



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

A campaign for 'the heart of campus'

'The Final Stretch' seeks to raise \$750,000, wrapping up G2G Phase 2

By Susan Shinn Turner

Phase 2 of G2G is now underway. A campaign to wrap up this part of the fundraising, "The Final Stretch," will run through April 11.

Phase 2 of Generation to Generation will replace the core infrastructure in the sanctuary building and bring needed updates to the Child Development Center. A total of cash and pledges equaling \$2.8 million has been raised toward the \$3.5 million project, creating \$750,000 which is still needed.

"This is the first major renovation of the Sanctuary since 1975," says Mike Agee, a longtime member of the G2G Steering Committee. "This is our opportunity to focus on what I consider the heart of the St. John's campus. When you think of St. John's, you think of our sanctuary. If you look where we have the most people, it is in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall."

The committee originally embarked on the final phase of the effort this time last year — then coronavirus hit. Fortunately, the work being done with the architects, Diane Gibbs and Bill Burgin of Ramsay Burgin Smith Architects, continued.

"We had three excellent general contractors who bid," Agee says. "We talked with six contractors and three submitted bids. We were a little bit apprehensive, but the bids came back favorably."

R.L. Glover Construction Co. was unanimously selected by the Congregation Council to be presented to the congregation as the general contractor. That vote is slated for April 25 during a called congregational meeting.

The base bid includes the core work for the Sanctuary building and improvements for the Child Development Center.



"We have a real good set of plans of what we know about now," says Franco Goodman, who serves with Agee on the building team. "We are head and shoulders above where we were the first go-round."

Thus far, 178 pledges have been received of a total 516 giving units, with 338 potential pledges remaining, according to Mark Lewis, Steering Committee chair. Like Phase 1, Phase 2 is a three-year pledge campaign.

"We are building for future generations just like they did for us," Agee says. "Phase 2 was part of the original plan. We needed to take a breath, we needed to use our facilities that we had just put in place, and then find the time to move forward."

"Our community of faith is pretty amazing," Goodman says. "Most people are very generous and want to be able to step up and help in any way they possibly can. This building is a beacon for downtown. When I went to see somebody, there was never any hesitation of trying to do as much as one could do. And I think that's the way it'll be this time. We were in the midst of a plan that got delayed by COVID. Hopefully we can continue to raise the dollars we need and complete the whole project."

"We built a beautiful building in the Faith Center," Lewis says, "and the building is wonderful. We are all proud of it. But what we are more proud of is the ministry that takes place there. That's at the heart of this phase 2 plan, as well."

"The programs that we have initiated since Covid began have been amazing," Goodman says. "That's been the glue that's holding us together. Kudos to the leadership of our church."

"Our ministry hasn't stopped during Covid," Agee says. "It's just been different."

Continued on page 17.

“The Ninth Inning”

A letter from our Congregation President



Mike and Sharon Edwards

Dear friends,

Thirteen months ago, I was sitting in the stands at a spring training baseball game in Florida, oblivious of what was about to happen. From baseball to being in church, things slowed way down.

Likewise, during the first months of 2020, we were just beginning our G2G phase 2 Campaign to renovate our facilities ... until Covid slowed

things way down. Well, friends, it's time to start things up again!

A short history of our facilities. St. John's began with German settlers meeting in homes as early as 1747. Our first structure on North Lee Street was built in 1768. The structure lasted until the early 1800s when we joined with Episcopalians and built a new church on the same site. Then we moved to a larger worship space at North Main and Liberty streets in 1857. On Jan. 2, 1927, we relocated to our current site and built this beautiful sanctuary. In 1967, an education building and chapel were dedicated. A Memorial Garden and Columbarium were added in 1997, and the Child Development Center was completed in 1999. In April 2012, we dedicated the Community Ministry Center and on Sept. 12, 2015 we dedicated the Faith Center.

Sharon remembers the first time she came to St. John's. It was for a community-wide Relay for Life team meeting in our

basement fellowship hall. Later on, when we first attended a service in the main Sanctuary, we were mesmerized by the beauty of that holy space.

Such beauty doesn't come by accident, but through the dedicated commitment of members past, present, and future. There is no doubt our members have been good stewards and caring members of St. John's. Without their great leadership, planning, and follow through, we would not be the church we are today. I want to thank them — and that includes many of you — for that leadership.

