

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

Welcome back!

A slow return to in-person gatherings

By Susan Shinn Turner

As the congregational life of St. John's returns to normal, some folks — new and old — are asking how they can become involved.

"Our first priority is to welcome people back to in-person gatherings, service, and worship," says Pastor Rhodes. "We're also aware that serving and volunteering are great ways to get connected and learn to know people. It's a lot more fun working in the garden together, don't you think?"

There are plenty of ways to become involved. Here's a look at a few. See more on pages 16-17 of this newsletter.

Worship and the Arts

In January, Corinne Mauldin took over as chair of the Worship and the Arts Ministry Group from longtime chair Gretchen Witt. Those are big shoes to fill, Corinne notes, and she appreciates Gretchen's continuing guidance.

"As we return to worship, we'd like to welcome people into the joy of pulling it all together," Corinne says. "There are so many different ways to become involved." That includes everything from being a lector, a communion assistant, or serving on the Altar Guild.

"Sometimes people don't know what's available," Corinne says, "and you don't have to volunteer every week. Every now and then is just great."

With the help of Rob Durocher, Corinne is putting together a quarterly schedule for worship volunteers.



Rosalind Hines, greeter



Jay Dees, reader

"This gives people a chance to plan ahead," she notes.

"I'm not a shy person whatsoever," she says. "But in a big church, it is a bit overwhelming. If anyone would like to have a conversation about worship opportunities, it's a great way to explore what we offer."

Dave Roof estimates he's been involved as a worship volunteer for more than 20 years. In addition to being a communion assistant, he's also a lay assisting minister and lector.

"I think it's important for members of the congregation to be part of worship," he says.

Continued on page 14.

Pastor's Letter



Some of the Woollys at Garden City Beach, SC

Dear friends,

One of my favorite things to do in the summer is to find a really good summer book. I usually start with one that's nowhere close to being work-related. This year, John Hart's *The Unwilling* has been waiting for me patiently on my nightstand. I've been holding off until we hit the beach the week of June 17. I can hardly wait to set my chair and feet in the sand and open up to chapter 1.

After that, I plan to dive into *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. It, too, has been waiting on my desk for months, but I didn't want to jump into it too quickly. I'm pretty sure it'll take a while to read and digest, so I set it aside for summer time.

Ahh, summer time. Like Zac Brown says, I can hardly wait to get my "toes in the water" because when you do all the troubles of the world seem to drift away and all you can think is that, well, "life is good today."

Do you have a favorite summer read? I asked members of our staff and here's what they're diving into this summer. Maybe you'll find some inspiration:

Danny Hines: *Total Power* (a Vince Flynn novel in the Mitch Rapp series) by Kyle Mills. On the more serious side he's tackling *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho, a former NFL linebacker and current Fox Sports analyst.

Ruth Ann Diehl: *Educated*, by Tara Westover (Of note: this was one of my favorites summer reads of the last 5 years. Great book.) And *The Audacity of Hope*, by Barack Obama.

Pastor Laura prefers an audiobook to a hand-held one. She's looking forward to listening to *Raising Good Humans: A mindful guide to breaking the cycle of reactive parenting and raising kind, confident kids*.

Taylor Hutchins will tackle *Love is the Way*, by Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry.

Jon Koppe is looking forward to *Can't Hurt Me*, by David Goggins, which tells the story of the author's enormous struggles during childhood and his hard work and perseverance to become a Navy Seal and Army Ranger.

Rob Durocher takes the deep dive, tackling a couple of heady books, including *Maverick: A Biography of Thomas Sowell*, by Jason Riley. Sowell is a conservative social theorist considered one of the great thinkers of his era. He's also looking at *Monsieur de Saint George: Virtuoso, Swordsman, Revolutionary (the "Black Mozart")*, by Alain Guede.

Diane Poole hasn't decided yet, but here's what she says: "I just finished *Priscilla*, by Dr. M.J. Simms-Maddox, retired professor of Political Science at Livingstone College. She's written 4 or 5 other books, which I intend to read next. It's about a young black woman, daughter of a pastor, and her life in the game of politics. Very interesting. She writes in what I call 'old style,' i.e. descriptive enough to tweak your imagination into overdrive instead of the short, sweet, staccato writing of today."

Angel Owens is our reader extraordinaire. She's got several on her list, including *The Rhythm of Prayer*, edited by Sarah Bessey, *Man Enough* by Justin Baldoni, and *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins

And Stacey Shafer is where most folks are in mid-May – she just can't make up her mind yet. She writes, "if anyone has a book about how to let your child go to college, that may be a good subject for me!" If you have a suggestion, just let Stacey know.

Maybe that'll help in your search for the perfect summer read. Whatever you choose, let us know ... and enjoy! After a year like we've had, it'll be so nice to sit back, read a good book, and say "life is good today."

Our best to you this summer.

+Pastor Rhodes

Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

Effective May 23

As we continue to monitor COVID-19 data in our community, we have decided that it's time to make a significant shift towards our return to "normal." We have outlined these new guidelines below.

