

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

Consecration Sunday is October 11, 2020

Make Your Move

By Michael DeNise
Consecration Sunday Chair

I hope you have marked your calendars for Sunday, October 11 – what we call “Consecration Sunday” at St. John’s, the day we offer our financial pledges to support of the mission and ministry of the church. Let October 11 be the day you “make your move.”

There are many ways to make your move. The biblical practice of giving refers to the tithe, which invites us to return to God one tenth of our earnings. The practice challenges us to trust in God more than earthly things. It also reminds us that all good things come from God, and when we return to the Lord a portion of what has been given to us, our community is impacted in dramatic ways.

Maybe this year “making your move” means taking a step up in your level of giving. The chart on page 3 provides a good look at our congregation’s giving patterns. Find your current level of giving and prayerfully consider whether God is inviting you to take the next step.

Perhaps you’ve already enjoyed the practice of tithing. We hope you will consider doing so again, or maybe even going beyond a tithe. Again, what matters is that we invite God to join us in this decision-making process. As you do, *thank you!*

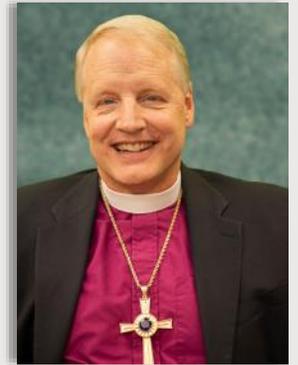
Consecration Sunday will look different than it has in years past. Because of Covid restrictions, we won’t have a community meal following worship or join together in offering our pledges at the altar. But we still will have the chance to respond to what God is calling each of us to do through stewardship, and an opportunity to grow our giving in response to God’s love toward us.

How to make a pledge. This year, you will receive a commitment card in the mail sometime during the week of October 4. Be on the look out for that card and an explanation for how to join in this year’s Consecration Sunday ritual. There will be an opportunity during our online worship service — and during the in-person 9:27 service — for you to make your commitment on the card provided or digitally through our website. If you will be mailing your pledge, we hope to receive all cards by Friday, Oct. 16.

I want to thank each of you for taking the time to consider what God is calling you to do during this season of your life. Each person has a chance to make an impact through our financial gifts, and I hope you’ll do so like never before.

Make 2020 the year you make the move!

Continued on page 3.



Bishop Smith Joins us for Consecration Sunday

Bishop Tim Smith goes back a long way at St. John’s. He grew up in this congregation, was confirmed here, and was supported throughout seminary by members of St. John’s. “There are people in this congregation who knew I’d be a pastor long before I did,” he once said. Smith served calls in Startown, Boone, and Atlanta, before being elected bishop of the NC Synod in 2015. He joins us on Consecration Sunday to reflect on his time at St. John’s and make his case for why giving to the local church is more important now than ever before. Welcome, Bishop Smith!



Pastor's Letter



I've just finished watching the first presidential debate, and I've decided to tell you who to vote for.

Keep reading ...

At one level, the debate was pure embarrassment, two men shouting words of disrespect in front of a global audience that had every

reason to expect a modicum of decorum.

On another level, I wasn't surprised. I mean, seriously, isn't this what we've grown used to? Candidates are more interested in scoring points with one-liners and "gotcha" phrases. Big ideas hardly matter, and if you're expecting the candidates to actually listen to each other ... well, that's just not going to happen.

But what choice do we have?

Lots of stories have emerged since the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg. One of my favorites is the deep relationship she shared with fellow justice Antonin Scalia. The two were on completely opposite sides of the political spectrum, but they were able to set those differences aside and know each other on a deeper, far more important level. They went to the National Opera together, shared hours-long meals together. The same was true of Ronald Reagan and Democrat Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, who was the first politician to visit the president's hospital room after he was shot. They prayed together. Imagine that.

There was a time when relationships transcended politics.

Do we have a right to expect the same of Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Mitch McConnell? I'd like to think so, although I'm not hopeful. They've become entrenched in name-calling warfare, so worried that giving an inch will lead to defeat. It seems that personal pride is more important than good politics.

So who do I think you should vote for this November? *Did you really think I'd tell you??* That almost feels like Dan Waggoner's question when I was interviewed by the

congregation way back in 2009: "Are you a State fan or a Carolina fan?" I knew I'd alienate half the crowd no matter how I answered!

Here's my response (to the election question): Vote for whomever you've deemed worthy of being the president. It sounds like a cop out, I know, but we all have our opinions, and I trust that we've all done our research. We come from different places with a wide variety of priorities. Vote for the candidate who you believe will serve this country well. The *whole* country.

Just as importantly, spend time preparing a new generation of leaders for our communities and country. I'm serious. It's easy to become discouraged by the juvenile nature of politics these days.

Here's my challenge: *do something about it ...* and that "something" is to encourage good-natured young people to become passionate about their communities and willingly step into places of leadership. Raise your kids — and challenge the young adults in your families — to commit time and resources to organizations that are important to our community. Make sure they know the names of our community's leaders and pray for them by name. Show the young people in your life how to engage in respectful conversation over important issues. Teach them the importance of listening. As David Frum said recently, "If you don't go into an encounter ready to be different when it's over, you're not doing either of us any good."

And finally, encourage them to run for office. Why? *Because that's the kind of person I want to vote for in a future presidential election.*

As we cast ballots over these next few weeks, let's commit to finding the right leaders for this particularly significant moment in time. Let's also commit to planting seeds for future elections and future leaders. It's what our communities and country desperately need.

Thanks for your good work in the garden.

+Pastor Rhodes

How do I decide how much to give?

Stewardship is an indispensable part of being a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a faith-based lifestyle which recognizes God’s ownership of all things – including our time, abilities and financial resources. As the Psalmist says, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...” (Psalm 24:1). By supporting St. John’s mission and ministry with a percentage of your income and time, you join the whole family of God by sharing in Christ’s ongoing work of spreading a gospel of faith, love and hope. A few tips:

1. Giving begins in prayer. As you give thanks for the blessings of life, invite God to guide you into a particular level of giving.
2. Review the chart below as you consider your currently level of giving and where God might be leading you.
3. After making your decision, indicate it on the pledge card (mailed the week of October 3) or by completing the fillable form on our website.
4. Offer your pledge on Consecration Sunday, surrounded by prayers of thanksgiving and praise.