As we step into the future, Sharon and I are very much aware that the same kind of responsibility is now entrusted to us — to be good stewards of resources God has entrusted to us. That's why it's so important to embark on the renovation of this nearly 100 year old sanctuary building.

From a simple log structure in 1768, this 274 year old parish has come a very long way. Throughout — including our newest venture, the CDC Outdoor Learning Environment — St. John's has proven to be a faithful partner to our community and the mission God has entrusted to us. What a great place to be.

We are now in the ninth inning of completing our G2G Campaign. We can do this, I know it. From generation to generation, we've proven to be faithful stewards of our mission and the facilities that serve that mission. Sharon and I are eager to continue in that legacy. We hope you'll join us.

Mike Edwards
President, Congregation Council

Congregational Meeting to Approve G2G Contract Sunday, April 25, 10:30 am Zoom and In-person (Faith Center)

Informational meetings are set for
Sunday, April 18 at 1:30 pm
Wednesday, April 21 at 5:30 pm
both in the Faith Center and zoom.

Holy Week and Easter Worship at St. John's

The 40-day season of Lent comes to a conclusion on Easter as the church around the world gathers to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Experience the fullness of the story by joining us online throughout Holy Week. Together we'll walk from the gates of Jerusalem to the Upper Room, from the cross to the tomb.

Palm Sunday

March 28

The Passion Narrative retold through dramatic music, instrumentation, drama, and art.

9:27 am in the Faith Center

11 am in the St. John's Sanctuary and Online*

**In accordance with the governor's new guidelines for worship, capacity is limited.*

Please reserve your space for Palm Sunday worship in the sanctuary by calling the church office.

Maundy Thursday

April 1

A service that remembers "the night on which he was betrayed." Maundy means "command," which draws upon Jesus' final command to his disciples to "love one another." Our worship ends with the stripping of the altar.

12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel

7pm in the St. John's Sanctuary and Online

Good Friday

April 2

A dramatic Tenebrae service of darkness, when we remember the power of God's love and the sacrifice of Christ on a cross.

12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel

7pm in the St. John's Sanctuary and Online

Easter Sunday

April 4

A festival service that celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*8:30 am in the St. John's Sanctuary**

9:27 am in the Faith Center

11 am in the St. John's Sanctuary and online*

**In accordance with the governor's new guidelines for worship, capacity is limited.*

Please reserve your space for Easter Sunday worship in the sanctuary online or by calling the church office.

FIRST LOOK



April

This month in First Look (birth to 4 years old) we will answer the question: Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Jesus's love is so wide, long, deep and high. This month we "fly a kite" to see just how high it goes!

Our Bible verse of the month:

"HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST." EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

NO Sunday School on EASTER, April 4 or April 11.

April 18, 3-5 pm: Fly a Kite (in-person)

252 Kids



April

In April, our 252 Kids (K-5th graders) will learn that when we make peace with others, it's like we're building a bridge across to the other side. We can reconnect and prove we care more about each other than winning an argument.

Our Bible verse of the month:

"SO LET US DO ALL WE CAN TO LIVE IN PEACE. AND LET US WORK HARD TO BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER." ROMANS 14:19, NIRV

April 18, 7 pm: 5th grader Zoom

April 25, 3-5 pm: Build a Bridge (in-person)



After posting on Facebook that I needed a race car, I received a phone call from Ben and Eva White. Not only did Ben offer racing posters but he had his "back in the day" racing uniform that worked perfectly! It's so cool to see how God works, and I hope the First Look age group is getting a kick out of this race gear to go along with our "Start your Engines" theme for March!

Let's GO GO GO shine our LIGHT into the WORLD! Thank you Ben and Eva for making this seem even more real and fun! Also a thank you to Ann Bostian for the race flags as they top off the look wonderfully!

- Stacey



Nursery Available for Easter

Our goal is to have nursery open for both 9:27 and 11 am worship, beginning Easter Sunday, April 4. We will follow COVID protocol. Nursery volunteers and staff will be required to wear masks.

