or admire--perhaps a family member, teacher, church leader, friend or neighbor.

For centuries, lighting candles has been a symbol of hope and remembrance. This year we are offering the opportunity to light a candle in honor or memory of a loved one or friend.

Donations may also be made to the general decorating fund in honor or memory of someone.

Money, along with the order form, for may be mailed to or taken to the church office.

**Deadline for ordering will be Friday, December 16.**



Donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Service bulletin.




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## 2020 Christmas Decorations Poinsettia's, Wreath's and Candles

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Decoration	Price	In Memory of.....	In Honor of.....
Poinsettia	\$12.50 each		
Hanging a Wreath	\$25.00 each		
Lighting a Candle	\$20.00 each		
General Decorations	Amount \$ _____		

## Special Section: Nominees to Congregation Council



**Brenda Munday** joined St. John's in 2010. A retired accountant, Brenda has served St. John's as the book keeper, on congregation council, executive council, as a committee member, office volunteer, and meals on wheels volunteer. Brenda has served past congregations on congregation council, executive council, as a committee member, office volunteer, meals on wheels volunteer, and in small group ministry.

Brenda says, "I have been privileged to previously serve as Vice President of the congregation council. I have served on the personnel committee and the finance committee. I worked as an employee of St. John's for the past 2+ years as the church bookkeeper, retiring in March of 2020. I feel the need to serve the church to the best of my abilities."



**Dr. Larry Cartner** joined St. John's in 2018. A retired school superintendent, Larry is currently an adjunct professor at Catawba College. Larry has been involved in choirs, music programs, and the Men's Chorus at St. John's. In past congregations, Larry has served on congregation council, as chairperson of a variety of committees, teacher, worship leader, choir member, and meals on wheels.

Larry says, "For more than 25 years, I served as both full-time and part-time staff in the United Methodist Church. I have experience in helping others with milestones in their Christian journey (weddings, funerals, baptisms, Communion) while also serving as a lay worker. I believe in the philosophy of a servant heart. Combining my past laity service, and possessing a deep love for this congregation, I would welcome the opportunity to serve on Council."



**Colleen Young** joined St. John's in 2011. Colleen is a teacher. At St. John's, she serves as a Youth Group volunteer, in the nursery, and in Sunday School. In past congregations, Colleen has served as a ministry group/team chairperson.

Colleen says, "As our family continues to grow older, we are able to become more involved at St. John's and are always looking for new ways to serve the church. We want to raise our sons in the church family and love how each of us has become involved in our own way. I feel qualified to serve based on my experience with the youth of the church and the community of Rowan County. I would like to continue to help others and be a positive influence in the church."

## Special Section: Nominees to Congregation Council



**Elaine Holden** joined St. John's in 2014. Elaine is Outreach and Program Coordinator for the N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation. Elaine has served St. John's on the GIFT Women's Ministry team and as an usher. She has participated in the flute ensemble, and as a youth group volunteer, and mission trip chaperone. In past congregations, Elaine has served as Long-Range planning committee chair, VBS volunteer, High School Sunday School teacher, nursery volunteer, choir member, and volunteer with Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program.

Elaine writes: "I know that I am ready to immerse myself more fully at St. John's as I did when I was part of my former congregations. I believe in and support the ministries offered through St. John's to the congregation and the community."



**Carole Parrott** joined St. John's in 1995. She is a Regional Sales Representative for Herff Jones Yearbooks. Carole has served in children's ministry, on the worship committee, was the decorating team chair, Kindergarten Advisory Committee chairperson, order of St. John's chair, new member committee chair, 250th anniversary committee member, and served on the call committee to choose a youth director. In addition, Carole has served as a Sunday School, VBS, and Weekday Church School teacher, and as a youth group volunteer for middle school, high school, and multiple mission trips.

Carole says, "I am a lifelong Lutheran and have been a member of St. John's since 1995. I have been regularly involved in various aspects of the church since that time and would consider it an honor to serve on the Congregation Council."

### **Youth Nominees:**

Sasha Medina and Ryan Brady

### **Benevolent a Trustee:**

Lori Yang

# Around the Congregation



## Reformation and Confirmation

*On Sunday, Oct. 25, we celebrated confirmation of four of our youth and gave witness as they shared their faith statements. Read excerpts on page 19. Two were baptized. And we commemorated Reformation Sunday!*



# Excerpts from our Confirmands' Faith Statements

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**Lucy Burks**

"Three things that are most comforting to me are that Jesus will always be there for me, no matter what. He won't judge me for anything, and he will love you no matter what. Another thing about Jesus that is comforting is that somehow, he always hears my prayers and my cries. The last thing that is comforting about him is that he loves not just me, but all of us so much that he died for us. He loves us that much.