A reminder that the best way to prevent illness is to be vaccinated. Contact the Rowan County Health Department or Novant Health to schedule an appointment. If you still have questions, three of our members are eager to have conversation with you. They are:

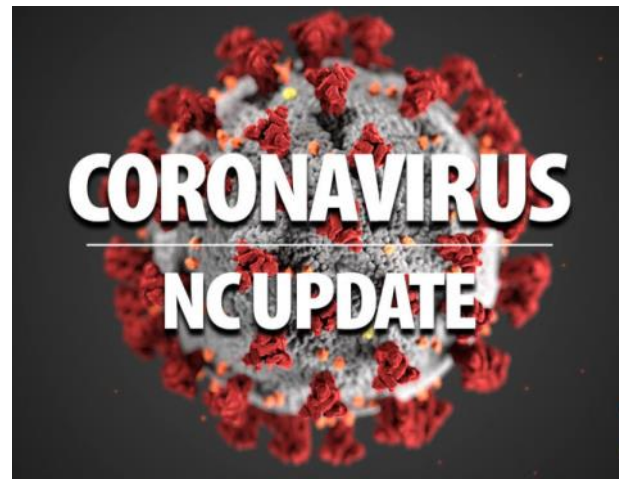
- Dr. Chris Agner, retired physician – 704.314.5306
- Alyssa Harris, director, Rowan County Public Health Department, alyssa.harris@rowancountync.gov or call the COVID direct line at 980.432.1800
- Krista Woolly, executive director, Community Care Clinic, 704.754.3832, kwoolly@communitycareofrowan.org

Current Guidelines for Worship During COVID:

Per the governor's May 14 guidelines, mask wearing is optional for those who are vaccinated. Thank you for wearing your mask if you are unvaccinated or if you feel safer continuing to do so.

Seating has been arranged to provide comfort and protection, without sacrificing a sense of holy intimacy. Please honor our seating arrangements during this time period.

As we continue to battle the virus, please do not enter campus if you have had any of the following symptoms within the last 7 days: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting.



Weekly 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 150 participants.

Sundays at 9:27am

In-person worship in the Faith Center.

Please note: The Midweek Chapel Service of Holy Communion has been discontinued.

Senior Seasons Summer Activities



Dr. Poole to the Rescue!

Are you stir-crazy from being inside too much during the pandemic? The prescription for that condition is participation in Senior Seasons activities! Read on to find out what “Doctor” Poole has prescribed.

June Activities

June 8: Picnic at the Poole’s

Join us for a “welcome back” celebration, June 8, 4-6 pm. This is outside with socially distanced tables. The address is 150 Quail Drive. Picnic foods will be pre-prepared and served in individual containers.



Sat./Sun., June 26-27; Dinner Theatre

Leave the church on June 26 at 3:30 pm

Travel by church bus to the Doubletree Suites Hilton Hotel at Southpark in Charlotte to see the murder mystery, “The Dinner Detective,” including appetizers and a full course meal. The play is PG-13. We will stay the night at the hotel, and attend church at Christ Lutheran on Providence Road on Sunday. The traditional service is at 9 am. After church, we can go to South Park Mall if everyone would like to. There are plenty of eating places, plus shopping. You can ride the St. John’s bus or drive your car.

Ticket cost, including dinner and the entertainment
\$64.95 (Reflects discount of \$5/ticket)

Beverages are separate.

Hotel per person, plus tax, double occupancy

\$67.50 (I will try to get a lower group rate.)

Lunch on your own on Sunday

Bus fee \$5.00

July Activities

July 13: Lunch-n-Learn— “Shakespeare”

Dr. Bethany Sinnott, retired Professor of English Emerita at Catawba College and devoted Shakespearean, will speak about one of her passions, i.e. Shakespeare. Dr. Sinnott taught at Catawba College, specializing in Shakespeare, from 1969-2011. She lectured for the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and received several teaching awards, including the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English Outstanding Teaching Award. She served in several administrative posts including English Department Chair, Director of the Honors Program, and Director of the Humanities Division.



ADA/wheelchair accessible but wheelchairs are not provided. The cost is below. Register by July 1

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| VIP Senior Pass (65 plus) | \$21.60 |
| VIP Adult Pass (1-64) | \$29.10 |
| Bus Fee | \$5.00 |

VIP includes entry to the exhibit, skip the line access, smart phone audio guide (bring your earbuds/headphones), a poster of your choice, and a non-alcoholic drink.

Interested in attending a baseball game?

The Charlotte Knights play the Norfolk Tides, Gwinnet Stripers and the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp teams during weeks of June 27, July 11 and 25, respectively. Specials include giveaways, such as Bobbleheads, and food and drink discounts. Email diane@stjohns-salisbury.org if you are interested!



July 22, 2021 (Thursday, 10 am) in Charlotte

Load the bus at 8:40 am; Limited to 12 people + driver and Diane Poole. The exhibit is a life-size, up-close, never-before-seen perspective of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. Explore his masterpieces from the Sistine Chapel which have been reproduced using state-of-the-art technology for a one-of-a-kind experience. The exhibit is



Celebrate the Christmas Season in Historic Williamsburg's Winter Wonderland!

December 6-8: Williamsburg Bus Tour

YOUR COMPLETE 3-DAY/2-NIGHT PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 2 Nights lodging in Williamsburg
- 2 Breakfasts
- 2 Dinners, including a Tavern dinner & Captain George's Smorgasbord
- Berkeley Plantation Tour
- Day Pass to Colonial Williamsburg
- Newport News - Celebration in Lights
- Star of Wonder Planetarium Show (based on availability)
- Virginia Living Museum
- Souvenir gift
- Luggage handling

- Taxes and meal gratuities
- Motor coach Transportation

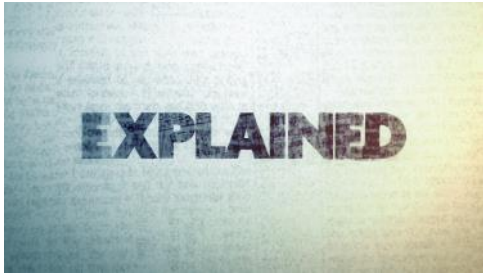
All for the fantastic price of \$459.00 based on double occupancy, \$598.00 single occupancy, and including motor coach transportation! Please register and make your \$50 deposit by Aug. 31. The balance is due Friday, Oct. 15.