Permission is hereby granted to photocopy this page for use with the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program.

WEEKLY INCOME	BEYOND A TITHE		TITHE 10%	UPPER RANGE GIVING			MIDDLE RANGE GIVING			LOWER RANGE GIVING		
	15%	12%		9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$ 200	30.00	24.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$ 300	45.00	36.00	30.00	27.00	24.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$ 400	60.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$ 500	75.00	60.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
\$ 600	90.00	72.00	60.00	54.00	48.00	42.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00
\$ 700	105.00	84.00	70.00	63.00	56.00	49.00	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00
\$ 800	120.00	96.00	80.00	72.00	64.00	56.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00
\$ 900	135.00	108.00	90.00	81.00	72.00	63.00	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00
\$1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
\$1,100	165.00	132.00	110.00	99.00	88.00	77.00	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00
\$2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	140.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00
\$3,000	450.00	360.00	300.00	270.00	240.00	210.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/ giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE % would be for you.

Kingdom Kids has gotten off to a great start with our first face to face encounters since March. Our 3rd grade Milestone “Good News, God News” was held in the Pit one Sunday afternoon followed by a virtual zoom option. Baptismal Partner Milestone for our 4th graders went very well as we social distanced in the Ark while learning more about what baptism means in their lives.



Our 3 & 4 year olds have gotten back into seeing Ms. Stacey on Facebook Live on Sunday mornings, followed by zoom where they can see their friends as well. During our first face to face event with this age group, we made pictures of Joseph in his coat of many colors, had ice cream sundaes and more.

Coming up, the Kindergartners’ through 5th graders will enjoy their time as we bring them into the ARK!

“My heart is filled with excitement and comfort as little by little Kingdom Kids continues to connect. Bringing families back face to face in a safe and positive way has made everything I do worth it. Also for the families needing to choose the virtual option, we have made that work as well,” says Stacey



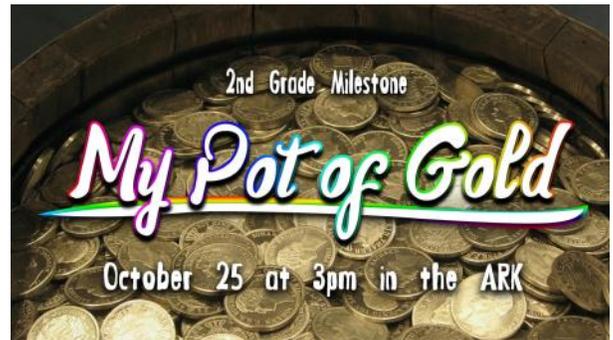
FIRST LOOK. This month in First Look (birth to 4 years old) we will answer the question: Who’s got it? God’s got it. When we need help, God is there, and that’s the kind of trust in God that allows us to sing in the rain.

Our Bible verse of the month:

“GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.” Joshua 1:9

- Oct. 4, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom
- Oct. 11, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom
- Oct. 11, 3:30-5 pm —First Look @ church
- Oct. 18, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom
- Oct. 25, 8:45-9:15 am — Sunday School Facebook live & zoom

Milestones



252 KIDS. In September, our 252 Kids (K-5th graders) will learn that living with integrity means that we choose to be truthful in whatever we say and do. There’s no need to hide or pretend. We can drop the act and choose to be who God made us to be.

Our Bible verse of the month:

“ANYONE WHO LIVES WITHOUT BLAME WALKS SAFELY. BUT ANYONE WHO TAKES A CROOKED PATH WILL GET CAUGHT.” PROVERBS 10:9

- Oct.4, 3-4 pm— 1st Grade Milestone: The Lord’s Prayer
- Oct. 18, 3-5pm — 252 Kids (K-5th grade) at Church
- Oct. 25, 2nd Grade Milestone: Pot of Gold



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.

October Schedule

- Oct. 4, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group
- Oct. 7, 4-4:45 pm – Confirmation Unit 1 (ZOOM)
- Oct. 11, 5:30-7pm—Youth Group Cookout
- Oct. 14, 6-7:15 pm – Confirmation Unit 1 (in person)
- Oct. 18, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group
- Oct. 25, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group



FUEL High School

In October, 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 every other Wednesday. 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.

October Schedule

- Oct.4, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group
- Oct. 7, 1-5 pm—FUEL Outing
- Oct. 14, 1-5 pm — FUEL Study Hall
- Oct. 18, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group
- Oct. 21, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall
- Oct. 25, 6- 7:15 pm, in the Pit– Youth Group
- Oct. 28, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall



Senior Seasons Engagement Opportunities

Hybrid Online and In-Person Academy and Lunch-n-Learn This Fall

By Diane Poole

The Senior Seasons group has continued to stay connected through our phone call ministry and zoom programming. As we have started easing into group meetings onsite, having the zoom capability at the same time has helped meet the needs of more participants. Engagement is important part of faith formation, so we will continue to offer creative ways to get involved.

The Senior Academy is a program that encompasses much advanced planning to line up 7 weeks of speakers and to

publicize both the bible study and the speakers' topics well in advance. Faith formation comes in many ways, but bible study and the arts are particularly meaningful for participants. Many thanks to Rhodes Woolly, Rob Durocher, Bradley Chestnut, Davis Brown, Taylor Hutchins, Angel Owens, David Ellenburg, and Jon Koppe for helping to make this program happen, given our combination zoom and onsite meetings. No one realized how much time and resources it would take to make the technology work and to set up socially distanced meeting rooms. It is rewarding to offer a quality program that everyone seems to enjoy. I am so grateful for the staff's help!



*Senior Seasons Academy Kick-off Speaker
Hunter Safrit, Executive Director of Salisbury Symphony*



*Eric Upton, Owner of Oasis School of Music,
China Grove, NC*

Don't miss the final two weeks of Seasons Academy:

- Oct 6 Bible study with Pastor Rhodes (10:00-11:30); Contemporary Worship Music with Bradley Chestnut (12:30-2:00)
- Oct 13 Bible study with Pastor Rhodes (10:00-11:30); "The Orchestra from Handel to Hollywood," Davis Brown (12:30-2:00)

October Lunch-n-Learns, 11 am to 12 pm

- Wednesday, 10/14 * Amie Goodman, Rowan County Election Board, will speak on the election process and will have voter registration forms, as well as absentee ballot forms. ALL members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the Faith Center.
- Tuesday, 10/20** Laurel Harry of the Rowan Literacy Council will speak about the program and how they are handling the pandemic.