"There are many ways that I live out my faith in my daily life. One way is that I pray before I go to bed every night. I pray for others who may be going through tough times, the whole world, my family, and many others. Another way is that I think of God as a best friend. I tell him everything. I talk to him as if he is one of my closest friends. I believe we can talk to Jesus anytime we need to. He will always be there for us."



**Kari Downs**

"Knowing God has a plan for me and is only wanting the best for me is very assuring. I think of Jesus as the center of my life because I used to feel lost until I found him. The past two years, I felt as if I had given up on him because I didn't see good things happening to me. I now realize and understand that no one's life is easy, not Jesus' life, not my friend's lives, and not even my families. Everyone deals with hard times and deep struggles. Knowing that I'll always have someone to talk to is one of the most comforting feelings in the world. Being connected to God has helped me in so many ways and I am so grateful to be baptized and confirmed in the name of God."



**Makenna Martin**

"He reminds me to think about how I can help other people when they seem down instead of focusing on myself. I especially like Bible verse "Do not worry about tomorrow." -Matthew 6:34. Instead of worry about what might happen tomorrow, I will always know that Jesus will always have a plan for me. My faith is important to me because it helped me get through the darkness time of life and helps to give us strength in times of weakness. Without faith, I don't know what I will become or how my life will look in the future. "



**Millie Wymbs**

"... when I watch the sunset or sunrise, I just cannot question whether there is a God or not. Or when the moon rises behind the trees and it is this beautiful golden orange color. Or when I had just reached the top of a hike, I was tired, my feet hurt. I had just realized that Cora and Dad have eaten all the snacks and Mom would not let me get any closer to the edge because she has anxiety. I just looked up and I could see so much further than I imagined, the beautifully colored trees, the river at the bottom where I can almost see the water crash against the rocks, and the fact that we are all experiencing the view together, I just know that God is there with me. Or when my family and I decide to cook Friday and Saturday a wonderful meal of homemade noodles and delicious Bolognese so that on Sunday after church my family and I can sit down together at our dining room table and share our favorite homemade meal. At that moment I can feel God's presence and know that he is watching over me"

A recording of our Confirmation Sunday service on October 25 can be found on our website, Facebook, or YouTube pages.

## Heroes Work Here!

By Barbara Jo Corriher

Heroes work here! Yes, they most certainly do! St. John's congregation and our surrounding community are fortunate that St. John's CDC never closed their doors even during these extremely challenging times.

In March, the decision was made to continue operating. Staff was reduced to lead teachers and administrators only. The state mandated for a period of time that only children of essential workers could attend. A staff of 35 dropped to 15. There were no assistants or floaters.

How did our center make this new normal work? The core teachers were dedicated, flexible and there was no teacher turnover. They worked wherever they were needed. Instead of teaching 4-year-olds, they may have been in the infant room. Each of them did what was asked of them. It was stressful, but they have made it through by adjusting and remaining adaptable.

What do our numbers look like now? Later, all the children were allowed to return. Currently our CDC is back up to 28



staff members and 125 students. Prior to COVID, there were 35 staff members and 180 students.

The staff is required to wear a mask or a shield. United Way, the state and others donated masks. Pastor Rhodes is working towards supplying all the CDC employees with a mask that bears the St. John's logo.

What happens if a staff member or a child becomes sick with COVID 19? If this happens, and it has, our administrative team works with Rowan County's Health Department, following their instructions while being transparent with the parents.

How were we able to remain afloat financially? The state has been very beneficial making sure child development centers could continue to operate. They provided shipments of masks, bleach, paper towels, no touch thermometers, hand sanitizer... NC continued to pay DSS payments based on the number of DSS children attending our center in February. DSS parent fees were paid as well for 5 months, April – August. Parents are now responsible again. As of Sept. 1, DSS payments are returning back to normal. Teachers, who were continuing to work, were provided state bonuses twice. Operational money was also awarded to our center. The church closed one side of the building to decrease expenses.

Thank you heroes for all you have done for the children, their families, our church and our surrounding community. We are so grateful! Keep up the good work!