Join a Small Group this Spring

If you are still looking to join one of our new small group studies or if you have a group of people that you would like to gather with this summer and form a small group, please see below for 3 new studies that can begin in June or July. These groups can meet at a time and place that is convenient and acceptable to the group. 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.

Sign-up on the St. John's website or contact danny@stjohns-salisbury.org for more information and/or if you are interested in leading this small group Bible Study.



Explained (4-week study)

Date and Location to be determined by group.

Fun fact: The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. But it also might be one of the most difficult books to understand of all time! We're told that the Bible can change us, help us, and guide us—that it can impact every area of our lives. But if we're honest, we'd all probably admit that the Bible can be confusing at times. In fact, it sometimes stirs up more questions than answers. So, how can something that's supposed to change our lives for the better actually help us if we can't understand it? When it comes to the Bible, we could all probably use a little more explanation! That's why in this series, we'll take a closer look at the Bible together. And as we do, we'll discover so much more about how God intended it to be used in our lives today. It's not just about what the Bible is and how we can better read and understand it; it's about why God gave it to us in the first place and how He uses it to shape our relationship with Him. When we approach the Bible as a gift that grows our relationship with God, it becomes so much more than just a book. It becomes a part of a conversation—one that God helps explain along the way.



Attached (3-week study)

Date and Location to be determined by group.

Isn't it amazing how many feelings we can experience over the course of a single day? Happiness. Sadness. Contentment. Anger. Frustration. Annoyance. And that could be within just an hour! All it takes is one word, one action, or one reaction to move us from feeling one end of the spectrum, to feeling all the way to the other side. The reality is, so much of our perspective in life depends on the smallest circumstances going one way or another. How we see life—really great or really challenging—depends on how much we allow our circumstances to affect us. Why? Because we're attached to them. Our moods and our sense of self-worth fluctuate with the good or bad things going on around us. But what if there is another way to live? What if instead of always reacting to the things around us, we can take a more proactive approach to life? Over the next few weeks, we're going to look at the things and circumstances we're attached to, even to the point of letting them determine the quality of our lives, and we're going to see that there's a better option—something that will allow us to take back the control of our lives we were meant to have.

Discipleship



Upside Down (3-week study)

Date and Location to be determined by group.

We all have specific ways we like to do things and certain plans we don't want to get interrupted. For instance, maybe you have a co-working space in your workplace, and you always sit by the same window. Or maybe your son plays first base on his little league baseball team—and has for four years in a row. No matter what those things are for you, we all have them, and they're all part of our world—part of our own little kingdom. But what happens when our little kingdom is interrupted? When someone sits in our spot at work or the coach makes our kid play shortstop instead of first base? In other words, what happens when what we want for our lives collides with someone else's kingdom— or even God's kingdom? Well, as it turns out, Jesus had a lot to say about kingdoms—both ours and His. In this series, as we look at the perspective-shifting ideas Jesus taught His followers, what we'll discover has the potential to completely flip our worlds—and our kingdoms—upside down.

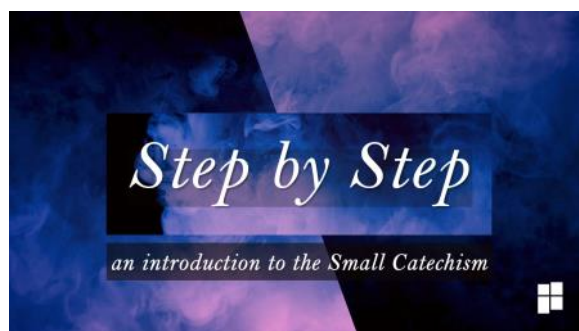
Hospitality – Why it matters

Check FaithLife and our website over the summer for information on how you can become involved as we cast a new vision for hospitality here at St. John's!

Independent Studies

Check out our independent study offerings at:

<https://stjohns-salisbury.org/discipleship/adults/independent-studies>



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

(Returns to Trinity Oaks June 10 with hybrid option. See below.)

Men's Bible Study will return to Trinity Oaks beginning June 10 at the normal time. Parking will be in the back, and you may enter using B wing back door. There are elevators just inside the door to take you to the new meeting space on the second floor. For those who need handicap parking, you may park in the front and use the elevator to the second floor. The new meeting space for Bible Study will be in the second-floor Card and Game room. Come early for a buffet breakfast on the second floor. Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend.

2021 High School Graduates



Aaron Yang graduated from Salisbury High School. Parents are Steve and Lori Yang. After graduation, Aaron plans to begin work.



Anna Everhart graduated from North Rowan High School. Parents are Kelly and Carol Everhart. Anna plans to attend NC State University this fall.



Elizabeth Jones graduated from North Hills Christian School. Parents are Jill and Mike Jones. Elizabeth plans to attend Pfeiffer University.



Ellen Yang graduated from Salisbury High School. Parents are Steve and Lori Yang. Ellen plans to attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Hannah Greene graduated from Salisbury High School. Parents are Mike and Angie Greene. Hannah plans to attend East Carolina University.