If you are interested in volunteering or working in the nursery, please contact Stacey Shafer, stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Save The Date

3 years old - 1st grade

June 13-15

Sunday, 3 - 5pm

Monday - Tuesday, 9 - 11:15am

2nd - 5th grade

June 16-18

Wednesday- Friday, 9 - 11:15pm

Space is limited. Registration for St. John's Kingdom Kids opens April 18.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Meeting

April 28 at 7pm on Zoom

Contact stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org for zoom link



Look for more information in May Eagle's View.



First Communion

On March 7 and 21, a total of 15 participated in First Communion. Congratulations to these young people as they take this important step in their faith journey.

Holy Week and Easter Drive Through

On Sunday, March 21, Stacey Shafer, Children's Minister, and Pastor Laura handed out special Holy Week and Easter bags for children, birth to 18 years old! Families also dropped off the final personal care kits, to wrap up our Lenten Service Project. The collection boxes are overflowing!





The Well Middle School

In April, our middle schoolers will continue a series called “No Matter What,” where they will be reminded that we’re loved, important, and forgiven— no matter what!

“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” 1 John 4:10 NLT

Sunday, March 28, 4-5:15 pm — Youth Group
 Thursday, April 1, 6:30 pm — Maundy Thursday Service (Lenten Book)
 Friday, April 2, 6:30 pm — Good Friday Service (Lenten Book)
 *Sunday, April 4 — Easter Sunday NO YOUTH GROUP
 Sunday, April 11, 4-5:15 pm — Youth Group
 Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-7:15 pm — Confirmation Unit 4 — Faith Alive Makeup (ZOOM)
 Sunday, April 18, 4-5:15 pm — Youth Group
 Wednesday, April 21, 6:30-7:15 pm — Unit 4 — Faith Alive Makeup (ZOOM)
 Sunday, April 25, 4-5:15 pm — Youth Group
 Wednesday, April 28, 6:30-7:15 pm — Unit 4 — Faith Alive Makeup (ZOOM)



Youth Sunday 2019



FUEL High School

In April, our high school students will continue a series about remembering who God is and who we are because of Him, titled, “Afterlife.”

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. JOHN 3:16-17 NIV

*Sunday, April 4 — Easter Sunday NO YOUTH GROUP
 Sunday, April 11, 6-7:15 pm — Youth Group
 Sunday, April 18, 6-7:15 pm — Youth Group
 Sunday, April 25, 6-7:15 pm — Youth Group

Join us for Youth Sunday, April 25

Youth Sunday is April 25! And the theme is “Just Keep Swimming!”

High School youth will participate in worship at 9:27 am and 11 am as greeters, ushers, and more! Grace Shafer and Noah Hines are preaching at 9:27 am, and Anna Everhart will be preaching at 11 am.

All high school youth are invited to participate.

Senior Seasons Program Re-Start

Now that many have received both their COVID vaccines, we can begin to enjoy more in-person meetings and outings. We will continue to provide for social distancing, mask-wearing when necessary, and hand sanitizer use is always a good idea. The plan is to begin having those activities where we can reconnect. The two activities for April are a lunch-n-learn and an outing to Tiger World, which we had planned last Spring when COVID hit.

Lunch-n-Learn

Program: Bob Bruce, President of the Genealogical Society of Rowan County, will speak about how to get started with genealogical research. He will share some readily available tips, tools, and resources. Even if you are not going to do this research, you can learn something new, enjoy a meal, and good fellowship! Let's get back in the swing!!!



When: April 13, 2021
Time: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Where: The Pit

Lunch: Provided at no cost or you can bring your own. *We will have adequate space to social distance and enjoy lunch during the program. Please sign up online!*

Tiger World Field Trip

Lions, Tigers, and Peacocks—oh my! Tiger World is a nonprofit animal conservation and educational center dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and preservation of exotic animals. You will see animals in their natural setting and can see them running, playing, swimming, eating, sleeping, and interacting with a handler. This is a guided tour.



When: April 27, 2021
Time: 10 am to 12 pm
Where: Load the bus or van at 9:30 am at the church. Tiger World is in Rockwell, NC.
Restriction: To ride on group transportation, you must be fully vaccinated, but you may travel in your own car.
Cost: \$12.
Lunch after the Tour: Optional, on your own.
Sign up online.