## Outdoor Learning Environment

By Barbara Corriher

What about our Outdoor Learning Environment? We're sure if you have driven along West Innes Street you have noticed the excitement that is occurring almost daily as our Outdoor Learning Environment becomes a reality.

Notes from our designer, Colleen McDaniel:

*A pergola and an arbor are completed.*

*The cedar shingle roof will come soon following inspection of the framing.*

*Irrigation main lines are being installed. The concrete sidewalks will follow.*

*There is ongoing construction of the other structures. Soon work will begin on the individual play areas and plantings will happen.*

*The perimeter fence is being fabricated but there is a long lead time at the manufacturer. A temporary fence will be installed and remain in place until the perimeter fence is completed.*

Is the staff ready for our new and exciting Outdoor Learning Environment? The answer is yes. Seven of our CDC employees have earned their Early Childhood Learning Environments Certificate from NCSU Natural Learning Initiative. This 24 hour educational hours class is targeted towards early childhood professionals and others interested in improving early childhood outdoor play and learning environments. Learners gain skills and knowledge required to plan, manage, promote,



organize, and administer high-quality outdoor play and learning environments. Those completing this training are:

LeLonna Richardson and Kristy King (administration)  
Sabrina Ross – All Stars (toddlers)  
Michelle Giles – Jolly Ranchers ( 3 year olds)  
Tyra Kennedy – Kangaroo Kids (2/3 year olds)  
Anthony Atkinson – Sugar and Spice (3/4 year olds)  
Kelly Kirk – NC Pre-K (/5 year olds)

Congratulations on earning your certificate!

## Update from the St. John's Kindergarten

St. John's Kindergarten began in person learning on Aug. 17. Due to COVID-19 the school implemented many procedures to keep the children and staff as safe as possible. Some of the new procedures are temperature checks before the students enter the classrooms, face coverings worn in common areas, daily sanitizing, and frequent handwashing. St. John's Kindergarten is grateful to GMC Glass for donating sneeze guards for the student tables. We appreciate all that Jon Koppe and David Ellenburg have done in helping the staff to prepare for the students return. It has been a blessing to have the students back at school learning and playing together.

We are grateful for the newly installed gate which provides additional safety measures for our students.

This year we welcomed two new teacher assistants to the staff of St. John's Kindergarten: Trisha Ritchie and Stacey Shafer.

Trisha Ritchie retired this past June from the Rowan Salisbury school system after 34 years of teaching Kindergarten. With her husband Robert, they live in Landis and enjoy traveling to the beach and mountains. They are avid campers, along with their dachshund, Jackson. Trisha enjoys watching children grow academically and seeing the smile of a child's face when the learning light bulb shines. She feels very blessed to be part of a strong program at SJK. Trisha is the pre-kindergarten teacher assistant.

Stacey Shafer is teacher assistant two mornings a week in the Kindergarten class. She has enjoyed helping bridge the time between working as Children's Minister at St. John's along with the Kindergarten. It brings a great connection and communication between the two. Growing both programs and working with these young children brings her great joy. Stacey has always felt called to be a part of the kindergarten program ever since two of her children went through the program.