Grace Shafer graduated from Gray Stone Day School. Parents are Aaron and Stacey Shafer. Grace plans to attend University of Tennessee.



Kayla Sachse graduated from Gray Stone Day School. Parents are Mike and Jill Sachse. Kayla plans to attend Louisiana State University.



Landon Mesimer graduated from West Davidson High School. Parents are Ryan and Stephanie Mesimer. Landon plans to attend Lenoir Rhyne University.

2021 High School Graduates



Lillie Rusher graduated from Salisbury High School. Parents are Bobby and Kathy Rusher. Lillie plans to attend Catawba College.



Maggie Dees graduated from Salem Academy. Parents are Jay and Meg Dees. Maggie plans to attend Virginia Tech.



Noah Hines graduated from East Rowan High School. Parents are Danny and Rosalind Hines. Noah plans to attend Kansas State University.



Reagan Lowder graduated from North Hills Christian School. Parents are Chad and Maria Lowder. Reagan plans to attend High Point University.



Sam Wood graduated from West Rowan. Parents are Thomas and Rosemary Wood. Sam plans to attend RCCC.



Graduation Sunday and Graduation Cookout

St. John's Awards \$27,963 in Scholarships



On Sunday, May 23, St. John's awarded scholarships to 26 students totaling \$27,963. The scholarships are the result of generous gifts from members who want to encourage and support students in their post-secondary education. The scholarships are part of the St. John's Benevolent Foundation, an \$11 million foundation

started in 1974. In that time period, the foundation has distributed \$7 million in scholarships and grants to local and global groups who seek the common good.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

The Thomas E. Gilbert and Viola H. Bailey Scholarship: Anna Everhart, Alex Yang, John Yang

The Dorothy Click Fesperman Scholarship: Claire Allen, Gemma Brown, Margaret Dees, William Archie Dees, III, Anna Everhart, Spencer Everhart, Hannah Greene, Callie Kirchin, Samuel McNeely, Landon Mesimer, Carsyn Parrott, Harrison Parrott, Emma Ryerson, Kayla Sachse, Grace Shafer, Robert

Sullivan, Alex Yang, Ellen Yang, John Yang

The Scott Rierson Memorial Scholarship: Claire Allen, Gemma Brown, Margaret Dees, Anna Everhart, Callie Kirchin, Samuel McNeely, Victoria Plyler, Lillian Rusher, Kayla Sachse, Ellen Yang

The Emily May Brown Memorial Scholarship and The Bruce Alden Ketner Jr. Scholarship: Claire Allen, Gemma Brown, Margaret Dees, Anna Everhart, Lillian Huebner, Callie Kirchin, Samuel McNeely, Victoria Plyler, Joshua Ruggs, Lillian Rusher, Kayla Sachse, Ellen Yang

The Margaret Cline and Ernest Crawford Safrit Sr. Scholarship and The High B. and Lena B. Lyerly Scholarship: Elizabeth Jones, Victoria Plyler, Lillian Rusher, Katherine Sullivan

S. Smith Memorial: Noah Hines

The Krista and Rhodes Woolly Scholarship: Anna Everhart

Kingdom Kids Update

The last day of Sunday School Facebook Live for the summer was Sunday May 23. Nursery will continue to be offered for infant to 5 year old, during 9:27 am and 11 am worship.

Keep on the lookout for a new seasons of Kingdom Kids programming, starting in September!

And don't forget to register for VBS! Register online!

First Look VBS (3 years to 1st Grade)
Sunday, June 13, 3-5 pm
Monday-Tuesday, June 14-15, 9-11:15 am

252 Kids VBS (2nd-5th Grade)
Wednesday- Friday, June 16-18, 9-11:15 am



St. John's Kindergarten Graduation



Welcome Paula Levianu *New CDC Director to begin June 14!*

We are proud to introduce and welcome Paula Levianu as the new executive director of the St. John's Child Development Center.

Paula is a seasoned professional with 30 years of experience in the field of Early Childhood Care and education. Having a variety of experiences as a childcare provider, teacher in several settings (toddler, preschool, and grade school), center director, Head Start administrator, and childcare quality manager, Paula has the knowledge, skills, and passion for running a high-quality childcare program. She understands the importance of building a dynamic and affirming culture at the CDC, which includes giving high priority to quality care, planning, effective communication, and maintaining positive interaction between staff, families, and the St. John's community at large.

A Pennsylvania native, Paula holds B.A. degrees in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. She is currently completing a master's degree in Early Childhood Studies: Administration, Management, and Leadership through Walden University.



Paula Levianu

June 14 will be her first day at the CDC, but Paula will begin transitioning to the Salisbury community in early June. Join us in extending a big welcome, with prayers for a safe and happy transition.

Worship + Technology @ St. John's

By Susan Shinn Turner

Every time you pull up the livestream broadcast for the St. John's 11 am service, or listen to a podcast, or watch a FaithLife video, you can thank the St. John's Technology Ministry Team.

"Through this whole pandemic, we've been able to create more ministry opportunities," says Taylor Hutchins, who leads the team, and who went full-time with St. John's during COVID. "We've added volunteers to work graphics, camera, sound and lights for our 11 am service."

Although the 11 am service represents the flagship efforts of the team, Taylor also leads the volunteers who provide sound, media and lighting for the 9:27 service.

"That need will grow when we get camera equipment in that space," he notes.