Sign up for the Senior Seasons email!

Each Friday, our seniors get an update with upcoming events, zoom links, and the "Thought for the Day."

If you would like to receive these emails, please contact the church office 704-636-3431 or email angel@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Join a Small Group this Spring

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

If you are still looking to join one of our new small group studies, please check out our upcoming studies. If you are interested in one of these small group studies, email Danny Hines at danny@stjohns-salisbury.org or sign up on the St. John's website in the adult small group ministry section. These 3-6 week studies provide you with the opportunity to engage in Bible study that is practical, thought provoking and applies to your everyday life. We will provide descriptions of these studies in *FaithLife* as well. We will begin this in a Zoom format but can easily transition to meeting in person when possible.



Never Be the Same

Tuesdays, April 13-27, 7-8 pm
The Well and Zoom

It's safe to say that not everyone likes change. Some people do, but not everyone. And not everyone reacts to change the same way, either—some avoid it while others embrace it. But whether or not you like change, change is constant. Change is inevitable. Change is good, change is bad, change is hard, and change is easy. And nearly everyone will experience all of the different kinds of change in their

lifetime. So, since we're all going to experience change, what do we do when it happens? And maybe more importantly, what does change do to us—or rather, what should change do to us? In this series, we're going to look at the role of change in the life of a Jesus-follower. The writers of Scripture were certainly no stranger to change, and Jesus wasn't, either. A lot of them had quite a bit to say about what change means—and their wisdom still applies to us today. Change may not be easy, but it certainly isn't the end of our story. In fact, it may just be the beginning. And when we embrace the transforming aspect of change, we'll discover that we'll never be the same. Easter is an invitation to a new way of life.

(Day and Times for this small group are flexible depending on the Group's availability to meet)

If you are looking for thought provoking weekly Bible Studies, Bible Project.com offers some very insightful studies on their website. You can access the weekly Bible Studies at the top of the opening page. These Bible Studies are geared for individuals and families.

Ongoing Opportunities

Contact Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org to sign up

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

Mom's Group Wraps Up "For the Love" Book Study



Our mom's group wrapped up a 6-week study on "For The Love" by Jen Hatmaker. This book caught my attention in our church library just by the cover. After reading through it one time I knew this was perfect for our mom's group! Some ladies were able to join every week, some one time or so but everyone who bought the book texted me weekly saying how much they loved it! Jen Hatmaker adds laughter and truth to being a middle aged women living day to day life. While wearing leggings and overalls, we're running our race and trying our best to prepare our children for the path, not the path for our children. We are thankful for our tribe and would love for you to join us in our next book study in the future!
-Stacey Shafer

"The Walk"

A deeper dive into our Lenten Sermon Theme

Begins April 7, 7-8 pm in the Well

When our Lenten sermon series is over, join us for a deeper dive into the 5 essential practices of the Christian life, beginning April 7, 7-8 pm in the Well.

Perhaps the sermon series teased you into thinking more carefully about the "practice" of being a Christian. This study goes deeper — to help us see how these practices set the stage for a truly abundant life.

We'll be using Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*, upon which the sermon series is loosely based. The study is offered via Zoom and in-person, in the Well.

We'll be asking a core question: "How do we walk with Christ

--daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him?" The answer comes as we look carefully at the life of Jesus and the writings of the earliest apostles. Together they lift up Christian practices that have been a part of the church's spiritual life for over 2,000 years.



"Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ," says Danny Hines, "while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

Understanding these practices is a critical part of being a disciple."

Want to learn more? Contact danny@stjohns-salisbury.org for information

New Independent Studies debut on the St. John's Website

By Susan Shinn Turner

As many worship opportunities have moved online at St. John's this past year, so have adult discipleship opportunities.

In 2021, adult ministries is offering a host of classes in independent studies, according to Danny Hines, minister for adult discipleship.

"We want to help people take advantage of the many different virtual resources that offer on-demand, go at your own pace study of the Christian faith. We are identifying outstanding virtual resources and then dividing them into several categories, such as Bible, Spirituality, Lutheranism, and The Christian Life. We're also developing our own content."

"During the pandemic," Hines continues, "a lot of people have become familiar and more comfortable with online activity and study. We don't think that will go away when everything has opened back up again."