*Trisha Ritchie*

## Our Latest “Conversations that Matter” Podcast

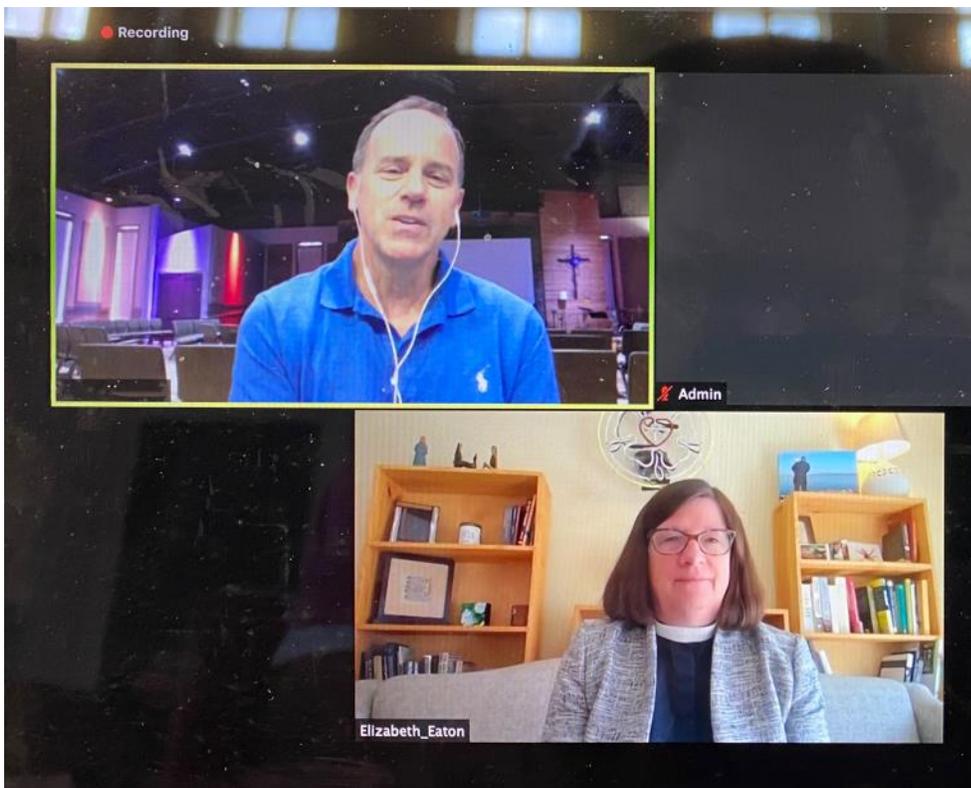
*Pastor Rhodes Interviews ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton*

Have you subscribed to the St. John’s “Conversations that Matter” podcast?

In October, we continued our celebration of the 50th year of ordaining women in the Lutheran Church as Pastor Rhodes engages in a fascinating and sometimes hilarious conversation with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Eaton is the first female presiding bishop of the ELCA, first elected in 2013.

Listen to the full conversation by searching “Conversations that Matter” on Apple Podcast, iHeart Radio, Spotify and more.

You can also catch up on past sermons on the SJLC Sermon Podcast Channel. Search “SJLC,” and don’t forget to rate and subscribe!



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ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS  
CATALOG



## ELCA “Good Gifts” Christmas Catalog Now Available

*Give Something Unexpected This Christmas*

Give something unexpected this year. ELCA Good Gifts Catalog is now available online at [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org). You can choose items from a variety of categories, including agriculture and animals, growth in the church, disaster response, help in the U.S., and more. Gifts, like chicks, a mosquito net, and school supplies start at just \$10. How does it work? Choose your gift. Get a card. Make a difference.

# At-Home Learning At Escuela Integrada in Guatemala

Since the start of the pandemic, Escuela Integrada has moved to a strict distance learning model. Distance learning has been difficult, but not impossible. Some of the difficulties impoverished families encounter when it comes to distance learning include 1) No computers in the home; 2) Limited or no access to internet; 3) Limited cell phone service; 4) Small homes in disrepair, sometimes housing 10 or more family members under the same roof 5) No desk or workspace in the home; 6) Limited lighting or no electricity; 7) Limited to no education of the parents or guardians; 8) Parents who are illiterate; and 9) Inadequate materials to complete schoolwork.



The evolution and advancement of technology in the developing world is not on par with the pacing of the United States, however, smartphones are relatively affordable in Guatemala. Economical smartphones can be purchased for as little as \$40 new; in many cases, families buy them used. Since these phones are not under a contract, they operate with a pay-as-you-go method. Individuals are able to purchase data packages and cell phone minutes for as little as \$0.75.

Escuela Integrada saw it as critical to continue providing education to the children during this time. In order to pivot to a distance learning model, the At-Home Learning campaign was created in April of 2020. This campaign provides data packages for both the families and teachers, increasing the efficiency of communications between students and teachers. Every week, the teachers of Escuela Integrada send study guides to the students digitally. Students complete the assignments and stay in constant communications with their teachers throughout the week. Teachers can answer questions and review work via their smartphones. Teachers also record video or audio classes and send them to students. Occasionally, they will have Zoom meetings for essential classes, though the data and bandwidth required for live streaming makes this a less frequent practice. Escuela Integrada has successfully completed three full quarters of

school through the at-home learning model. As the new school year starts in January, the school most likely will continue with a hybrid version of online learning and physical classes.

In a country like Guatemala, where there are minimal resources for education, the idea of at home or distance learning seems far-fetched. The need for this program in an effort to achieve equity in learning cannot be overstated. These children would simply not be able to receive education during this time if not for the At- Home Learning campaign. These families have already committed to stopping the cycle of poverty when they put their children in school. Our long-term goal has always been for the students that walk through our doors to have a financial stable future, then continuing this ripple effect on to future generations. We don't want this effort to be impeded in this season of at-home learning, simply because they do not have access to technology. If you would like to donate to this effort, please go to [www.wearegraces.org/athomelearning](http://www.wearegraces.org/athomelearning).