There are basically two approaches to cameras, Taylor explains — manned cameras, and robotic cameras, such as the ones in place in the sanctuary. The Faith Center originally had cameras in its plans when it was completed in 2015, but the cost of \$55,000 was eventually cut.

"Those can be replaced with robotic cameras," Taylor says, "and that technology has developed over time. The robotic camera doesn't take up as much space, and it's much less invasive in the worship spaces."

Taylor notes that the cameras in place in the sanctuary have to be good in low-light situations depending on what type of service is taking place.

St. John's started streaming its 11 am service in November 2018, and purchased new cameras during Holy Week 2019. In March 2020, the Technology Ministry Team started producing pre-recorded services during the pandemic. The services were filmed in the sanctuary because the cameras were already set up.



Taylor Hutchins with technology team volunteers, Carolyn Byrd and Grace Shafer.

Videos can be shot with different levels of quality, and Taylor says he always shoots higher quality than he needs to. Congregation members look forward to each upcoming Sunday service's "trailer" (or preview), shot by either Pastor Rhodes or Pastor Laura via iPhone.

"We've learned things along the way," Taylor admits. "We've definitely had to tweak as we go. We were ahead of the curve going into the pandemic, but we had to find out what worked best for us."

You can access videos of previous services on the St. John's website or its YouTube channel. WSAT, the local radio station, still broadcasts the previous week's service each Sunday at 10 am. You can also watch the previous Sunday sermon each Monday in the FaithLife email. Taylor also produces the monthly "Conversations that Matter" podcast with Pastor Rhodes.

"The beauty of online is that people aren't tied down to a certain time," Taylor points out. "They can watch anytime. It's not anything like being here, but it's as close as we can get."

Continued to page 13.

Continued...

Taylor hopes to add more cameras in the main sanctuary as well as cameras in the fellowship hall to capture teleconferencing capabilities — all the while keeping prices down for the G2G phase 2 project.

“It’s something we can all benefit from, and I’m really excited about that,” Taylor says of the upgrades.

Away from St. John’s, Taylor owns his own company, DKM Media, which provides web design, video productions, drone work, and virtual tours for churches and other non-profit organization.

Of Note: On May 22, 2021, Taylor married Pamela Lopez-Arrendondo of Hickory. Fittingly, they met on e-Harmony.



Taylor Hutchins and volunteers



Congratulations to Taylor and Pam Hutchins, who were married Saturday, May 22 In St. John’s Sanctuary.

Worship and the Arts

Continued from Page 1.

"It's called a service because we are serving God. It's fun to see people's faces and the children who come up to take communion. It's great to be part of our congregation and part of the family of God. Communion is an especially big deal to be a part of. It's the thing I missed most about not being in worship. It's who we are."

As a retired school teacher, Kathy Norris has never minded being in front of groups of people, although she admits serving as a lector in front of a congregation of mostly adults is different.

But, she says, "I get as much or more from these lessons as the congregation does. You feel a connection. I try to look at the people and engage them."

She notes that it does take time to prepare to read the lessons. "I read through them enough times that I feel familiar with the passages," she says. "I want to feel comfortable. You have to decide where you want to accent and put emphasis."

Kathy often reads before and after the selected text to get an idea of the context of the particular scriptures of the day.

"It interests me that people will take the time to stop and say something to me afterward," she says. "It's something that's meaningful for people."



When practicing for the recent Pentecost service, Kathy had the opportunity to sit in the pew and hear Brenda Munday read.

"It was such a blessing to me to sit there and listen to her," she says. "We have so many good readers. When someone does a good job and tries to connect with people, it does mean so much more to me as the listener, and I'm sure to others. I hope that God will help me and use me — and all of us — so that we can be a blessing to others when we are reading."

If you'd like to get involved as a worship volunteer, please contact Corinne Mauldin at 704.202.0536 or corinnemauldin@gmail.com.

Look for more ways to serve at St. John's of page 16 -17.



A CELEBRATION OF LIBERTY

Our Celebration of Liberty will be held on Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 11 am. Guest Soloist, Teresa Moore-Mitchell and the Festival Brass and Chancel Choir will enhance our worship experience as we celebrate our gracious Lord who gave us life and liberty! We'll conclude worship with the singing of the beautiful hymn, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord*.

The June "Conversations that Matter" podcast **Pastor Rhodes Interviews Cutis Walker**

Have you subscribed to the St. John's "Conversations that Matter" podcast?

This month, Pastor Rhodes interviews Catawba College football coach, Curtis Walker. Coach Walker will talk about the state of college sports, recruiting, and the influence of big money on the game. He'll also share a unique perspective on his son's emerging football career. Just this month, Jalen Walker was named the Gatorade player of the year for the state of North Carolina. Be sure to listen in.

Listen to the full conversation by searching "Conversations that Matter" on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, 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!



G2G Updates

G2G Construction will begin June 1!

The work begins with asbestos abatement on the upper floor of the sanctuary building. For your safety, we ask that entrance into the sanctuary be limited to Sunday morning worship until June 15.

All construction is projected to take place over the next 13 months. We'll keep you updated with pictures, videos, and schedules through our weekly FaithLife email and the monthly newsletter.

Questions about construction? Contact Mike Agee. Interested in making a designated gift to the project? Contact Mark Lewis at mlewis@fibrant.com or by calling 704.202.4628. Gifts are still being received for renovations to the music wing and the addition of handicap restrooms on the sanctuary level.



Bread Riot

Volunteers needed to distribute produce

The Bread Riot organization purchases fresh produce from local farmers and distributes it to those in need.