4-week Public Affairs Series

- Wednesday 10/28 * Jim Greene, County Commissioner
- Wednesday 11/4 ** Kannapolis Mayor Darrell Hinnant
- Wednesday 11/11 ** Spencer Assistant City Manager Mayor Peter Franchise
- Wednesday 11/18 ** China Grove Mayor Charles Seaford

*Onsite and Zoom

**Zoom only

Join a Small Group this Fall

Our Next Small Group Starts Oct. 7

By Danny Hines, Adult Discipleship Minister

Looking for a new small group study?

If you are still looking to join one of our new small group studies, please see the list below for a topic you might be interested in and email Danny Hines at 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 starting sometime in October. 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 me, Danny Hines, danny@stjohns-salisbury.org. I will help you get connected with a small group and establish a day and time that works best for the whole group!



The Chase – 3 week series

When it comes to our faith a lot of us feel like the Christian life comes with a finish line we'll never quite reach. If you're worn out, weary, or just plain overwhelmed this series is for you.



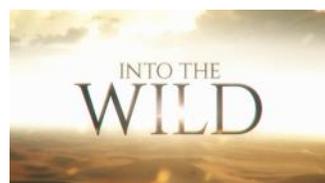
Together – 3 week series

There are things in life that were intended to be experienced together. A team is better together – that's the idea we are going to talk about in this series.



Connect – 3 week series

Good small groups can be the place where those "share anything" relationships start. This is a perfect beginning for getting your small group started and energized.



Into the Wild - 3 week series

Sometimes God calls us to take a step of faith out into the wild or unknown. This is an incredible series, based entirely on the story of Abraham, the "father of our faith."



Divided – 3 week series

Stars Wednesday Oct. 7 at 4 pm

Contact Danny Hines, danny@stjohns-salisbury.org for more information.

Win the relationship, not the argument. It's ok to disagree – it is actually healthy. Pursue connection over conflict. We'll see how Jesus navigated the tricky world of politics.



Limitless – 4 week series

Moses chose to let *God* determine who he was, who he should be and where he was headed. How? By eliminating the labels others put on him. How about you?

On-Your-Own studies. If you are looking for thought provoking weekly Bible Studies, Bible Project.com offers some insightful studies on their website. You can access the weekly Bible Studies at the top of the opening page.

Ongoing Opportunities

Contact 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*

In our 2nd book study of 2020, Danny Hines walks through Isabel Wilkerson's new book, *Caste: The Origin of our Discontents*. The book study will take place Thursdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 12, 7 – 8:15 pm via Zoom. Please contact danny@stjohns-salisbury.org if you are interested.

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.*

The Church's One Foundation *A Hymn for the Reformation*

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died. (ELW 654)*

By Rob Durocher, Deacon
Minister of Worship and the Arts

One of the greatest hymns in our heritage of faith, 'The Church's One Foundation', was written in the 1860's by an Anglican parish priest and hymnodist, The Rev. Samuel Stone, near London, England. His great hymn was born out of a passionate defense of not only the poor and vulnerable, but also of his faith when halfway around the world a controversial Bishop in South Africa, John Colenso, was openly questioning Moses' authority of the first five books of the Bible. While Bishop Colenso was officially rebuked and disciplined, his controversial views on Biblical authority and the articles of the Apostle's Creed reverberated throughout the Church of England and the Anglican church in many countries causing confusion amongst the simpler worshippers of many parishes. Stone (Born in 1839) was also known to be a little menacing due to his athletic build and sometimes not so gentle way of dealing with inequity, including his confrontations with those he felt bullied and took advantage of others but his passion for defending the vulnerable never escaped his convictions and way of doing things.

Samuel Stone's response to this controversy was to write a series of hymns in a volume called the *Lyra Fidelium, Twelve Hymns on the Twelve Articles of the Apostle's Creed*, written to teach and to encourage his congregation to hold fast to the truths of our faith in the face of controversies. 'The Church's One Foundation' was written to embrace the ninth article of the Apostle's Creed, *I believe in the holy catholic church . . .* because as Samuel Stone saw the church being 'rent asunder by heresies oppressed' with someone else's confusing doctrine, he wanted his flock and the flocks of surrounding churches to continue to find comfort and surety in what the Apostle's Creed taught them as a spiritual device in navigating throughout life and deeper faith. He hoped that these hymns would help people to better understand the creed that they recited each time that they gathered but seldom understood. He hoped that they would hold up the conservative side of the controversy that was rocking the church. Of his *Lyra Fidelium* "The Church's One Foundation"

remains the only hymn that continues to be loved and widely sung!

Stone's burning desire and conviction was for the church to remain unified as a temporal body here on earth in the midst of spiritual controversy. In his hymn, Stone connects the church on earth with the church triumphant. (*Yet she on earth has union with God the three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.*) He believed that the saints in heaven are encouraging the church by keeping watch as controversy within the church raged on below. This imagery continues to be meaningful today as we, too, see certain divisions in the church, in our world, through racial and political divide and brokenness in our lives. Stone's conviction and preaching was that the church should rest alone on the Lordship of Jesus Christ and not the distractions and messes by the interpretations of men.

Originally, 'The Church's One Foundation' had seven verses, while we only include five verses in our hymnal one of the original verses left out is:

*The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend.
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale
Against the for or traitor she never will prevail.*

Samuel Stone based his hymn of 1 Corinthians 3:11: "*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" And his continual reference to the unity of Christ and the church as 'she' or 'her' implies an intimate relationship expressed in the image of the bridegroom and the bride where Christ is the bridegroom and we, the church are his bride. (Mark 2:19, John 3:29, Matthew 22:1-14)

'The Church's One Foundation' became extremely popular not only in the United Kingdom but throughout much of the world as it was translated into many languages to be sung by millions of believers throughout the world. At a conference of

Continued...