—Hannah Nadeau Girón, GRACES Executive Director. GRACES is the Fundraising arm for the Escuela Integrada School in Antigua.



# We are having a GRACES *Graduation Party!*

Join us for a lived streamed event on  
**November 6th at 8pm EST**

to celebrate the graduates of  
**Escuela Integrada!**

Join this Zoom webinar:  
**[WeAreGRACES.org/GraduationParty](https://www.wearegraces.org/GraduationParty)**

Interested in being a host or want to join one of  
our hosted parties? Email [info@wearegraces.org](mailto:info@wearegraces.org)



*Photo from 2019*

## **An Update from Our Ministry Partners in Rwanda**

Pastor Mulisa, was able to complete his first year of seminary and travel back home safely.

Covid-19 numbers are decreasing so some activities are allowed to operate. Upper grade levels will open next month and lower grades and kindergarten will reopen in January.

*Hope for Today*  
A Counseling Ministry of St. John's  
Lauren Stephenson, M.S., LMHCA, NCC

## Finding Hope: Coping with COVID-19 and Our New Normal

### Individual Counseling

With Lauren Stephenson, M.S., LMHCA, NCC. Free and available to the community. Contact the Church Office (704-636-3431) or sign up online at [stjohns-counseling.youcanbook.me](http://stjohns-counseling.youcanbook.me)

## Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians  
celebrating November birthdays:*

Tommy Austin, Claudette Barger, W.A. Cline, Anne Crawford, Phyllis Edwards, Anita Foreman, Richard Imblum, Chuck Moll, Pat Nelson, Charlie Sowers, Evelyn Woods

## St. John's Leadership

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2020 President .... Cindy Fink  
2021 President-elect .... Mike Edwards  
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 and the Arts – Rob Durocher  
Discipleship – Pastor Laura Henrik  
Mercy and Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly  
Congregational Life – Diane Poole  
Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl



The family of Robert Black wishes to thank the St. John's family for all of the love and prayers since his death on Aug. 17. The generous gifts to the church in Robert's memory have been overwhelming. We cannot express how comforting it has been to be members of such a church for over forty years and for both of our sons to have grown up here. St. John's is so large, yet so intimate.

May God bless you!

Mickey and Betty Black

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St. John's Friends,

Ott and I are thankful for your gifts of cards, flowers and food when he was so very sick in September and October. However, your prayers and concerns for us were special, too, for we know God heard your prayers.

Ott is home, doing very well, and like all of you, wishes to worship again in our beautiful sanctuary.

Gratefully,

Julie Pinkston

## Consolation

Family and friends of Audrey Bradshaw, who passed away on Oct. 8.

Anne Steele and family on the passing of her daughter-in-law, in Chattanooga in October.

Bob Tannehill and family, on the passing of Fran, on Sunday, Oct. 25.

## Congratulations

Caroline Graham and Russ Weiker who were married on Saturday, Oct. 10.

## Baptism

Aries Douglas Dupere Clark was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 25, following the 11 am online worship in the St. John's Sanctuary.

Kari Downs was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 25 at the 11 am online worship in the St. John's sanctuary.

Makenna Martin was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 25 at the 11 am online worship in the St. John's sanctuary.

## St. John's Ministry Staff

### Pastoral Ministry

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

### Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon  
Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard  
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon  
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  
Youth .....Laura Henrik  
Senior Adults .....Diane Poole  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) .....Teresa Stoner  
CDC Interim Directors ..... Lonna Richardson and Kristy King

### Administrative Team

Business Manager .....Ruth Ann Diehl  
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross  
Accounting.....Mark Bias  
Communications Specialist ..... Angel Owens  
Writer .....Susan 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

### 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  
cdc@stjohns-salisbury.org  
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org

### 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

### Worship During Covid-19 Restrictions

Online worship Sundays at 11 am  
Contemporary Worship Sundays at 9:27 am in the Faith Center  
Mid-week Communion Service, Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the Chapel

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.

### EAGLE'S VIEW (USPS 716—020)

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### Eagle's View Deadline

The December/January Eagle's View will be published in November 13.

Please email stories and news to  
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by !

### 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.*