Can you volunteer to pick up the produce and/or pass it out at the designated

location? Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday every week from mid-June to mid-August. Distribution starts about 11 AM. Volunteer as often as you choose. Contact Dottie Hoy at 704-603-8029 or email info@breadriot.org. Thanks!



A Glimpse of Some Other Ways to Serve

By Susan Shinn Turner

Nursery

The 9:27 nursery is now open for members each Sunday from 9:15 am to 10:30 am. Children's Minister Stacey Shafer staffs the nursery with one paid worker and one volunteer.

Attendance has varied since the nursery reopened at Easter.

Meredith Williams and her husband, Jonathan, have used the 11 am nursery over the years for their three children, Ashton, Jackson, and Charlotte.

"Although Jonathan and I like to teach our children very early on how to sit in church and enjoy the worship service, it's not always possible for little ones to make it through an entire hour," says Meredith, also a member of the Children's Ministry Team. "Having a nursery available allows us to engage in church as parents together in worship, which we find is a critical component to the strength and well-being of our family. We appreciate the volunteers who make this possible so very much!"

Josh and Lindsay Triplett attend the 9:27 service with their son, Deacon, who turns 3 in June.

"Deacon really enjoys the musical part of the service," his mom says, "but he struggles when it is time for the sermon. We take him to the nursery as soon as the music is over, so we can focus on the sermon and really hear it."

Because of COVID, Lindsay says, Deacon has had a lot less interaction with other children over the past year. But that's now changing.

"The biggest benefit for the nursery is giving us parents the ability to focus on the sermon and not be a distraction to others," she says, "so we can enjoy church without that anxiety."

If you'd like to serve as a nursery volunteer, contact Stacey Shafer at 704.636.3431 ext. 204 or stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Seasons Gifts

Barbara Jo Corriher schedules volunteers to work in our gift shop. Right now, the shop is only open 9-11 am each Sunday, and one volunteer is needed for a Sunday shift.

"Later in the summer, we'll pick up hours during the week," Barbara Jo notes.

Diane Poole, Director of Senior Adults, trains volunteers on how to ring up customers.

Barbara Jo says she's always had an interest in the gift shop, and likes the fact that it supports Senior Seasons.

The information about the products available for sale — most of which are free trade products that support various ministries around the world — are a great way to learn more about these products while supporting a ministry at the same time.

"I want to see Senior Seasons thrive and our gift shop supports it," Barbara Jo says. "It's good for seniors to stay active, and we certainly want to encourage that with our members."

For more information about Senior Seasons, contact Diane Poole at 704.636.3431, ext. 220 or diane@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Meals on Wheels

Evelyn Cartner loves receiving Meals on Wheels.

"It's great!" says Evelyn, who has limited mobility after a fall in 2005. "One of my family members has delivered meals to me, but all of the volunteers are just so nice. It means so much to have somebody to say good morning to. I'm very pleased."

Amy Ritchie and Elaine Gerst are longtime coordinators of St. John's eight routes. Daily hot delivery of meals resumes in



June, and St. John's volunteers deliver the first and second Wednesdays of every month.

At the moment, Amy has two routes that need volunteers.

"People have just gotten out of the habit," she says, "and we always need substitutes."

And it's not just to deliver hot meals. Volunteers also provide a safety check for clients. During the pandemic, some volunteers even bought groceries for clients.

If you'd like to deliver Meals on Wheels for St. John's, contact Amy Ritchie at amyritchie1985@gmail.com or call Cindy Fink, executive director of Meals on Wheels, at 704.633.0352.

Funeral ushers

Dave Phillips and Bill Safrit are working together to coordinate volunteers for the Funeral Usher Ministry Team. During the pandemic, both of them worked small funerals, but the need will expand as larger services take place.

Dave retired from the VA, and was talking with Bill at a funeral when Bill expressed the need for more volunteers.

"I told him I would help out, and it's just kind of grown from there," Dave says.

Anyone with a flexible schedule is welcome on the team, Dave says, and that includes women.

"We are there to help coordinate the event," Dave says, "and maintain a sense of dignity while still being friendly and comforting. We want to honor the person who died and offer any assistance we can."

That includes directing visitors to the elevator and restrooms, he says. "When you're in a strange place, you are totally lost."

It's not a huge commitment, Bill says. St. John's hosts anywhere from 20 to 25 funerals a year. It takes about an hour and a half for each funeral. Ushers distribute bulletins and direct visitors, then turn off the lights and lock the doors after each service has ended.



Dave Phillips

"It's not anything difficult," he says. "It's just about being there."

If you would like to serve as a funeral usher, please contact Dave Phillips at phild15@aol.com.

Altar flowers

Just like everything else, the altar flowers have been affected by the pandemic.

"We no longer have about half of our standing orders," says Deborah Cross, who orders the flowers each week.

"We decided to forgo weekly arrangements during the pandemic, but things have changed."



Discussions are under way to use potted plants and more long-lasting arrangements during the summer using natural materials, Deborah says. Members are also welcome to bring arrangements from their own gardens.

If you'd like to order flowers, the cost is \$80 for two vases. Deborah places the order each Monday, and you can request color and flower preferences (based on availability). You may place altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone, and Salisbury Flower Shop continues to provide our weekly arrangements. You can pay by check, pay online, or make payment when you receive your bill. You may pick up your flowers at the end of the worship service, or send them to Trinity Oaks via the bus so that they may be enjoyed there.