Anglican Bishops in England known as the Lambeth Conference in 1886, this hymn was selected as the thematic hymn for its historical meeting propelling Stone to become a prolific hymn writer although 'The Church's One Foundation' is the only one that remains with us today.

The hymn tune for 'The Church's One Foundation' was composed by London born Samuel S. Wesley (born in 1810) who was the grandson of beloved hymn writer Charles Wesley. The hymn tune is called AURELIA, the Latin word for 'golden' was first written as the tune for the hymn 'Jerusalem the Golden', but was chosen as the hymn tune for 'The Church's One Foundation' at the 1868 Lambeth Conference of Bishops, and continues to be the hymn tune that we so love to sing today and throughout the world.

In reflection, there is no doubt that we as the Bride of Christ struggle to reflect the love of Christ to the world in being faithful witnesses in a time of COVID-19, loss of jobs, income, some who mourn the loss of loved ones, disrupted relationships of family and friendships and the pain of so many divides in communities and in churches we still long for all to see peace and unity found in the living hope that we know in Christ. We are built on a firm foundation that is Christ Jesus and one day we will see 'the night of weeping become the morn of song rejoicing in the brilliant presence of the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ!

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How
long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg>



Join us for Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25

In-person contemporary worship in the Faith Center, 9:27 am
Online traditional worship in the sanctuary, 11 am

Measuring Online Attendance *Expanding Our Digital Reach*

By Angel Owens
Communications Specialist

Gathering attendance numbers can be tricky these days. How many people are actually joining us in worship each week? There is no way to know just how many people are actually in each home clicking in, but we can gather and compile how many clicks we get each week.

On Facebook, we can also take a look at how many devices are staying connected for at least 3 minutes, so we can tell how many are tuned in for the duration of worship service. Because this isn't possible over all our streaming platforms, Facebook, YouTube, and our website, our most reliable way to collect and compare online attendance each week is by number of devices that click into worship.

Since moving worship to online only, and even after introducing in-person worship opportunities, viewership has significantly increased. Clicks in one Sunday in February, prior to the pandemic, were 167, while on a Sunday in July, after we began the in-person 9:27 worship service, they were 797.

We are also able to archive worship and the sermon audio and video to engage with for anyone who isn't able to join on Sunday morning.

Many of our members feel more comfortable remaining engaged through zoom calls, so book studies remain via zoom and Senior Academy has moved to a hybrid format.

We are sensitive to the fact that different groups have different comfort levels returning to in-person worship and activities. Our goal is not to move entirely to an online format. During the pandemic, we have been reminded of the importance of having time and community in a shared space together.

We have seen a culture change. People are more comfortable using the online space to learn and build community. We are more comfortable using the online tools themselves. Zoom calls, livestreams, webinars, social media, online courses, and the like aren't so scary anymore. These are resources we have at our disposal to reach our congregation and beyond.

During the pandemic, as a staff, we have considered what returning to a shared space might look like, and "thinking small" has been a common recurring theme.



As we think about what this means for St. John's, we consider what an online campus might look like, to expand digital reach and create original resources that can be referenced by small groups and individuals, Taylor Hutchins, Production Manager says, "We now see more online campuses and have to take that very seriously. What can we do next? What makes worship

easy and more engaging for people?"

The philosophy to meet people where they are has taken on new meaning in the world of social media. We can share original faith-based, formative content with people where they are. We are learning which avenues are best for which types of engagement, and that we can meet people where they are for a minutes (or usually seconds) to lift them up, teach them, and also invite them to engage in more through the proper channels, like Sunday worship, joining a small group, or online campus resources.

We've had people join us in worship and on our social media from all over the world. Taylor adds, "You don't have to be a mega church to reach the world anymore!"

Worship



Originally scheduled for March, students and their families were able to join us in the sanctuary for First Communion Sunday in September.

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.



Ritual can be a powerful bridge between the present and the eternal. Worship embraces all kinds of rituals, including the following time-honored one on All Saints, the day we remember those in faith who have gone before us.

"Present." During the All Saints Litany, names will be read of those St John's members who have died since last All Saints Day. As each name is read, the congregation whispers "present." The tradition dates to Nicaragua in the 1980s when the political revolution led to the deaths of many Christians. In worship the names of the dead would be voiced and the congregation would say with one voice, "present." The statement was a way for these grieving Christians to say that their loved ones were still present with them.

Indeed, this Sunday as we whisper "present" we proclaim the reality of the Communion of Saints.

You are Invited. Although the 11:00 service remains an online service, those who have lost loved ones this past year will be invited to be physically present during the 11:00 and 9:27 services on All Saints.

"Losing a loved one is hard enough," says Pastor Rhodes, "but this year, so many of our family members have lost loved ones without the opportunity to hold a funeral service in a sanctuary. On All Saints, we will honor our loved ones in a very meaningful, loving way, calling to mind their names and stories in ways that were not possible throughout much of this past year."

Join us for this very special All Saints celebration of life.



Facebook LIVE Holiday Shopping

Hosted by Corrine Mauldin

[@seasonsgifts.jlc](https://www.facebook.com/seasonsgifts.jlc)

Join us every Wednesday starting at 7 pm, October 21.

Shop with a Mission

Purchases support St. John's Lutheran Church Mission Partners.

Seasons Gifts Facebook Live Hosted by Corrine Mauldin

Wednesday, Oct. 21
Baby/Kids
Thanksgiving/Food
Accessories/Candles

*Featuring Sticklets
with Ashton Williams*

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Holiday/Home
COVID Essentials
Stuffed Animals
Soups & Mugs

*Featuring Holiday pillows
with Sharon Agee*

“Longing” – our 2020 Advent Devotional

A joint project between St. John's and Christmas Lutheran

Again, this year, we'll join our sisters and brothers in Bethlehem in producing a 30-day Advent Devotional, including inspiring stories and images from Salisbury and the Holy Land.

15 members of St. John's are needed to write reflections on the theme, “Longing.” We've been longing for lots of things these days – normalcy, peace, community. We join a long line of Christians who, in the midst of their longing, lean into God and one another.