Pastor Rhodes continues: "In addition, we have a lot of folks engage with our ministry exclusively through our website and social media platforms. Some live out of town; others are not yet ready to participate in-person. These web-based independent studies will help us engage with this much broader audience, while helping them grow in faith."

You can go to stjohns-salisbury.org/discipleship/adults, then click on the independent studies button.

As of this writing, there are four courses listed, but more will be added as time goes by.

- **Step by Step** is a six-part study on Luther's Small Catechism. The course begins with the Ten Commandments, followed by the Lord's Prayer (set to go live in May), baptism, holy communion, and confession. The Ten Commandments study is led by ELCA Presiding



Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and includes a printable study guide. Other topics in Step by Step will include studies led by St. John's members and other leaders.

- The **Virtual Stations of the Cross** is a devotion following the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. It can be done any time of the year, but is commonly part of the Lenten spiritual practice, specifically on Good Friday.
- **Divine Encounters: Mapping Your Spiritual Life** is a five-part course designed to prepare you spiritually and emotionally as you begin your biblical and theological studies. Offered by Daily Bread University, each lesson averages 18 minutes.
- Also offered by Daily Bread University, **Genesis-Leviticus: God Builds a People for Himself** is a three-part study of the first three books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus. From the creation of all things to the creation of Israel as a nation at Sinai, this course studies God's process of building a nation to represent Him on earth. It is the foundation for understanding the struggles and triumphs of the relationship between God and Israel that is recorded in the rest of the Old Testament books. Each lesson averages 26 minutes.

For more information about St. John's independent studies courses, please visit stjohns-salisbury.org or email Danny Hines at danny@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Thine is the Glory *ELW 376 A Hymn of Easter Triumph!*

By Rob Durocher

Minister of Worship and the Arts, Deacon

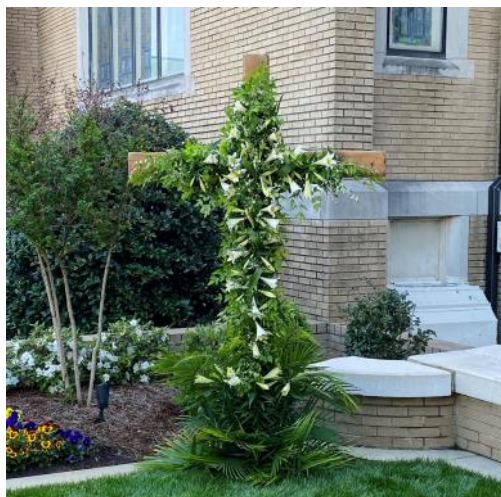
There are some hymns that just make our worship experience on Easter Sunday complete. Among these are the hymns *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*, and *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*, but one of the most triumphant hymns of Easter was gifted to us by a theologian and pastor, born in Vevey, (near Lausanne) Switzerland named Edmond Louis Budry, (1854-1932). Budry was ordained in the Free Church of Switzerland and was fluent in many languages using this ability to translate hymns from German, English, and Latin into French. In 1884, he wrote *Thine Is the Glory*, (*À toi la gloire, O Ressuscité!*) a hymn that came from his own heart.

The English text that we sing today was translated in 1923 from French to English by Pastor Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939), a Baptist minister from Lancashire, England. In 1885, *Thine Is the Glory* appeared in *Evangelical Songs* (Cantique Evangelique), and later, the hymn appeared in the World Student Christian Federation's songbook, *Cantate Domino* in 1924, giving it greater exposure in parts of Europe and spreading in the United States to become a favorite hymn for Easter a generation later!

It was thought that Edmond Budry wrote this hymn in response to the death of his wife. Their faith assured them that her death was not the end - and that there was a final victory because of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. His inspiration in writing his text, according to English hymnologist J. Richard Watson, was based on the story of Christ's resurrection as found in the Gospels as well as the Apostle Paul's writings from I Corinthians chapter 15. Budry's embrace of the phrase '*endless is the victory thou o'er death has won*' comes from I Corinthians 15:57 where Paul says, "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.*

Budry's hymn also refers to I Corinthians 15:54-55 "*Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?*" The first two verses reminded Budry that on that first Easter day, Mary, Peter and John were in utter despair and grief at the loss of their Lord following his crucifixion but as the hours of that day passed their encounters with an empty tomb, folded grave-clothes and the risen Jesus took them from the sting of death to one of joy which was filled with a new found confidence, hope and faith for a future that would be spent with their risen Lord.



*Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and
gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of
triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its
sting.*

Budry believed and preached that our risen Savior transforms lives, just like he did to the disciples that first Easter morning, and even a little later in his encounter with a doubting, skeptical disciple like Thomas who wanted incontrovertible proof that Jesus really was risen from the dead. Thomas got his proof when Jesus told him to stop doubting and believe. After seeing the scars in the hands and feet of the risen Jesus Thomas cried in recognition, *my Lord, and my God!* (John 20: 24-29)

*No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.*

Budry's mentioning of the Jordan River in the final verse of his hymn as a crossing place to the promised land also reminds us of the Israelites in the wilderness who would eventually cross over Jordan into safe Canaan, and we too one day will cross into the promised land because of our risen, conquering Lord because of the victory that Jesus won for us! "The message of this hymn is all about Jesus having broken down the barriers

Continued...

Worship and the Arts

of sin that separate us from God, thereby enabling us to pass over the spiritual Jordan into the promised land of heaven.” (Geoffrey Foote)

The tune to which we sing *Thine is the Glory* to was adapted from a triumphant processional song written by the great composer George Fredrick Handel (1685-1759), originally found in his Oratorio, JOSHUA, but later used in his Oratorio, JUDAS MACCABEUS, especially in the chorus, “*See the Conquering Hero Comes!*” Handel’s tune ‘MACCABBEUS’ brings vitality to the triumphant nature of Budry’s hymn, *Thine Is the Glory*! As Budry wrote his hymn lyrics he most likely had already embraced Handel’s tune to be the musical vehicle to convey his powerful hymn text because it perfectly celebrates the story of the Resurrection, verse by verse, reminding us that Jesus has won an endless victory for you and for me!

So perhaps, the very heart of this glorious Easter hymn is the simple but always powerful refrain: *‘Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is thy victory thou o’er death has won!’* It is because of our risen Savior who conquered death, hell and sin that we can sing hymns of Easter triumph and hymns of Easter joy because of his deathless, eternal love. Hallelujah!

Worship at St. John’s

Online and In-person (subject to change)

Sundays at 11am

Broadcast online from the Sanctuary. Join us by visiting our website or YouTube channel. Search “SJLC.” Our in-person worship is limited to 100 participants. Masks required.

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.

Please watch for updates regarding in-person worship in FaithLife, social media, and website as we monitor recommendations and guidelines for in-person indoor gatherings.

Volunteers Needed: 11 am Worship

Volunteers are needed to greet and take temperatures at 11 am in-person worship.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Linda Phillips, oldpaint63@gmail.com or 704-637-7464.



Shop with a Mission: *Celebrate Earth Day with These Items that Care for God's Creation*

By Susan Shinn Turner

When you shop at Seasons Gifts, you shop with a mission.

"Our goal is to offer unique gifts that bring joy and beauty to our lives, and the lives of others, by partnering with companies that promote fair trade, social responsibility and justice," says Sherry Mason Brown, one of the buyers for our gift shop. "We offer products from organizations in partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church and those who support other mission related endeavors."

Beginning this month, you'll read about ministries behind the gifts.

Earth Day is April 22, so this month we are highlighting products and companies that have a commitment to Creation Care!

Just Neem

Just Neem is a natural skincare line. Here is Just Neem's story, according to its website, justneem.com.

Just Neem helps people find healthy and vibrant skin with natural, plant-based products. Our secret ingredient is Neem! Using the Neem tree, we've created a product that clears your skin naturally. When your skin is healthy, you feel confident and ready to take on the world!

Since 2007, the Just Neem Orchard has been sustainably operated in Mauritania, West Africa, and our source of Neem. We're proud to provide living wages to the farmers that work here and contribute to their community. Our orchard is environmentally friendly, and planting hundreds of Neem Trees in this hot, dry climate has helped mitigate the devastating effects of desertification and reduce carbon dioxide.