For more information about placing altar flowers, contact Deborah in the church office at 704.636.3431, ext. 200, or deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Office Volunteer/Receptionist

Now that all of our staff members are fully vaccinated, the office is open to the public between 9:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday. Volunteers serve at the welcome/reception desk to greet those who visit, answer the phones, and, in some cases, help with the Seasons Gift Shop.

Contact Deborah Cross if you would like to volunteer for a morning shift (9 am-12 pm) or an afternoon shift (1 -4 pm).

A sense of family

Grace Faller finds her place at St. John's and beyond

By Susan Shinn Turner

Grace Faller, a rising junior at East Carolina University, has recently begun a summer internship in Chicago. She'll be working as a food and beverage intern at a country club.

"I'll be getting a ton of experience with this paid internship, as well as free living accommodations," says Grace, the daughter of Gene and Ann Faller and a 2019 graduate of East Rowan High School.

The hospitality management major began work May 19 and will return to Greenville in August. Her sister, Faith, just graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University.

At St. John's, Grace has been an active member, singing at the 9:27 service and being involved in youth when she was in middle school and high school. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's.

"It's hard to find a church that compares to St. John's," Grace admits. "There's a sense of family there."

Grace, who turns 20 on June 8, participated in mission trips to Guatemala as well as national youth gatherings in Detroit and Houston. She and Victoria Plyler created a mission trip wall in the Fuel room.

"Those opportunities have been something I'll never forget," Grace says. Her previous youth leaders, Pastor Danielle DeNise and Kai Thurow, as well as Bradley Chestnut, previous contemporary worship leader, have had a "huge impact on



my faith journey, and gave me the tools I needed to transition to college. I had my moments where I felt a little lost, but I feel so grounded and centered at the 9:27 service. God is not going away. He's not going anywhere."

Her friends at ECU have reminded her of that, and encouraged her to join a Bible study.

"Grace's leadership ability was such a huge asset to our youth group," Pastor Laura says. "It was obvious that she has a deep faith and she had a big role in youth ministry, LYO, and getting everyone involved. Anytime we needed anything, she was willing to organize and find people to help accomplish our goals. In addition, she is always willing to step up and help with the 9:27 service, using all the gifts that God has given to her."

Grace is used to being at church, whether that was going to the 9:27 service, youth meetings, or on congregation council as a youth representative. Grace also served on the state Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) board.

At ECU, she's a member of ZTA sorority and the Panhellenic Bible Study. She's also a member of the homecoming committee and the Rotaract Club, the college-based version of Rotary.

Best of luck on your summer internship, Grace! We'll see you back at St. John's this fall.

Shop with a Mission this Summer

By Angel Owens

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

Open the Joy

With so much time spent on virtual school instruction, streaming services, tv shows, YouTube, and video games, this summer, give the children in your life some screen-free entertainment, with a purpose. Open the Joy kits make kids kinder! Created by a mom whose child was in the hospital with a rare illness, these kits have evolved into screen-free activity boxes for all children in a variety of areas.



“Designed by therapists with the intention of bonding families and developing emotional intelligence (EQ) in kids, Open the Joy has found fun and innovative ways of teaching kids important life skills, such as patience, forgiveness and empathy, all under the guise of play,” says Open the Joy’s website. “Our award-winning collection aims to lift spirits, create laughter, and bond families through art, magic, origami, jokes, conversation starters, and much more.”

An Open the Joy purchase won’t just bring joy to a child in your life. They partner with Spread the Joy 501(CA), to deliver activity kits to sick kids in need. For every item purchased, they donate a toy designed specifically for hospitalized children, right here in America.

Missions Pottery

Summer kicks off a new season of weddings. Bless the newlyweds in your life with a gift with purpose.

Missions Pottery, made locally, in Lexington, NC, supports Christian missions in America and around the world.



Missions Pottery began as a hobby and a stress reliever and turned into a way to serve the Lord. “Our goal is to create and sell high quality hand crafted goods to fund the spread of the Gospel. Through His blessing and leadership, we use our profits to spread the Gospel by sponsoring missionaries and faith based groups both nationally and world-wide.”

“Everyone needs compassion and the kindness of a Savior. We place a small hole in our pottery pieces to remind us of the void that we have that can only be filled by Jesus Christ.”

Another of our wedding season favorites are the Seasons Gifts candles. Created especially for our gift shop, these soy candles inscribed with favorite bible verses just smell like summer vacation. They perfectly top off the basket of goodies made for an upcoming bridal shower!

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. Seasons Gifts continues to have live shopping events each month on its Facebook page. Check the Facebook page for upcoming events.



Summer Update from GRACES

By Hannah Nadeau– Giron

Racing for GRACES and the At-Home Learning Program

For this year's Racing for GRACES fundraising event, GRACES was able to raise over \$13,000 for Escuela Integrada's at-home learning program. The students in Guatemala continue to learn from home due to government restrictions, with no foreseen date to start in-person classes. To help them navigate at-home learning, the school purchases 60 tablets through a grant from the St. Luke's Foundation. The students access their school work through data packages that GRACES provides.

Meal Support GRACES received a grant from St. John's to purchase food bags for our families, many of whom continue to be without work. GRACES is grateful for the continued support from St. John's and being able to provide for our deserving families during this time!

Student Sponsorship There are 50 students at Escuela Integrada who still need sponsorships! If you are interested in sponsoring a child, you can go to www.wearegraces.org/unsponsored.