Why a joint devotional? In September 2019, Christmas Lutheran and St. John's entered into a formal partnership in which we agreed to accompany one another in our journey of faith, walk in solidarity in our struggle for mercy and justice, and learn from the other's experience and wisdom. This Advent Devotional gives us the opportunity to hear from members of both congregations, each writing from very different contexts, but yoked together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Interested? Contact Pastor Rhodes, rhodes@stjohns-salisbury.org for details.





A Letter from the Congregation Council

Dear Voting Members of St. John's,

This fall, we will be considering updates to our Constitution, Amendments, and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee led by Rosalind Hines, including David Hord, Diane Goodnight, Meeta Lampert, Jay Dees, Mark Ritchie, and Cindy Fink, in consultation with Congregation Council Members Mike Agee, and Dennis Rogers have recommended the changes. The NC Synod Legal Committee has reviewed and approved the proposed changes. The Congregation Council has approved the changes to be voted on by the congregation.

The Congregation Council received guidance on upcoming congregational meetings from the NC Synod. After reviewing the options, we have determined to move forward with combined electronic and in-person meetings. We want to make sure that every voting member has the opportunity to participate. (Of note: A voting member has been confirmed, and has communed and contributed within the past year.)

The proposed changes are based primarily on the recommended changes from the ELCA. In accordance with our Bylaws, the congregation must vote on the proposed changes in TWO separate meetings:

1. November 1, 10:30 am in the Faith Center. You may attend in-person or via zoom. The sole purpose of this first meeting is to consider the proposed changes to the Constitution and Amendments.
2. November 8, 10:30 am in the Faith Center, which will be considered the Annual Congregational Meeting. You may attend in –person or via zoom. At this meeting, we will:
 - Take a second vote on the Constitution and Amendments changes
 - Vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws
 - Vote to elect new members to the Congregation Council (see page 16)
 - Hear reports from the Benevolent Foundation and results of our financial audit

Before these meetings of the congregation, we will provide two opportunities for discussion and questions. One option will be via zoom, and a second option will be a joint zoom and in-person by RSVP. Call the church office at 704-636-3431 or email Deborah Cross at Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org to receive the link for the Zoom Meeting or the phone number to call in on a conference line. The two meeting times are:

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 pm (zoom only)

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 pm. Zoom AND in-person in the Faith Center by RSVP

A summary of the proposed changes follows. If you would like to get an electronic or hard copy of the complete document with proposed changes, please contact the church office.

In addition, we've included this year's nominees to the Congregation Council. As you can see, it is an excellent list of faithful members, each with very unique gifts for leadership and ministry.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Cindy Fink, Congregation Council President, or Rosalind Hines, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair.

Cindy Fink, cindybfink@gmail.com; Cell 919-691-7323

Rosalind Hines, rhines509@gmail.com; Cell 336-671-7551



Summary of Proposed Changes to the St. John's Constitution and Bylaws

Chapters 1-9 and 14-20

All of the changes in these chapters reflect the prescribed modifications by the ELCA at their Worldwide Assembly in 2019. Most of the changes involve changing “the” to “this,” synodical to “synod,” etc. There are a few paragraphs that are required additions to the constitution.

Chapter 10 Congregation meeting

Annual Meeting Date:

Instead of specifying a date for the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Congregation Council proposes a window of time in which the meeting will be scheduled; between the 1st Sunday in November and the 2nd Sunday in December.

Determine Quorum as of a specific date:

The Congregation Council proposes specifying the date that quorum will be established, the Monday prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. This timing will allow the Congregation Council Secretary to alert the ushers and tellers as to exact number needed for quorum (15% of the voting members of the congregation).

Chapter 11 Officers

Update Responsibilities:

The Congregation Council proposes editing the duties of the elected and appointed Officers to reflect primary areas of current responsibilities.

Chapter 12 Congregation Council

Youth Member Nominees to Congregation Council and Clarification of Term Limits: C12.01

The Congregation Council proposes simplifying the method of recommending youth members to be considered for the Congregation Council. The Congregation Council also proposes language that clarifies term limits.

Renaming and Reconstituting the Nomination and Election Committee: C12.02.02

The Congregation Council proposes renaming the Nomination and Election Committee to the Nomination and Engagement Committee with the purpose being to seek out and accept recommendations of nominees for the Congregation Council and to accept recommendations of individuals for various committees, committee chairpersons, and appointed positions. The renaming and reconstitution of this standing Committee will connect our leadership development work and efforts to engage members in areas of interest where there will be opportunities for further development of faith and leadership skills.

Single Slate of Nominees for Congregation Council: 12.02.02

The Congregation Council proposes that the Nomination and Engagement Committee offer a minimum of five nominees for the Congregation Council. The Nomination and Engagement Committee will confirm each nominee's availability to serve. Nominations for Congregation Council must be received by September 15th of each year.

Chapter 13 Congregation Committees

Previously, each standing Committee had a different number of members, with various term limits and different methods of selecting a chairperson for each Committee. The Congregation Council proposes using one procedure for forming all standing committees and reducing the number of standing committees from 11 to 8.



The Congregation Council proposes adding Leadership Development as a Standing Committee with the following description: “The Leadership Development Committee will work to form new servant leaders by better equipping them and helping them connect faith and life. The Leadership Development Committee will build a culture of leadership that will dramatically affect our congregation’s future and, by extension, our community’s future.”

The Congregation Council recommends forming the Ministry Groups using the same procedure as the standing committees and editing the Standing Committee and Ministry Group descriptions to include only their primary responsibilities.

Benevolent Foundation: Continuing Resolution C13.06 E13

The Congregation Council proposes specifying that the Benevolent Foundation report annually to the congregation.

The Child Development Center: C13.07.F13

The Congregation Council recommends renaming the CDC Advisory Committee to the CDC Advisory Council and structuring the Council so they serve as the official advisory body to the CDC.

The CDC Advisory Council will consist of 10-members, six of whom will come from the membership of St. John’s and the additional nominees from the families of the CDC and the community at large.

The role of the pastors, Business Manager and CDC Executive Director remain the same, but the St. John’s Financial Secretary shall also be an ex-officio member of the CDC Advisory Council.

The Kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten:

The Congregation Council recommends deleting the Advisory Committee for the Kindergarten as this Committee has not been used in several years.