Our top priority is to develop and sell high-quality, plant-based products that give our customers healthy, happy skin. We take great pride in the quality and effectiveness of every product while using the highest grade, natural ingredients.



eeBboo

eeBboo is woman owned, family ran, and sustainably sourced. Family and community are the heart of this company and their puzzles and games.

The founder shares the inspiration behind the products on their website, "We wanted to encourage creative thinking, open ended play, and meaningful communication in the products we developed. Telling stories with our children, finding interesting objects innature, and working on crafty projects together informed and inspired what is now the eeBboo line."



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. eeBboo is committed to sustainability. They never use unnecessary packaging. The puzzles and games are printed using vegetable inks on super thick (90%) recycled gray board, so once your family has mastered a game you can pass it onto someone else.

In April, make sure to check out other products that prioritize creation care through sustainability, like Compendium Greeting Cards, Charlies Vianicn lids, and St. John's Creation Care mugs.

If you'd like to shop at Seasons Gifts, please call 704-636-3431 ext 223 to shop virtually with a personal shopper or in-person by appointment. Check the Seasons Gifts Facebook page for upcoming live shopping events, facebook.com/seasonsgifts.sjlc

Guatemala: *Racing for GRACES and Food Bags*

Racing for GRACES! Graces is hosting their 2nd Annual Racing for GRACES event on May 1! We are excited that the race will be held in multiple locations this year- anywhere you live can be a race location! Because our supporters are around the country and the world, we are encouraging everyone to run a distance that suits them in a location that they prefer. GRACES will be raising funds to provide tablets for all of their students so that they can continue to receive an education during this time of remote learning. They will also be raising funds for school supplies, teachers' salaries and more! If you are interested in participating in the Salisbury Hub and socially distanced meetups, please contact Krista Woolly at Kwoolly65@gmail.com or go to <https://wearegraces.org/racing-for-graces/> to sign up individually.



Food Bags The students in Guatemala continue to receive classes at home. For this reason, GRACES continues to raise funds for its Meal Support campaign to provide food bags for all of the families during this time. If you would like to purchase food bags for our students, you can do so at www.wearegraces.org/mealsupport.



Individual Counseling Available

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

Learn more at stjohns-salisbury.org/counseling

Worship and the Arts

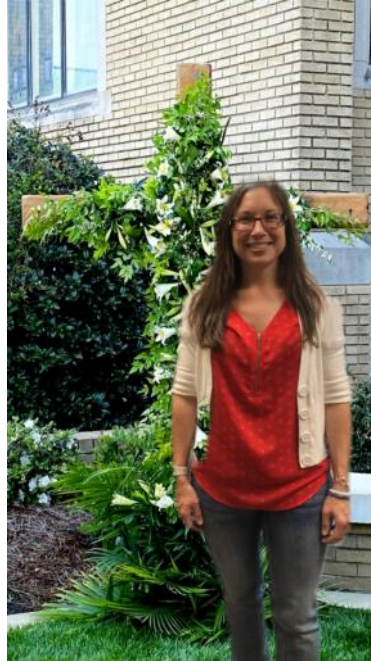
Social Media Filters for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Check out our background effect filters on Instagram and Facebook, for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday!

This year, you can take a family photo in front of the Palms or Easter Cross from your home! Or turn your cellphone camera around for a selfie. While many are still worshipping from home and we continue to honor social distancing guidelines, this is a great way to keep your traditions alive!

Access the filter on Instagram, by clicking the 😊 button on St. John's Instagram. On Facebook, make sure you "Like" St. John's Facebook page, and our filter will show up in your camera carousel.

Share your photos to your personal page and story, and don't forget to tag St. John's, @stjsalisbury.



Thank you to Bradley Chestnut for his ministry at St. John's. We wish him and Caitlin the best in their next chapter. Bradley's last day as Contemporary Worship Leader was March 14. He began his new call at Live Oak Church in Bluffton, SC, near Hilton Head on March 15.



Davis Brown
Interim Contemporary Worship Leader

We are blessed to have Davis Brown as our Interim Contemporary Worship manager. Welcome aboard, Davis!

G2G, Continued from page 1.

In early December, he remembers, an older couple from church came in just to see the Christmas decorations.