St. John's members attended Racing for GRACES Salisbury racing event , May 16.

An Update from Our Partners in Palestine

Our hearts are heavy as we continue to hear about violence and war in Israel. What are we to do? With so many competing voices, who are we to listen to? We believe the Christian witness in Israel/Palestine is particularly important these days, especially as we lean into the peace and presence of Christ to heal division. One of those important witnesses is Fursan Ayed Zu'mot, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jerusalem's "old city." We commend his recent letter to you.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer in Jerusalem

PASTOR
FURSAN AYED ZU'MOT



كنيسة الفادي الإنجيلية اللوثرية في القدس

الراعي
القس فرسان عايد الزعوط

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest,⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth." (Isaiah 62: 6-7)

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you from Jerusalem in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. As you are following the news of what is happening in Jerusalem and the unprecedented escalation of violence our country is experiencing, we would like you to pray for us, to those who have died and those who have lost their homes and beloved ones. As we listen to the sound of the warplanes, and watch the news, our hearts get full of sorrow and fear. Where should we go? To whom should we resort? And when this war is going to end? Today in Israel we are experiencing a kind of a civil war where Arabs and Jews are fighting and attacking each other's. This war will have no winner. We need to learn how to live with each other based on equal rights and without occupation and discrimination. The only future Israel has must be a shared future where Arabs and Israelis live together where the rule of law prevails rather than the law of power. People need to live in dignity and equality. Innocent people are the victims of political leaders who only want to achieve political gains. This madness should end soon, but it raises essential questions. What would be the future of our youth and children who are experiencing this violence? What are our responsibilities as Churches, church-based organizations, and as community leaders towards the new generations?

The doctrine of hate is growing strongly in our country. This requires us to exert more efforts to become advocates for love, peace, and justice. We need to share the culture of Christ with those around us who feel that violence is the only way to solve problems. In addition, I appeal to you, our friends, and partners, to pray for the power of love, which is fading away in front of our eyes. Therefore, I ask you to remember Jerusalem, Israel, and Palestine in your prayers every day during your prayer time. Friends, this conflict needs a divine power to be resolved and we have to ask God for it. May God bless you, keep you, and be gracious to you, now and forever. Amen

Pastor Fursan Zumot
The Lutheran Church of Redeemer in Jerusalem



P.O.Box 14076 - 91140 Jerusalem
Tel.: 02-6266800 (Office) - Fax: 02-6285764
Mobile: 052 797 2246

ص.ب 14076 - شارع المارستان - القدس 91140
هاتف: 02-6266800 / فاكس: 02-6285764
موبايل: 052 797 2246

fzumot@elcjl.org / fursan_zumot@yahoo.co.uk

Monthly Update from the Congregation Council

May 18

- Elaine Holden led an outstanding devotion. We watched the YouTube video of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir singing "Joy Comes to You In The Morning."
- Pastor Rhodes shared the staff report.
- We also covered the new COVID-19 Worship Guidelines to begin May 23. Masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated.
- G2G is moving along smoothly and on schedule.
- Council will start meeting in person at the June meeting.
- Interviews are still being conducted for the Contemporary Worship Leader position.
- St. John's will host the Salisbury High School Senior Breakfast on May 28.
- The new CDC Executive Director is Paula Levianu, who will start June 14, 2021.
- Councilman, Christopher Derrick's, photograph of Kure Beach Pier was featured in the latest Our State magazine.

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 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 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

Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
Celebrating June birthdays:*

Dorothy Bedford, Jim Boger, JW Brown, Barbara Bumgarner, Jill Connery, Hal Furr, Jim Rabon, Gloria Samuelson, Ed Shinn, Anne Steele, Gail Swan

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
Celebrating July birthdays:*

Pat Fahey, Bill Hillegass, Roger Hull, Peggy Mowery, Mary Ann Nelson, Harold Overcash, Betty Roof, Peggy Taylor, Kay Goodman



Happy Birthday Cora Shinn!

Cora Shinn celebrated her 90th birthday, May 23. Cora is a member of St. John's, but she and her husband recently moved to a retirement community in Raleigh to be close to their daughter, Susan. Happy birthday, Cora!

Condolences

Cindy, Joey, Joseph, Isabella, and family, on the passing of Cindy's mother, Faye Robinson on Monday, May 18.

Family and friends of Earnest Brooks, who lived in Gilroy, CA. Earnest served as an associate to Doug Fritz at St. John's. There will be a memorial service in July.

Alda Smith and family, on the passing of her sister Dorothy Clark Wilhelm, on April 18. She lived in Sacramento California.

Family and friends of Jim Crocket, former member of St. John's, who passed away on April 28, after a battle with Covid-19 in Vero Beach, Florida.

Mary Beth Smith and family on the passing of Mary Beth's mother Elizabeth (Bo) Withers Smith on April 24.

Rob Durocher and family on the passing of Rob's uncle Roy Durocher on Friday, May 21 in Tom's River, NJ.

Congratulations

Lauren and Brett Henson on the birth of their daughter, Nora Elizabeth Henson on May 6. Grandparents are Gary and Angela Graham.

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 Director Joanna Smith

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

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.

EAGLE'S VIEW (USPS 716—020)

is published once a month by St. John's Lutheran Church
200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144
Vol. 21, Issue 6
Periodical postage paid at Salisbury, North Carolina

POSTMASTER: Send address change to
EAGLE'S VIEW, 200 W. Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

Please deliver by May 28

Eagle's View Deadline

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