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 Fund Trustee:

Lori Yang

Still Going Strong

For Over 50 Years, Yvonne Yost, Carole Parrott's Mother, Has Served Cross of Christ Lutheran as Volunteer Organist

By Susan Shinn Turner

Rand and Yvonne Yost were married in June 1962 and started going to church at his home congregation, Cross of Christ in the Rimer community near Concord. Two months later, Yvonne became volunteer organist after the congregation's organist left for college.

Except for a few years' break Yvonne took after she and her husband adopted their daughter, Yvonne has been on the organ bench ever since.

"I never left," Yvonne says. "I just like it."

"It is her most favorite thing in the world to do," says her daughter, Carole Yost Parrott. "It's something she clearly loves. She has always treated it like a job."

Before their marriage, Yvonne was a member of the Methodist church. "So I had a lot to learn. I like the Lutheran service. I like something that's very organized."

Yvonne taught herself to play piano by looking at her sister's John Thompson books. "My mother saw my interest and made it possible for me to take lessons."

Yvonne entered Catawba College as a music major and studied piano, organ, and voice. She later switched her major to education, and taught English and social students for seven years at South Rowan High School, then taught for 28 years at Landis Elementary School.

Cross of Christ had a membership of 250 before it left the ELCA, Yvonne says. Now membership is about 150, with about 100 attending on a typical Sunday.

Yvonne plays a Moeller pipe organ, which with seven ranks is relatively small. At 82, Yvonne says she has no plans to retire.

"I know it's coming," she says, "and I don't look forward to that because it's been such a big part of my life. Sometimes I



ask my husband, why do I love it so much? And he just smiles."

Yvonne practices at home, and has worn out one organ already. Her husband bought her both organs, including the one she uses now, an Allen organ purchased in the 1990s. She prefers to practice at home, since the church is about 15 minutes away from their home in China Grove.

Yvonne does have an assistant who plays piano for the rare times she is away. At St. John's, she and Rand have attended the confirmation of their grandchildren, Caroline, Carson, and

Continued...

Harrison Parrott, Harrison's Eagle Scout ceremony, and Youth Sundays when their grandchildren participated, along with the youth auctions.

"We just can't get away too much," Yvonne notes.

Yvonne doesn't hesitate when asked to name her favorite composer: J.S. Bach.

As far as favorite hymns, she has many, among them *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* and *God of Grace and God of Glory*.

"I play a lot of hymn tunes and I sneak in Bach for the postludes," she says.

Yvonne selects all of the hymns and turns them in once a month to the pastor, The Rev. Rafe Allison. "I work very well with him and I like him a lot."

Yvonne buys all her music and has amassed quite a library over the years.

"I can sit on the organ bench and look at the music in front of me, and I feel that music draws me closer to God," she says. "If I can do something to draw others to God, that makes me feel good."

When she's not on the organ bench, she enjoys decorating her home, cooking, flower arranging, cake decorating, and she's recently started making masks.

Her biggest fan, she says, is her husband. "He has been the most supportive person you could ask for. He has been a tremendous supporter, and Carole and her family have been, too."

Yvonne's dream, she says, is to take organ lessons from Rob Durocher.

Why We Give

Comments from some of our staff members



I give because I know we are making life-changing impacts on children and youth throughout our community.

Stacey Shafer



I give because it yokes us with our sisters and brothers around the world, especially in places like Bethlehem, Guatemala, and South Sudan.

Pastor Rhodes Woolly



I give because I know we're setting the stage for a new era in digital ministry.

Taylor Hutchins

St. John's Members Volunteer in the Community

By Susan Shinn Turner

While some volunteer groups connected to St. John's are on pause, others are finding different ways to participate.

The Rainbow Makers, which serves the Child Development Center, is idle for the moment, according to Amy Ritchie.

"Until we can physically be back in the building, we're not participating nearly like we did in the past," she says. "We have members whose spouses have underlying health concerns. I'm keeping my circle small because I'm keeping my three-month-old grandson."

Besides Ritchie, members of the Rainbow Makers include Jane Britt, Judy Childress, Barbara Jo Corriher, and Sally Taylor. The late Lorna Reasor was also a devoted member of the group (see page 22).

During a typical year, the Rainbow Makers host a book drive, a back-to-school breakfast, a fall festival in October and a Christmas party in December.

"We were active, but COVID has put a big damper in it," Ritchie says.

Ritchie also says the group would love to have new members, even though it's in limbo at present. The CDC advisory committee, to which Ritchie belongs, continues to meet via Zoom.

Even though Britt hasn't been participating in Rainbow Makers, she has been making masks. To date, she says she's made more than 300. "It was something productive I could do."

Britt has provided masks at no charge to the Community Care Clinic, St. John's, Meals on Wheels, and to friends and family.

To date, Bonnie Hord has made some 507 masks at no charge which have gone to Community Care Clinic, St. John's, Trinity Oaks and to friends and family.

Hord's mother, who sewed for the public, taught her to sew in elementary school.

"Of course I had to learn everything she knew," she says. "I am not a perfectionist, but she was."

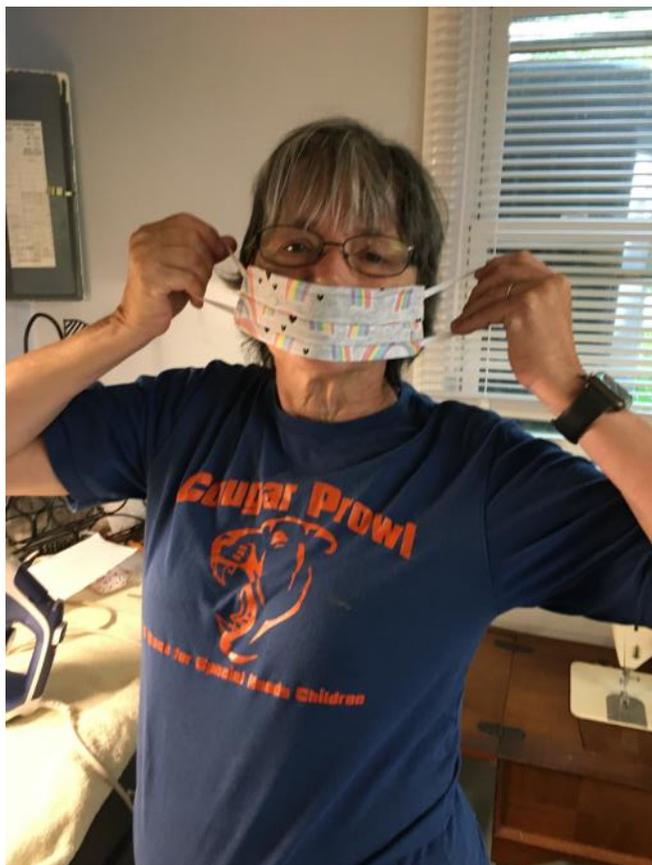
Likewise, Brenda Goodman has donated 150 masks at no charge to the Community Care Clinic, the ELCA, the VA, and to friends and family.