“They came just to sit in the Sanctuary for a period of time,” he says. “That building and that environment means a great deal to a great many people. It brings them comfort and strengthens their faith just by being in that building.”

If the congregation approves the plan on April 25, construction will start in early May and take 10-11 months to complete.

Informational meetings are set for 1:30 pm April 18 and 5:30 pm April 21, both in the Faith Center and zoom. The Congregation Meeting is set for April 25 at 10:30 am in the Faith Center and zoom. Zoom links are available on St. John’s website and upcoming FaithLife emails.

A brochure outlining the remaining projects will be mailed to members the week of March 21.

The formal motion from the Steering Committee:

The G2G Steering Committee moves that the St. John’s Lutheran Church Congregation move forward with Phase 2 of the G2G Project as outlined:

We choose RL Glover Enterprises as our General Contractor

We engage RL Glover Enterprises to complete the base bid, Alternate 1A, and Alternate 2 (2A and 2B to be included) not to exceed an aggregate of \$2.8 million

We approve the use of construction financing to bridge the receipt of pledges over the next three years.

Come See the Outdoor Learning Environment

Grand Opening: April 24 and 25

The Grand Opening of the Child Development Center’s new Outdoor Learning Environment is April 24 and 25!

St. John’s members are invited to come check it out on Saturday, April 24, 10 am - 12 pm or Sunday, April 25, 2- 4 pm.

You’ll get a close-up look into how this “natural playground” invites student interaction, discovery, and play. We’re excited to see which feature is your favorite!

CDC staff will have a contest to choose the perfect name. The name can be revealed at the Open House.

Be sure to check out our Conversations that Matter podcast episode with Colleen McDaniel, who helped design and construct the project!



Around the Congregation

Thank you to the anonymous donor. We have designated your gift to the Child Development Center.

Thank you so much for the extreme generosity.

- Janet and Joe Sims

Dear St. John's family,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for such an outpouring of love and support upon the loss of Scott this past January 22.

The prayers, food, cards, flowers, memorials, help in moving ... it just never seems to end; even here at the end of March. Molly, Miles, Johnny, Lucy, Brad and I are so humbled and grateful for your generosity and compassion.

We are thankful that his suffering is over; but of course, miss him deeply.

Much love to all,

The Robinson Family



Thanks to each of you for your prayers and support during my recent hospitalization and recovery. You prayed for me when I was too weak to pray for myself. Thanks for the cards, meals and all other support each of you gave to Jim and myself during this time. Those things were important during my recovery.

Blessing and prayers to each of you.

Beth Boger

St. John's Leadership

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2021 President Mike Edwards
Vice President Carole Parrott
Secretary Mary Wymbs
Treasurer Tommy Page
Financial Secretary...Cory Gebhardt
Personnel Secretary ... Jeanie Moore

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

Term Expires 2023

Dr. Larry Cartner
Elaine Holden
Brenda Munday
Carole Parrott
Colleen Young

Youth Members

Sacha Medina and Ryan Brady

Benevolent Foundation Trustees

Chip Bridges, Chair
Chris Agner
Margaret Kluttz
John Denker
Lori Yang

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

Congratulations

Jeffrey Stephenson, Emmett Stephenson, Noah Brown, and Mason Brown who were baptized at our 9:27 service on Mar. 14.



Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
celebrating April birthdays:*

Rosalie Adams, Rudy Boksleitner, Elizabeth Brady, Betty Brown, Ellen Fink, LaNell Martin, Bob Melton, Joanne Myers, Jim Ryser, Alda Smith, Barbara Waggoner, Julius Waggoner, Gerry Webster

Calendar Updates

You may have noticed the monthly calendar has not been included in the Eagle's View for several months. Due to the necessity for schedule flexibility because of COVID safety precautions, please continue to check the Wednesday FaithLife, social media, and our website for the latest calendar updates.

You may also sign up for more detailed information from Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Senior Seasons via email.

Thank you for your continued patience regarding scheduling and promotion.

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, InterimDavis Brown

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

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

Worship During Covid-19 Restrictions

Traditional Worship Sundays at 11 am in the Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship Sundays at 9:27 am in the Faith Center

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 March 25

Eagle's View Deadline

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