"I thought making 150 was a lot!" Brenda says, when she heard of the other numbers posted.

Meals on Wheels started doing things differently beginning in mid-March, according to Cindy Fink, executive director. Deliveries were only made on Monday, with recipients receiving frozen meals for the week. Starting in August, deliveries with fresh meals were done on Monday and Thursday.

"We are using a lot of our volunteers to make comfort calls," Fink says. "We continue to make comfort calls at least twice a week. Those volunteers are doing a fabulous job. They are able to find out other needs as well."

Jeanie Moore calls a list of seven recipients every week. "I started doing this about five or six months ago, about the time the pandemic started," Moore says. "I'm helping them



with some grant writing, so Cindy sends me all her emails. The more I know about the organization, the easier it is to write grants. I asked to make some calls.

This was something I could do, and I felt like I was making a contribution.”



Moore says the calls take anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes a week.

“I can call from the car, or wherever I am,” she says. “I’ve been getting to know these folks and their families. They’re so sweet. I feel I’m getting as much from them if not more from the interactions. I hope I can go see all of these people and introduce myself.”

Moore has also found out about other services the recipients need.

“You just never know what people need,” she says. “They have challenges over and above just food. It’s good to know the program is making a difference.”

Once Meals on Wheels starts delivering more, Fink says, she’ll send out a survey to find out how many volunteers cannot participate.

“Some churches have big lists of volunteers,” Fink notes. “We have room for anybody who wants to volunteer.”

That would include substitute route delivery, grocery shopping, and comfort calls. There are anywhere between 270 to 290 recipients, so some routes are now being split, Fink says.

Meals on Wheels is also following safety protocol, providing masks and hand sanitizers for drivers, and reminding volunteers to practice social distancing at delivery.

Even though some volunteer opportunities in the community are not available now, the need continues at Rowan Helping Ministries. There have been no cases of COVID among its guests or staff members, according to Kyna Grubb, executive director.

Betsy Warner is director of community relations at RHM. There are three steps before volunteers can serve: confirm status of health; confirm immediate needs; and sign up to serve.

At present, volunteers may serve meals in Jeanie’s Kitchen (small groups of three to five), attend food packing parties for Food for Thought (groups of three to 10), shelter laundry (one to two individuals) and food pantry (groups of three per shift).

For further details, visit www.rowanhelpingministries.org/volunteer.

In Mom's Memory

Lorna Reasor's Family Makes Gift to Benefit Children of the CDC

By Susan Shinn Turner

Lorna Reasor may have been an octogenarian, but there weren't many age groups at St. John's she wasn't involved in.

She was a passionate member of the Rainbow Makers group that serves the Child Development Center. She attended a morning women's Bible study once a week at Panera. She hosted The Next Chapter small group for lunch at her home once a month.

So her death on July 11 leaves a void in many areas of congregational life.

"Lorna's care for others was beyond anything I've ever seen. She invested so much of herself in people without ever seeking credit or acknowledgment. What an inspiration she was," says Pastor Rhodes.

In her memory, her four children have made a gift to St. John's of \$100,000 to the G2G Phase 2 campaign. They are Clayton Reasor of New Mexico, Claudia Callivas of Pawley's Island, S.C., Lydia Dayton of Davidson and Todd Reasor of California.

"In her will," Dayton explains, "she had divided her estate equally among the four siblings. But we were in a position where we felt we wanted to give to churches she'd been a part of that were a huge part of her life."

Those include St. John's as well as Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atlanta, the city from which Reasor and her husband, the late George Reasor, moved when they came to Salisbury in 2009. Her husband, who had Parkinson's disease, died a year later.

"The Lutheran Home had fantastic reviews," Dayton says, "and Bill Johnson was a godsend with my dad. Right away, my mom was spending five days a week with my dad, and looking for a big Lutheran Church. She was drawn to St. John's. She decided that's where she wanted to be."

At St. John's, Dayton says, her mom "was able to stay busy, and she was happiest busy."



She also continued to volunteer at Trinity Oaks after her husband died.

Of the gift, Dayton says, "we siblings decided it was something she would have liked to have done, so we did it for her."

Pastor Rhodes sent schematics of the new outdoor play area and of the CDC. The play area needs a new fence, and the facility desperately needs a new kitchen, according to Ruth Ann Diehl,

business manager.

"She adored the kids there, so that's where we would like to put the money," Dayton says.

Reasor also loved hosting the Next Chapter small group each month at her home for lunch, her daughter says. "It was a very uplifting group that was so close and devoted to each other."

While some small groups break for the summer, that one did not, Dayton says. "They've all been wonderful. They've all reached out. And we've given them things of my mother's to remember her by."

Besides her four children, Reasor also had six grandchildren (one deceased), and two great-granddaughters. She was also godmother to Dayton's youngest daughter.

Of his mother, Clayton Reasor wrote, "I identify with the idea of sharing God's love and compassion, and my mom was a living example of that to me. I was lucky to have Lorna Reasor as my mom. She always found peace and love in the services and St. John's and in service to her Lord."

"Lorna was a pure soul," Pastor Laura says. "She always was willing to help with anything. Lorna wanted to draw people in, to make them feel loved, appreciated, and seen. She was such a gift to this community and will be missed."

Reasor will be buried in Missouri on her family farm in the spring of 2021.

Update on the new CDC Director

The search for a new Executive Director at the CDC has taken a few twists and turns. After an extensive search, the position was offered to and accepted by an outstanding candidate who would need to relocate to Salisbury for the position. In late September, a very unfortunate family crisis caused the director-elect to pull out of consideration. As a result, the process begins again, with the formal application process re-opening on September 28.

“God’s plan is greater than ours,” says Jeanie Moore, who is helping to lead the search. The previous candidate “allowed us to dream big,” which will serve us well as we interview new candidates.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for the right person,” says Pastor Rhodes. “The CDC is respected around the community and well-positioned for a bright future. We’re absolutely certain that God is preparing the right person at this very moment.”

The CDC, which began 20 years ago, has an enrollment of 150 children, infant through pre-K, and a small after-school



Until the director position is filled, Lonna Richardson and Kristy King are filling the position as interim CDC directors. Thank you Lonna and Kristy!

program. The center is rooted in the Christian tradition, with core values that include dynamic and innovative learning, a high level of diversity among students and staff, creativity, positive social interaction, and stewardship of the earth.

Kindergarten Adjusts to a New Normal

“Kids are so incredibly resilient.”

That’s the observation — and joy — of the Kindergarten teachers these days. After spending a good portion of the summer getting ready for a Covid-friendly learning environment, they’ve been so pleased to watch kids adjust quickly without missing a beat.

When in large group settings, the children wear masks and learn good social practices. “They don’t hesitate,” Teresa says. “They’re always so eager and willing.” In their small group “pods,” children engage freely, learning the joy of life together.



Council Awards \$30,000 in Endowment Grants

The St. John's Endowment Fund was established in 1974 by a gift from the will of D.J. Mahaley to provide additional financial support for community ministry, the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA, and the mission of the ELCA. Our Congregation Council distributes grants twice each year (March and September) to those groups who are consistent with the vision and mission of the congregation.

Those receiving September 2020 grants include:

Partners for Education, Salisbury \$5,000

To help fund the Rowan-Salisbury Schools "Student Passion Projects" and any other needs for students that arrive this school year during Covid-19 and virtual learning days. Passion project funding will enable students to complete projects that may have associated costs that are more than they can afford individually.

Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem \$7,000

As Covid-19 has brought tourism in Bethlehem to a complete halt, our mission partners at Christmas Lutheran have struggled to maintain their ministry. This grant will fund the congregation's musician, children's minister, and administrative staff for 6 months.

The Bread Riot, Salisbury \$2,000

To provide 100 boxes of local produce to families of school children and to seniors in low-income housing.

Escuela Integrada, Antigua, Guatemala \$2,400

The Executive Director of our partner school in Guatemala, Escuela Integrada, is funded entirely by private donations. This recurring grant will provide a \$200 monthly stipend for Hannah Nadeau Giron.

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program \$1,000

While YAGM's global volunteers were sent home because of the pandemic, this grant will help sustain the program as it prepares a new cohort of volunteers, who hopefully will be deployed in Fall 2021.

Hope for Today Counseling Service, Salisbury \$5,000

"Hope for Today" is St. John's counseling ministry during the Covid-19 pandemic. The grant provides full funding for those in need of individual counseling.

The Music House, Salisbury \$2,000

Funds to help renovate a space for individual piano lessons, small music classes, and performance space. The goal is to provide musical opportunities and resources to children and youth who otherwise could not afford private lessons.

Isenberg Elementary School (books for library) \$1,460

The grant will help purchase the 2020 children's book award winners for the Isenberg Elementary School library.

Sudan Rowan, South Sudan \$4,140

The grant will fund teacher professional development and virtual learning supplies for grades 7-9.

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED, September 2020 \$30,000

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 continue 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!



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Currently, LDR is responding to:

- Hurricane Laura
- California wildfires
- The Derecho storm in the midwest
- COVID-19
- and much more ...

Because the ELCA covers all administrative expenses of LDR, you can be confident that every dollar you give goes to direct relief assistance. Give online at elca.org.

Spam Email Scams

If you receive an email from a pastor or staff member asking you to send gift cards or click a link, it is almost certainly a phishing scam. The church staff will never ask you to purchase and send gift cards.

Before clicking a link, check where the email is coming from. Our church email address always include the staff member's name@stjohns-salisbury.org.

If you receive an email from another address, please mark as spam, and notify the church.

Fall Programming Guide

Check out upcoming ministry opportunities, sign up for events and mailing lists, and learn how to volunteer all in one place online!

stjohns-salisbury.org/fall-programming

5 Reasons to Make a Pledge

1. It's a beautiful way of saying thanks to God.
2. It yokes us with generations of women and men who have graciously supported the work of the church
3. It provides necessary resources for significant ministry.
4. It sets the stage for a dynamic future.
5. It helps the church create a realistic budget for the coming year. That's right: we'll build our 2021 budget based on the pledges we receive during this campaign.

Thank you!

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 LV (Sonny) Lippard would like to thank everyone for their care and concern through Sonny's failing health and death on Aug. 22. Your calls, visits, flowers, food, memorials, thoughts and prayers have meant so much to our family and helped to comfort us! Our family has always loved St. Johns, and this is but one reason why.

Love to you all.

Nancy and the Lippard Family

Dear Church Family,

We are so grateful for all the texts, cards, calls, and meals. John is doing better daily thanks to your prayers.

Thanks and love,
Cheryl & John Sjoblom

Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
celebrating September birthdays:*

Mimi Carlton, Lois Carter, Fran Hole, Glenn Ketner, Karl Kinard, Genny Mozolak, Reggie Munday, and Luther Sowers

Consolation

Brent and Mallory Patterson and family, on the passing of Brent's dad, Steve, on September 2.

Stephanie, Tim, Christopher, and Brandon Kafitz, on the passing of Stephanie's father, Steve Summers, on Monday, Sept. 14. A private funeral will be held at a later date.

Jonny Black and Trixie Martin, on the passing of Jonny's mother, Victoria Higinia Rivera, on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Paula Kafitz and Tim Kafitz and family, on the passing of their husband and father, David, on September 27.

Baptism

Calvin James Starrett, son of Ryan and Kelli Starrett, was baptized Sept. 26, 2020.

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

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.....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
YouthLaura Henrik
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
CDC Interim Directors Lonna Richardson and Kristy King

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

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.

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Please deliver by Oct. 1

Eagle's View Deadline

The November Eagle's View will be published in October.
Please email stories and news to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by **October 9!**

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.*